

DECEMBER 2018
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The Grapevine

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A publication of Green Street United Methodist Church

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UMW Christmas Fair

Saturday, December 1st - 9am to 2pm - fellowship hall.
Knits – Crafts – Jewelry – Home Baked Goods – Candy
Grand mother's Attic – Christmas Items
Something for everyone! Don't miss it!

Downeast Brass Christmas Concert

**Saturday, December 8
7pm**

13 Green Street

Suggested donation \$10/adults \$5/children



**Bishop's Day on the District
Sunday, December 2 at 3pm
13 Green Street, Augusta**



**Blue Christmas
Sunday, December 23
At 5pm**

**Christmas Eve
Worship**

**Lessons and Carols
At 7pm**

**Candlelight
Communion at
11:30pm.**

Annual Conference

Our Annual Conference will be held on **Thursday, December 13 at 7pm.**
The SPPRC will meet with the DS at 6pm in the conference room.
All are welcome, however only church members are allowed to vote



December Volunteers

December 2

Greeters: Gary and Donna Alexander
Acolytes: Chuck and Evelyn Horstman
Coffee Hour Host: Joyce Maske
Liturgist: Ethan Guyaz
Advent Readers: Deb Polzella

December 9

Greeters: Bessie Goudreau & Elsie Ware
Acolytes: Patty Rogers & Sonny Richards
Coffee Hour Host: Donna Alexander
Liturgist: ?
Advent Readers: Anne and Della Kimball

December 16

Greeters: Joan and Nathaniel Berry
Acolytes: Donna and Gary Alexander
Coffee Hour Host: Jodie and Wilder Hart
Liturgist: Tammy Roberts
Advent Readers: Mitchell Family

December 23

Greeters: Nancy and Kathy Merrick
Acolytes: Jodie and Wilder Hart
Coffee Hour Host: TBA
Liturgist: Mary Saunders
Advent Readers: Nancy and Kathy Merrick

December 24 – Christmas Eve

Greeters: Sandy and Randy Grady
Advent Readers: Robbin Family

December 30 – One Service at 9:30

Greeters: Jodie and Wilder Hart
Acolytes: Sandy and Randy Grady
Coffee Hour Host: Pot Luck
Liturgist: Ethan Guyaz



Pastor's Christmas Message

Christmas Eve Candlelight

I love lighting candles while singing Silent Night on Christmas Eve. As a child I especially liked carrying my candle home from the church, trying to make it all the way without extinguishing the flame. Carrying the candle home both prolonged the magic of the service and brought that special moment into our house.

Lighting our candles on Christmas Eve begins with the central candle of the Advent wreath. Known as the Christ candle, it represents the light of Christ which has entered the world. From Christ, that light moves from person to person until everyone holds the light in their hands. Seeing the light fill the sanctuary as it moves among us can stir our souls. What a gift to see Christ's light fill our church and to feel our faith enlightened by the presence of God's love. This visible symbol of Christmas Eve should be sought year round, that Christ's light and his love would surround us and fill our sacred space.

To me the magic of the candlelight began at church and reached fulfillment when the light entered our home. The magic of Christmas continues year-round when Christ's light becomes part of our homes and part our lives beyond the sanctuary.

The most exciting part of Christmas Eve, however, was traveling with the light between sanctuary and home: filling that in-between space, the dark and cold of a winter night, with shining light. I felt the thrill of adventure as people carried their candles from the church into the night. Carrying Christ's love into the world and keeping it alive in cold, dark places can be both challenging and exciting. And this is our calling: not only to receive the light of Christ, but to carry it with us, letting it shine so that God's love will light the way for all of us.

In Christ,

Pastor Kristin

2018 Angel Tree

This year's recipient of your generous donations will be a struggling family from Augusta. They have children that attend Lincoln Elementary School, right here in Green Street's neighborhood. The Angel Tree will be located in the hall – next to the Hannaford table. Along with specific gift requests, the family is in need of hats, mittens and snow pants. Their wish list items will be written on a tag and hung on the Angel Tree. Please take a tag and purchase the listed item. Place the tag on the gift wrapped item and return it to the collection box next to the Angel Tree. Please return the gifts on or before Sunday, December 16th. Thank you very much and don't hesitate to contact me with questions. Joan Berry email: Augberry@aol.com or phone 623-0128

Angel Food Supper News

Thank you for your continued support for this feeding ministry. Your returnable bottles and cans added up to \$48. Also a big thanks to the Hannaford program with the reusable bags and to you who supported it. Blessings, Sandy.



Community Thanksgiving Dinner Update

I can't begin to thank my church family for your support with this Community Dinner. You stepped up when a need was expressed and for this I am grateful. Many thanks to our bakers, volunteers, and donations (\$205 as of 11/15). This ministry would not be possible without your help, prayers, love and support. I am truly blessed. Sandy.



December BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 -Heather Hibbert | 10 – Jessica Gilbert |
| 17 – Jesse Douvielle | 21 – Angela Robbin |
| 26 – Lori Webber | |



Green Street Christmas Card

A great way to send greetings to your church friends and save time, postage and paper! Your donations will go to the Augusta Food Bank. To have your name included, please fill in the form below and place it along with your donation in an envelope, drop it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church office. **Requests must be received in the office no later than December 10th.** Thank you.

Name as you want it to appear on the card: _____



Simplified Board Highlights

The Simplified Board met Tuesday, November 13, 2018 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The meeting opened with some thoughts on gratitude as a spiritual practice shared by Ardyce Robbin. Pastor Kristin reflected briefly on the visit from our coach, Beth Estock, and the help she's giving us with the Spiritual Life Center. It was an inspiring weekend.

Packet materials were reviewed and discussed:

- Stewardship – 32 pledges received with about 20 regular givers that have not pledged; so far pledges are running about \$20,000 less than last year
- Current financial status was noted followed by discussion and a decision to ask for a year end appeal from the congregation which will allow us to finish the year more strongly, hopefully pay more of our mission shares, and leave a small cushion for 2019
- Reviewed and accepted the Pastoral Compensation report for the charge conference
- Reviewed and accepted the Record Retention Policy & Procedures Manual in its entirety and will ask Connie Packard to continue her work as records curator
- Discussed the December 8 brass concert and noted that proceeds from the concert will be used to defray publicity costs with the rest going to the general fund
- Noted that the sanctuary carpet was recently cleaned and referred to the Worship team to consider ways to prevent drips that occur during communion
- Tabled for future discussion how to react and respond safely and with compassion to strangers in our building
- Adult Sunday School's next study will be on Elaine Heath's book, *The Mystic Way of Evangelism*
- Packet materials also included updates and reports on worship attendance, the status of Trustee funds, and the work of the Banners Ministry

If you want more news about the Simplified Board, please remember there's a bulletin board dedicated to the Simplified Board located in the Fellowship Hall. There you'll find agendas, minutes, and other Board related information.

Our next meeting will be December 18 and will begin with dinner at 6:00 p.m. Agenda items are due into the church office by November 30.

Blue Christmas Open Mic at the Spiritual Life Center – 13 Green Street, Augusta Saturday, December 15 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the chapel

Do you find the Christmas season emotionally difficult? If so, please be aware that you are not alone. You are invited to share your feelings in a poem (or 2 or 3). Don't write poetry? Write a paragraph or 2; bring them to read. Or bring a published poem that resonates with your feelings. Or simply come and listen to what others have to say. *If you choose to share, your sharing need not be a total downer, but it should acknowledge the complexity of feelings that surround the holiday for many of us.*

Note: This is not a church service. There'll be no hymns, Christmas Carols, sermons or spoken prayers.

Year End Finance Update

Dear Members of Green Street,

As we approach another year's end, there are both celebrations and challenges when it comes to our financial picture. We have much to be thankful for.

You may remember we started the year with a budget deficit of \$29,917. We received a strategic salary grant from the New England Conference in the amount of \$9,996 reducing our deficit to \$19,921 for which we are thankful.

We had several people pay their pledge in full at the end of last year which really helped cash flow well into 2018 and for that we are thankful. We received Mission Share Relief again this year and we have paid half of the total for which we are thankful. We received several bequests and donations in the amount of \$7,000 for which we are thankful. There is still \$9,000 in the Fifield-Tribou account for which we are thankful. The people of Green Street have continued to give generously through the year and for that we are thankful.

As we project income versus expenses for year-end we now find our budget to be \$13,945 short, a decrease of \$6,000 in the original deficit. As the end of the year approaches, here are some things to consider:

It is not good to go into the new year with no money in our accounts so we want to keep \$1,000 to \$2,000 as a balance going forward.

We can use up all our assets mentioned above but we would hope not to do that.

As we enter this season of giving, we would ask you to consider giving a year-end charitable contribution to the church. The amount of gifts received will determine how the Church Board proceeds with final budget decisions. Will we pay our mission shares in total? Will we use money from the bequests and donations? Will we need to dip into more of the Fifield-Tribou's generous gift?

As stated above, our projected year-end deficit is \$13,945. Please prayerfully consider what you can give to help us end the year well, as we move into 2019.

We have many wonderful things happening at Green Street and are hopeful we will continue to be blessed in the new year before us.

Your servant in Christ,

Sue Pattershall, Simplified Board Chair

Storm Cancellations & Delays



When worship, a meeting or event is canceled or postponed due to weather we will notify church members in the following ways:

- **A One Call Now phone message**
- **Email**
- **Facebook Group Page and Public Page**

Please let the church office know if you need to be added to any of these three notifications.

Also the Church Answering Machine will have information regarding cancellations and postponements – Call 622-0843 to listen to the greeting.

Any questions contact Darby at the church office 207-622-0843 or greenst@myfairpoint.net

Hannaford Card Fundraiser Program

Hannaford offers non-profit groups the opportunity to earn 5% on every \$1,000 worth of cards purchased. Several years ago a few Green Streeters began this fundraiser with Hannaford. We sell cards in several denominations every Sunday morning (or through the office during the week). Cards can be reloaded, or you can arrange to have an automatic monthly withdrawal from your checking account to reload your card, or just purchase a new card when needed.

Your card can then be used to buy things at any Hannaford store. Like what, you might ask? Not only can you purchase groceries, you can also get your prescriptions and other gift cards with this gift card.

Just think!! Let's say you would like to go out to dinner at a favorite restaurant. Go to Hannaford and purchase a restaurant gift card with your Hannaford card. Green Street Church will get 5% from your initial Hannaford Gift card purchase. Not only can you purchase restaurant cards, you can also get merchandise gift cards to some of your favorite stores to do your Christmas shopping. Or what about gas cards? Yes!!

With the Holidays right around the corner, please consider purchasing your Hannaford card from the church then using it to get groceries, prescriptions, and other gift cards.

All we have to do is rethink how we shop. Buy your Hannaford card(s) at Green Street Church, then get different gift cards at Hannaford to buy things you were going to purchase anyway. The church will make 5% from the Hannaford card you get through Green Street and be used to support operating costs of the church.

If you have any questions or want to purchase a Hannaford card, just stop by the table in the hallway outside the sanctuary after Sunday morning services or drop by the office and see Darby.

Granite Hill Sing-along

On Thursday afternoon, November 8, eleven of us from Green Street went to Granite Hill for a sing-along with residents of both the general population and the memory care unit. We were: Sue Pattershall (accompanist); Johnnie and Shasta Beane; John and Tricia Webb; Terri Williamson; Evelyn Horstman; Donna Alexander; Ardyce Robbin; and Sally Joy. The program was patriotic songs, including the theme songs of each of our military services. We invited those in attendance to sing along with us if they knew the words, though we told them that humming or just listening was also acceptable.

We didn't count the members of the audience, but most of the seats that had been set up were filled. Millie Foster, a long-time Green Street member, was among those who came to participate. It was good to see her.

Many did sing with us, and smiling faces let us know they were enjoying our time with them. One woman said afterwards: "It's people like you that make it fun for us." What more could we ask?

We had planned that our last song would be "God Bless America," but at the end it seemed right to Sue to play our national anthem and – of course – we and most of the residents sang it with gusto.

We're looking ahead to the holiday season and thinking perhaps we can bring music again to at least Granite Hill and Glenridge. Stay tuned for details. We're always glad to include as many as want to come and sing.



Please join us
Saturday, December 1st at 9am
to help "deck the halls"
and "hang the greens" at Green Street!





Green Street UMC

December 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						1 Christmas Fair 9am 2 pm 9am Decorating 5:30 PM Guided Meditation 7:00 PM AA
2 First Sunday of Advent 3PM Bishop's Day on the District	3 2 PM Bible Study 3PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM NA	4 4:30 PM Pastor Accountability and Support Meeting	5 9am to 3pm ACT Christmas Party 5:30 PM Bell Choir 6:45 PM Choir	6	7	8 7:00 PM Christmas Concert 7:00 PM AA
9 Second Sunday of Advent 5 PM Covenant Group	10 2 PM Bible Study 3pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM NA	11 9:00 AM DCOM	12 Noon UMW 5:30 PM Bell Choir 6:45 PM Choir	13 6 PM SPPRC meeting with DS 7 PM Annual Conference	14 Office Closed	15 8:30 AM Cluster Meeting 10:30 AM Spiritual Life Meeting 4:30 PM AF Supper 5 PM Blue Christmas 7PM AA
16 Third Sunday of Advent 11:30 AM Missions Ministry Meeting	17 2 PM Bible Study 3pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM NA	18 6:30 PM Simplified Board Meeting	19 5:30 PM Bell Choir 6:45 PM Choir	20	21	22 5:30 PM Guided Meditation 7:00 PM AA
23 Fourth Sunday of Advent 5 PM Blue Christmas Service	24 Office Closed Christmas Eve 7 PM Lessons and Carols 11:30 PM Candlelight Communion	25 Christmas Day	26 5:30 PM Bell Choir 6:45 PM Choir	27	28	29
30 Missions Sunday One Service at 9:30am followed by Pot Luck lunch	31 Office Closed 2 PM Bible Study 3PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM NA					

13 Green Street. Augusta, Maine 04330

Phone: 207-622-0843 – email: greenst@myfairpoint.net – website: www.greenstreetumc.net

Sunday Worship at 8am and 10:30am

Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8am to 2pm – Pastor's Hours by appointment

Notes



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13 Green Street
Augusta, ME 04330

