

The Grapevine

THE GRAPEVINE — NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022 EDITION



- 1—Elsie Ware
1—Bessie Goudreau
1—Ethan Guyaz
3—Nasya Monroe
8—Robert Drummond
10—Michaela Webber
12—Kathy Merrick
15—Sally Joy
26—Dale Gilbert
27—Shawn Kelly
27—Susan Kimball
28—Mayla Mitchell
28—Allan Twombly



- 1—Heather Hibbert
10—Jessica Alley
17—James Douvielle
21—Angela Robbin
26—Lori Webber

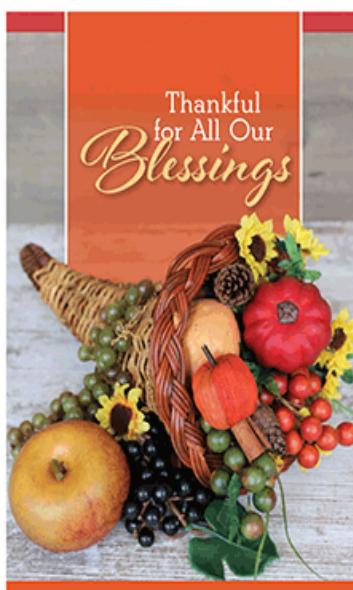


Remember to turn your
clocks back
November 6, 2:00 AM

JOIN US
CHRISTIAN MUSIC CONCERT

Sunday, Nov 6 at 2:00 PM
Highland Avenue UMC

Original music composed by
Ralph Cheney and Sandy Nisbet
Free will offering— hurricane relief



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The Upper Room Clothes Closet

We have new clothing arriving daily. A huge winter selection for all sizes. During the month of December, we will be offering a free article of clothing with each purchase. Our ministry continues to grow. New customers every week. If you would like to help, please call the church office or visit the clothes closet and see one of the volunteers to find out how you can help.

**We are open Tuesdays and Thursdays
from 10am to 2pm.**

Sunday Worship

9:30am in person and on Zoom

Church Office Hours

Monday & Wednesday

9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Pastor's Office Hours

Wednesday—9:00 am – noon

10AM—2PM

Reflection from Karen

This November/December issue bridges the looking back of All Saints and Thanksgiving with the looking forward of Advent and Christmas. These liturgical seasons parallel our church's current journey, looking both backward and forward, to choose the trajectory of God's pathway for this congregation.

Celebrating All Saints Day on October 29 (the actual day is Nov. 1), all are invited to lift names in worship of those who have been light and love in our faith journeys. Stepping next into November, we'll look back at the many blessings God has shared. And in December worship will focus on God's inbreaking presence which opens a hope filled future. See the full worship schedule below.

Throughout the rest of 2022, teams will be following up with decisive planning on Green Street United Methodist Church's Future Pathway. The Taylor Report was shared at Church Conference and is available in the office for anyone who would like a copy. Our choice of pathways is clear. We will either return to our pre-pandemic pathway of decline or we will launch into something very different. And either choice can be implemented in a healthy way. More information on the Future Pathways process and teams is on the way to you in a separate communication.

During this process we will all experience different "zones" that are normal during change. Which one are you in now, as you think about our church's future? Comfort Zone---Fear Zone---Learning Zone---Growth Zone. Maybe, like me, you're in more than one!

Looking to the saints before us is a source of strength at any time, but especially now. What challenges did they navigate? One way to connect with loved ones is through food memories. There's a reason the manna story is so important in our corporate memory! During this holiday season I think of Grandma West's lobster, blueberries, corn chowder, fresca with cranberries and chex mix. I remember Aunt Eva's annual citrus shipment, the only time we kids had grapefruit or oranges.

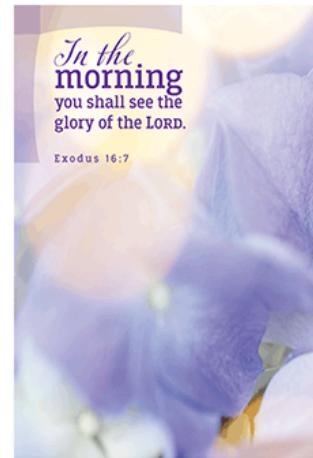
I remember canning jelly and green tomato relish with my Dad and learning Grandma Jeanne's tricky Swedish bread braids, baking that is now a generational rite of passage. I imagine the smells and feel love's arms around me.

How awesome it is to have bodies and to know that God too has experienced the goodness of this world. What a learning curve that must have been, into the incarnation! I wonder whether Jesus would resonate with Pablo Picasso's words, I am always doing that which I can not do, in order that I may learn how to do it. Christ is present and is coming, a mystery of faith, and has our back. May that presence and that hope accompany you through this hopeful holiday season.

Your Partner in Ministry, Pastor Karen



Lift up your eyes upon
 This day breaking for you.
 Give birth again to the dream.
 Women, children, men,
 Take it into the palms of your hands.
 Mold it into the shape of your most
 Private need. Sculpt it into
 The image of your most public self.
 Lift up your hearts
 Each new hour holds new chances
 For new beginnings. -Maya Angelou, On the Pulse of Morning



REMEMBER TO REACH OUT

The holidays bring busy schedules, heightened expectations, hope, and yes, also grief. For some the holidays hold an empty spot once occupied by a loved one. For others, holidays intensify grief at a physical event in our own life or the death of a dream or relationship. Virginia Satir, a family educator, said, “When grief or pain come knocking at our door, our tendency is to lock and bolt the door, saying, ‘Get out of here. You are not welcome.’” Satir goes on to suggest that we open the door slightly, not all the way, and ask this visitor (grief or pain) “What is your message for me? What is it you are trying to say to me?” If we’re not ready for that conversation we can instead say, “I know you are here, I’ll show you to a place where you can wait. We’ll talk later.” (quoted in “Loss of Dreams: A Special Kind of Grief” by Ted Bowman, self-published 1996.) Grief is a part of life that reveals the depth of our love and attachment. If you are grieving, perhaps the holidays are a good time for a walk or talk with a friend. Please reach out to the office at Green Street UMC if you could use a friend to talk with or a pastoral call. 207-622-0843.

LOOKING AHEAD IN WORSHIP

Oct 30 All Saints Celebration, reception of new members

November “What Gifts Do We Bring” Stewardship Series

Nov. 6 Here We Are

Nov 13 Communion, and Christ the King Sunday

Nov. 20 Thanksgiving Sunday

Nov. 27 Advent 1 Hanging of the Greens

December What Gifts Do We Desire?

Dec. 4 Advent 2 The Family Tree part 1

Dec 11 Advent 3 The Family Tree part 2

With Christmas Carol Communion liturgy

Dec. 18 Advent 4 What’s a Guy To Do?

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols, 6:00 PM

Dec. 25 Worship from home at 9:00 am on ZOOM live

Recording available after 12:00 PM

or prepared booklet.



January:

Jan 1 Wesleyan Covenant Service

Jan. 8 Remembering Our Baptism



Food Collection

November Food Drive for the Augusta Food Bank

During the month of November we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Augusta Food Bank. Donations can be left at the Altar on Sunday or dropped off at the church during office hours. You can also give a monetary donation. Please specify that it is for the Augusta Food Bank. For every \$1 given you can provide 4 meals for the hungry.

Items that are most needed are:

- Juice Boxes
- Cereal Bars
- Canned Pasta - Spaghetti'Os, Beefaroni, Ravioli
- Canned Corn
- Mayo - 18 oz. jars
- Vegetable Oil - 16 or 18 oz.
- Baked Beans
- Canned Soup



United Methodist Student Day Sunday, November 28

Gifts to the United Methodist Student Day offering help deserving United Methodist students continue their education and their faith journeys as they strive to make a difference in the world and discern what God has called them to do.

Look for offering envelopes on the Welcome Table in the sanctuary or send a check to the church office noting United Methodist Student Day on the memo line.

Update from the Gathering Task Force

Maine Hospitals are reporting full beds as of late October with Respiratory Virus, COVID, RSV, and Flu. Now is the time to carry forward lessons learned in COVID: Mask, wash hands, stay home if experiencing symptoms. Reach out to check on each other.

—STAYING—
CONNECTED

Angel Food Supper

The next Angel Food Supper is Saturday, November 19. On the menu is turkey pot pie. Saturday, December 17th's menu will be Turkey Tetrazzini. Help would be appreciated in the baking of about 40 rolls or biscuits, cookies or brownies. Thank you.

Sandy Grady (242-8344)

Camp Mechuwana Harvest Supper to Go!

Sunday, November 6 from 1pm to 4pm

91 Holmes Rd, Winthrop

\$5. per meal (adults and children)

This year's harvest supper will be a to-go meal again. (Chicken, potato, gravy, veggies, roll and dessert) RSVP by phone (207-377-2924) or email (mechuwana@fairpoint.net) to let us know how many meals you would like. When you arrive, we have staff directing you to and around the dining commons to pay for and pick up your meals, drive thru style.

All money raised supports Mechuwana's programs during this financially difficult time.



Green Street Christmas Card

A great way to send greetings to your church friends and save time, postage and paper! Your donations will go to the Augusta Food Bank. To have your name included, please fill in the form below and place it along with your donation in an envelope, drop it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church office. **Requests must be received in the office no later than December 10th.** Thank you.

Name as you want it to appear on the card: _____

Save the Date!
Sunday, December 4th
at 2pm
Christmas Caroling
in the sanctuary



Join us for a festive afternoon of caroling to put you into the holiday spirit! Invite your friends and family and share the joy of the season! A good time to grab an Angel Tree tag.



Angel Tree

We will have an Angel Tree this year. Please consider stopping by the end of November and taking a tag so we can make Christmas complete for a local family.



SAVE THE DATE

2023 GSUMC Ministry Team Workshop and Brunch

When: **Sunday, January 15, 10:45am -2:00pm**

Who: Those engaged in all current or potential ministry efforts such as Clothes Closet, Care Team, Music, Worship, Angel Food Supper, small groups, education, incubator ideas,.....

What: Connect, share, plan:

- Why we do what we do
 - Discipleship journeys
 - How we function in the Green Street UMC Single Board model
 - communication
 - each ministry area's 2023 priorities.
 - mapping out who is doing what and when.
- (Bring your calendars!)



December 25
Worship from Home
Join us on ZOOM at 9:00 AM
Or
Use our worship
At home booklet,
available Dec. 18

Merry
CHRISTMAS

2022 Church Conference—Green Street United Methodist Church

2022 Church Conference Minutes Green Street United Methodist Church

Calling Together

Rev. Arlene Tully, District Superintendent, began worship at 7:00 p.m. with a responsive call to worship based on Philippians 3:12-14 followed by singing “Guide My Feet” from the Faith We Sing songbook. Rev. Tully then opened the church conference.

Election of Secretary: Ardyce Robbin volunteered to be secretary and was elected to do so.

Recording Attendance: Green Street members present: Rev. Dr. Karen Munson, Judy Adams, Donna Alexander, Gary Alexander, Sharon Beaver, Henry Berry, Bessie Goudreau, Sally Joy, Tina Noble, Sue Pattershall, Angela Robbin, Ardyce Robbin, David Robbin, Jerry Robbin, Tammy Roberts, Elsie Ware, Lori Webber, and Terri Williamson.

Approval of 2021 Church Conference minutes: Rev. Tully gave those gathered a few moments to review the minutes after which a motion was made by Gary Alexander and seconded by Sharon Beaver to approve the minutes; the motion was approved by a show of hands.

Approval of 2021 Audit/Fund Balance Report: Henry Berry made a motion to approve the report, seconded by Sue Pattershall; the audit report was approved by a show of hands.

Trustee Report: Rev. Munson noted that Maine law is such that all churches in Maine are incorporated so item two of the report will be changed to reflect that. Rev. Tully asked if the church had received any bequests from a will and Tammy Roberts, Trustees Treasurer, stated we had received a bequest of \$1,000 from the Maxine Blackburn estate with no restrictions on its use. Tammy made a motion to receive the bequest, seconded by Gary Alexander; the motion was approved by a show of hands. Rev. Tully then asked if the church had used any funds from endowments and Tammy replied that \$1,500 had been used for sprinkler system repairs. The Board also sought approval to move leftover fundraising monies from completed projects to the building and capital funds line item so that it can be used for general upkeep and maintenance of the church building; this action was approved by a show of hands. Rev. Tully referred to the information in the church conference packet regarding the Boy Scouts of America bankruptcy proceedings, provided for informational purposes only as Green Street currently doesn’t sponsor a troop.

SPRC report: The Staff-Pastor/Parish Relations Committee is recommending no change in pastoral compensation for 2023. Green Street contributes \$25,000, DRUM (Dresden-Richmond United Methodist Church) contributes \$5,000 for a total cash salary of \$30,000. The reimbursable expenses amount is \$1,650 and the housing exclusion allowance is \$25,000, a larger amount than previous years since Rev. Munson lives in her own home rather than the parsonage which is currently being rented by the New England Conference for use by the District Superintendent. The amounts recommended by SPRC were all approved by a show of hands.

Finance Report: Sue Pattershall, Church Treasurer, noted that a couple changes will be made to the report: item 13 will be changed to reflect that the church is bonded (through the Conference) and item 11 will be changed to reflect that we are currently in compliance with *Discipline* policy for counting offerings. Sue also stated that we currently have about \$9,000 in the operating account but the account had dipped below \$3,000 a couple times during the year, a precarious situation for paying bills and staff salaries. We received mission share relief this year but to date have been unable to pay anything toward our apportioned mission shares which are a bit more than \$16,000. Sue estimates that we may enter the new year with close to a zero balance in the operating account which will leave us struggling to pay bills in January. The finance team will study the situation in greater detail as they work on the 2023 budget which is not yet completed. Reports from the other church treasurers are available in the conference packet materials, and Sue noted that starting in 2023 the missions account funds will be combined with the operating account as has been recommended by the auditor but will still be tracked separately.

Lay Leadership Report: This team will meet this coming Sunday to begin its work for 2023.

Lay Servant Reports: Robin Forbes and Sally Joy are seeking to continue as Lay Servants during the coming year. We gratefully affirmed and approved Robin and Sally as Lay Servants by a show of hands. Rev. Tully shared a few words of appreciation for their ministry.

Candidate Reports: none

Clergy Reports: Rev. Karen Munson shared words of appreciation for the congregational gifts that are emerging at Green Street as we transition to having a part-time pastor. She led us through the following items of business and plans for the future:

- The Welcoming Task Force has completed its work and asks those gathered to consider the adoption of an inclusivity statement which has been approved by the Board. Rev. Tully offered a prayer before the vote; by a show of hands the following statement of inclusivity was adopted:

"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 Safe Sanctuary Policy has been revised and copies of the policy were provided to those in attendance. No action is needed tonight as the Board will consider the policy at its next meeting.
- Included for informational purposes in the pastor's report was Rev. Munson's organizational chart for Green Street as it continues to live into the Simplified Board model. She noted it is missing a core mission team but work will begin to re-establish that in 2023.
- Rev. Munson then referred us to the report from consultant, Herb Taylor, and offered some thoughts on future pathways for Green Street UMC. We have two options before us: to go back to the pre-pandemic path which had led to a decline in ministries, finances, and numbers or to reform the church for ministry without the church building due to pending costs of upkeep that are beyond our means. The first pathway would lead to us becoming a legacy church and would be the end of this congregation while the second pathway could lead to revitalization and new life for the church. Which choice are we being led toward? This is the beginning of a conversation that will continue over the next few months. A forecasting team will consider the timeline for paths forward, participate in retreats to consider possibilities, and will communicate with the congregation for feedback. The path we choose will be crucial in determining our pastoral appointment for the next year as very different skill sets are required for each pathway. Rev. Tulley led us in prayer as our congregation begins the discernment process.

Membership Report and Remembering our Saints: Rev. Munson referred us to pages 38 and 39 of the church conference packet for review of the membership report. Attempts have been made to contact the people on the second year list without success. On advice of those present, two names, Janice Murphy Dang and Tennie Shardlow, will be moved to the first year list as we may have information allowing us to contact them. Names presented for removal were: Joan Atkinson, Dan Brennan, Amanda Findlay, Jonathan Findlay, Patrick Johnson, Cathy Lang, Nancy Lockhart, Wendy Lockhart, Bonnie Mitchell, Jason Neptune, William Shardlow, Sharon Weston, and Christian Willoughby. Removal of these names from the membership roll was approved with the understanding that their membership will be restored if they so wish in the future. Due to a recent audit of the membership roll there are about 60 names on the first year list. A workshop will be completed this coming winter to attempt to restore contact with those people and ascertain if there are ways the church can continue to serve them. An amended list will be presented at next year's church conference.

We remember our saints who passed away this past year: William Forbes, Edward Heath, Mary Crowell, Jane Bishop, Della Kimball, and Millicent Foster. Rev. Munson offered a prayer for these members of our faith family and their gifts to the church.

Other business and prayers for the people: There was no other business. Rev. Tully led us in prayer for family and friends named aloud and in our hearts, for those affected by hurricanes, for the upcoming Angel Food Supper, and for Bishop Devadhar as he concludes his appointment.

Sending Forth/Communion

Following church conference business, we sang the remaining verses of "Guide My Feet" interspersed with responsive readings followed by the Lord's Prayer and communion.

A motion to adjourn the church conference was made by David Robbin and seconded by Gary Alexander; the motion was approved, and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Ardyce Robbin, recording secretary

November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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		1 Clothes Closet 10AM-2PM	2 Office Hours 9AM-2:PM Pastor's Office Hours 9AM-Noon	3 Clothes Closet 10AM-2PM	4	5 <i>DRUM</i> Men's Breakfast
6 9:30 Worship <i>Christian Music Concert Gardiner 2PM</i>	7 Office Hours 9AM-2:PM	8 Clothes Closet 10AM-2PM Simplified Board— 6:00PM	9 Office Hours 9AM-2:PM Pastor's Office Hours 9AM-Noon	10 Clothes Closet 10AM-2PM	11 Veteran's Day	12
13 9:30 Worship <i>Communion and Fellowship 9:30 AM</i>	14 Office Hours 9AM-2:PM	15 Clothes Closet 10AM-2PM	16 Office Hrs 9-2 Pastor's Office Hrs 9-Noon Worship Mtg 1:30 PM	17 Clothes Closet 10AM-2PM	18	19
20 9:30 Worship	21 Office Hours 9AM-2:PM	22 Clothes Closet 10AM-2PM SPRC—6PM	23 Office Hours 9AM-2:PM Pastor's Office Hours 9AM-Noon	24 <i>Happy Thanks- giving</i>	25	26
27 9:30 Worship <i>United Meth- odist Student Day 1st Sunday Of Advent</i>	28 Office Hours 9AM-2:PM	29 Clothes Closet 10AM-2PM	30 Office Hours 9AM-2:PM Pastor's Office Hours 9AM-Noon			

December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>Clothes Closet 10AM-2PM</i>	2	3 <i>Drum Men's Breakfast</i>
4 <i>9:30 Worship Caroling in the Sanctuary At 2PM</i>	5 <i>Office Hours 9AM-2:PM</i>	6 <i>Clothes Closet 10AM-2PM</i>	7 <i>Office Hours 9AM-2:PM Pastor's Office Hours 9AM-Noon</i>	8 <i>Clothes Closet 10AM-2PM</i>	9	10
11 <i>9:30 Worship Communion And Fellowship</i>	12 <i>Office Hours 9AM-2:PM</i>	13 <i>Clothes Closet 10AM-2PM</i>	14 <i>Office Hours 9AM-2:PM Pastor's Office Hours 9AM-Noon</i>	15 <i>Clothes Closet 10AM-2PM</i>	16	17
18 <i>9:30 Worship</i>	19 <i>Office Hours 9AM-2:PM</i>	20 <i>Clothes Closet 10AM-2PM</i>	21 <i>Office Hours 9AM-2:PM Pastor's Office Hours 9AM-Noon</i>	22 <i>Clothes Closet 10AM-2PM</i>	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve Services 4PM COX 6PM EPUMC 6PM GSUMC 6PM HAUMC 7:15 Randolph 7:30 DRUM</i>
25 <i>Worship from Home on ZOOM 9:00 AM or use The worship at home book- let</i>	26 <i>No office hours today</i>	27	28 <i>Office Hours 9AM-2:PM Pastor Karen On Vacation</i>	29	30	31