November 29, 2026

It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Mark 13:34-36

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: November 29, 2026
Presiding Minister: Elder Mark Widner

**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: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent" Liturgy of St James, 4th Cent/arr. Williams

Welcome: Marilyn Alling

Announcements: Marilyn Alling

Advent Candle Lighting — Hope: Tanya & Ken Remillard

Leader: Today we begin Advent, a season of waiting and hope.
People: We remember Christ has come, and we trust that Christ will come again.
Leader: We light the first Advent candle, the candle of Hope.
People: May the light of Christ shine in our hearts and through our lives.
[Light the first Advent candle.]

Opening Prayer: Marilyn Alling

Faithful and loving God, as we begin Advent, turn our attention toward the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. In the midst of all our plans and celebrations, fill us with gratitude for your grace. Awaken our hearts to your presence, strengthen our hope in your promises, and help us reflect your love to those around us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Call to Worship: (Responsively) Marilyn Alling

Leader: We gather in hope, for God has not forgotten the world.
People: God has come to us in Jesus Christ.

Leader: The light shines even in the darkness.
People: The darkness has not overcome it.
Leader: Let us worship our faithful God, who came among us and will come again.
All: Come, Lord Jesus! Renew our hope!

Opening Hymn: #286 "Once in David's Royal City" Alexander/Gauntlett

Call to Confession: Marilyn Alling

God has shown us extraordinary love in Jesus Christ. Trusting in that love and in God's mercy, let us confess the ways we have failed to love God and our neighbors.

Prayer of Confession: (In Unison) Marilyn Alling

Merciful God, you have given us your love through Jesus Christ, yet we often let our schedules, expectations, and worries crowd out our attention to you. Sometimes we give reluctantly, overlook people in need, or fail to reflect your kindness. Forgive us. Renew our hearts, fill us with your hope, and help us share your love with joy. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance: Elder Mark Widner

Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came into our world to reveal God's grace and open the way to forgiveness. Our hope rests not in our perfection, but in God's faithfulness. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
All: Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace:
Since God has welcomed us in Christ, let us welcome one another with the peace of Christ.
The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.

Please turn and greet your neighbors with a wave, a smile, and a sign of Christ's peace.

Gloria Patri:

WORD

Prayer for Illumination:

God of hope, open our ears to hear your Word and our hearts to receive it. As Scripture is read and proclaimed, help us recognize the gift of your Son and the calling to live in his light. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9 Marilyn Alling

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence
as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD
and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.
The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God**.**

Anthem: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Latin Hymn/Helmore

Children's Message:

Second Reading: Mark 13:24-37

Keep awake; live faithfully while awaiting Christ's return. The Coming of the Son of Man

But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "Presents or Presence" Elder Mark Widner

Hymn: Insert-- "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" Wiessel.*Musica Sacra*

Creed:

As we begin this Advent season, we remember that our hope rests not simply in what we wish for, but in what God has done for us through Jesus Christ.
Together, let us affirm the faith we share, remembering the Savior who came into our world, gave His life for us, rose again, and will come again.
Please join me in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer:

Leader: God of hope, we thank you for loving us enough to come into our world through Jesus Christ. As we begin this Advent season, help us look beyond our busy lives and recognize those who need your love.
People: God of hope, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for those who are grieving, lonely, ill, discouraged, or worried about tomorrow. Comfort those who are hurting, strengthen those who care for them, and remind them that they are not forgotten.

People: God of hope, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for your church. Help us grow closer to you and become more willing to share our time, kindness, and love with others—not only during Advent, but throughout the year.
People: God of hope, hear our prayer.
Leader**:** We now invite the prayers and concerns of our congregation. You are welcome to share your concerns aloud or lift them silently to God in your heart. Whether spoken or unspoken, we trust that God hears our prayers.
[Pause to allow spoken concerns and requests from the congregation, followed by a moment of silence for personal prayers.]
Leader: Loving God, we lift these prayers before you, along with those concerns we carry silently in our hearts. We trust in your mercy, your presence, and your promises.
People: God of hope, hear our prayer.
Leader: We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and our hope.
All: Amen.
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.

WE RESPOND

Offering:

Invitation: God has given to us generously through Jesus Christ. As we offer our gifts today, may we give willingly and with gratitude, trusting God to use them to share hope and love in our community.

Offertory: "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" Eliott/Matthews

Doxology:

Prayer of Dedication:

Generous God, all we have comes from you. Receive these gifts and the offering of our time and service. Use them to care for those in need, strengthen your church, and bring your light to the world. We give with gratitude for the gift of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

Closing Hymn: #249 "O Come, All Ye Faithful!" Latin Hymn/Wade

Charge:

Go into this Advent season with hope. Enjoy the celebrations and the people you love but make time for the God who came to us in Christ. Let someone experience a little of Christ's love through your kindness, attention, and grace—this week and throughout the year.

Benediction:

May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace as you trust in Christ. May his light guide your steps, his grace sustain you, and his love shine through you, now and always. Amen.

Postlude: "People Looked East" Farjeon/French Folk melody

Announcements for November 29, 2026

Cookies and Carols will be held at 4 PM in the Sanctuary on December 6th. If you wish to bring cookies, please use the sign-up sheet located in the Gathering Area.

The tags for the Christmas Angel gifts are on the Christmas Tree. Select a tag(s) and place the wrapped presents under the tree no later than December 20th.

The December Prayer Guide is available at both entrances.

The December Congregational Prayer Meeting will be held on December 7, 2026 at 6:30 PM in the church office.

Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church cordially invites you to a community Christmas Dinner on Friday, December 25th from 12 Noon to 2 PM. For more information call the church at (508) 234-2275.

The Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols will be held at the church at 5 PM on Thursday, December 24th.

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.

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

November 1, 2026

Regular	$ 839.00
Missions	21.00
Total	860.00

November 8, 2026

Regular	$ 370.00
Total	370.00

November 15, 2026

Regular	$ 1310.00
Mission	22.00
Total	1320.00

November 22, 2026

Regular	$ 798.00
Mission	2.00
Per Capita	243.91
Total	1043.91

PRAYER CONCERNS FOR
WEEK OF November 29, 2026

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

Angelo's brother Wayne is now home from the hospital. Doing well with a feeding tube and medications

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.

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

Jean Finnegan was admitted to the Milford Hospital ICU on Tuesday with breathing issues and a very low sodium level. She is responding to treatment but is not sure when she will return to Lydia Taft, Please pray for her recovery.

Please add Zach Cullen to the prayer concerns. Zach is 32 years old and recently had a stroke in Florida and had brain surgery. He is Andrea Whitneys grandson and Ava Whitneys cousin

November 2026 Worship Leader Calendar

	Nov 1	**Nov 8**	**Nov 15**	**Nov 22**	**Nov 29**
Worship Leader	M. Alling	S. Santoro	L. Walsh	M. Widner	M. Alling
Greeter	T. Remillard	C. Lee	T. Remillard	C. Lee	T. Remillard
Sound Board	L. Walsh	M. Thomas	M. Thomas	L. Walsh	M. Thomas
Camera	J. Baker	J. Baker	J. Baker	J. Baker	J. Baker
Media	M. Widner	K. Remillard	K. Remillard	K. Remillard	K. Remillard
Coffee Hour	M. Widner	M. Thomas	T. Remillard	L. Walsh	M. Widner
Junior Church	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Counters	K. Mercer C. Pilibosian	S. Santoro L. Walsh	J. Baker T. Remillard	M. Alling K. Mercer	K. Remillard J. Baker

December 2026 Worship Leader Calendar

	Dec 6	**Dec 13**	**Dec 20**	**Dec 27**	**Jan 3**
Worship Leader	M. Thomas	S. Santoro	L. Walsh	M. Thomas	M. Widner
Greeter	T. Remillard	C. Lee	T. Remillard	C. Lee	T. Remillard
Sound Board	L Walsh	L. Walsh	M. Thomas	L. Walsh	M. Thomas
Camera	J. Baker	J. Baker	J. Baker	J. Baker	J. Baker
Media	M. Widner	K. Remillard	K. Remillard	K. Remillard	K. Remillard
Coffee Hour	M. Widner	M. Thomas	T. Remillard	L. Walsh	M. Widner
Junior Church	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Counters	K. Mercer C. Pilibosian	T. Remiliard J. Baker	L. Walsh S. Santoro	K. Remillard J. Baker	K. Mercer S. Santoro

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/whitinpres
In case of emergencies, please call 774-293-1382

Church Calendar of Events
November 29-December 6, 2026

Sunday, November 29, 2026

Presiding Minister -Elder Mark Widner
Worship Leader –Marilyn Alling
Greeter -Tanya Remillard
Sound Board -Mark Thomas
Media – Ken Remillard
Junior Church - TBD
Camera - Jim Baker
Coffee Hour –Mark Widner
Counters – Ken Remillard
Jim Baker

Wednesday, December 2, 2026
5:30 PM Peace of Bread
7 PM Worship Committee Meeting

Sunday, December 6, 2026
Presiding Minister – Rev Pamela Spence Bakker
Worship Leader – Mark Thomas
Greeter – Tanya Remillard
Sound Board – Lynne Walsh
Media – Mark Widner
Junior Church - TBD
Camera –Jim Baker
Coffee Hour – Mark Widner
Counters –Kim Mercer
Carol Pilibosian

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 Spence Bakker, 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
Suzanne Santoro