

The Grapevine

A PUBLICATION OF Green Street United Methodist Church

THE GRAPEVINE — MAY 2022 EDITION

Once upon a time a man fell into a really big pot hole and couldn't get out. After a while, a religious scholar came by and said, "only a bad person would fall into a sinkhole." Then a New Ager came along and said, "maybe you should network with other pit-dwellers." A self-pitying person followed along and said, "you haven't seen anything until you've seen my pit." A county inspector passed by and asked, "do you have a permit for that sink hole? An idealist remarked, "the world shouldn't have pot holes." An optimist said, "things could be worse-it could be full of water." And a pessimist said, "things will get worse." Then Jesus came along. Seeing the man in the really big pot hole, he took him by the hand and lifted him out.

(A rewrite of David Glusker's rewrite of Kenn Filken's Good Samaritan paraphrase.)



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Sunday Worship

9:30am in person and on Zoom

Church Office Hours

Monday & Wednesday

9:00 AM—2:00 PM

Pastor's Office Hours

Wednesday—10AM —12:00PM

Clothes Closet

Tues. & Thurs. 10am—2pm

Thoughts from Pastor Karen

Institutions come into being to give stability to human life. At their best, they provide a living seedbed for mercy, justice, creativity and flourishing. At their worst, they become In-groups of privilege and exclusion.

While individuals have one life cycle per person, institutions, including churches, can have many life cycles, experiencing rebirth and decline. But churches are change resistant by their very nature as stabilizing organizations. That's just how these human structures naturally work. We find ways to integrate new realizations into lasting benefits like hospitals, schools, and support networks. At their peak functioning, institutional stability results in comfort. When they begin to experience discomfort, like a caterpillar shedding its cocoon, new life stirs. Revival rarely begins at an existing center. (Look at where Jesus spent most of his time!) Here are some historical examples:

"This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication." Western Union internal memo, 1876.

"Heavier than air-flying machines are impossible" Lord Kelvin, Royal Society, 1895

"We don't like their sound and guitar music is on the way out."
Decca Recording Company rejecting the Beatles, 1962.

"There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home."
-Ken Olsen, Chairman of Digital Equipment Corporation, 1977

In America, we are in the end of an era where churches birthed institutions that are now becoming independent of their religious midwives. Colleges, hospitals, and other no profits are the second generation of religious institutions and are now too large and complex for continued oversight by the churches that birthed them. The destabilizing of our institutions, especially when it's close to home, is a scary time. That is true as our own church, Green Street United Methodist, changes. We worry about what people think, we scramble to hold on, we feel attached to doing things the way they have been for a long time. After all, we saw them work for much of that long time! But eventually, if a church is to find new life, people begin to ask open questions, acquire new skills, stretch their comfort zone to deal with challenges. And when a church community navigates this learning period with grace, humor, and humility, it finds itself in a growth zone where dreams come alive. These dreams need space to breathe. They come out of a time of simplifying, clarifying, and letting go.

As revival gains momentum, it will form the core of the institution's new form. Ardyce Robbin has posted helpful questions on the Sanctuary's communication board to frame the reforming of our institution:

What was God's original design for the church?

Start with Acts 2 and remind yourself of the original blueprint for the church.

Where do we go from here, and where do we start?

Do we have a clear vision for a new expression of the Kingdom?

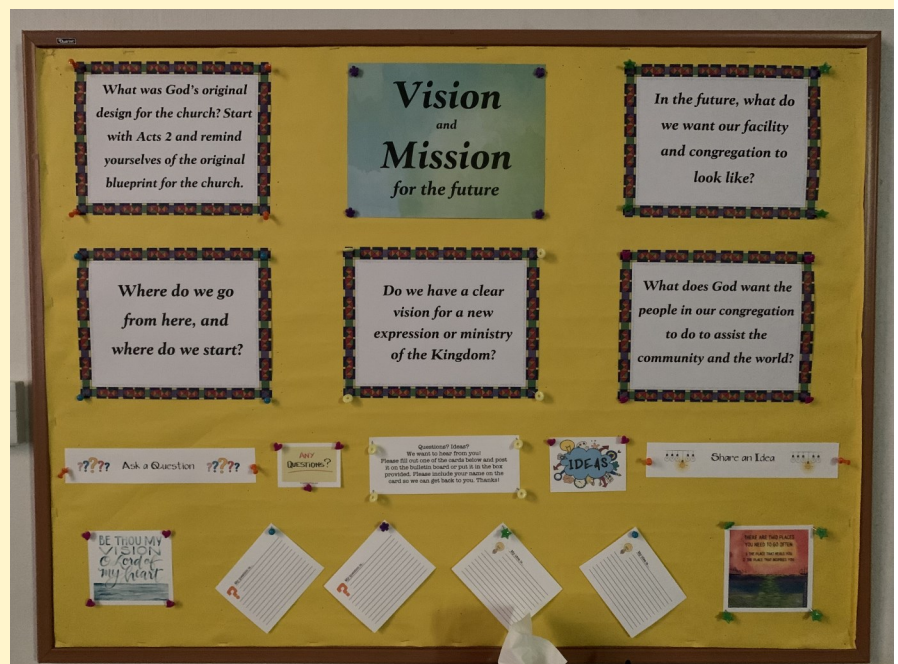
In the future, what do we need our facility and congregation to look like?

What does God want the people in our congregation to do to engage and assist the community and world?

TWO VERY IMPORTANT DATES

Please plan to participate in the next Future Pathways workshop, April 29, 9:00-11:00 am as we articulate answers to these important questions!

A Gifts and Talents Workshop following worship on May 21, 10:30-12:00.



What's happening??

In May, three major development efforts will be underway here at Green Street United Methodist Church.

1. Future Pathways work continues with a Goal setting workshop on **April 29, 9-11 AM**

At the same time teams are forming and launching work to assess new worship and ministry sites; sort physical belongings at the 13/15 Green Street site; and strategize the 10% sales tithe for community ministry. In the church office we are working to update membership roles and create a print directory of active friends and members.

2. Strategic Asset Development

A. Spiritual Gifts Development among our members and friends. **May 21, 10:30—Noon**

B. Income Development via Tithes, Offerings, Investments Community partnerships and grants, Space Use Fees Gifts (special occasions or designations), Bequest planning, and Fundraisers (both ongoing and occasional). The 2023 Budget is a moving target dependent on a timeline under construction! Our Financial Goal is to live within the means that God provides while stretching toward a thriving future. Planning Team—Rev. Munson, Sue Pattershall (outgoing Operations Treasurer), Tammy Roberts (Trustee Treasurer), Kim Mills (Worship treasurer)

3. Cooperative Parish Development

Green Street's Parsonage has been identified as the home for (to be announced) incoming pastor. A combined Staff Parish Relations Committee will begin transition planning.

Coordinating Team planning for increased six church collaboration: Green Street UMC, Cox Memorial UMC (Hallowell), Highland Ave UMC (Gardiner), Randolph UM, Dresden Richmond Church UMC, East Pittston UMC. Location of shared church office, worship scheduling, resources that can be shared and coordinated.



2—Hunter Ripley
5—Carol Chavarie
8—Karen McGuire
10— James Grady
12—Tom Webber
17—Charlene Bridge
23—Evelyn Horstman
23—Heidi Bowden
27—Jim Brown
29—Sue Pattershall



Financial Update Quarterly Report by Sue Pattershall

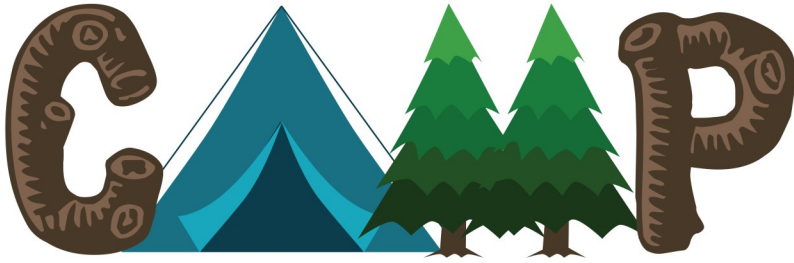
Church Finances

We have weathered another winter season!! We began the year with 18,166.56 in the operating account.

We have had income of \$55,221.82 and expenses totaling \$59,060.34. Some accounts are running low—Plowing, Copier expenses, Elevator costs, Boiler costs, and Heating Costs. Some highlights for the quarter are: Mission shares have been paid; Special giving of ~\$900 was donated for UMCOR relief; and ~\$200 was donated to the Augusta Food Bank. As of April 12, there is a balance of \$7,236.26 in the operating account. God is good and so are the people of Green Street. Thank you for your generous support.



*Dale & Judy in honor of Wyatt and Keira
Jessica in honor of Keira's first Easter
Sharon in memory of her parents
Tina in memory of Ariston & Palagia
and Nellie & Richard
Evelyn & Chuck in memory of loved ones
Tom & Lori flowers for the altar
Sally in memory of her husband John*



Camp Mechuwana Camperships Available

Camp Mechuwana will be in full swing this summer. Camps fill up quickly so register early. There are scholarships available.. Send a copy of your camp registration page to the church office to be added to the scholarship list!

Easter Sunday at Green Street



MEMORIAL DAY



May 29

Bridge Fund Student Educational Loan Applications Available

Each year Green Street students have the opportunity to apply for financial support for Higher Education. Applications are available through the church office. 207-622-0843



On Graduation Sunday, June 11, we would like to recognize High School, College, and other Graduates during worship.

If you are graduating or know of someone graduating please notify the office at 207-622-0843 or email greenstreetumc@gmail.com



Honor your mother and help the church meet its fuel budget at the same time. We will be publishing a special Mother's Day of Fuel insert on May 14th. A Day of Fuel sponsorship is only \$25.00. Fill out the form and drop it in the offering plate, or send to the office with your check. **DEADLINE is May 8rd.** This is a great way to honor your mother (or someone who is like a mother to you) as you help the church.

In memory or honor of: _____

Given by _____

Fill out the form and drop it in the offering plate, or send to the office. Deadline is **May 8.**

New England Annual Conference

The 2023 session of the New England Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church will be a hybrid session from June 8-10 with the in-person option at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Manchester, NH. You are invited to worship and observe! Expect powerful preaching and thoughtful discussion of the work of the annual conference. Watch www.neumc.org for updates on links. Pre conference materials will also be posted here so that you may have input beforehand. And please hold our conference leaders in prayer as they prepare.



Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

The theme of this year's conference is "Draw the Circle Wider Still," and our scripture emphasis will be [Philippians 4:4-9](#). As we gather, we will be rejoicing in the Lord and striving to focus on practices that will promote peace and enable us to reach more people for Christ.

Preachers:

Rev. Carol Lakota Eastin, Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference and Native American leader in the denomination who will preach at our Memorial Service.

Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez, newly elected bishop of the Upper New York Annual Conference, will be our ordination preacher.

Rev. Zach Holler of the West Ohio Annual Conference and Mx. Chris Paige (M.Div.) of the Other-Wise Academy will lead Bible study. And we are pleased to once again welcome Mark Miller as our music leader.



Sprucing up the place. Thank you Sandy, Chuck and Sandy

Native American Ministries Sunday

"Walking in the footsteps of our ancestors, listening, praying, singing songs of hope. Their words remind us that despite hardship and injustice, we are still here, with grateful hearts. God is with us on our journey."

REV. DELANA TAYLOR, CHEROKEE, ORDAINED DEACON,
OKLAHOMA INDIAN MISSIONARY CONFERENCE



May 23 is Native American Ministry Sunday.

Offerings collected go to support scholarships for Native Americans attending seminary and strengthen, develop and equip Native American ministries.

There are special offering envelopes on the table at the back of the sanctuary or you can send a check to the church with Native American Ministries written on the memo line.

Please give generously.





Children’s Message – HUMBLE PIE—Sally Joy

I don’t know if we have any children watching this morning; but, as Pastor Karen reminds us, there is a child in each of us. I hope you were listening to the last words we said together a moment ago. Those words that say: “What is it that God asks of you? To do what is right, to care about other people, and to walk humbly with God.”



What does that mean? To walk humbly with God? Many of the adults with us this morning will be familiar with the term “humble pie, but I am guessing the children may never have heard it. It’s not a real pie that gets baked in the oven, although where the term came from originally does talk about a pie that isn’t something any of us would choose to eat.

When we talk about eating humble pie, it really has to do with insisting you are right about something and finding out later you were mistaken – and more importantly, needing to let someone else or to let other people know that you were wrong. That’s sometimes an uncomfortable thing to do, isn’t it? Sometimes when we’re very sure about something we can let that be known with an attitude. I have a grandson who has been grown up for a good number of years now. When he was four years old, once when I told him something he told me exactly the opposite, following it up with these words: “I am right, so you are wrong, Grammie.” He was quite sure of what he believed to be the truth, but in that particular case, he was not right and I was not wrong. It is very possible to be both sure and wrong.

A long time ago I saw these words on a poster that I liked. Let us hear them now as a prayer: Lord, when am wrong, make me quick to admit it, and when I’m right, make me easy to live with.” AMEN.

Invite a friend to worship this spring!

April 16 Holy Humor, UMCOR

April 23 Bring a camper to church Sunday, welcoming guest preacher Norm Thombs, Director of Camp Mechu-wana as we observe Native American Sunday and Earth Day

April 30 Sermon: Two Cents Worth

Fully Rely on God: Stewardship 1

May 7 Sermon: The Dunfours, the DuWithes, and the Dufurs.

Fully Rely on God: Stewardship 2

May 14 Interactive Sermon: The Stories We Tell

Fully Rely on God: Stewardship 3

Communion, Heritage Sunday, Mother’s Day

May 21 Ascension, also Volunteer Gratitude Sunday

Sermon: Where You Goin’?

May 28 Pentecost Sunday

June 4 Peace with Justice

Music celebration/Recognition Sunday

June 11 Leadership Consecration Sunday

