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March 2020

The Grapevine

A PUBLICATION OF:
Green Street United Methodist Church

THE GRAPEVINE — MARCH 2020 EDITION

Missions Sunday - March 29 Welcoming Sarah Miller from Bridging the Gap

Sarah will be joining us for worship and sharing about Bridging the Gap a community initiative of Emmanuel Lutheran Episcopal Church a United Way of Kennebec Valley Partner Program and how they are serving our community through:

- Addie's Attic Clothing Bank
- The Augusta Community Warming Center
- Everyday Basics Essentials Pantry

Special Collection

During the month of March we will be collecting items for the Every Day Essentials Pantry and will present them to Sarah on Missions Sunday. Items needed are:

Toilet paper	Shampoo
Bar soap	Laundry Pods
Tooth paste	Diapers (sizes 4-6)
Sanitary pads	Tampons

Donations can be left in the hamper by the altar throughout the month

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INSIDE this Issue

Pastor's Page	Pg. 2
Birthdays	Pg. 2
Church Conference	Pg. 2
SB Highlights	Pg. 3
UMW News	Pg. 4
AMT Fundraiser	Pg. 4
Lenten Study	Pg. 5
SPPRC News	Pg. 6
Calendar	Pg. 8



FROM THE PASTOR: Embracing the Power of Vulnerability



During my chaplaincy training, I visited a patient who was alert but unable to speak or move. Not knowing how to communicate, I simply sat with the patient and prayed for about ten minutes. I later told my supervisor how vulnerable I had felt, not knowing what to say or do. My supervisor responded, “So you felt vulnerable, did you? How do you think the patient felt?” This eye-opening perspective led to a deeper conversation about the role of vulnerability in ministry. Being vulnerable is, at best, awkward and uncomfortable. At worst, it is dangerous and frightening. And my supervisor challenged me to explore how our vulnerability is often where our best ministry happens. When we allow ourselves to be uncomfortable, to acknowledge our uncertainty, to open ourselves to the possibilities of hurt and healing, we make room for others to acknowledge and heal their most vulnerable places, too.

We live in a time of vulnerability at Green Street. We have committed to explore a new way of ministry through a cooperative parish model. We have accepted this journey without knowing where it will lead. We wait for decisions from General Conference and Annual Conference, knowing that they will impact our future without knowing how. We are a vulnerable church! This feels awkward, uncomfortable, frightening and dangerous! Our instinct is probably to step back from the vulnerability, to lean away from rather than into it. Yet if my own experiences and the stories of the Gospels have taught me anything, it's that this time of vulnerability is when we do our best and most profound ministry.

Jesus provides our best model of vulnerable ministry. Through Jesus' vulnerability, his strength and courage are revealed. His greatest act of vulnerability, his death on the cross, produced God's most powerful work of salvation.

The season of Lent invites us to journey with Jesus to his death on the cross and his resurrection on Easter. This year during Lent we will explore examples of Jesus' vulnerability as a way of accepting and embracing our own vulnerability for the ministry to which we are called.

In Christ,
Pastor Kristin

March 1

Greeters: Patty Rogers
Liturgist: Billy Noble
Coffee Hour: Tricia Webb

March 8

Greeters: Chuck and Evelyn Horstman
Coffee Hour Host: Adult Mission Team
Liturgist: Valerie Gallagher

March 15

Greeters: Elsie and Bessie
Liturgist: Tammy Roberts
Nursery Volunteer: Joan Berry
Coffee Hour Hosts: Elsie and Bessie

March 22

Greeters: Don and Cheryl Leighton
Coffee Hour Host: Pot Luck Lunch
Liturgist: Rob Shore

March 29

Greeters: Sarah Barnum
Coffee Hour Host: Pot Luck Lunch
Liturgist: Jessa Mitchell

Special Church Conference Sunday, March 1 following worship.

Rev. Karen Munson will hold this conference to approve two bequests. Everyone is welcome to attend however only church members will be allowed to vote.

Not a church member? Now is an exciting time to consider joining Green Street. Pastor Kristin will be holding membership classes leading up to a special welcoming/baptism service on Pentecost Sunday! Contact the church office to sign up to become a member of Green Street.



4 – Laura Atlee	17 – Devin Williams
5 – Max Douvielle	19 – Kim Mills
6 – Megan Rideout	23 – Ruth Eastman
6 – Ruth Bowden	24 – Robert Atwater
7 – Steven Grady	24 – Sharon Beaver
7 – Steve Monroe	24 – Andy Mills
9 – Billy Polzella	26 – Nancy Heath
11 – Shane Miner	28 – Emma Roberts



Simplified Board Highlights

February 2020 Church Board Highlights

The February Church Board meeting began with the unexpected announcement that Green Street would be receiving a bequest from the estate of Bea Bragg of approximately \$100,000. We also learned of a grant arranged by John Bridge through the University of Maine Foundation in excess of \$29,000 to the church. We expressed gratitude for the generosity of these people, and for their faithfulness to the church. Our next step will be to formally accept these bequests at a Church Conference. Both gifts are unrestricted.

Board Chair Kathleen Dunford read from Exodus 18 of Jethro's advice to Moses, that we must share responsibility for leadership. No leader, not even Moses, could lead alone. This led the Board to review the work we began at our January 25 workshop to develop a covenant for working together. The themes that emerged included mutual respect, acceptance, listening, communicating, and staying engaged with each other. Next month we will finalize a covenant to guide us. We also reviewed briefly the various perspectives from the workshop of where Green Street is today, and what change we each would like to see. We have a range of ideas and hopes.

The Board addressed several practical matters related to finance and Trustee issues. The squirrel debris has been cleared from the church chimney and the heating system restored. Individual donations to the Building Fund have covered most of the cost, which was outside the normal maintenance budget. Donations to the Building Fund are always gratefully received. The Board designated \$2,000 for necessary minor building needs during the year to be approved by Trustees Chair. Spending from undesignated discretionary accounts for Current Expense needs was approved through June 30. A clean-up day was approved for the 2d floor Wesley Center.

The Welcoming Task Force, in consideration of proposals coming before the United Methodist Church, proposed hosting a guest speaker to provide education regarding LGBTQ+ topics, and requested financial support from the Bridge Family Memorial Fund. While the board was generally in favor of the event, it was not clear whether this proposal fits the language specified for uses of the Bridge Fund. After an open and respectful discussion, the funding was approved by a split vote. – 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). Monthly agenda and Board packets are posted on the **Simplified Board bulletin board** in the Fellowship Hall. Visitors are welcome at all meetings, 2d Tuesday each month 6 pm!

Open Spirit Task Force
Sunday, March 8, 2pm – 4pm
at Green Street – The New England Delegation to the 2020 General Conference and the Open Spirit Task Force (OSTF) have been moving forward with their work, and at this gathering facilitators from the OSTF and delegation will share the options that will be presented at the Annual Conference in June 2020 and provide educational materials that will help facilitate congregational conversations about these options.



UMCOR SUNDAY – MARCH 22
SPECIAL OFFERING

When United Methodists give generously on UMCOR Sunday, they support the operating activities of our worldwide relief and development agency. The offering ensures that 100 percent of every designated gift to UMCOR for disaster response and other critical needs goes directly to address those needs.



March 8th!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

We had an enjoyable February meeting, enjoyed the dessert and friendship. Sally Joy presented a program on Pledge to Mission after we had a short business meeting. The program highlighted a couple of women who are strong in their faith when they are faced with difficult situations. Then we all mentioned the women we know who are strong in their faith. A good discussion followed. In our local communities and throughout the world, United Methodist Women in strength are helping women in need. We support the empowerment of women, children and youth, we fight for economic and climate justice, we work for a living wage for all, to improve maternal and child health. We also fight to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline and much more. Internationally, United Methodist Women annually supports more than 150 programs, carried out by 116 organizations in more than 110 countries. Mission giving also provides scholarships to more than 73 students enrolled in institutions of higher education in 18 countries.

Discussion was also held regarding the New England Conference. There are now 9 districts as part of the New England Conference and it will be seven districts starting July 1, 2020. The Mid Maine District will now be named Many Waters District which will have 95 churches. 27 were previously in the Tri-State District which is no longer a district. Not all the 95 churches will have United Methodist Women units but may do. Maine is divided into 2 Districts, Many Waters that have churches in the Southern/Western half and Katahdin District that have churches in the Northern/Down East half.

Hope everyone enjoys the beginning of Spring.

Adult Mission Team Fundraiser Brunch Lunch and Silent Auction

Sunday, March 8 following worship. Help support the Adult Mission Team's next trip to Maine Seacoast Mission in Cherryfield, Maine this spring. Brunch will be served followed by a silent auction of baked goods!

All proceeds will benefit the team's food provisions for the week they are away. If you would like more information or would like to join the team on their next trip please contact Sandy Grady.

Flowers for the Altar

At Easter, instead of giving individual plants, donors are asked to make monetary contributions for plants and flowers to decorate our altar. The remainder of the money will be used to beautify the altar during the rest of the year. There will be a list of all donors in the Easter Bulletin. Flowers and plants on the altar at Easter will be distributed to homebound people.

Name of donor: _____

Given in Memory or Honor of: _____

(This slip may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office. **DEADLINE: April 5**)

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Every Sunday in the bulletin Pastor Kristin invites us to step into Christian discipleship during the week using questions for reflection and suggestions for prayer and action. These invitations will be the focus of the Sunday morning adult discussion group (adult Sunday school) in the coming weeks. Each Sunday we'll discuss the Scripture and reflection questions from the previous week and, if people are willing, share the impact they had on individual prayer and action. Whether you can come regularly or prefer to drop in once in a while when a topic has special interest for you, please join us Sunday mornings from 8:15 - 9:00 a.m. in the church library.



Green Street has a new email address. Please update your contacts.

greenstreetumc@gmail.com

New England Conference New district structure. As of July 1, 2020

Katahdin District – Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn Brannen – Maine is divided into two districts; these are the churches in the northern/Downeast half.

Many Waters District – Rev. Dr. Karen Munson – Maine is divided into two districts; these are the churches in the southern/western half.

Green Mountain District – Rev. Jill Colley Robinson – the churches in Vermont.

Granite District – Rev. Taesung Kang – The churches in New Hampshire.

Commonwealth District – Rev. Megan Stowe – The churches in Massachusetts west of Interstate 495.

Freedom Trail District – Rev. We Hyun Chang – The churches in Massachusetts east of Interstate 495.

Seacoast District – Rev. Dr. David Calhoun – Churches in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Southeastern Massachusetts, including Cape Cod and Islands.

River Churches Lenten Study

How do we walk with Christ, daily follow him, grow in him, and faithfully serve him? In the Gospels, Jesus modeled for us the Christian spiritual life. The apostles taught it in their writings. And the church has, through the last 2000 years, sought to pursue this Christian spiritual life.

In *The Walk*, Adam Hamilton focuses on five essential spiritual practices that are rooted in Jesus' own walk with God and taught throughout the New Testament. Each of these practices is intended as part of our daily walk with Christ while also being an essential part of growing together in the church.

In each chapter, Hamilton explores one of these practices, its New Testament foundation, and what it looks like to pursue this practice daily in our personal life and together in the life of the church. Deepen your walk with Christ as we explore the five essential practices of worship, study, serving, giving, and bearing witness to our faith.

We will gather on Saturday mornings from 8:30am to 10 am and/or Monday evenings from 6pm to 7:30 pm

February 29 & March 2 - Worship & Prayer: A Living Hallelujah. Highland Avenue UMC, Highland Ave., Gardiner.

March 7 & 9 - Study: The Importance of Listening and Paying Attention. Cox Memorial UMC, 29 Middle St., Hallowell.

March 14 - No Meeting – District Event

March 16 - Serve: Here I Am, Lord, Send Me. East Pittston, 1083 East Pittston Rd., Pittston.

March 21 & 23 - Give: Where Your Treasure Is. Green Street UMC, 13 Green St., Augusta.

March 28 & 30 - Share: Going Fishing, Reflecting Light. Dresden Richmond UMC. 121 Pleasant St., Richmond.

April 4 - The Five Practices from the Cross. Gray Birch Rehab. 37 Gray Birch Dr. Augusta.

April 6 - Randolph or Highland Avenue TBA

Fellow Green Streeters:

At our February meeting, the Committee found our discussion supported by two pillars.

First, graceful reengagement. After a tumultuous 2019—General Conference decisions, financial woes, and combing worship services and styles—a few of our congregation have found it necessary to detach from the community for a time. Although we strive to support one another, we understand that retreats are often necessary steps on our individual spiritual journeys. At the same time, we hope your journey will lead you back to Green Street, and we talked about what we can do to help make “graceful reengagement” possible for all who seek it.

One theme from the discussion was that of home and family. For many of us, Green Street is our spiritual home and the congregation our family. Even when circumstance takes us from our family for a time, we know we can always go home. Our hope is to make clear that this is also true of Green Street: we welcome anyone back—or for the first time—with grace and without judgment.

Our second discussion pillar was about the Committee’s mandate to help “the pastor and other staff...in setting priorities for their leadership and service.” Continuing clouds around our congregational and denominational futures, and the Committee’s inchoate work to develop routines for goal setting, counseled us to focus broadly. Our hope for our staff is to (1) live into the new staffer–liaison model, (2) stay flexible given Green Street’s unknown financial and organizational pictures, and (3) work creatively to uplift and carry the congregation forward.

These are sweeping goals, and they make it even more important for the congregation and the staffers to make use of Committee members to voice their concerns and their joys. We are here to help, but we need to hear from you to be able to do that. We look forward to your questions and comments.

Yours in Ministry,

The Staff–Parish Relations Committee

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barnumsarah54@gmail.com

Evelyn Horstman
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Upcoming Sermon Series Vulnerability

- **March 1:** Vulnerability, Values & Courage -Matthew 4:1-11
- **March 8:** Vulnerability & Relationships - Luke 4:14-30
- **March 15:** Vulnerability: Choosing the Difficult Path - Matthew 26:36-46
- **March 22:** Political & Religious Vulnerability - Matthew 26 & 27
- **April 5:** Vulnerability: Taking Wild Risks (Palm Sunday) - Matthew 21:1-11
- **April 12:** The Vulnerability of the Cross - Matthew 28:1-10
- **April 19:** Honoring Each Other’s Vulnerability - John 21:15-19

Welcoming Task Force Notes

Ah... 'tis March! God's winter wonderland welcomes warmer days. Maple buds and colorful crocuses emerge amidst the cold and snow as spring nears and dawns. And God, who created the snow, the cold, the budding maples, and the colorful crocuses is ever-present through it all, gently guiding it into being. How awesome and amazing is God!

In February, the Welcoming Task Force hosted Coffee and Conversation as a means for Green Street UMC to come together and talk in small groups about the Traditional Plan which officially went into effect on January 1st as well as talk about the Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation (the newest plan as of this writing) which is one of several plans for change in the United Methodist Church being proposed at General Conference in May 2020.

The New England Annual Conference created the Open Spirit Task Force with the mandate "to examine whether and how United Methodists of New England might align with, create, or form a new church body in the Methodist tradition (independently or in collaboration with others)." The Open Spirit Task Force and New England Delegation to the 2020 General Conference are planning presentations in each of the districts ahead of the 2020 General Conference. At these district gatherings, facilitators from the Open Spirit Task Force and the New England Delegation will share the options that will be presented at the Annual Conference in June 2020 and provide materials that will help facilitate conversations about these options in our churches. On March 8, Green Street UMC is hosting the Mid-Maine gathering from 2-4pm. All are welcome to attend as we together learn more about the options for change coming to the 2020 General Conference. Information regarding the plans themselves can be found at <https://ostfne.org/>

Ever wonder what all those letters in LGBTQ+ mean? And what is all this talk about pronouns? Well, here is your chance to learn the answers to these questions and more! Quinn Gormley, Executive Director of MaineTransNet, is coming to Green Street for a special presentation. A core part of MaineTransNet's mission is providing education to the broader world about transgender identity, the transgender community, and gender as a whole. Quinn will present on these topics as well as some basic LGBTQ information. Please join us on Sunday, March 22nd for Quinn's presentation along with a potluck in Fellowship Hall immediately following service. A great opportunity to learn more about our LGBTQ+ neighbors!

Keep an eye on the Welcoming Task Force bulletin board in the hallway near the sanctuary for future events and please keep the work of this task force in your prayers.

Valerie Gallagher, *Task Force Leader*
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she/her/hers

Pastor Kristin White
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Camp Mechuwana Camperships

Camp Mechuwana has sent out their summer camp brochure. If you would like to receive a campership to help pay for your child or grandchild's time at camp or if you are aware of a child in need who would benefit from time at camp this summer please notify the church office to be added to the Campership List. Call 207-622-0843 or email greenstreetumc@gmail.com. Deadline is May 3.



Green Street UMC

March 2020

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1 Special Church Conference following worship	2 9 AM Staff Meeting 3:00 PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM NA	3	4 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 6:45 PM Choir Practice	5 7 PM SPPRC Meeting	6 5:15 PM Yoga with Susan Cross	7 1 PM Funeral Service Bob Curran 4 PM Meditation 7:00 PM AA
8 Daylight Savings begins Adult Mission Team Lunch following worship	9 3:00 PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM NA	10 Church Audit 6 PM SB Meeting	11 Church Audit Noon UMW Meeting 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 6:45 PM Choir Practice	12 Church Audit	13	14 4 PM Meditation 7:00 PM AA
15	16 3:00 PM Women's Bible Study 5:00 PM Worship Meeting 6:30 PM NA 7:00 PM Welcoming Task Force Meeting	17 St Patrick's Day 6 PM SB Planning Meeting	18 4:00 PM Pastoral Support and Accountability Meeting 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 6:45 PM Choir Practice	19 First Day of Spring	20 5:15 PM Yoga with Susan Cross	21 8:30 AM Lenten Bible Study 4 PM Meditation 4:30 PM Angel Food Supper 7:00 PM AA
22 UMCOR Sunday Special Offering Transnet Speaker Pot Luck following worship	23 3:00 PM Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM Lenten Bible Study 6:30 PM NA	24 9 AM DCOM	25 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 6:45 PM Choir Practice	26	27 (organ tuning) 5:15 PM Yoga with Susan Cross	28 4 PM Meditation 7:00 PM AA
29 Mission Sunday – Bridging the Gap Pot Luck Lunch following worship	30 3:00 PM Women's Bible Study	31				

Notes
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 Phone: 207-622-0843 – email: greenst@myfairpoint.net – website: 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
 Pastor Kristin's Drop In hours – Mon. Tues. Wed. 11am - noon



This church is being helped by the Perry P. and Dorothy M Rich Fund for Maine Methodism

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