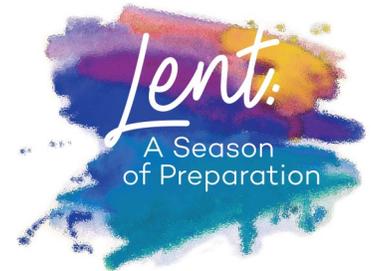


The Grapevine

A PUBLICATION OF Green Street United Methodist Church

THE GRAPEVINE — FEBRUARY/MARCH 2023 EDITION



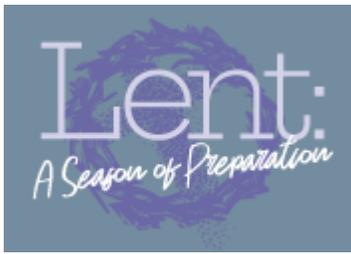
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February 22nd at 7pm

Sunday Worship
9:30am in person and on Zoom
Church Office Hours
Monday and Wednesday
9:00am—2:00pm
Pastor's Office Hours
Wednesday—9:00am-Noon
Clothes Closet
Tues. Thurs. 10am—2pm



Reflections from Karen

I distinctly remember one children's message in which the preacher mentioned that Lent is the days *between* Sundays of this season. Sundays are not Lent.* Before she could finish her sentence, an excited young voice piped up. *You mean we can eat chocolate on Sundays?!* Instead of a drag, the season now seemed full of possibility.

More recently, Certified Lay Minister Barbara Hathaway, who serves with the Rumford Center UMC, shared these thoughts on Lenten Fasting:

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with love.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from Selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent as you listen.

I love this because rather a list of painful givens-up, it's a celebration of up-givings. These tip us into kin-dom living. Lent is about letting go of what drags us down so that we may be lifted up with Christ.

In this edition of the Grapevine, you'll find opportunities to journey together in this season. How you chose to spend these days will make it a chore to get through, a flash in the pan, or a meaningful deepening of your faith journey. It's your choice. God does not force us. Perhaps the glee of that child's new awareness might inspire each of us to discover a treasure this year.

And during Lent this year, a different take home children's activity will be available each Sunday. Please plan to share these with family, neighbors, or any other place that children enter your life each day.

My deepest thanks for all of the prayers, cards, and hugs, following my mother's death. Your love makes all the difference.

Your Partner in Ministry, *Pastor Karen*

*Lent is not practiced on Sundays because that is the day Christians remember and renew Christ's living presence. Every Sunday is a resurrection celebration.



2023 Pulpit Exchange

Please plan to join us for three perspectives on Jesus' temptation experience. If you've heard one you haven't heard them all! Bring your own perspective to conversation during fellowship on March 12 as we compare, contrast, question, and learn from these multiple eyes on the text.

February 19 Rev. Karen Munson
February 26 Rev. Rich Cullen (Pastor Karen at Highland Avenue UMC & Randolph UMC)
March 5 Rev. Ruth Merriam (Pastor Karen at Cox Memorial)

Lenten Small Groups

Ukrainian Life Festival

Hosts Liuda and Volodymer Kevanskyi
Sunday, March 26, 2023
2:00-5:00 pm
Highland Avenue United Methodist Church, 31 Highland Ave., Gardiner

Gather with other River Church and community members to immerse ourselves in Ukrainian culture. There is something for everyone in this festival! Learn common greetings, and how to write your own name, in Ukrainian. Feast on music, dance, figure skating, religious life, modern history, and a very special children's book. Green Street UMC's own Sarah Barnum will offer a workshop in pysanky egg dying. Please register by emailing or calling Rev. Ruth Merriam 251-3935, ruthmerriam@gmail.com.

Lent and Easter Worship information

February 21, 5pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper with Games, Randolph UMC	
February 22, 7pm	A Contemplative Ash Wednesday Service	
April 2, 9:30 am	Palm Sunday	
April 6, 6:00pm	Holy (Maundy) Thursday meal	
April 7, 7:00pm	Good Friday Tenebrae with special music	
April 9 6:00 am	Easter Sunrise with Cox Memorial UMC,	Hallowell, Granite City Park
April 9 9:30 am	Easter Worship with Communion	



FAITH AND ART:



LET'S MAKE UKRAINIAN EASTER EGGS!

How can we deepen our journey of faith? Whether it is to make unique Easter eggs or learn a craft which is soulful and community-building, this ancient art form of painting Ukrainian Easter Egg ties together faith, spirituality, and unexpected beauty.

Participants will learn how to decorate eggs using a stylus, beeswax, and dyes. Beginners are welcome and no prior artistic talent is needed. This workshop is intended for adults. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring an apron if you wish. Leader Eliza Goodell has studied art and psychology. She learned how to make Ukrainian Easter eggs about 25

years ago and has been giving workshops ever since. **To support the war efforts in Ukraine, all donations for this event will be given to Razom, which means "together" in Ukrainian.** <https://www.razomforukraine.org/>

Monday, March 27, 2023, 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Rolling Ridge Conference and Retreat Center, 660 Great Pond Road, North Andover, MA

Cost: \$89 includes materials and lunch. www.rollingridge.org

Registration is limited to 14 people.

UMCOR Sunday March 19

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze." — Isaiah 43:2, NIV

On April 16, 2023, join us as we celebrate UMCOR's work assisting the most vulnerable persons affected by crisis or chronic need. In just the past few months these have included Hurricane Ian, Ukrainian humanitarian relief, and the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, gifts to UMCOR Sunday have decreased significantly. I hope that you will consider increasing your gifts to help cover UMCOR's administrative costs as they work to help those who are hurting. Our congregation's gift to the UMCOR Sunday offering supports UMCOR's ability to respond in times of disaster, offer humanitarian relief, provide sustainable development and assist with migration challenges. Thank you for your generosity.

Would you like to make daily gratitude giving one of your Lenten practices this year?

Use this Gratitude Box Calendar found at (https://s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/gbod-assets/generic/LentenCoinCalendar_2023rev2.pdf)

and bring the results in for a noisy (coin) offering on April 16.

-Pastor Karen



Future Pathways Update

*Once there was a caterpillar living in a shell,
Happy to be in a place where everything went well.
No one to bother herm, no other worms to see.
Locked up in that dark cocoon s/he thought that s/he was free.*

*Hey, little worm, don't you see? Only butterflies are free.
So come out of your shell and fly with me, cuz only butterflies are free.*

*Someone took that caterpillar as s/he slept one day,
Work herm up and gave herm wings and helped herm fly away.
People too can live in shells afraid of being free,
but whatever changed that fearful worm can change both you and me!
Hey, little worm, don't you see? Only butterflies are free.
So come out of your shell and fly with me, cuz only butterflies are free.*

-Author unknown

If you are not able to attend one of Green Street UMC's special Lent and Easter services, you are welcome at any of the River Church offerings.

February 21 Shrove Tuesday

5:00 pm Randolph UMC—pancake supper and games

February 22 Ash Wednesday

6:00 am-12:00pm Dresden Richmond UMC drop in for imposition of ashes and prayer.

11:00 am Randolph UMC with Rev. Ruth Merriam

12:00 pm Cox Memorial with Rev. Rich Cullen

7:00 pm Green Street UMC with Rev Karen Munson

April 6 Holy Thursday

6:00 pm East Pittston UMC

7:00 pm Cox Memorial UMC

6:00 pm Green Street UMC Love Feast

5:00 pm Randolph Love Feast, 7:00 pm worship service

April 7 Good Friday

7:00 pm DRUM Church

7:00 pm Green Street Tenebrae with special music

7:00 pm Highland Ave UMC, Gardiner Tenebrae

Recorded service by Rev. Rich Cullen will be available for home viewing

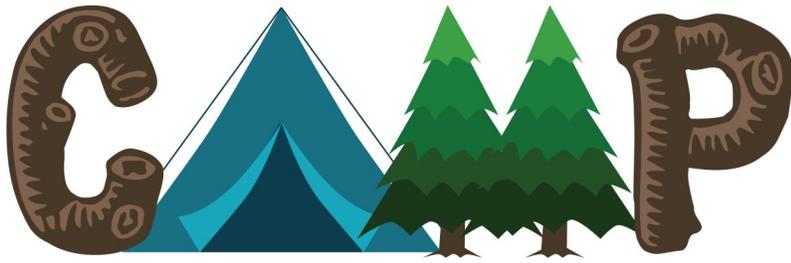
April 9 Easter Sunrise

6:00 am Richmond Waterfront Gazebo, breakfast follows at DRUM Church.

6:30 am Granite City Park, Hallowell, breakfast follows at Cox Memorial UMC

6:00 Gardiner Waterfront ecumenical service





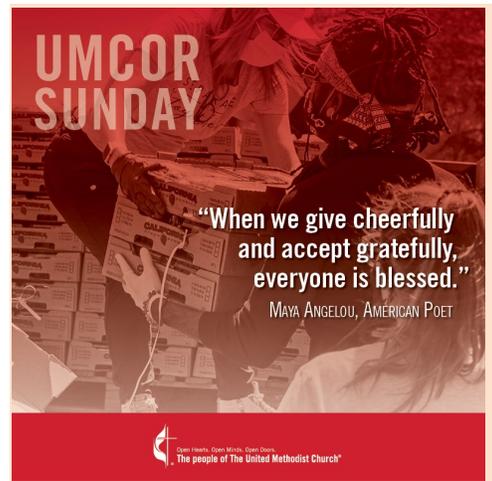
Camp Mechuwana Camperships Available

Camp Mechuwana will be in full swing this summer. If your child will be attending camp this summer there are scholarships available. Send a copy of your camp registration page to the church office to be added to the scholarship list! **Deadline is May 2**

News from the Jesse Lee Cluster

On January 12, 2023, representatives of nine churches who have been part of the Jesse Lee Cluster met on Zoom to decide whether or not to continue the Cluster. The Cluster has not been active since Covid pandemic and the unanimous decision was made to disband the group.

There is \$852 remaining in the Cluster treasury which has come from member dues and the Cluster's annual Choir Festival. It was voted to give it to the Readfield UMC towards the cost of a new sign for the Jesse Lee Meeting House. A check has since been issued to Readfield UMC for \$ 852.54 for a new sign at the Jesse Lee Meetinghouse. Exciting things are happening to that facility which we'll be hearing more about in the months ahead.



Sunday, March 19 Special Offering

Because of UMCOR Sunday, when you hear about a disaster or humanitarian crisis and you give to UMCOR, you can be assured that one hundred percent of the money you designate goes toward people in need.

There will be special offering envelopes on the table at the back of the sanctuary for those who attend in-person worship and zoom worshippers can send a check to the church with UMCOR written on the memo line.

Please give generously.



Help Green Street Shine by donating a **STAR OF HOPE** for our Annual Fuel/Ministry Day Challenge! You can still donate a **STAR** in honor or memory of someone special with a word that you feel represents that person. Each STAR is \$25. and will be displayed in the sanctuary.

In honor or memory of _____

Word that represents this person _____

Given by _____

Fill out the form and drop it in the offering plate, or send to the office with your check.



Donations made to help Green Street Shine

Donna Alexander	Support of GS	Tammy and Mark Roberts
Sally Joy	STEADFAST	Jerry and Ardyce Robbin
Lee Ware	STEADFAST	Jerry and Ardyce Robbin
Elsie Ware	STEADFAST	Jerry and Ardyce Robbin
Bessie Goudreau	STEADFAST	Jerry and Ardyce Robbin
Sue Pattershall	STEADFAST	Jerry and Ardyce Robbin
Future Pathways Team	HARD WORK	Robin Forbes
Gary and Donna Alexander	COMMITMENT	Tammy Alexander
Jane Lauren Bishop	LOVING	Sharon Beaver
Terri Williamson	INNOVATIVE	Sharon Beaver
Donna Alexander	DEDICATED	Sharon Beaver
Evelyn Horstman	DEDICATED	Sharon Beaver
Chuck Horstman	SUPPOTER	Sharon Beaver
Richard Barnum	COMPASSIONATE	Sharon Beaver
Elizabeth Waldron	GRAMMY	Cheryl Leighton
Jerry Robbin	SUPPORTIVE	Sally Joy
Ardyce Robbin	PERCEPIVE	Sally Joy
Alex Roberts	BIRTHDAY	Donna and Gary Alexander
Andy Roberts	BIRTHDAY	Donna and Gary Alexander
Marion Blair	LOVE	Robin Forbes
Alex Roberts	CHARMING	Mark and Tammy Roberts
Andy Roberts	ADVENTUROUS	Mark and Tammy Roberts
Troy Alexander	DEDICATED	Mark and Tammy Robert
Rev Karen	INSPIRING	Mark and Tammy Roberts
Churck Horstman	APPRECIATED	Sally Joy
Gary Alexander	APPRECIATED	Sally Joy
Darby Rock	IN HONOR	



- 4—Laura Atlee
- 5—Max Douvielle
- 7—Steve Monroe
- 9—William Polzella
- 11—Shane Miner
- 15—Vesta Billing
- 19—Kim Mills
- 24—Robert Atwater
- 24—Sharon Beaver
- 28— Emma Roberts

Palm Sunday 9:30am
at Green Street

Holy (Maundy) Thursday
6:00pm at Green Street

Good Friday Tenebrae
7:00pmat Green Street

Easter Sunrise 6am
at Granite City Park—Hallowell

Easter Morning Worship
9:30am
at Green Street

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.

This slip may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office. **DEADLINE: April 1**



Name of donor: _____

Given in Memory or Honor of: _____

GRATITUDE BOX CALENDAR

OR DOWNLOAD FROM ([HTTPS://S3.US-EAST-1.AMAZONAWS.COM/GBOD-ASSETS/GENERIC/LENTENCOINCALENDAR_2023REV2.PDF](https://s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/gbod-assets/generic/LENTENCOINCALENDAR_2023REV2.PDF))

FEBRUARY 2023

- Ash Wednesday – February 22: A coin for every lamp
- February 23: A coin for every light switch
- February 24: A coin for every candle
- February 25: A coin for every flashlight (Include the one on your smartphone.)
- February 26: Pray today, thanking God for the gift of light. Pray for those who live in darkness.
- February 27: A coin for every box of cereal
- February 28: A coin for every can of soup

MARCH 2023

- **March 1: A coin for every type of bread**
- **March 2: A coin for every jar of jelly**
- March 3: A coin for every bottle of salad dressing
- March 4: A coin for every jar of peanut butter
- March 5: Pray today, thanking God for the food you enjoy. Pray for those who have no food this day.
- March 6: A coin for every ball cap or hat
- March 7: A coin for every pair of shoes
- March 8: A coin for every pair of jeans or pants
- March 9: A coin for every coat
- March 10: A coin for every t-shirt
- March 11: A coin for every sweatshirt
- March 12: Pray today, thanking God for clothing that protects you from the elements.
 - Pray for those who lack clothing to keep them warm and dry.
- March 13: A coin for every ball or piece of athletic equipment
- March 14: A coin for every electronic video game
- March 15: A coin for every smart device (phones, tablets, etc.)
- March 16: A coin for every television
- March 17: A coin for every doll or stuffed animal
- March 18: A coin for every board or card game
- March 19: Pray today, thanking God for how you can enjoy entertainment in your home.
 - Pray for those who would be grateful for just one of these items.
- March 20: A coin for every box of Band-Aids®
- March 21: A coin for every bottle of vitamins
- March 22: A coin for every box of tissues
- March 23: A coin for every bottle of hand sanitizer.
- March 24: A coin for every toothbrush and tube of toothpaste
- March 25: A coin for every cough drop found in your house.
- March 26: Pray today, thanking God for your health. Pray for those who are sick.
- March 27: A coin for every room in your home
- March 28: A coin for every electrical outlet in your home
- March 29: A coin for every chair in your home
- March 30: A coin for every desk in your home (virtual work/school)
- March 31: A coin for every bathroom
- April 4: A coin for every book of hymns or sacred songs in your home

APRIL 2023

- April 1: A coin for every bed
- April 2: (Palm Sunday): Pray today, thanking God for shelter. Pray for those who have no place to sleep at night.
- April 3: A coin for every Bible
- April 4: A coin for every book oh hymns or sacred songs in your home.
- April 5: A coin for every cross in your home
- April 6: A coin for every prayer you say today
- April 7: A coin for every story of Jesus you can tell
- April 8: A coin for every person in your family

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Easter Sunday – April 9: Pray, thanking God for Jesus and for the many ways we can gather and worship God. Pray for those who will receive the coins collected that they would see God's presence through them.

