

**DECEMBER 2019**  
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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 7 - 9am to 2pm - fellowship hall.**

Knits – Crafts – Jewelry – Home Baked Goods – Candy  
Grandmother's Attic – Christmas Items  
Something for everyone! Don't miss it!



## Downeast Brass Christmas Concert

**Saturday, December 14  
2pm - 13 Green Street**

The Downeast Brass and Organist Sharon Saunders will present their second annual holiday concert at Green Street United Methodist Church on Saturday, December 14th at 2PM. Come hear some of Christmas' favorite songs: Winter Wonderland, Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas, O Holy Night, Carol of the Bells, and Silent Night to name a few. Suggested donation of \$10 will be collected at the door. Visit the Downeast Brass at their website ( [downeastbrass.com](http://downeastbrass.com)) to learn more about them.

**Bishop's Day on the District  
Saturday, December 7 at 1pm  
Pleasant Street UMC - 61 Pleasant St, Waterville**



**Blue Christmas  
Saturday, December 21  
6pm**

**Christmas Eve  
Worship  
Lessons and Carols  
7pm  
Candlelight Communion  
11:30pm**

## Bell Choir Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Slow down, take some time away from the hectic pace this time of year can bring. Sit, relax and enjoy the magical sounds of Christmas presented by the Green Street United Methodist Church Bell Choir and remember the reason for the season. Free will offering.



## **December 1**

Greeter: Jerry Robbin  
Coffee Hour Host: Jessa Mitchell  
Liturgist: Lori Webber  
Nursery Volunteer: Gary Alexander  
Advent Reader: Gary and Donna Alexander

## **December 8**

Greeter: Chuck and Evelyn Horstman  
Coffee Hour Host: Sarah Barnum  
Liturgist: Bob Webber  
Nursery Volunteer: Donna Alexander  
Advent Reader: Kathleen Dunford

## **December 15**

Greeter: Candace and Donald Schorr  
Coffee Hour Host: Donna Alexander  
Liturgist: Tina Noble  
Advent Reader: Gallagher family

## **December 22**

Greeter: Randy and Sandy Grady  
Coffee Hour Host: Evelyn Horstman  
Liturgist: Jessa Mitchell  
Nursery Volunteer: Tina Noble  
Advent Reader: Candy and Don Schorr

## **December 24**

Greeters: Elsie Ware and Bessie Goudreau  
Advent Readers: Nharra Lapitan & family

## **December 29**

Greeter: Tom and Lori Webber  
Coffee Hour Host: Missions Luncheon  
Liturgist: Tammy Roberts



## Pastor's Message

# The Dark Night

### The Dark Night of Advent

It feels wonderful to sense God's movement in the world, to be on a spiritual journey that takes us deep, to experience fulfillment in our spiritual practices and prayer. And it feels awful to lose that sense of God's presence, to feel like we're going through the motions of spirituality, when our prayers and practices become empty ritual.

In his poem *The Dark Night*, St. John of the Cross, a 16th century priest, describes this experience not as separation from God, but rather as the difficult journey toward deeper spiritual maturity. This dark night of the soul feels like a growing apart from God, but is ironically the path leading closer to God.

Churches, organizations and communities also go through dark nights. Congregations may experience a time of spiritual upheaval – the steady faith of the past, the certainty of God's presence, and comfortable spiritual practices are stripped away; the congregation finds itself in emptiness and unknowing. As painful as this feels, it is precisely this experience that leads congregations to discover God in new ways and to live more fully centered in God. Sandra Cronk says that in this dark, empty place of loss we "confront the limit of all finite things, including the limit of ourselves." At our own limits, we grow aware of the God who transcends our understanding, the God who exists beyond our human limits.

We celebrate Advent during the darkest time of year. This season, we will explore the dark night of the soul through the Advent and Christmas stories

In Christ,  
Pastor Kristin

## 2019 Angel Tree

The Angel Tree is placed in the hallway – next to the Hannaford Table. The tree is decorated with tags describing wanted or needed items for the recipients. Please choose a tag and purchase the item listed. Place the wrapped gift, with the tag affixed to the package, in the box next to the tree. Please have the item back to the church by Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

This year's recipient of Green Street's generosity is a family that was selected by SKCDC (Southern Kennebec Child Development Corporation). The single parent family has two kiddos in Head Start/Day Care and an older boy who goes to school but attends aftercare at his elementary school. The mom works full time and studies online at UMA. She hopes to graduate in 2021 and increase her earning potential.



It's time once more for us to remember our Pastor and Staff with a Christmas token of our love and appreciation.

If you would like to contribute, please give your gift to any member of the Simplified Board. We will gladly accept your gifts during the worship service on December 15<sup>th</sup> or if you wish, you could mail them to any of us before December 15<sup>th</sup>.

We will present our gifts during the worship service on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.



- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 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 8<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you.

Name as you want it to appear on the card: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





# Simplified Board Highlights

Henry read Psalm 121. We shared a silent prayer for one another and the work of the board. Henry then shared a prayer.

**Church's Ministry and Mission section of the Church Profile.** The board worked to complete this section is very important as it is used for the purpose of Pastoral Appointments. We understand that our needs may change as we complete the 213 discussions and discernment. The next opportunity for discussion will be **Sunday, December 1 at 1 P.M.**

The church board scheduled a **Church Board Retreat for Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.**

## Generative Work as a Finance Committee

- **The 2019 Current Expense budget** was shared with updates and choices to consider for meeting year end demands.
- A **MOTION** was made to recommend church conference approve the removal of the "designated fund" label on the Fifield Tribou fund so that it may be used at the discretion of the church board. This will allow easy access should we need money to meet our budget demands in December or in the new year. This was approved at Church conference.
- We will have a **Year End Appeal** during the month of December with the hope we will receive at least \$5,000. This will be applied to the operating budget.
- The church board wants to encourage everyone to **fill out their pledge cards** for 2020 if they have not already done so. This will help us with planning as we discern a way forward.
- Karen Munson, district superintendent has asked us to **prepare a half year budget**, January – June.

## Responding to the 213 Study

- We reviewed information from November 4<sup>th</sup> and conversations of November 10<sup>th</sup>
- **MOTION** to explore becoming a Cooperative Parish with another River Network Church or Churches. Some of the reasons to try this are the potential for new energy, we need to try something different, we can create new relationships, we may save money, we would be sharing the unique gifts of many, new model of ministry and opportunity for growth.

**The board met in closed session to discuss some SPRC business.**

## Generative Work as the Board of Trustees

- Connie gave a treasurer's report of the trustee accounts.
- **MOTION** to spend up to \$4,000 from the building account to complete necessary work on the elevator and sprinkler systems

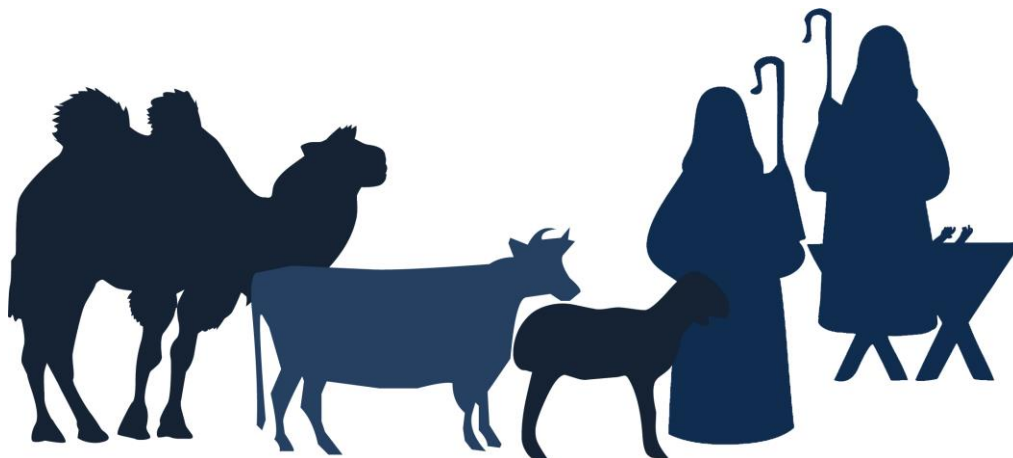
## OTHER

Sue Pattershall has volunteered to answer phones/emails should Darby be absent from work for an extended time.

- Next board meeting will be a pot luck at 6:00 PM followed by the board meeting On December 10
- Kristin closed the meeting with prayer

Respectfully submitted  
Sue Pattershall

**Advent Retreat - The Living Nativity**  
**Saturday, December 14 – 8:30am to 1:30pm**  
**Cox UMC, 29 Middle St, Hallowell**



This retreat day is an opportunity to gather with folks from the River Churches; to slow down and breathe God's love deeply, so that we might be ready to stand up for justice and receive the savior this Christmas.

Who came up with the idea of using nativity scenes to celebrate Christmas? Many might be surprised to learn that Francis of Assisi, the well-known thirteenth-century saint, is credited with creating the first nativity scene. *The Living Nativity* introduces us to Saint Francis and his joyous reenactment of the birth of Jesus, complete with a manger and animals.

The Living Nativity (by Larry Peacock) explores how nativity sets, Advent wreaths, candles, carols, Christmas cards, and other traditions help prepare our hearts for the God "who bends low to enter our world and our lives." Deepen your spiritual journey, reflect, and experience activities that open hearts to the Christ child.

8:30am - Gathering for Coffee and Breakfast Treats.

9:00am – Retreat begins promptly at 9am.

1:30pm – Retreat ends – everyone is welcome to attend The Downeast Brass Holiday Concert at 2pm at Green Street UMC, 13 Green St, Augusta.

**This retreat is free of charge and breakfast treats and lunch will be served.**  
**Register on line at [www.greenstreetumc.net](http://www.greenstreetumc.net)**

Sponsored by the Kennebec River United Methodist Churches

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](mailto:greenst@myfairpoint.net)

## Hannaford Helps Reusable Bag Fundraiser!

Great News! The Whitten Road Hannaford has chosen our Angel Food Suppers to be recipients of their reusable bag program for the month of **December!**

For every **Fight Hunger Bag** (pictured below) sold during December at this location, we will receive a \$1 donation to our Angel Food Suppers!



So December will be a great time to replenish your reusable shopping bags and help feed the hungry!

**We have one church member who uses these as Christmas gift bags!**

Tell your family, friends and co-workers so we can make the most of this fundraiser!



## Holiday Leftovers Shepard's Pie (A Martha Stewart Recipe)

3 cups stuffing  
1 cup cranberry sauce  
1 pound sliced turkey  
10oz. leftover vegetables  
4-6 Tablespoons gravy  
3-4 cups mashed potatoes

Preheat oven to 350. Spread stuffing in a 9" pie plate. Layer with cranberry sauce, turkey and vegetables. Drizzle with gravy and spread potatoes over the top. Place pie on baking sheet. Bake 35-40 min until potatoes are golden brown.



### SHOP FOR YOUR HOME!

and support our group

>> HELP OUR CAUSE

### The United Methodist Women are selling RADA Cutlery as a fundraiser.

Interested in placing an order? You have several options:

1. Visit the RADA table at the UMW Christmas Fair on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.
2. Contact a UMW member to request a catalog and place and order.
3. Visit the Green St UMW group's unique store link to view the online catalog and place an order  
<https://radafundraising.com/?fsn=2065374.eea190>

### Advent Sermon Series

We celebrate Advent during the darkest time of year. This season, we will explore the dark night of the soul through the Advent and Christmas stories:

Dec. 1 – Awakening: Zechariah encounters the presence of God (Luke 1:5-25, 57-66) Dec. 8 – Purgation: John the Baptist calls for repentance and preparation (Mark 1:1-8) Dec. 15 – Illumination: Joseph in the dark night of unknowing (Matthew 1:18-25) Dec. 22 – Union: the incarnation of Jesus draws us into union with God (John 1:1-5, 10-14)



River Churches

Coffee Cafe

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12**

**6:00PM**

**13 GREEN ST - AUGUSTA**

Everyone has a story...what's yours?

Join us for our ongoing journey  
into the importance of stories in our lives.  
Gatherings are at each of our River Churches.

- December 12 -- Green Street UMC
- January 9 -- Dresden Richmond UMC
- January 30 -- East Pittston UMC
- February 13 -- Highland Avenue UMC, co-sponsored with Randolph UMC



*Coffee!*  
*Friends!*  
*Storytelling!*



*Funded by a grant from the United Methodist Foundation*

**GREEN STREET UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

13 Green Street Augusta  
207-622-0843  
[www.greenstreetumc.net](http://www.greenstreetumc.net)  
Sponsored by the Kennebec  
River United Methodist  
Churches





# Green Street UMC

## December 2019

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
<b>1</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent <b>10:30 AM</b> Welcoming/Reconciling Meeting <b>1 PM</b> 213 Decision	<b>2</b> 3:00 PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM NA <b>6:30 PM</b> SPPRC Meeting	<b>3</b> 9 AM DCOM 4:30 PM Pastor Accountability Meeting	<b>4</b> 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 6:45 PM Choir Practice	<b>5</b> 10AM ACT Team Christmas Party <b>4:30 PM</b> Nominations Meeting	<b>6</b> UMW Fair Set Up	<b>7</b> 9 AM Christmas Fair 7:00 PM AA
<b>8</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent	<b>9</b> 3:00 PM Women's Bible Study	<b>10</b> Organ Tuning 6 PM SB Dinner 6:30 PM Simplified Board Meeting	<b>11</b> Noon UMW Meeting 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 2 PM Downeast Brass Concert 5 PM Meditation 7:00 PM AA
<b>15</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent 2 PM Bell Choir Christmas Concert	<b>16</b> 3:00 PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM NA	<b>17</b> 6 PM Simplified Board Planning Meeting	<b>18</b> 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 6 PM Finance Meeting 6:45 PM Choir Practice	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Winter 4:30 PM Angel Food Supper 6 PM Blue Christmas 7:00 PM AA
<b>22</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	<b>23</b> 3:00 PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM NA	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve 7 PM Lessons and Carols 11:30 PM Candlelight Communion	<b>25</b> Christmas Day	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:00 PM AA
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 3:00 PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM NA	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve				

Notes

13 Green Street. Augusta, Maine 04330  
 Phone: 207-622-0843 – email: [greenst@myfairpoint.net](mailto:greenst@myfairpoint.net) – website: [www.greenstreetumc.net](http://www.greenstreetumc.net)  
 Sunday Worship at 9:30 am – Sunday school Adults, 8:15am – Children, 8:30am  
 Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9am to 2pm





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13 Green Street  
Augusta, ME 04330

