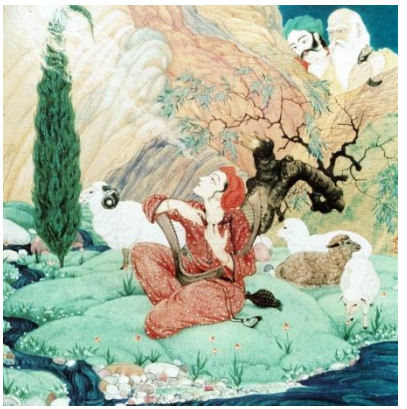
October 4, 2026



The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
Psalm 23:1-3

ARTIST: Frank Wesley

The United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville

Church Location
51 Cottage Street,
Whitinsville, MA 01588

Office Location
7 Spring Street
Whitinsville, MA 01588

The members of United Presbyterian Church envision a vibrant congregation that passionately connects with God and one another, seeking to discover His presence deep within through meaningful worship, prayer, and Bible study. As we reflect on God's grace in our lives, we commit to growing together in faith and unity. We honor the diverse needs and opinions of all people, striving to build bridges of support, kindness, and peace within our church and community, fostering an environment where the Holy Spirit and God's love uplift hearts and lives.

Worship Service: October 4, 2026
Presiding Minister: Rev. William David Spencer &
Rev. Aida Besancon Spencer

Children's bulletins are available at the Welcome Center
*** All hymns are from The Celebration Hymnal (the green one) unless otherwise noted***

WE GATHER

Prelude: "I Worship You, Almighty God" Corbett

Welcome: Mark Thomas

Announcements: Mark Thomas

Call to Worship: (Psalm 98:1, 4-6) Mark Thomas

O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth, break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Sing praises to the LORD with the guitar, with the lyre, and the sound of melody!

Opening Prayer: Mark Thomas

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Time for silence

Opening Hymn: Insert **"**Shepherd of Eager Youth*"* Clement of Alexander, Tran. Dexter/ Lovelace

Call to Confession: Mark Thomas

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Time for individual, silent prayers of confession.

Words of Assurance: Rev. Aida Besancon Spencer

The apostle John reassures us that if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us, *but* if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

Gloria Patri:

WORD

First Reading: Psalm 23 Mark Thomas

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" Baker/Dykes

Prayer for Illumination: Rev. Dr. William David Spencer

Second Reading: John 10:14-16 Rev. Dr. William David Spencer

I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "Who Are the Other Sheep" Rev. Dr. William David Spencer

Hymn: *#352* "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" Francis/Williams

WE RESPOND

Offering: Rev. Dr. Aida Besancon Spencer

We should do as Paul the Apostle counsels the Corinthians in 2 Corinthians 9:7-9: Each of *us should* give as *we* have made up our mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide *us* with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, *we* may share abundantly in every good work." God will scatter everywhere our generosity in gifts to the poor. So, let's all give cheerfully what God has laid on our hearts to give, as we thank God for our salvation and all the blessings God gives us daily.

Offertory:"I Will Bless the Lord and Give Him Glory" Herenandez

Doxology:

Unison Prayer of Dedication:

Heavenly Father, Giver of all good things, who has taught us that it is more blessed to give than to receive: we dedicate these offerings to the service of thy church, humbly beseeching you that all that we have and are may be used for your glory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Creed: Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
***God's* holy *universal* church,**
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

<u>Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer</u>:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.

<u>Invitation to the Lord's Supper</u>: Rev. Dr. Aida Besancon Spencer

<u>Words of Institution</u>: Rev. Dr. Aida Besancon Spencer

<u>Communion Hymn</u>: Insert "Healer of Every Ill" Haugen

<u>Distribution</u>:

"Make Us One: Cymbala

"Purify My Heart" Leach/Husberg

Unison Prayer:

We thank you Lord Jesus for redeeming us and making it possible for us to be reconciled with you. We thank you for your watch care over us and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We thank you Lord for our families and the fellowship of our brothers and sisters in Christ and for the hope of heaven. We praise you Lord for your concern for all nations and peoples. For great is your love Heavenly Father toward us and your faithfulness, triune God, which endures forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: *#446* "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations" Nichol

SENDING

Benediction: Rev. Dr. William David Spencer

Postlude: "You Are My God" Delavan

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We welcome to the pulpit today the Revs. Drs. William and Aida Spencer. Both Aida and Bill teach at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Rev. Dr. Aida Besancon Spencer is Senior Professor of New Testament and Rev. Dr. William David Spencer is Distinguished Adjunct Professor of Theology and the Arts. They have been retired since 2018, each teaching one course in the fall at the Boston campus and writing and editing books. They blog once a month at Applying Biblical Truths Today (aandwspencer.com). Bill's latest book is *The Digital Evangelist: Expanding Your Ministry by Writing for Publication* (2026). They have bought this book and a few others available at author's discount. Anyone who purchases two books may receive a third book free from their gift books.

Announcements for October 4, 2026

The rose on the altar is to celebrate the birth of Theodore Anthony Veilleux. He was born on September 2 and weighed 3 lb 11 oz. The proud parents are Melody Powers and Matt Veilleux. Great grandparents are Suzanne and Anthony Santoro

The monthly October prayer guide is available at both entrances.

The church needs to collect $60.91 per active member for per capita this year. Per capita supports the operating costs of General Assembly, Synod of the Northeast, and the Presbytery of Boston. Please make your contributions before mid-December and mark the checks “Per Capita:” in the memo line of your check.

SAVE THE DATE: Blackstone Valley Crop Walk is October 24, 2026. Church Contact Person: Tanya Remillard

It is our church's turn to host Peace of Bread on Wednesday, October 28th If you would like to help, please contact Lynne Walsh at walsh.lynne.c@gmail.com for information.

If you aren't able to help serve that night, you can also help by providing the food pantry with any of the following donations: cereal, juices, peanut butter, jelly, fluff, hearty soups, beeferoni, granola bars, coffee, tea, condiments, TP, shampoo, laundry soap, hand soap.

Any contributions of time or items would be greatly appreciated.

All prayer concerns should be sent to the Church Office. The Administrative Assistant will make sure to get the prayer concerns to the person preaching that Sunday.

Giving Report

Giving Report Budgeted Operating Giving for 2025-2026 FY	49,000.00
Regular Offering Collected as of 6/30/2025	46, 364.72
Expenses as of 6/30/2025	172, 678.56

September 6, 2026

Regular	$ 559.00
Missions	26.00
Per Capita	121. 82
Total	706.82

September 13, 2026

Regular	$ 498.00
Missions	2.00
Total	500.00

September 20, 2026

Regular	$ 1098.00
Missions	2.00
Per Capita	184.91
Total	1284.91

September 27, 2026

Regular	$ 338.00
Missions	2.00
Total	340.00

PRAYER CONCERNS FOR
WEEK OF October 4, 2026

Keep Laurie Sabourin and family in your prayers as she recovers from cancer surgery. She is currently still in the hospital. Mike and Laurie thank everyone for their prayers.

Keep Mark Widner and Becca as he recovers from surgery. Mark W. is currently at home.

Continue to keep Ken Remillard and Tanya as the doctor had to postpone Ken's eye surgery this week.

Angelo's brother Wayne is now home from the hospital. Please keep him in your prayers as he recovers from his cancer treatment.

Prayers for Patty Reynold's daughter, Jessica, who recently underwent cancer surgery. Jessica just had a ct scan and it was clear. She has a whole-body scan scheduled for November, please pray for it to be clear. Jessica was diagnosed with a very rare poorly differentiated thyroid cancer that is very aggressive and she has had two successful surgeries and is doing good.

Robin, Tanya's childhood classmate from Virginia, continues to undergo chemo/radiation treatments. Please be in prayer for her healing.

Keep Lynne's neighbor Deb in your prayers who has stage 4 colon cancer and has started cancer treatment.

Please keep Tanya's former mother-in-law, Diane, in your prayers. She is in a rehab facility and in good spirits.

October 2026 Worship Leader Calendar

	Oct 4	Oct 11	Oct 18	Oct 25	Nov 1
Worship Leader	M. Thomas	S. Santoro	L. Walsh	M. Alling	M. Thomas
Greeter	C. Lee	C. Lee	T. Remillard	C. Lee	T. Remillard
Sound Board	L. Walsh	L. Walsh	M. Thomas	L. Walsh	L. Walsh
Camera	J. Baker	J. Baker	J. Baker	J. Baker	J. Baker
Media	K. Remillard	K. Remillard	K. Remillard	M. Widner	M. Widner
Coffee Hour	M. Thomas	M. Thomas	T. Remillard	L. Walsh	M. Widner
Junior Church	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Counters	K. Mercer K. Remillard	S. Santoro L. Walsh	C. Philibosian K. Remillard	T. Remillard J. Baker	K. Mercer C. Pilibosian

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Church Calendar of Events
October 4-11, 2026

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Presiding Minister -Rev. Dr. William &
Aida Bessancon Spencer
Worship Leader – Mark Thomas
Greeter – Chris Lee
Sound Board -Lynne Walsh
Media – Ken Remillard
Junior Church - TBD
Camera - Jim Baker
Coffee Hour –Mark Thomas
Counters – Kimberely Mercer
Ken Remillard

Wednesday, October 7, 2026
5:30 PM Peace of Bread

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Presiding Minister – Elder Mark Thomas
Worship Leader – Suzanne Santoro
Greeter – Chris Lee
Sound Board – Lynne Walsh
Media – Ken Remillard
Junior Church - TBD
Camera –Jim Baker
Coffee Hour – Mark Thomas
Counters – Suzanne Santoro
Lynne Walsh

People in Ministry

Ministers
The People of this Congregation

Pastor
Vacant

Minister of Music
Eileen N. Straub

Corporate Treasurer
Ken Remillard

Financial Secretary
Lynne Walsh

Administrative Assistant
Mark Thomas

Sexton
Patricia Reynolds

Session
Rev Pamela Bakker-Spence , Moderator
Lynne Walsh, Clerk
Marilyn Alling
Ken Remillard
Tanya Remillard
Mark Thomas
Mark Widner

Deacons
Jean Finnegan
Gay McCrea
Carol Pilibosian
Becca Widner

Trustees
Jim Baker
Kimberly Mercer
Mike Sabourin
Suzanne Santoro