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www.greenstreetumc.net

August 2022

The Grapevine

A PUBLICATION OF Green Street United Methodist Church

THE GRAPEVINE — AUGUST 2022 EDITION

From the River Church Network

Sunday August 21st from 2-4 PM.

1083 East Pittston Road, Pittston, Maine

East Pittston UMC invites you to a special time with local musicians in the Wild Church as we share a little God music and lifting of spirits. For any musicians who would like to play, please contact Bob Moody or Ron Durgin by text, call or email. You may share a piece of your own or sit in on a jam session piece.

Ron Durgin (207) 350-1608, durginron@gmail.com

Bob Moody (207) 632-0381 Bob.Moody@ejprescott.com

You'll find the Wild Church area to the right of the church building. Bring your lawn chair or use a folding chair that is provided. We look forward to seeing you for this special outdoor worship experience!

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Do you feel a nudge to reach out to others with God's love? Are you a good listener, or perhaps you've wondered about sharing communion with the homebound. Our friends at Cox Memorial UMC are taking the lead in creating a lay pastoral care team for the River Church Network. Training will be provided. We want to make sure that any church members who'd like a visit don't get missed and that people have ongoing support when going through difficult times. This will support not replace the pastoral care provided by our three pastors. Please contact Laurie Decoursey

Ldecoursey52@gmail.com



Sunday Worship

9:30am in person and on Zoom

Clothes Closet

Tues. & Thurs. 10am—2pm

Saturday 10am—1pm

VISIT US ONLINE WWW.GREENSTREETUMC.NET

From the pastor

This morning as I write, ten (!) loons are serenading me from just beyond our camp dock. Two blue kayaks are gliding by. The first monarchs of the year are in the air. And an abundance of forest trees reflect in the quiet water. It's the kind of morning that must have shaped Psalm 23. God's goodness and mercy are all around.

I posted this loon visitation on facebook to share the joy and one of my friends looked up what a group of loons is called.

A group of loons can go by many names, including **a raft, a waterdance, a cry and an asylum.**

This naturally got me thinking about church (!!). The best churches are full of loony types trying to follow Jesus. Sometimes it's like water rafting together. Other times it's like a dance. Often we cry together in sorrow or joy. And the asylum is always open to experience Christ's healing presence and purpose.

Last week's children's message was about holding on tight. My grandson Jack recently tried out the new play structure at Desert of Maine in Freeport (recommend). As you can see, he made it about halfway up before things got tenuous. It took Jack quite some time, holding tight to the beam, to decide whether, or how, he would make his next move. In fact, I was really impressed at the length of his patient pause as I watched in case things went south/down.



Finally, his little legs started to wiggle. His arms stretched up as he inchwormed upward to the peak.

TAH-DAH!!!

That resourceful resilient persistence is in each of us as God's children.

And so is the joy when we accomplish a goal. My goal this year is to help Green Street UMC be the best church it can be, journeying inward and outward together, as we move toward God's next purpose in your ministry. I deliberately use "in" rather than "for" this ministry because we are literally in God's care every day along the way. And God is in our midst as we stretch, dance, laugh, cry, and grow together.

In God's Grace, Karen

Please stop by during pastor's office hours each Wednesday from 9-12. Pastor Karen does not schedule meetings during this time. Part of my summer/fall ministry plan is every member visitation on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons. If you would like a private visit or call sooner, do reach out with a request to pastor.greenstreetumc@gmail.com or call 207-622-3656. And please share your hopes, joys and concerns.



- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 2—Joyce Thurlow | 10—Chuck Horstman | 16—Anson Miner | 26—Elliott Robbin |
| 3—Debbie Polzella | 12—Cody Pearson | 17—Nikko Noble | 26—Sarah Barnum |
| 9—Judy Adams | 15—Harland Chavarie | 19—Patty Rogers | 29—Dan McGuire |
| 9—Gary Alexander | 16—Lynn Kennard | 25—Beth Chavarie | 31—Avery Robbin |

“Taking Ground”: New England Men’s Retreat

New England Men’s Ministries invites you to join men from all over the New England area as we dig into God’s word and look at what it means to “Take Ground” in your communities. The gathering will be Friday and Saturday, September 23-23, 2022, at Camp Monadnock in Jaffrey, NH. Cost is \$135 (\$125 for early registration)

Register Questions? Contact Steve Case at scase20@juno.com 603-842-979 or Tom Leach at tml7587@gmail.com 781-799-2062



Donations to help Green Street Shine



Brigido Degorio - **Kind Pastor**—Given by—Remi Durham

Rebecca Webber Anderson—**Caregiver**—Given by Tom and Lori Webber

Mark Doyon—**Patient**—Given by Tom and Lori Webber



Help Green Street Shine by donating a **STAR OF HOPE** for our Annual Fuel/Ministry Day Challenge! Following the theme of our **STAR WORDS** for 2022, you can donate a **STAR** in honor or memory of someone special with a word that you feel represents that person. Each STAR is \$25. and will be displayed in the sanctuary.

In honor or memory of _____

Word that represents this person _____

Given by _____



Simplified Board Highlights

Green Street United Methodist Church—Ardyce Robbin, recording secretary

An excerpt of the unapproved minutes from the Simplified Board meeting held on July 12, 2022 at 6pm.

(you can request a copy of the full approved minutes by contacting the church office)

Members present via Zoom: Sue Pattershall, Lilla Atwater, Kathleen Dunford, Sharon Beaver, Tammy Roberts, Gary Alexander, Tina Noble, Ardyce Robbin

A. An evote was called by Gary Alexander on June 24 to allow Sue Pattershall to fill in as temporary administrative assistant following Darby's resignation. "The SPPRC nominates Sue Pattershall as substitute administrative assistant until further notice. She would receive \$15.25 per hour. If you need more information, please call Gary, chair of SPPRC at (207-242-0493). The motion was approved.

B. Approval of minutes: Minutes from the June 14 Board meeting were accepted as written.

C. Administrative work of the Board: develop an action plan to accomplish our prioritized goals.

1. Create an excitement for Green Street, who and what we are:

2. Try to keep people involved/bring new people to church

3. a) hybrid worship, b) include all in conversations, c) prepare for transition to part-time pastor.

4. Improving communication was identified in order to implement any actions. We will likely need to use multiple ways to circulate information, including email, the newsletter, One Call, and snail mail using letters or postcards.

a) Activities we will start with: Sarah Barnum's art classes, Lynne Burney and friends concert, checking with Dwight and Marianne Tibbets regarding their Glen Campbell presentation, and looking for community involvement in staffing the Clothes Closet. Promotion will be key. It might be possible to provide transportation assistance through the Hal Roberts fund. b) Sue will look into including brief profiles of each of the pastors for the next Grapevine.

D. Financial Management:

1. **Operating Treasurer's Report:** We're scheduled to review the budget for the rest of the year at our August meeting. Overall, we're doing better than we had projected to this point but there are a couple of larger expenses coming up in the fall and only about \$3,000 in the current expense account at this time.

2. **Missions Treasurer's Report:** Sue noted that before Ardyce finishes her term at the end of the year the Board will need to decide if the missions account will remain separate or be combined with the operating account which is what the auditor has recommended.

3. **Trustees Treasurer's Report:** Tammy reported that all the investment funds have decreased considerably since the beginning of the year due to the current national economic situation.

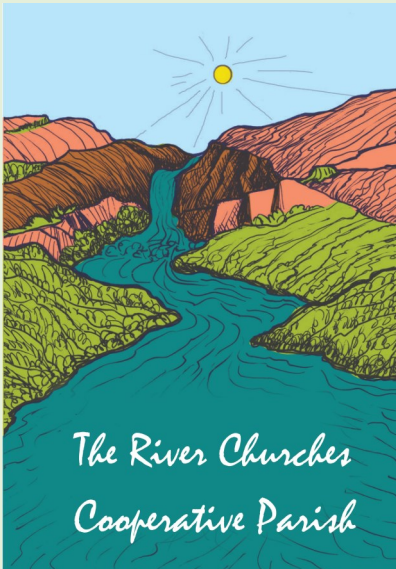
4. **Memorial gifts report:** Account balance is approximately \$7,900 at the end of June. There has been discussion of purchasing additional banners for the front of the church by the cross.

F. Trustee Tasks

1. Scholarships in the amount of \$3,000 each from the Bridge Family Memorial Fund for Robert Atwater and Emma Roberts were approved.

2. Sprinkler system update: Repairs were made to the sprinkler system in Fellowship Hall, noting that a couple additional leaks were discovered there and outside the electrical room. They will be repaired soon.

3. Gary noted that trees behind the church will need to be trimmed as they are causing damage to the church roof.



July 24, 2022 Information from the cooperative parish meeting.

There was representation from all churches present.

Open invitations:

☐ Weekly in person Bible Study beginning Tuesdays after Labor Day at 9:30 coffee hour, 10:00 study. Book: Who is this Man by John Ortberg at Highland Avenue UMC with Rev Ruth Merriam.

☐ Weekly on-line Bible Study beginning Monday, September 12 with Rev Karen Munson

☐ Men's breakfast at DRUM first Saturday of the month 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM.

☐ Men's breakfast at Highland Avenue to start in September (more details to come)

Save the Date:

☐ Cooperative Parish picnic at Mechuwana Sunday, September 11 at 1PM

The Cooperative Parish churches are looking to start a "Laity Caregiving Group". They are looking for representation from each church to be involved in providing pastoral care in our communities and working together in community with each other. If anyone is interested please let Sue Pattershall know.

☐ Randolph clothes closet is open Tuesdays 10-2 and Saturdays 9-12

☐ Green Street's Upper Room Clothes Closet is open Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-2 and Saturdays 10-1.

☐ Wild Church in East Pittston – August 21 st – 2:00PM - an afternoon of music

Karen's office hours: Tuesday 9-12 at DRUM; Wednesday 9-12 Green Street

Next Coordinating Team Meeting – September 11 at Mechuwana

Check out one another's facebook pages!!

DRUM:

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=dresden%20richmond%20united%20methodist%20church>

East Pittston: <https://www.facebook.com/EastPittstonUMC/>

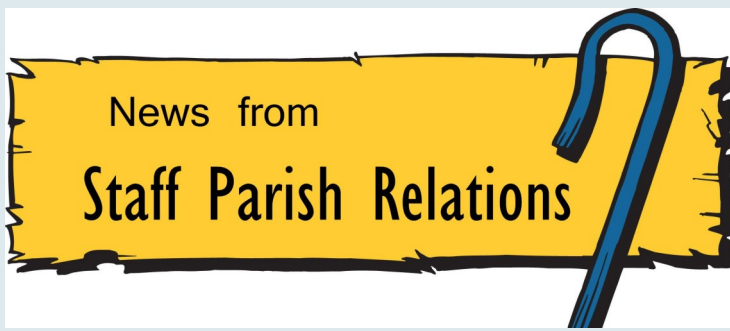
Highland Ave UMC, Gardiner: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Highland-Avenue-United-Methodist-Chuech/388465797928477>

Randolph UMC: <https://www.facebook.com/RandolphUnitedMethodistChurch>

Cox Memorial UMC, Hallowell: <https://www.facebook.com/Cox-Memorial-United-Methodist-Church-270206526354219>

Green Street UMC, Augusta - private: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/149011399812>

Green Street UMC, Augusta – public: <https://www.facebook.com/Green-Street-United-Methodist-Church>



It's transition time!

On June 12th, we observed Pastor Kristin White's last Sunday with us with a wonderful celebration in Fellowship Hall following the service. Perhaps we should say "after the services." Special things happened upstairs in the sanctuary as well, and these

were recorded for those who were unable to be with us in person. That part of the day ended with our singing: "May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You." We do wish her all the best as she leaves us and are grateful for the gifts she shared with us during her years as our pastor. The fellowship time that followed was well attended. It was hosted by Sandy and Randy Grady. Others had also contributed to the refreshments. It was a good send-off for Kristin and she appreciated all the efforts that went into making the day special.

On July 3rd, the Rev. Dr. Karen Munson led us in worship for the first time as our new pastor (with Sue Pattershall as worship leader for many parts of the service). It was a communion Sunday and Karen chose to be the lead singer for the musical version (2257 in The Faith We Sing). This was a welcome surprise to those gathered in the sanctuary and those participating on Zoom.

A gathering was held downstairs after the service so people could have an opportunity to welcome Karen and meet her husband (Jeff) who will be with us on occasion, but has ongoing responsibilities elsewhere on Sunday mornings. Tina Noble and Jessa Mitchell did the hosting duties for this event, which (in typical Tina style) included egg rolls, a rice dish, and one with noodles. Others provided vegetables, fruit and desserts. There was plenty to eat and leftovers for a number of folks to take home.

It was so good to be able to gather for fellowship. We look forward to more such times, even without a "good-bye" or "hello" for the reason. Conversations are happening around the hope for and the possibility of our being able to do a gathering once a month. We don't need to ask if this would be something the church family would like. We've seen it in action. Stay tuned.

The Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee invites you to contact any of us (listed below) to share your feelings about how things are going as we enter into this new chapter of Green Street's history, truly believing that part-time will be plenty.

Gary Alexander (Chair) galexander@myfairpoint.net

Henry Berry augberry@aol.com

Judy Adams judy.adams@maine.gov

Kathleen Dunford (Lay Leader) Tkdunford@gmail.com

Sally Joy srjoy43@gmail.com





A Message from our tenant, Susan Cross

Hello everyone at Green Street UMC!

I have been thinking a lot lately about new beginnings. As you know I have been giving massages at Green Street for about 2-3 years now. COVID hit small businesses like mine, (and churches as well!), pretty hard. But now we know more about it and I have decided this is a new beginning! I've changed the name of my massage practice to "Crosswinds Massage Therapy."

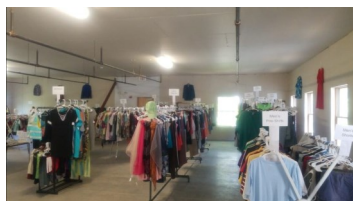
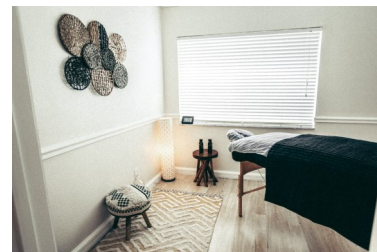
This has also been a new beginning for Green Street UMC as you have welcomed a new pastor! It is a new beginning for both of us.

Instead of a "Grand Reopening," I'd like to do a "Grand New Beginning" for anyone who attends Green Street. For the whole month of August, I would like to offer a one-hour massage at \$35. Massage is so therapeutic and beneficial for body, mind, and spirit. But I realize it can be expensive. Many massage therapists in the area charge \$80 or more for a one-hour massage. I am sticking with \$70 but in August you can have one for \$35. If you would prefer a chair massage for 1/2 hour you can do that for \$20 instead of \$40.

Please know that a massage is always based on your comfort level. If you would like either the one-hour massage or the 1/2 hour chair massage please call me at 242-7286 (feel free to leave a message since I am sometimes at work as an RN and seeing patients in the building next door to the church); or send me an email at mainecross2@gmail.com. Or send me a message over Facebook messenger.

I hope to see you in the massage room. Here's to new beginnings!

Susan



The Upper Room Clothes Closet

Beginning Saturday August 20—September 10

Come check out our summer sale as we begin the transition from summer to fall. **Fill a bag with clothing for \$5!**

We are open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10AM—2PM

And Saturdays from 10AM—1PM

Dear members of Cox Memorial, Dresden Richmond, Green Street, Randolph, Highland Avenue, and East Pittston United Methodist Churches,

As we begin this year of collaborative leadership, our pastoral team would like to help you start getting to know us. Each of us will have primary relationships with two of your churches and all of us will put our particular gifts and interests to work for all six churches. Additionally, we will be in place for pastoral coverage together so that you may call on anyone of us and there will be seamless coverage when one of us is away. We are so grateful for the Coordinating Team's work which is already giving shape to how this will benefit each church's unique ministry.

My name is **Rich Cullen** and I have been a United Methodist pastor for 38 years having begun pastoral ministry in Massachusetts (two appointments) before being appointed to the United Methodist Church of Auburn, ME in 1996. After a 16 year stay in Auburn, I was appointed to the Main Street United Methodist Church in Nashua, NH from 2012-2020 when I "retired". My wife, Lauren, and I have lived in Litchfield since 2011, she full-time and me part-time while serving in NH. In retirement I have been serving the Cox Memorial UMC in Hallowell for the last two years. My first appointment was to a three-point charge during which time we formed a Cooperative Parish so this new endeavor doesn't feel so strange to me.

Originally from RI, Lauren and I met in college and were married in 1981 in her hometown of Auburn, MA. We have four grown sons all of whom live west of the Mississippi River although one of our sons will soon be moving from MN to Maryland. As is so often the case today, none are married although two are in long-term relationships and there are no grandchildren yet, but there is one grand dog!

When we moved to Maine in 1996 it felt as though I had come home. I love the beauty of our state and enjoy spending time outdoors doing physical activities such as kayaking, hiking, and camping in the summer and snowshoeing and cross-country skiing in the winter. I walk daily in the woods surrounding our home and consider walking to be a spiritual practice. When possible, I prefer church activities that can be done outdoors as well and would love to schedule a walk by the river rather than a meeting in my office! Of course, I look forward to meeting you wherever is best for you.

My name is **Karen Munson**. When my husband, Jeff, and I moved to Maine with three school age children in 2000, we never dreamed that it would be our home for 21 ½ years and counting! I'm delighted that this new appointment keeps me actively engaged in ministry here in our beloved central Maine. We now live in Topsham beside the mighty Androscoggin River where recreating the garden is this year's project. The children are grown and living in Washington State; Boston, MA; and MA's Pioneer Valley. Unfortunately, they've taken the grandchildren with them. Concentrating my work among you early in the week will create much needed family time.

Bible Study is one of my greatest joys and I hope that many of you will join in as we schedule these both in person and online. I also love preaching and teaching as well as visits to hear your personal stories of how life in God's creation. Thank you for welcoming me into your ministries in the Kennebec River valley.

From **Rev. Ruth Merriam**.

I am now in my 6th year of 're-irement', and have served as an Interim Minister at The Pleasant Street UMC in Waterville, at Oakland/Sydney & Farmington UMCs, at Wayne Community Church, at the Chebeague UMC and I have just completed one year of a half-time appointment at the Highland Avenue United Methodist Church in Gardiner. I'm very much looking forward to this new venture!

One of my biggest surprises – coming after 40 years in ministry, has been how much I have enjoyed being 'a substitute' or 'temporarily filling in'. I could never have guessed how gratifying it would be to serve in a less than permanent capacity – but what a blessing it's been!

When I'm not in the pulpit, I've enjoyed volunteering at the Brunswick Gathering Place (for the homeless), tutoring English to Asylum Seekers, and most especially - spending time at the Maine Correctional Center in Windham.

I consider myself to be in team-ministry with my husband, Dick, and we have been married 34 years. We are both 'foreigners' – in that Dick is from Wisconsin and I am from Minnesota. But like Rich Cullen, we too feel very much at home in Maine. We have a daughter, Julie, who is beginning her 3rd year of Medical Residency in Wilmington, Delaware, and will be getting married on Labor Day Weekend!

With the Joy of Serving Christ Together, *Karen, Rich, and Ruth*

Rev. Richard Cullen richcullen55@gmail.com

Rev. Ruth Merriam ruthmerriam@gmail.com

Rev. Karen Munson pastor.greenstreetumc@gmail.com



Green Street UMC

August 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 7 am Prayer	2 7 am Prayer Clothes Closet 10am-2pm	3 7 am Prayer Pastor's office 9am-1pm	4 7 am Prayer Clothes Closet 10am-2pm	5 7 am Prayer	6 7 am Prayer Clothes Closet 10am-1pm
7 9:30 Worship Preaching: Rev Karen Munson	8 7 am Prayer	9 7 am Prayer Clothes Closet 10am-2pm Board mtg6pm	10 7 am Prayer Pastor's office 9am-1pm	11 7 am Prayer Clothes Closet 10am-2pm	12 7 am Prayer	13 7 am Prayer Clothes Closet 10am-1pm
14 9:30 Worship Preaching: Rev Karen Munson	15 7 am Prayer	16 7 am Prayer Clothes Closet 10am-2pm	17 7 am Prayer Pastor's office 9am-1pm	18 7 am Prayer Clothes Closet 10am-2pm	19 7 am Prayer	20 7 am Prayer Clothes Closet 10am-1pm
21 9:30 Worship Preaching: Rev Karen Munson	22 7 am Prayer	23 7 am Prayer Clothes Closet 10am-2pm 6pm—SPPRC	24 7 am Prayer Pastor's office 9am-1pm	25 7 am Prayer Clothes Closet 10am-2pm	26 7 am Prayer	27 7 am Prayer Clothes Closet 10am-1pm
28 9:30 Worship Preaching: Rev Karen Munson	29 7 am Prayer	30 7 am Prayer Clothes Closet 10am-2pm	31 7 am Prayer Pastor's office 9am-1pm			

Sunday Worship at 9:30 AM in person or on zoom

Zoom: <https://us02webzoom.us/j/7925181731?pwd=U083cTIIVWJPWHcwa3RYa1hZellBdz09>

Zoom call in by phone 301-715-8592 (toll charges may apply)