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July 2019

The Grapevine

A PUBLICATION OF:
Green Street United Methodist Church

THE GRAPEVINE — July 2019 EDITION



Christmas in
July **DOUBLE**
Donations!

Did you know that at umcmarket.org, you can shop at thousands of retailers you know and love, and earn cash back for our church! Go to umcmarket.org and sign in or sign up, select Green Street in Augusta, Maine as your church location, and then click through to retailers like LL Bean, Target, Dollar General, Kohl's, Kmart, Best Buy, Petco, Party City, to name just a few (there are 1000's of retailers in tons of categories) it will not cost you any extra and you may even save a few dollars and Green Street will receive a monthly donation check!

July fundraisers!

Great News! The Cony Street Hannaford has chosen our Angel Food Suppers to be recipients of their reusable bag program for the month of **July**! For every **Fight Hunger Bag** sold during the month of July at this location, we will receive a \$1 donation to our Angel Food Suppers! So July will be a great time to replenish your reusable shopping bags and help feed the hungry! Tell your family, friends and co-workers so we can make the most of this fundraiser!

VISIT US ONLINE: www.greenstreetumc.net



INSIDE this issue

Pastor's Page	Pg. 2
July Birthdays	Pg. 2
SB Highlights	Pg. 3-4
Jesse Lee Worship	Pg. 5
Angel Food News	Pg. 5
Museum Field Trip	Pg. 5
Camp Fire	Pg. 6
July Calendar	Pg. 7



FROM THE PASTOR: PRAISE THE LORD!

Psalm 148 proclaims: "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens;...Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, shining stars!...Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!...Young men and women alike, old and young together! Let them praise the name of the Lord!"

Many of my formative spiritual experiences have taken place outdoors, surrounded by nature. Canoeing at night beneath the stars; singing praise songs around an outdoor campfire; retreats near the ocean; watching the full moon rise above the sea, or the sun set over the mountains; seeing a hawk circle on the wind, or listening to the music of frogs and crickets in the evening. Contemplating the beauty, the wideness and the wildness of God's creation draws me towards the Holy Spirit.

I have always loved Psalm 148 for its images of nature. However, in spite of its beautiful imagery, Psalm 148 isn't an encouragement for us to find God in nature. Instead, it calls us to join with nature and heaven – with all of God's creation – in giving praise to God.

Psalm 148 calls us to join our voices with the sounds of the sea, with the rustle of the wind in the trees, with the song of the birds – to let our voices be part of Creation's whole song lifted in praise of God.

This summer, as we spend more of our time outdoors, surrounded by gardens and grass, trees and lake, may we join our voices with the hymn of God's creation: Praise the Lord!

Rev. Kristin L. White



July 7

Greeter: Susan Cross
Coffee Hour Host: Candy Schorr
Liturgist: Sally Joy

July 14

Greeters: Henry and Joan Berry
Coffee Hour Host: Sarah Barnum
Liturgist: Dave Robbin

July 21

Greeters: Jon and Valerie Gallagher
Coffee Hour Host: Sally Joy
Liturgist: Jon Gallagher

July 28

Greeter: Kathleen Dunford
Coffee Hour Host: Lynn Smith
Liturgist: Patty Rogers



**Monday – Tuesday – Thursday
9am – 2pm**

**Pastor's Office Hours:
Appointment Only**

Summer Church Office Deadlines

As the church office moves to reduced hours for the summer, some deadline revisions need to be updated. The deadline for items for the Sunday Bulletin is by 8am Tuesday morning. Items for the newsletter need to be in by the 15th. Please be patient with office requests, the further advance notice I have the better I am able to accommodate everyone in a timely manner. Thank you.

****I may be in earlier, later or even on an unscheduled day as work flow dictates so as always please schedule office use in advance so I can accommodate you and keep work flowing.**



Please consider sharing your musical talents while our choirs take the summer off! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office.

July Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 3 - Randy Grady | 10 – Mary Crowell |
| 7 – Ean Maske | 23 – Jessa Mitchell |
| 9 – Sophie Douvielle | 26 – Shirley Black |
| 10 – Kathleen Dunford | 29 – Margaret Goodale |



Simplified Board Highlights

At the June 11th meeting Pastor Kristin shared info from a class she attended about spiritual direction. Margery Silf uses 4 concentric circles: things that we are given in life, the choices we make, who we are in relationship with God and being present with God. Using the scriptures, where are you in the circles? As a board making decisions, reconciling survey and budget, where are we? Info in the budget is a given, then we have choices and are encouraged to go back to our mission – what is our relationship with God? That will help us to make decisions. The heart of our discernment is our identity. Who are we in that relationship with Christ? Henry pointed out that much of the board's covenant is based in this model. The circle weaves together the given information and the identity to make decisions.

Current Expense Budget Update. Sue and Connie shared information regarding our current budget, both income and expenses. As with our recent budgets, there is both good and bad. The bad news is that it appears we may have a shortfall in income at the end of the year of \$18,565 plus \$15,600 Conference Mission Shares compared to the 2019 budget that was approved in January. This shortfall is a result of our non-pledge and loose offerings being less than anticipated, less donated in our Lenten and Easter offerings, receiving less in the Strategic Salary Grant, and the Spiritual Life Center not bringing in what we thought it might. We have had to borrow \$2,000 from another fund in order to pay our June bills and this will have to be repaid.

The good news is our attendance has picked back up after the winter months, we have had new people join us, the Perry Rich Grant is \$1860 more than we anticipated, summer is here and our fuel/heating cost will be almost entirely eliminated, electric use will decrease and no snowplowing charges.

We do need to increase our income and/or decrease our spending. A task force is being created to go into the details and bring suggestions to the July board meeting. If you would like to be a part of this discernment, contact Sue Pattershall.

Fundraisers - If you have a great idea for a fundraiser and would like to organize and hold a fundraiser to help boost our operating budget, please see Darby and Kristin to check out the date ☺

Stewardship - There will be an August Fuel Day Challenge. Our fall stewardship campaign will be "Treasure". More info to come later.

Work of the board as Trustees - The Church Board acting as Trustees approved an Educational Loan from the Bridge Fund in the amount of \$3,000 for Robbie Atwater attending an approved educational facility for higher learning.

The board approved a loan of \$2,000 from the building fund to the current expense account to help flow of money as the operating account was short to pay bills. This money is to be paid back as allowed ASAP.

The final version of the Building and Grounds Use Policy was presented by the task force with revisions and approved by the church board.

Work of the board as Church Council - The Board approved Kathleen Dunford to serve on the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development. Thank you, Kathleen - 2021. Others on the Committee are Ardyce Robbin -2021, Sally Joy - 2019, Valerie Gallagher as lay leader 2019, Chris Thornton - 2021, and Pastor Kristin. Henry Berry may attend as chair of the church board but is not a committee member

The committee is encouraged to devote time in advancing leadership development. The committee will be looking for current expense and trustees treasurers and counters for Sunday's donations, at least 3 new board members, nominations and leadership development replacements, a new SPRC committee and an annual conference delegate from the church board.

General Conference Conversations – We are looking to lay out a way forward. Pastor Kristin held two Q & A meetings and sent out a survey. The results of 51 surveys that were returned are:

	Strongly Disapprove	Uncomfortable	Doesn't Matter	Accepting	Strongly Approve
Become a reconciling church	5	4	4	8	30
Same-Sex Marriage Performed	5	7	2	9	28
LGBTQ Clergy Appointment	7	7	3	7	27

Kristin suggested 4 different steps. 1) To work with a Parish Consultant in having difficult conversations together. 2) Provide educational opportunities related to sexual orientation and gender identity, including Bible studies, book studies, guest speakers and panel discussions. 3) Create a task force to help guide the congregation through conversations and educational pieces in the upcoming year. And 4) Create a task force guiding the congregation in discernment following the reconciling ministries network process.

It was suggested Susan Mackenzie might be a good resource for us. She is doing a couple of workshops – Leadership in Anxious Times. If you are interested in attending, please see Pastor Kristin. Kristin recommends creating a task force giving them parameters and leading educational activities and bringing back further recommendations to the church. We have certain givens, results of general conference, results of our surveys. A task force could discern what we need to do as we move forward. Given the information we have, what are our choices as a church? Susan's advice was to put together a task force, to offer opportunities for education, and have conversations and draft a statement of affirmation and perhaps get Susan on board in the fall as a consultant. It was suggested we create a statement (reconciling ministries process) and bring back suggestions for a way forward. Church conference vote may help us know a better way forward for Green Street. If the vote is to become a reconciling church, then we could look at the task force morphing into or developing a ministry team.

The Board authorized a task force to get information about the steps in reconciling ministries and a timeline from the network to submit to the board chair by June 25th Dave and Johnnie have volunteered to do this with cc to Valerie and Kristin. The board will decide whether to create a task force to move forward at their July meeting. If you are interested in being on the task force, please contact Dave or Johnnie.

Ministry Teams - Pastor Kristin, as liaison to ministry teams, shared the results of her meetings with teams surrounding several questions.

Minutes from the May meeting were approved. Let Henry know if there is something you think church board should discuss at their next meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Pattershall

For more information see the CHURCH BOARD BULLETIN BOARD in Fellowship Hall where agenda and minutes are posted.

2019 Summer Evening Worship

Jesse Lee Meeting House
Five O'Clock in the Evening

- 7/ 7** Kristin White & Sally Joy, Green St. UMC "Tell Me a Story"
14 Claire Piddock & Members of RUMC, Readfield UMC "Roll Down Justice"
21 Laura Church, North Vienna UMC "Mechuwana Elementry Music Theatre Camp"
28 Myung Park, Readfield UMC "Taizé Song and Prayer"
- 8/ 4** Mitch Thomas & Jeff Munson
11 John Twitchell, Michele Johnson, Rick Smith,
& the McAdam family "Praise Songs and Worship"
18 Paul Bright & Christina Rao, Wayne UMC "Praise and Singing"

All Welcome

Jesse Lee Meeting House is located
in the corner of Rt. 17 in Plains Rd. East Readfield



Angel Food Supper News

The funds for the suppers are looking good for the next season. Many thanks for your continued support and prayers for this ministry. Randy just redeemed \$13 worth of returnable bottles and cans. There is a juice bottle in the sanctuary for collection of loose change which will help fund this ministry. We start our suppers again on Saturday, September 21.

Sandy Grady and Angel Food Team.

Museum in the Streets Sunday, July 21

Join a walking team or a driving team to follow Augusta's Museum in the Streets, telling the history of Augusta's downtown. We will head out following worship in teams of 6-8 people each. Get to know your team members as you walk/ride together, and learn about the story of our community. Bring a picnic lunch to eat midway. (rain date is July 28)



Community Camp Fire

Music, Storytelling, and S'mores

Granite City Park ~ Hallowell

Wednesday July 3

5:30 pm



Music Provided by the

Route 17 Ramblers, Blue Grass

*Where were you when you experienced your first
campfire and had your first S'more?*

Sponsored by the Kennebec River

United Methodist Churches



Green Street UMC

July 2019

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM NA	2 4:30 PM Pastoral Support and Accountability Meeting	3 5:30 PM Community Camp Fire in Hallowell	4 Happy 4 th !	5	6 5:30 PM Guided Meditation 7:00 PM AA
7	8 9:45 AM AV Meeting	9 9:00 AM Visitation Meeting 6:30 PM Simplified Board	10 10:30 AM Stewardship Meeting	11	12	13 5:30 PM Guided Meditation 7:00 PM AA
14	15 5:00 PM Nominations Meeting 6:30 PM NA	16 6:00 PM Simplified Board	17	18	19 2 PM Committal Service for Marjorie Tribou	20 9:00 AM Worship Meeting 5:30 PM Guided Meditation
21 10:00 AM Museum in the Streets Fieldtrip	22	23	24	25	26	27 5:30 PM Guided Meditation 7:00 PM AA
28 (rain date: Museum in the Streets)	29 6:30 PM NA	30	31			

Notes

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