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January  
2022

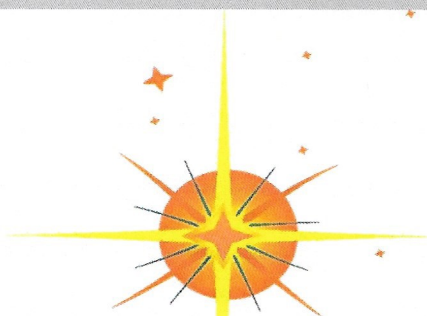
# The Grapevine

A PUBLICATION OF Green Street United Methodist Church

THE GRAPEVINE — JANUARY 2022

## Star Words

—from First Olympia United Methodist Church and Redmond United Methodist Church in Washington



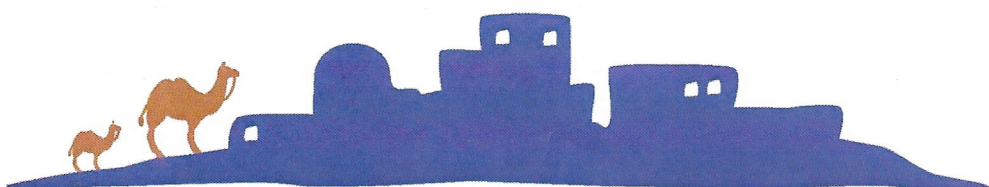
An Epiphany tradition some churches have is gifting “star words” to their congregation. We’re offering everyone connected with Green Street the opportunity to explore various spiritual practices using a “star word,” a guiding word you can use as a focus. These words are intention, or guiding, words that individuals are invited to use as a spiritual guide throughout the year. Star words have been mailed to your home and have hopefully been received by now. If you didn’t receive a star word and would like one, please contact the church office. Place your star word somewhere you will see it regularly and reflect on how God has moved through, around, or in connection to that word. You may want to use the following prayer:

God of starlight,  
Allow me to use this star word as a tool  
to see you in everyday life.  
May it guide me, as the star guided the Magi.  
May it illuminate your path, as light always does.  
Amen.



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January 2022

VISIT US ONLINE [WWW.GREENSTREETUMC.NET](http://WWW.GREENSTREETUMC.NET)

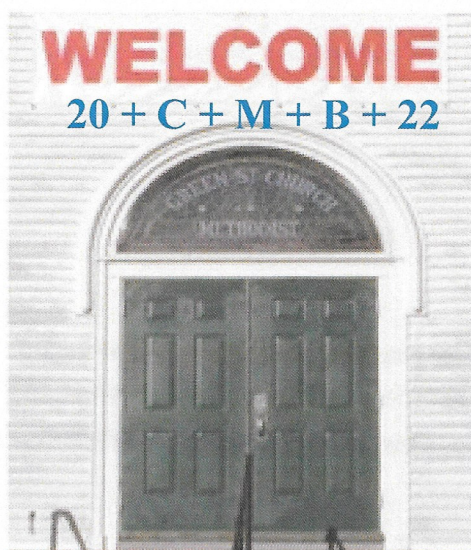
**Sunday Worship**  
9:30am in person and on Zoom  
**Church Office Hours**  
Monday—Thursday  
8:30am to 1:30pm  
Friday—8:30am—1pm  
**Pastor's Office Hours**  
Monday & Tuesday—10am –1pm



## Epiphany Traditions

On January 6 we celebrate Epiphany, the day the wise men arrived with gifts for Jesus. A centuries old tradition of Epiphany practiced all over the world is **Chalking the Doors**. It is a time of asking God's blessing on our home or church and on those who enter. It is also an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, in our church, and in our daily routines.

The traditional way to chalk your door is to write **20 + C + M + B + 22** above the entrance using chalk. The letters C, M, B have two meanings: They are the initials of the traditional names of the three wise men: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May God bless the house." The + signs represent the cross and 2022 is the year.



—from *FamilyMinistryTools.org*

### A Chalking the Door Blessing



God of Light, bless our home. Make it a haven of rest for all in need of your warmth and care. And when we go out from this place, may we never lose sight of that Epiphany star. We mark our door with the symbols of the Magi.

**20 + C + M + B + 22**

May all who enter, through out the year, find love and light; for Christ has come to dwell in this home and in these hearts. Amen.

### From the Church Office

Just a reminder going into the new year of deadlines and boundaries in order to make church work productive and the office a safe place.

The newsletter deadline is the 15th. If you have information you would like included in the newsletter and the 15th is too early just let me know ahead of time and I will save space for you.

Information for the What's Happening at Green Street weekly email and post sent out on Sunday is Friday by 8am.

The deadline for Sunday Powerpoint is Wednesday. This allows time for the slideshow to be completed (and music to be added, if needed) and the tech group to review it before it gets loaded onto the laptop for Sunday. (Please don't wait until Friday to turn in information)

#### Church Office Hours:

**Mon.—Fri. 8:30am -1:30pm.**

If stopping in, it is appreciated if you are mindful of the size of the space, it is not safe for groups to gather. The "dutch" door makes it convenient to interact while maintaining social distancing. If you need to "work" in the office please do so outside of office hours.

### Stay Connected in 2022!

Are you receiving church communications? Are you being notified if in person worship is cancelled due to a storm? Emails are sent out via Mail Chimp several times a week, One Call now makes automated calls regarding upcoming events, reminders, cancellations, etc. Our Facebook Group page has daily postings. If you are not connected to these communication resources please let the church office know so we can update your contact information.

## JANUARY



## BIRTHDAYS

3—Charles Atwater

5—Lee Ware

12—Tina Noble

12—Tina Monroe

13—Robin Forbes

21—Della Kimball

24—Nancy Merrick





# Simplified Board Highlights

An excerpt of the *unapproved* minutes from the Simplified Board meeting held on December 14, 2021 at 6pm.

**Members present via Zoom:** Kristin White, Valerie Gallagher, Dave Robbin, Tammy Roberts, Lori Webber, Ardyce Robbin; Visitors: Sue Pattershall

**Calling Together** at 6:03 p.m. In Kathleen's absence Kristin shared the agenda and led the meeting, opening with prayer. Lori moved to approve the minutes from the October 12 meeting and Valerie seconded. A vote followed and the minutes were approved. Sue noted a correction to the minutes from the November 9 meeting: letter D, item 1 should read that the Clothes Closet is expected to bring in \$3,000 this year and \$6,000 next year. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Lori and seconded by Dave. A vote was held and the minutes were approved as amended.

**Final Report of the Welcoming Task Force,** The Task Force believes its task of guiding the congregation through the discernment process regarding LGBTQ+ inclusion is completed and is recommending a church conference to seek approval of the statement of inclusivity found in the packet.

The proposed statement was discussed/clarified and it was noted that for Green Street it would only be a statement of inclusivity and not a request to become a Reconciling church as there seems to be little energy within the congregation for additional ministries at this time. Concern was raised about the small response to the survey and that perhaps the issue should be tabled until more of the congregation becomes active again. In response it was noted that if we wait for re-engagement by more of the congregation, other decisions might also need to be put on hold. Since we are anticipating a change in pastoral leadership, being clear on where the church stands on this issue could be helpful to the cabinet as they make the appointment and to a new pastor who will be expected to shepherd the congregation through whatever decisions are made regarding LGBTQ+ inclusivity at General Conference in September 2022.

The Task Force proposal was amended slightly to include a statement about making the church conference available in the sanctuary and on Zoom. Dave moved and Valerie seconded that the Board request Rev. White to ask the District Superintendent to call and preside over a special Church Conference session, to be held before 31 January 2022 to discern the following:

"Does Green Street support reconciliation and adopt the following statement of position?

*'We celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation—no matter if they are clergy or layperson, married or single—who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.'*

The special Church Conference will offer an in-person option in the Green Street sanctuary as well as an online and by-phone Zoom option."

There being no further discussion a vote was called; **the motion passed.**

**Clean Up Behind the Church Building**—There has been a recent uptick in inappropriate use of church property. The crews installing the new security cameras behind the church have noticed a tarp and heater by the shed as well as drug paraphernalia. After discussion it was determined that since the problem will likely recur that we will call the police to remove the drug paraphernalia as needed and wait until spring to have a professional clean-up of the area.

Tammy noted that the installation of the additional security cameras is going to cost \$70 more than the original quote. Tammy made a motion to authorize an additional \$70 from the Bridge Bequest to pay Sniper Surveillance for the additional security cameras; Dave seconded. A vote was taken and **the motion passed.**

**Celebration of Board Members finishing their term:** Valerie Gallagher and Dave Robbin are finishing their terms on the Board; Kathleen Dunford is completing her term as Board Chair but will remain on the Board as well as Tammy Roberts, Lori Webber, Tina Noble, and Ardyce Robbin. New members will be Sue Pattershall as Board chair, Gary Alexander, Sharon Beaver, and Lilla Atwater. Kristin expressed appreciation for all those willing to serve on the Board and for the talents they share, and offered a prayer of gratitude.

Ardyce Robbin, recording secretary



## Giving Updates

**Augusta Food Bank**—Thank you to everyone who donated so generously in November and December for the Augusta Food Bank. The money given for the November ton of food collection was \$290.00 and the amount given for the December Christmas Card collection was \$270.00, making a grand total of \$560.00 for the Augusta Food Bank. Your gifts are truly appreciated!

**The Randolph Sock Drive** collected a total of 256 pairs of socks which were donated to the Bread of Life Homeless Shelter. Thank you Green Street for helping Randolph with this important ministry.

**The Angel Tree**—On December 20 a social worker from Wings for Families came to pick up the Angel Tree Gifts! She was overwhelmed with gratitude and said that in all her years of helping families at Christmas she has never seen such generosity. We loaded up her vehicle and managed to fit a very long sled into her compact car and then she was off to deliver the gifts to the family. It was a pleasure to head up this year's Angel Tree and if there is anyone who would like to organize next year's Angel Tree, I promise you it will be a spiritually fulfilling experience from start to finish!

## Church Leadership 2022

### Church Board

2022—Kathleen Dunford—Lay Leader  
2022—Tina Noble  
2022—Ardyce Robbin—Secretary  
2022—Lori Webber  
2023—Sharon Beaver  
2024—Gary Alexander  
2024—Lilla Atwater—Vice Chair  
2024—Sue Pattershall—Chair  
2024—Tammy Roberts

### SPPRC

2022—Judy Adams  
2022—Sally Joy  
2022—Susan Cross  
2023—Gary Alexander  
2024—Henry Berry

### Nominations

2022—Donna Alexander  
2023—Lilla Atwater  
2024—Kathleen Dunford—Lay Leader

Lay Leader: Kathleen Dunford  
Annual Conference Delegate: Judy Adams  
Current Expense Treasurer: Sue Pattershall  
Trustees Treasurer: Tammy Roberts  
Missions Treasurer: Ardyce Robbin  
Memorial Gifts Treasurer: Kim Mills



The Pastor and Staff of Green Street thank all of you for your kindness and generosity with this year's Christmas gift. We feel blessed.

Darby, George, Kristin, Lynne,  
Nharra and Sue



SPECIAL  
SUNDAY

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

"To each is given  
the manifestation  
of the Spirit for the  
common good."

—1 CORINTHIANS 12:7, NRSV



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church

## January 16

Special Offerings collected on this day benefits neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. Please give generously.

### Affirmations for the New Year!

- I am starting the New Year with positivity.
- I am thankful for the opportunities that I had and the new opportunities that are coming.
- I let go of any fear.
- I am ready to take action.
- I am thankful for the fresh start.
- I can see the goodness all around me.
- I believe in myself.



# It Only Takes a Spark

We ♥ our staff!

Staff	Liaison
Pastor, Rev. Kristin White	SPPRC
Administrative Assistant, Darby Rock	Sally Joy
Custodian, George Jones	Gary Alexander
Nursery Supervisor, Nharra Lapitan	Sarah Barnum
Organist, Lynne Burney	Judy Adams
Choir Director, Susan Pattershall	Susan Cross

Beloved Green Streeters:

As I prepared to write this final article for the 2021 Committee, I wasn't sure what to say. With the pandemic, it's been a rough couple years. With a planned transition to a new, part-time pastor, the rough patch isn't over. What will get us through it all?

As I was reflecting, a song came across my car radio that seemed to fit the moment. I've included (most of) the lyrics to the right. I urge you to read them (or sing them, if you know the tune) and reflect on how they apply.

"We" could be individual members of Green Street or it could be Green Street as a whole. "Certainties disappear"—yes. "Frightened you'll slip away."—"you" could be Green Street or it could be an individual member. But I particularly like "Why are you at my side?" because it has so many answers: Green Street on our side? Us on Green Street's side? Us on God's side? God on our side? I think so: "You must love me."

"Nothing has changed."

Yours in Ministry,

Where do we go from here?  
This isn't where we intended to be  
We had it all, you believed in me  
I believed in you...

Certainties disappear  
What do we do for our dream to survive?  
How do we keep all our passions alive,  
As we used to do?

Why are you at my side?  
How can I be any use to you now?  
Give me a chance and I'll let you see how  
Nothing has changed.

Deep in my heart I'm concealing  
Things that I'm longing to say  
Scared to confess what I'm feeling  
Frightened you'll slip away.

You must love me.

—Tim Rice (*Evita*, 1996)

## The Staff–Parish Relations Committee

2021	Sarah Barnum barnumsarah54@gmail.com she/her/hers/[none]	Evelyn Horstman horstman3c@aol.com she/her/hers/Mrs.	David Robbin, <i>Chair</i> dwrobbin@gmail.com he/him/his/Mr.
2022	Judy Adams judy.adams@maine.gov she/her/hers/[none]	Susan Cross mainecross@gmail.com she/her/hers/Ms.	Sally Joy srjoy43@gmail.com she/her/hers/[none]
2023	Gary Alexander galexander@myfairpoint.net	<<open>>	<<open>>
<i>ex off.</i>	Valerie Gallagher, <i>Lay Leader</i> she/her/hers/Ms. JVGallagher2@gmail.com		







# Green Street UMC

## January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> Happy New Year
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7am Prayer	<b>4</b> 7am Prayer 10am—2pm Clothes Closet	<b>5</b> 7am Prayer 5:30pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir	<b>6—Epiphany</b> 7am Prayer 10am—2pm Clothes Closet 6pm SPPRC	<b>7</b> 7am Prayer 5:15pm Yoga	<b>8</b> 7am Prayer 9am Nominations 10am—2pm Clothes Closet
<b>9</b> 9:30am Worship 1pm CCC Meeting	<b>10</b> 7am Prayer 5:30pm Gathering Task Force	<b>11</b> 7am Prayer 10am—2pm Clothes Closet	<b>12</b> 7am Prayer 5:30pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir	<b>13</b> 7am Prayer 10am—2pm Clothes Closet 4:30pm Pastoral Support and Ac- countability	<b>14</b> 7am Prayer 5:15pm Yoga	<b>15</b> 7am Prayer 10am—2pm Clothes Closet
<b>16</b> Human Relations Day—Special offering 9:30am Worship	<b>17</b> <b>MLK Jr. Day</b> Office Closed 7am Prayer	<b>18</b> 7am Prayer 10am—2pm Clothes Closet 6pm Worship Meeting	<b>19</b> 7am Prayer 5:30pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir	<b>20</b> 7am Prayer 10am—2pm Clothes Closet	<b>21</b> 7am Prayer 5:15pm Yoga	<b>22</b> 7am Prayer 10am—2pm Clothes Closet
<b>23</b> 9:30am Worship	<b>24</b> 7am Prayer	<b>25</b> 7am Prayer 10am—2pm Clothes Closet	<b>26</b> 7am Prayer 5:30pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir	<b>27</b> 7am Prayer 10am—2pm Clothes Closet	<b>28</b> 7am Prayer 5:15pm Yoga Reprise Rehearsal	<b>29</b> 7am Prayer 10am—2pm Clothes Closet Reprise Rehearsal
<b>30</b> 9:30am Worship TBA Reprise Cho- ral Ensemble Concert	<b>31</b> 7am Prayer					

notes

Sunday Worship at 9:30 am in person and on zoom

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7925181731?pwd=U083cTlVWJpWHcwa3RYa1hZellBdz09>

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

Church Office Hours: Mon., - Fri., 8:30am to 1:30pm

Pastor's Hours: Mon. & Tues. 10am -1pm.—Clothes Closet—Tuesday - Thursday - Saturday 10am—2pm