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February 2019

# The Grapevine

A PUBLICATION OF GREEN STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE GRAPEVINE — FEBRUARY 2019 EDITION



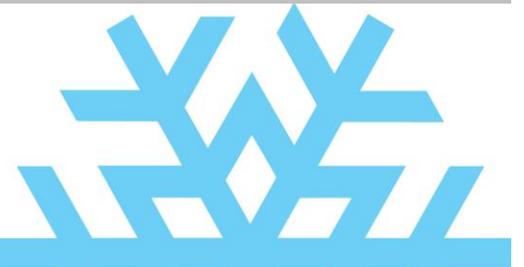
*Sunday, February 3*

The Angel Food Supper Ministry will be collecting your generous donations at both Worship Services on Sunday, February 3.

Proceeds will go to feed the hungry in our community through the Angel Food Suppers, a free community meal served at Green Street on the third Saturday of the month (September – May) at 4:30pm.



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FROM THE PASTOR:

## Commission On A Way Forward

“But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior...Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”  
Isaiah 43

For several decades, the United Methodist Church has been in its own wilderness of tension and uncertainty around the full inclusion of LGBTQ Christians in the life of the church. Following General Conference of 2016, the Council of Bishops appointed a Commission on the Way Forward. The commission’s work has led to three possible models for the United Methodist Church’s future. A special General Conference meets in February to discern which model will be the UMC’s way forward. Read more about the models here:

<https://www.neumc.org/GC2019>. A Matrix of the Three Plans by Jim McPhee is especially helpful.

Underlying conversation about the way forward, I hear again the themes of exile and home. LGBTQ Methodists are exiled from their church home, seeking God’s way forward through the wilderness of not belonging. Traditional United Methodists worry about the church moving into a wilderness where their beliefs are no longer recognized. Others feel fear that the United Methodist Church will break apart.

Regardless of the model adopted, the United Methodist Church will change. And here is God’s unsettling news for us: the old ways will inevitably be put aside. God has a new plan for United Methodists, and it may take us farther into the wilderness before it leads us out.

But here is God’s good news for the United Methodist Church: God is no novice when it comes to the wilderness and ways forward. God brought Moses through the wilderness to the promised land. God brought the Israelites out of exile to a renewed abundance at home. Regardless of the wilderness, there is always a home on the other side. New things are coming and God is with us.

In Christ, Pastor Kristin



### Volunteer Schedule

#### February 3

Greeters:

Acolytes:

Coffee Hour Host: Evelyn Horstman

Liturgist:

#### February 10

Greeters:

Acolytes:

Coffee Hour Host: Sandy Barringer and Joyce Maske

Liturgist:

#### February 17

Greeters:

Acolytes:

Coffee Hour Host:

Liturgist:

#### February 24

Greeters:

Acolytes:

Coffee Hour Host:

Liturgist:

### Lenten Bible Study

Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful  
Disciples Adam Hamilton's newest book explores Peter as a model of discipleship.

Like us, he had his flaws and made mistakes. Also like us, he tried his best to be faithful to Jesus.

The River Churches will use this book as a six-week Lenten study this year. The study will take place on Saturday mornings, beginning March 16 through April 20, from 8:30 am - 10 am. Join United Methodists along the Kennebec River to explore Peter's life and faith.

For more information, please contact Pastor Kristin.

## February Birthdays

1 – Rebecca Pullen

6 – Sue Landreth

8 – Donna Alexander

15 – Darby Rock

16 – Linda Forbes

17 – Robert Thurlow

24 – Kristen Tripp

25 – Charlotte McGuire

### Storm Cancellations and 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.

### We Need Help!

As most already know George is unable to do snow removal this winter. Thankfully, the Sheriff's Department clears the steps and walkways on weekdays. However on the weekends we need a few more volunteers to help out. Please consider signing up to help clear the steps and walkways so the burden doesn't always fall on the same people. This is OUR church, if you are physically able please take part in helping to keep it safe and accessible to all!



**THANK YOU** to everyone who helps out in donating frequently used supplies! You have really helped our church save money! We are always in need of:

**Paper Towels**

**Toilet Paper**

**Tall Kitchen Bags**

**Coffee**

**Coffee Cups (no Styrofoam please)**

**Coffee Creamers (non-perishable)**

You can drop off donations in fellowship hall or the church office. Thank you.



### Summer Camp

It's never too early to start thinking about Summer Camp. Scholarships are available for Camp Mechuwana this summer! Send a copy of your camp registration page to the church office to be added to the scholarship list! Deadline is May 15!



The Food Bank is down in several items and is asking for help in replenishing their supply of:

- Canned Fruit
- Small boxes of raisins for our kid's programs
- Juice boxes for kids
- Canned chicken

Donations can be left in the shopping cart at the sanctuary entrance. Thank you for all you do to support the food bank!

### 2018 Year-End Financial Statements

The 2018 Year-End Financial Statements will be available on the Usher's Table on Sunday, February 3. Any statements not picked up on Sunday will be mailed out on February 4. Any questions see Debbie Polzella



# Simplified Board Highlights

Welcome to a new year!! Henry Berry is now chair of the church board replacing Sue Pattershall who has moved to the position of communicator, replacing Ardyce Robbin who has completed her term on the board. Other new members are Valerie Gallagher, Dave Robbin, Deb Campbell and Tammy Roberts. Other members completing their terms of service are John Webb, Tom Webber, and Lynn Kennard. Members continuing to complete their remaining terms are Jim Jacobsen, Gary Alexander, Connie Packard, Mary Saunders, Johnnie Beane and Kristin White. Lori Webber continues as secretary. Henry welcomed all and thanked everyone for their service. We were reminded of the mission of the UMC and the Vision of the New England Conference and were asked to be thinking about our hopes for Green Street.

Kristin led us in beginning the exploration of "Developing an Intentional Discipleship System" by Junius B Dotson which can be found online at the New England Conference website at [https://www.neumc.org/files/districts/risem+district/discipleship+resources/discipleshipsystem\\_digital.pdf](https://www.neumc.org/files/districts/risem+district/discipleship+resources/discipleshipsystem_digital.pdf) . She shared scripture from Matthew 9:35-38. A short discussion followed then we were asked to consider the following questions:

1. "What does the church offer that has helped me grow in my faith?"
2. "In what ways does the church encourage me to own my own personal growth as a disciple?"
3. "What could I do differently to take more responsibility for my growth?"
4. "Is our church doing everything it can to offer opportunities for disciples to grow and mature? Are we being intentional?"

One quote Kristin particularly liked was, "If you try to build the church, you will rarely get disciples. But if you make disciples, you will always get a church."

Next month we will be exploring the "Why" of discipleship.

Henry shared an overview of the simplified board. Henry, Mary, Jim, Kristin and Sue read the book Mission Possible by Kay Kotan, and created the document we use. As you may remember we combined four committees into one to create the simplified board model. . Church board members all act upon matters of finance, trustees, staff parish relations, and church council. A focus for this year is who is responsible for what? We give someone the authority to do something and the responsibility to do it. Then the person or group is accountable for getting the task done. This will allow the board to manage less and focus on Discipleship and Mission.

Gary Alexander was elected to be chair of Trustees and SPRC chair was elected to be Jim Jacobsen.

Our ministry coach, Beth Estock, sent back a couple of recommendations for us to get started on. Several task forces are being formed. If you are interested in helping in either of these areas, see Henry Berry.

1. "The Lean Start Up" by Eric Ries is about how to start an activity or new program.
2. A group of people to pursue facility rental to non-profits – advertising, keep schedule, set rates, parking, any grants to finish building – list all the things that need to be a part of this. Are there any city ordinances that prohibit what we can do? Capacity of rooms? Liability?

The 2019 Budget was approved with a deficit of \$15,426. - A discussion of how many times to ask the congregation to give ensued. We will be working on a schedule and priorities.

Jim is working on getting information on our sound system. He has called someone to assess the damage.

New dryer – The parsonage dryer died. Gary purchased a new one and it has been delivered.

George is back to work, just can't do shoveling. Sheriff's department will still shovel during the week. We will still need help on the weekends if it should snow. Let Gary know if you can help.

Our organist, Christine Letcher has left. We wish her well and thank her for all she has done for us. We will be having some substitute organists/pianists while we discern what will work best for us..

The board will attend a retreat Saturday, February 2. The next board meeting will be February 18. All are welcome to attend.



# Body, Mind, and Spirit

Do you need a winter pick-me-up? How about good company and conversation using the book "Becoming Michelle Obama"? We'll be meeting starting mid-February, location and time still to be decided, so keep an eye out for more info to come.

Other events being planned by the Spiritual Life Center team to take place in the next few months include:

- Discovering the spirit of the soul through meditation, massage and yoga to induce a greater sense of well-being.
- Poetry readings inspired by Mother's Day and Father's Day.
- A six week course exploring the mixed emotions and adjustments that often accompany life transitions.

Could one of these activities help you or a friend find deeper peace in body, mind, or spirit? More information on each of these events will be coming soon!

## Angel Food Supper News

This free community supper is offered the 3rd Saturday of the month. Volunteers are always welcome to help with this ministry. Volunteers may arrive at Green Street at 1pm to help set up or at 4pm to help serve and clean up. We serve about 120 meals and offer a vegetarian option. You can also help this ministry with your returnable bottles and cans, place them in the receptacle in fellowship hall. Randy redeemed \$8.80! We thank you for your support. February's meal will be turkey pot pie.



## Adult Mission Team News

*"We are the hearts through which Christ loves"*

YOU can be a missionary and not leave the state of Maine. We are teaming with Maine Seacoast Mission this September 15-21. They serve the needy and elderly in Washington County. The cost is \$175. (plus food) which the \$175 is matched for the rehab projects that we do. A skill is not required, just willing hands. Please speak Sandy Grady for more information



# Green Street UMC

## February 2019

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 8:30 AM Cluster 9 AM SB Retreat 5:30 PM Guided Meditation 7:00 PM AA
<b>3</b> River Churches Pulpit Swap Nancy Bischoff 5 PM Covenant Group	<b>4</b> 2 PM Bible Study 3PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM NA	<b>5</b> 4:30 PM Pastor Support and Accountability Meeting	<b>6</b> Noon UMW 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 6:45 PM Choir Practice	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 11 AM Horizon Group Lunch Meeting	<b>9</b> (snow date SB Retreat) 5:30 PM Guided Meditation 7:00 PM AA
<b>10</b> River Churches Pulpit Swap Kathleen Decker-Szakis	<b>11</b> 2 PM Bible Study 3PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM NA	<b>12</b> 9 AM DCOM	<b>13</b> Noon UMW 4 PM Family Enrichment 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 6:45 PM Choir Practice	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10:30 AM Spiritual Life Center Meeting 4:30 PM Angel Food Supper 5:30 PM Guided Meditation 7:00 PM AA
<b>17</b> River Churches Pulpit Swap Gayle Holden 11:30 AM Missions 5 PM Covenant Group	<b>18</b> President's Day 2 PM Bible Study 3PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM NA	<b>19</b> 6:30 PM Simplified Board	<b>20</b> 4 PM Family Enrichment 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 6:45 PM Choir Practice	<b>21</b> 1 PM Visitation Committee Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 5:30 PM Guided Meditation 7:00 PM AA
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 2 PM Bible Study 3PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM NA	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 4 PM Family Enrichment 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 6:45 PM Choir Practice	<b>28</b>		

### Notes

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 Phone: 207-622-0843 – email: [greenst@myfairpoint.net](mailto:greenst@myfairpoint.net) – website: [www.greenstreetumc.net](http://www.greenstreetumc.net)  
 Sunday Worship at 8am and 10:30am - Sunday School for all ages at 9am – Covenant Group at 5pm  
 Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8am to 2pm



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FEBRUARY 2019

