



DECEMBER 2020



# The GRAPEVINE

## What's INSIDE

A publication of Green Street United Methodist Church

Pastor's Page	Pg. 2
Birthdays	Pg. 2
Blue Christmas	Pg. 2
SB Highlights	Pg. 3
CCC News	Pg. 4
Thank You Notes	Pg. 4
Welcome Table	Pg. 5
Annual Conference	Pg. 5
Christmas Card	Pg. 5
SPRC News	Pg. 6
Calendar	Pg. 7

### Zoom Access

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7925181731?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7925181731?pwd=U083cTIIVWJPUHcwa3RYa1hZellBdz09)  
[pwd=U083cTIIVWJPUHcwa3](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7925181731?pwd=U083cTIIVWJPUHcwa3RYa1hZellBdz09)  
[RYa1hZellBdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7925181731?pwd=U083cTIIVWJPUHcwa3RYa1hZellBdz09)

**Zoom call in by phone**  
**301-715-8592**

(toll charges may apply)

### DIY Caroling Candle

For those who would like to carry a candle to carol at the church below are directions to make a candle holder using a two liter bottle:

1. Cut the base off the 2 liter bottle.
2. Insert a candle in the neck opening of the bottle from where you would normally pour.
3. When lit, hold the candle and holder upright so not to melt the plastic!
4. Enjoy!

## Advent and Christmas at Green Street

O come all ye faithful  
Joyful and triumphant  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem....

Advent and Christmas are times to prepare for and celebrate the birth of our Savior. How different things are in this challenging year...not able to worship and fellowship together in our church building ... separated except for Zoom, other media connections and the phone. AND YET... we still celebrate!

A small group is working to prepare a special visual reminder of the season at 13 Green Street. A stable will appear at the front of the church. By the second week in Advent the stable will be lit. Figures will people the stable by the third week in Advent.

We are hoping to have two outside socially distanced gatherings at church Christmas week. Much will depend on the pandemic situation locally at that time. If all goes well, we will be invited outside the church on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM to carol together. Please dress warmly, bring a candle or a flashlight and wear a mask. Also, on the 20th we will have a Blue Christmas Service at 6pm on zoom.

On Christmas Eve, again depending where we are with COVID, we will gather again at 4PM at the church socially distanced outside. We plan to carol and hear the joyful Christmas story. Please dress warmly, bring a light and wear a mask.

For those unable to come sing, please drive up to join your church family from your car... or even drive slowly by. Stay tuned for updates concerning Christmas week. Come by any time to see our Nativity scene develop!

Traditionally, there will be worship service at 11:30 Christmas Eve ... this year on Zoom.

O come let us adore him!  
O come let us adore him!  
O come let us adore him- Christ the Lord!

**News from the Gathering Task Force**

The Covid-19 agreement is in place. Thank you for following the guidelines. If you haven't already signed the agreement, please do so before entering the building, and please continue to sign in at the Wesley Center entrance. The Gathering Task Force has met with Massage Therapy, the Bell Choir, and the Thanksgiving Dinner team; together we have worked through the discernment process as they have returned to in-person gathering.

Any individuals or groups that want to use the building should contact the office for the addendum/agreement and schedule a time to meet through Darby. It's up to each group to decide what best serves the health and well-being of their group, using the questionnaire and decision tree. The Gathering Task Force continues to meet, keeping abreast of virus-related changes and state-wide policies, and adapting our church protocols as appropriate.

**Blue Christmas**



Do you find the Christmas season emotionally difficult? If so, please be aware that you are not alone. Join us on zoom on Sunday, December 20 at 6pm for our Blue Christmas Service.

**From the Pastor—An Unfamiliar Advent**

Being displaced from our familiar and beloved church home during Advent is painful, but also appropriate. The Advent/Christmas story is one of uncertainty and surprise, of journey and displacement.

John the Baptist preaches Jesus' arrival, not in pulpits, synagogues, or city squares, but in the wilderness. People leave the safety of homes and towns to hear him preach in the wild places. Mary and Joseph give birth to Jesus, not in their home or surrounded by family, but in a stranger's stable in an unfamiliar town. The wise men begin an arduous journey, uncertain of its outcome, in order to worship Jesus. For weeks, or even months, their journey takes them far from home, familiar lands and comfortable cultures. The Christmas story concludes with Mary and Joseph fleeing from Israel to Egypt in order to protect Jesus from Herod's decision to kill all of Israel's young children.

Perhaps the greatest displacement, however, comes through the incarnation itself. In The Message, John 14 says, "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood." In the birth of Jesus, God chose displacement from heaven to human in order to be fully in the world with us.

We love the Christmas season, in part because of its familiarity, long-held traditions, and comfort. Christmas speaks to us of home and church and being centered in our faith. But the Christmas story is one of discomfort, displacement and the unfamiliar. I invite us into an Advent spiritual practice of displacement this year:

Whenever you find yourself missing the familiar traditions of the season, the concerts, the visits with friends and neighbors, worship in the sanctuary, pause to imagine one of the Christmas story characters with you in that moment of displacement. Imagine the wise men with you in unfamiliar experiences. Imagine Mary or Joseph beside you when you can't celebrate in a beloved place. Imagine John the Baptist encouraging you on wilderness days. Most of all, imagine God with you in the person of Jesus, stepping outside the stronghold of heaven to be in these vulnerable days of displacement with us. May the uncertainty and unfamiliarity of this year's Advent/Christmas season become our opportunity to deeply encounter the incarnation of Christ.

Pastor Kristin



1—Heather Hibbert  
10—Jessica Alley  
17—Jesse Douvielle

21—Angela Robbin  
26—Lori Webber  
27—Wyatt Alley



# Simplified Board Highlights

November 10, 2020

Kathleen opened the meeting by playing part of a YouTube video called "The Keep Going Song" by the Bengsongs. It is an upbeat improvisational song by a young couple sharing some reflections and experiences of this year, making it up as they go along, and hoping that their song makes us feel less alone. You can search for this video on the internet.

The Board discussed the presentation and congregational meeting planned for Nov. 15. The focus will be on communicating the recent work of the Budget Sustainability Task Force and the Church Board, by first presenting some basic financial and budget information, then describing three initiatives that could create new funding streams. The proposed initiatives are a clothes closet ministry, a subscription box ministry for contemplative spiritual practices, and the Upper Room task force to find suitable tenants to rent the second floor space of the Wesley Center. The goal is to get responses from congregation members about their interest, energy, and commitment to these possible new programs. Engaging with the community outside the church is a new direction for Green Street that could sustain the budget, but would depend on support from the congregation. The Randolph clothes closet ministry has given us a good deal of information and guidance already about what might be possible.

Sue Pattershall, Current Expense Treasurer, gave a year-to-date finance update. Giving is slightly ahead of expectations and expenses are about on track for 2020. We are still awaiting news from the bank about whether the PPP loan we received earlier this year will be forgiven automatically, or whether there will be paperwork to file. The Board approved an end-of-year giving appeal emphasizing gratitude for the faithfulness of the congregation.

The Board discussed and decided several administrative issues that will be brought to the Church Conference on December 5, or submitted soon to the Many Waters District office. We will apply to the Conference for reduced mission shares for 2021, in consideration of our projected budget shortfall. The pastor's salary and compensation recommendation from SPRC, which is at the minimum levels set by the New England Conference for an ordained elder with Pastor Kristin's experience, was approved. The 2019 annual church audit was completed; there were only a few recommendations that were referred to the treasurers for review. The 2021 current expense budget was approved, and will be presented to the congregation as part of the Church Conference information. This year's budget is significantly different from those of previous years in that it leads us in a new direction toward gradually reducing our reliance on external support. It does not rely on spending bequest money or one-time funds. It includes a 10% total reduction in staff salaries, to be referred to the SPRC for implementation. In-house ministries will be supported by donations as needed rather than by budgeted amounts. Even expecting continued significant financial support from the Conference, the budget has a deficit of just over \$13,000. After open and thoughtful deliberation, the Board decided to step out in faith that a direction would emerge from one or more of the new ministries of community engagement. These were presented as "possible sources" of income to cover the deficit. It will be up to the congregation to work together to find a way forward in mission and ministry.

Henry Berry

**Church Board members:** Kathleen Dunford (Chair), Pastor Kristin White, Dave Robbin (SPRC Chair), Valerie Gallagher (Lay Leader), Gary Alexander (Trustees Chair), Tammy Roberts (Trustees Treasurer), Henry Berry (Communications), Lori Webber, Chuck Horstman, Tina Noble, Ardyce Robbin (Secretary). Visitors are welcome at all meetings, 2d Tuesday each month 6 pm on Green Street Zoom!



## Cooperative Coordinating Committee

At our November meeting, the Cooperative Coordinating Committee (CCC) met on Zoom to discuss Advent.

With Randolph no long meeting in person because of Covid, and the lingering uncertainty of Covid for all our planning, we centered on ways to join together in our cars. Final details are forthcoming, but plans are tentatively that we will attempt a parking lot Christmas Eve service, joining both congregations together in Randolph and taking advantage of a small radio transmitter to permit safer singing of traditional carols.

The CCC meets on the second Sunday each month **at 1pm (13 December 2020)**. We need to know how the Cooperative Parish is working for you and what your needs and expectations are!

### Green Street's members of the CCC are:

- Susan Cross, *at-large* (mainecross@gmail.com)
- Kathleen Dunford, *at-large* (tkdunford@gmail.com or (207) 623-3174)
- Valerie Gallagher, *Lay Leader* (JV Gallagher2@gmail.com or (207) 458-7779)
- David Robbin, *SPRC Chair* (dwrobbin@gmail.com or (207) 512-8620).

Please email or call any of us with your further questions, concerns, and ideas. (You may also contact any lay member of SPRC to discuss the Bishop's appointment of Pastor Kristin to the Cooperative Parish.) To raise a question or concern

## Thanksgiving Thank You Notes

I wish to thank you for providing this lovely Thanksgiving meal. I am so grateful for your generosity. Have a blessed Holiday Season.

With love,

Cindy Dow  
Thank you so much for doing the turkey dinner. It was so good, we enjoyed it so much. Thank you again.

Nancy and Jerry McDonald

Hastings.

Thank you so much, the meal was wonderful.

Mona Dutch

This was so nice of all of you. Wanted to thank you.

God Bless,

## Ideas, Insights, Information

Books you may find interesting



***Come Home!***: *Reclaiming Spirituality and Community As Gay Men and Lesbians* by Chris Glaser; a vision of faith, hope, and affirmation through Christian faith and community.

***God and the Gay Christian***: *The Biblical Case in Support of Same-Sex Relationships* by Matthew Vines; a landmark book exploring what the Bible actually says – and doesn't say – about same-sex relationships.

***Holy Love: A Biblical Theology for Human Sexuality*** by Steve Harper; for those interested in understanding the Bible's teaching on this fundamental component of human life, experience, and relationships.

## Christmas Blessings from the Welcome Table Ministry Team!

So, the coronavirus is going to be with us during the winter months. For some, holiday meals may not be in person. When I was a small child, we lived far away from our grandparents. They lived in South Dakota and we lived in Wisconsin. There was no Zoom or internet and long-distance phone calls were expensive. My maternal grandparents had 40+ grandchildren and so the typical Christmas gifts were not feasible. However, my grandmother knew how to be present with us during the holidays. Every year for many years, she would send us a Christmas box. Our eyes would light up and our hearts would quicken with excitement when my mother said, "We received Grandma's box today!" Inside the box were sugar cookies, chocolate chip cookies, popcorn balls and caramel corn, all homemade of course, and three silver dollars or two 50-cent pieces - one dollar's worth for each of us.

Here is an easy recipe for a Christmas candy that can be mailed out tucked inside a box of homemade kettle corn (use canola oil or light-tasting olive oil to pop the corn in a heavy bottomed cooking pot, and add up to ¼ cup white granulated sugar per ½ cup un-popped popcorn when adding the un-popped corn to the cooking oil).

Valerie Gallagher

### Welcome Table Chocolate Christmas Bark

(Free of the top 8 allergens, gluten free and vegan)

2 Cups - Enjoy Life Chocolate Chips (dark or semi-sweet, I like a blend)  
 \*3/4 to 1 cup - pepitas, (check for gluten free – I have found mine at the Food Co-Op in Gardiner)  
 3/4 cup raisins— (I have had no trouble with Ocean Spray but always read labels for allergens)

Line a cookie sheet or jelly roll pan with parchment paper. In a large glass bowl, melt the chocolate chips in microwave, stir well. Add the pepitas and raisins and stir well. Spread on the cookie sheet or jelly roll pan. Let cool. Cut into small pieces and store in air tight container in the fridge.

\*Pepitas are seeds harvested from specific, hull-less pumpkin varieties. Flavor variations: You can try adding flavorings to the melted chocolate that are designed for chocolate (not water-based as this can cause your chocolate to "seize" – harden into an unmanageable mess). Some ideas are mint or orange. Ocean Spray also makes orange-flavored raisins (check label for allergens).

To crisp up stale popcorn, spread it in a single layer on a baking sheet and place in the oven at 250 degrees for 5 minutes or until heated through. Watch it carefully so it doesn't burn.



www.greenstreetumc.net

### Annual Conference Saturday, December 5 9am on Zoom

District Superintendent Karen Munson will host this is through the district zoom account

<https://zoom.us/j/93576425131>

Meeting ID: 935 7642 5131

Passcode: Manywaters

There is a waiting room to be let in. Stay on the call to be let in by Karen  
 One tap mobile+1-929-205-6099,,93576425131#

The report packet is available to download on the church website.

[www.greenstreetumc.net](http://www.greenstreetumc.net)



### 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 send to 13 Green Street, Augusta, ME 04330 or drop it in the mail slot on the door of Wesley Center. **Deadline is Dec. 10.**

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

# It Only Takes a Spark

NOTES FROM THE SPRC

Beloved Green Streeters:

During November and December, the Committee will be conducting ministry assessments of our Pastor, our Staff, and ourselves as a Committee.

The purpose of these assessments is twofold. First, we evaluate our Pastor and Staff because that is our charge as a Committee: “To provide evaluation at least annually for their use in an ongoing, effective ministry and for identifying their continuing educational needs and plans.” (§258.2g(5)) Second, we evaluate our Pastor, our Staff, and ourselves to be supportive and accountable: “support without accountability promotes moral weakness; accountability without support is a form of cruelty.” (§102) In this way, we “watch over one another in love.” (§104)

Self-evaluation is an important aspect of this process: did we live up to our own expectations of ourselves? For instance, in our self-evaluation, we will ask:

1. What commitments did the Committee make with the Pastor and Staff?
2. What progress has the Committee made toward these goals?
3. Are there areas where the Committee has not met expectations?
4. What are the possible reasons for not meeting expectations?
5. What steps should be taken to change this?
6. What new learning will contribute to the Committee’s effectiveness?

We invite you to evaluate the Committee as well. If you have answers to these questions, please share them with us—our contact information is in the table below. We need to know if we’re doing the work you need done. Please be in touch.

Yours in Ministry,

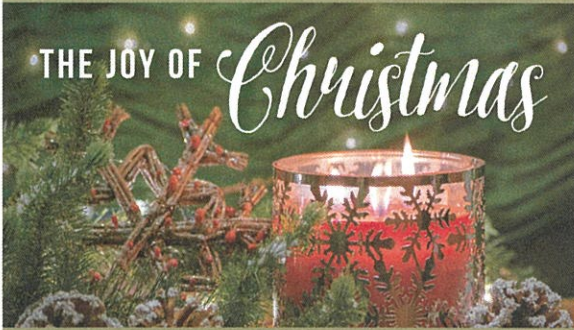
The Staff–Parish Relations Committee			
2021	Sarah Barnum she/her/hers/[none] barnumsarah54@gmail.com	Evelyn Horstman she/her/hers/Mrs. horstman3c@aol.com	Dave Robbin, <i>Chair</i> he/him/his/Mr. dwrobbin@gmail.com
2022	Judy Adams she/her/hers/[none] judy.adams@maine.gov	Susan Cross she/her/hers/Ms. mainecross@gmail.com	Sally Joy she/her/hers/[none] srjoy43@gmail.com
<i>ex off.</i>	Valerie Gallagher, <i>Lay Leader</i> she/her/hers/Ms. JV Gallagher2@gmail.com		

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***“I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.***

***JOHN 15:12–17***

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# Green Street December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 7am Prayer	<b>2</b> 7am Prayer 6:45pm Choir Practice	<b>3</b> 7am Prayer 7pm SPPRC	<b>4—Darby Off</b> 7am Prayer 5:15pm Yoga	<b>5</b> 7am Prayer 9am Annual Conference
<b>6</b> 2nd Sunday of Advent	<b>7—Darby Off</b> 7am Prayer 8am Yoga 3pm Women's Bible Study	<b>8</b> 7am Prayer 9am Staff Meeting 6pm SB Meeting	<b>9</b> 7am Prayer 6:45pm Choir Practice	<b>10</b> 7am Prayer	<b>11</b> 7am Prayer 5:15pm Yoga	<b>12</b> 7am Prayer 10am Gathering Task Force 5pm Lay Leaders Meeting
<b>13</b> 3rd Sunday of Advent 1pm CCC Meeting	<b>14</b> 7am Prayer 8am Yoga 3pm Women's Bible Study	<b>15</b> 7am Prayer 9am—Noon Pastor's Office Hours 6pm SB Planning Meeting	<b>16</b> 7am Prayer 6:45pm Choir Practice	<b>17</b> 7am Prayer 7pm Bureaucracy Meeting	<b>18</b> 7am Prayer 5:15pm Yoga	<b>19</b> 7am Prayer 10am Gathering Task Force
<b>20</b> 4th Sunday of Advent 4pm Caroling at Green Street 6pm Blue Christmas Service	<b>21 Winter Solstice</b> 7am Prayer 8am Yoga 3pm Women's Bible Study	<b>22</b> 7am Prayer 9am—Noon Pastor's Office Hours	<b>23</b> 7am Prayer 6:45pm Choir Practice	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> 7am Prayer 4pm Christmas Eve Service at Green Street 11:30pm Candlelight Communion	<b>25 Christmas</b>	<b>26</b> 7am Prayer 10am Gathering Task Force
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7am Prayer 8am Yoga 3pm Women's Bible Study	<b>29</b> 7am Prayer 9am—Noon Pastor's Office Hours	<b>30</b> 7am Prayer 6:45pm Choir Practice	<b>31</b> 7am Prayer		

notes

Sunday Worship at 9:30 am

All meetings, classes and services are on Zoom until further notice.

Zoom: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7925181731> - Meeting ID 792 518 1731 Password: 091547

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

Church Office Hours Monday – Friday from 8am to 2pm

Pastor's Office Hours: Tuesdays 9am—noon.