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October  
2020

# The Grapevine

A PUBLICATION OF GREEN STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE GRAPEVINE—OCTOBER 2020 EDITION

## Pet Blessing

The  **blessing**  of  **pets**  and animals is often celebrated on October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis was born in the 12th century, lived in Italy and founded the men's Order of Friars Minor, the women's Order of St. Clare, and the Third Order of Saint Francis for men and women not able to live the lives of itinerant preachers. Francis is one of the most venerated religious figures in history. He is remembered for his generosity to the poor, his willingness to minister to the lepers and for his love for animals and nature. He is the Catholic Church's patron saint of animals and the environment.

The  **blessing**  of each animal, by name, means that health, healing and life are being mediated from God for the benefit of the animal in its relationship with its human partners.

Please consider donating pet food or gently used blankets/towels to the local animal shelter and remember to teach your children and grandchildren about endangered and abused animals and what we can do to help.

Join Pastor Kristin for this special blessing

**Sunday, October 4th at 6pm on Zoom**

Zoom: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7925181731>

Meeting ID 792 518 1731

Password: 091547

Zoom call in by phone 301-715-8592  
(toll charges may apply)

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## FROM THE PASTOR: Building Strong Foundations Together

Randolph and Green Street have officially been a cooperative parish for three months. When our congregations agreed to partner in ministry, we had no idea we would begin this journey during a pandemic. Even in these unusual times, we have begun building strong foundations for ministry together.

Our shared summer worship gave us opportunities to meet weekly, on Zoom or on Facebook. Our *Soul Reset* theme started us on a shared spiritual journey. Our musicians also had an opportunity to work together this summer, providing a broad range of musical talent and leadership. Our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Missions Celebration was broadcast live from the Randolph Clothes Closet, where we saw and learned about this incredible ministry. We have been blessed with shared leadership. Randolph's Treasurer has served on Green Street's Financial Sustainability Task Force. The Lay Leaders of both churches meet monthly for visioning and sharing.

The Cooperative Coordinating Committee has identified these areas of celebration as the foundation for our continuing mutual support.

- Shared Worship Themes – we will share a stewardship series during October and an Advent series in December.
- Music – we continue to explore opportunities for shared music, through a joint choir and combined music leadership.
- Clothes Closet – Green Street members have begun volunteering with this ministry. Randolph members have wonderful experience to share on how to partner with the community.
- Leadership – Task Forces will continue to share leadership. Joint fundraisers are being planned. Our Church Conferences will meet together this year on December 5.
- Bible Study – Randolph members are eager to participate in the great Bible study ministries offered by Green Street.

Pastor Kristin



9— Judith Gilbert  
11—Tammy Roberts  
16—William Atlee  
18—Anna Elmshauser

21—Dave Robbin  
24—Gregory Pearson  
25—Henry Berry  
29—Andrew Pullen

October 2020

## Building Entry Rules

The Church is not a building; it is a community of faith. Our building is closed, but our Church is always open! Having a building key *doesn't* mean you're allowed inside.

Only the following people may enter our building: the Pastor, Admin. Assistant, and other paid staff; Church Treasurers, Financial Secretaries, and Counters; contractors and other maintenance staff; and participants in approved\* service & worship activities.

Everyone who enters MUST, without exception: wear a face covering that covers both the nose and the mouth the whole time they are in the building; clean their hands with soap (scrubbing for 20 seconds before rinsing) or with the sanitizer provided; Sign in on the clip board by the elevator; stay 6 feet away from the person nearest them; and clean and sanitize the areas and surfaces used according to the criteria set by the Gathering Task Force.

Anyone who suspects, or confirms, they have symptoms of Coronavirus (fever greater than 100.4°, dry cough, new loss of taste or smell), must stop entering the building and immediately notify the Office to slow further spread.

These sacrifices are how we, as the Body of Christ, take care of one another.

For more information, call the Office @ 622-0843.

## Church Office News

Darby will be on vacation from October 21– 26. Sue Pattershall will be checking voice mail and email while she is away. Thank you Sue! If you have a pastoral emergency please contact Pastor Kristin at 207-622-3656





# Simplified Board Highlights

September 2020

As Board Chair, Kathleen offered board members a reflection from Esther 4:14. She reminded us that we had all answered a call to serve on the board, and that perhaps, like Esther, it was for this time and place that each of us was chosen.

Financial reports were presented by the Current Expense Treasurer, Sue Pattershall, the Trustees Treasurer, Tammy Roberts, and the Missions Treasurer, Ardyce Robbin. The current expense income is slightly behind budget, but not of great concern. Invested funds have recovered nearly to their values at the beginning of the year despite a significant market downturn in the second quarter. Green Street has substantial amounts in the Bridge Family Memorial Fund and the Hal Roberts Fund available for use according to the the fund restrictions. The Missions accounts have been less active than normal due to scaled-back activities this year. Conference Mission Shares are being paid through the Current Expense budget.

The Board heard updates from Nominations, the Gathering Task Force, and Cooperative Parish Coordinating Team, much of which is being communicated to individuals and the congregation as the work proceeds. Nominations has several positions to fill for 2021 that they hope to bring to our annual Church Conference on December 5. The Administration Ministry Team circulated a list of Ministry Teams, along with a set of forms to be used in helping them keep track of Ministry Teams and their activities.

Two major initiatives were approved that came from the work of the Sustainable Budget Task Force. The first was the creation of a Subscription Box Ministry Team. A subscription box is something that is sent out to subscribers on a regular basis, generally once a month, for a fee. The proposal is that once the pricing is worked out this would be a fund-raiser for the church. The subscription boxes would be based on Christian contemplative practices, and might include various educational and instructional items to reach people not connected with a church community. In this way it would be a ministry as well as a fund-raiser. The board approved initial formation of the Ministry Team, with details to come.

The second major initiative was the creation of an Upper Room Task Force. Through the years there have been several ideas and attempts to utilize the vacant space on the second floor of the Wesley Center. The Sustainable Budget Task Force identified this space as a significant asset that we need to put to use to bring in revenue. As envisioned, the task force would make a concerted effort over the next several months to a year to work with city and church District leaders to expand the range of acceptable uses for the building, explore community partnerships with suitable tenants, hiring realtors or consultants if advisable, recommend to the Board improvements or modifications to the existing building that might be required, and do related research and outreach. The Board set aside \$50,000 from the Bragg bequest that could be used, if needed, to hire consultants and contractors, and to make recommended improvements to secure any tenant for the Upper Room in the Wesley Center. The Board would have to approve any expenditures. The congregation will be invited to participate in both of these major initiatives.

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).

**Visitors are welcome at all meetings, 2nd Tuesday each month at 6 pm on Zoom!**



## The Bible, The Church and Full Inclusion of LGBTQ+ Persons *Claiming the Promise Bible Study*

Sponsored by the Welcoming Task Force  
Monday, October 5 through November 16 at 6pm  
Zoom: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7925181731>

Meeting ID 792 518 1731

Password: 091547

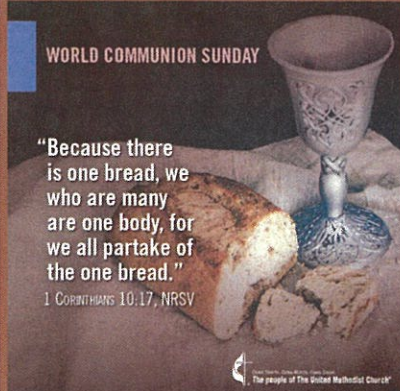
Zoom call in by phone 301-715-8592  
(toll charges may apply)

As we wait for decisions from General Conference regarding full inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons in the life of the church, we naturally turn to the Bible to discern God's Word. Yet some of the words in the Bible contribute to our dilemma about welcoming LGBTQ+ persons into the church. We are called to sort through those specific—and perhaps troubling—biblical references prayerfully, as we seek to discern God's living, healing, saving Word. We invite you to study the issues that are embedded in this current church dilemma. We study them, not as an academic exercise, but as a process of Christian dialogue and spiritual discernment that literally can save lives. We invite you to know, hear, and understand LGBTQ+ individuals and their families. As we study, may we continually be reminded that people who live and work and worship among us are personally affected by this current church dilemma and by our responses to God's promise. Come and explore how we, as individuals and as communities of Christians, might discern God's promise and claim it. Welcome to the journey!

This Bible study will help us:

- *Identify* assumptions about biblical authority and how we engage in biblical interpretation
- *Examine* alternate understandings of biblical references that people sometimes apply negatively to LGBTQ+ persons
- *Explore* the place of those biblical references within a comprehensive understanding of the Bible's liberating message of justice, love and freedom in Christ
- *Claim* the promise of being God's heirs apparent by identifying how we might live as welcoming, reconciling disciples of Christ.

Finally, this Bible study presents several points of view. Clearly Christians are not all of one mind about homosexuality and the church. *Claiming the Promise* has a point of view that we think offers us glimpses of God's Word in the midst of our troubling dilemma. We hope only that you will prayerfully participate and consider its point of view, whether it differs from yours or not.



**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**

"Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread."  
1 CORINTHIANS 10:17, NRSV

**October 4th**

**9:30am**

Please have bread and juice ready for worship on Zoom

## September Fuel Day Challenge!

Thank you to all who made donations for the September Fuel Day Challenge.

- In memory of Gail Dunn. Given by Sharon Beaver
- In memory of my mother, Harriet Hinkley. Given by Bessie Goudreau.
- In memory of Nancy Miner. Given by Sally Joy.
- In honor of Alex on his 25th Birthday. Given by the Roberts Family.
- In honor of Andy on his 25th Birthday. Given by the Roberts Family.
- In honor of Alex and Hannah's 1st Wedding Anniversary. Given by the Roberts Family.
- In memory of Nancy Miner. Given by the Roberts Family.
- Given by Jerry and Ardyce Robbin.
- In honor of my sister, Lorraine Argraves Barnes. Given by P. Robert and Joyce Thurlow.
- In memory of my father, Lee Ware, Sr. and my mother Valeria Ware. Given by Lee Ware.
- In memory of my mother, Harriet Hinkley. Given by Elsie Ware.

## Green Street Needs Your Help!

At its September meeting, the Green Street church board approved two important groups to help secure our financial future.

The first group is a **Subscription Box Ministry Team** to help create and sell contemplative Christian subscription boxes to raise funds through ministry.

The second group is an **Upper Room Task Force** to work on finding a ministry partner to rent space in the Upper Room of the Wesley Center.

**These fundraisers can't succeed without volunteers from the congregation.** Check the church website for details. If you can help—or if you know someone who can—please call the Green Street office at 622-0843.





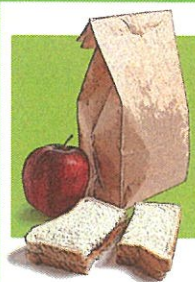
The New England Annual Conference will take place as a one-day online session on Oct. 17, 2020. Members should plan to reserve the entire day for the session. The session will be live streamed on the conference website.

Find all the info you need at [www.neumc.org/acsessions](http://www.neumc.org/acsessions)

### Prayer Request

Please hold in prayer our Janitor, George, who will be having major vascular surgery on October 1st and will be out of work for six weeks.

Anyone using building space (with prior approval) during this time please be extra vigilant with cleaning and disinfecting all areas of use as we will not have anyone covering for George while he is on medical leave.



### Angel Food Take Out

The Angel Food Suppers have been impacted by Covid 19. Instead of serving our clients at a table setting we are giving out the supper in bagged take-outs. Approximately 40 meals are passed with any leftover bagged meals taken to the homeless shelter where they are gratefully accepted. Our crew is small (4-5 people) due to social distancing. We started up again in September and will continue to

give out meals on the third Saturday of each month at 4:30pm. If anyone is interested in volunteering contact Sandy Grady at 207-242-8344, please leave a message.

### Just Two Ingredient Banana Pancakes!

1 - ripe banana

2 - eggs

A pinch baking powder and a dash of vanilla (optional)

Mash the banana,, add eggs, baking powder, vanilla and beat well.

Heat griddle and spay with non-stick cooking spray or lightly oil.

Pour a small amount of the batter onto the griddle

Cook 1 minute (until lightly brown) and gently turn.

### Election Prayer Gathering

Thursday, October 29 at 7pm on Zoom

People on all sides are feeling anxious about the upcoming election. It keeps coming up in every gathering and prayer group. This prayer service will be a simple opportunity to be in prayer for our nation and our leaders, whoever they are, as we approach the election. We will NOT be praying for specific candidates or outcomes, but will simply join in prayer for a hopeful future.

- Pray for candidates to seek God's guidance.
- Pray that candidates (and all of us!) would have listening ears and soft hearts.
- Pray for candidates to address poverty and justice issues.
- Pray for strength and encouragement for our leaders and election candidates.
- Pray that our leaders would commit to working together (and that we would too).
- Pray that we would see each other through Jesus' eyes.

### Be a Trans Ally



Being an effective trans ally is important. It lets everyone around you know that you're supportive and attentive to the needs of others. Being an ally demonstrates that you want to help change the world for marginalized communities even if you are not necessarily part of a particular group.

- You may need to stand beside someone to support them. Listen to them and walk with them through the experience.
- You may need to stand in front of someone to help them avoid harm or hurt.
- You may need to stand beside someone to support them, recognizing that they are the experts and know what is best for them.



## Tasty Tidbits from the Welcome Table Ministry Team

Submitted by Tammy Roberts

As fall is fast approaching and the temperatures begin to drop, I begin to think of comfort foods. This soup is one of my favorites and is very comforting on a cold day. Although I love to top it with seared mushrooms, it is also yummy topped with pumpkin seeds.

### Pureed Butternut Squash Soup with Seared Mushrooms and Herbs

2 tablespoons olive oil  
1 butternut squash, peeled, seeded and cut into 1-inch cubes  
1 teaspoon dried thyme  
3 ½ to 4 ½ teaspoons salt  
½ cup nondairy Rice milk (See below to make your own)  
8 ounces cremini mushrooms, stemmed and sliced  
2 to 3 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley (OR 2 to 3 teaspoons dried parsley)

In a large pot, heat 1 tablespoon of the olive oil over medium heat. Add the squash, thyme and 1 ½ teaspoons of the salt, and sauté for about 10 minutes, until browned and fragrant. Add 2 ½ cups of water and bring to a boil. Cover and simmer for 10 to 12 minutes, until tender. Stir in the nondairy milk.

Transfer the squash with its liquid to a blender and puree for about 2 minutes, until smooth. (I have also used a Vitamix or an immersion blender)

In a large sauté pan, heat the remaining 1 tablespoon of olive oil over high heat. Once the oil is simmering, add the mushrooms in an even layer. Cook without stirring for about 4 minutes, until golden brown. Stir and cook for another 3 to 5 minutes. Sprinkle with the remaining 2 to 3 teaspoons of salt. Transfer to a plate lined with paper towel to soak up the excess oil.

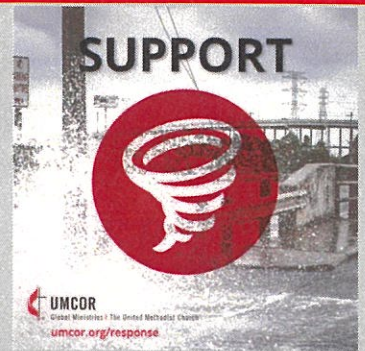
Serve the soup topped with the seared mushrooms and sprinkled with parsley. Makes 3 servings.

Recipe adapted from Aviv, Jonathan, (2017), *The Acid Watcher Diet*, Harmony Books.

### Homemade Rice Milk

I prefer to make my own rice milk because it saves A LOT of money and is super easy. I usually make more than what is needed for the soup because it's just easier. No matter how much milk you want to make, use a 4:1 ratio of water to rice.

Combine ¼ cup of cooked rice (white or brown) with 1 cup of water in a blender. Blend until smooth, approximately 1 minute. You may need to blend again to achieve a very smooth consistency. The milk can be stored in the refrigerator. Be sure to shake before using.



### UMCOR

As wildfires rage and ravage communities in the western United States, UMCOR is contributing financial support to United Methodist conferences in the region and offers prayers of protection for people and property.

Join UMCOR in support of relief and recovery efforts for disasters in the United States.

### GIVE TODAY:

<https://umcmmission.social/aulyf>

### Stewardship in Exile

It's challenging to focus on stewardship with so much uncertainty. Can we invest in a church when we don't know its future? Can we be stewards of a church we don't yet see or understand? As covid-19 continues to keep us worshipping apart can we be stewards of a church in exile?

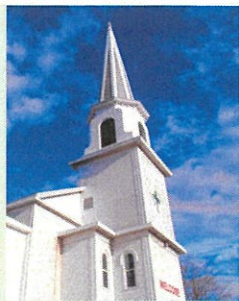
Our stewardship series this fall will explore stories of exile, the words of hope we find in the prophets, and how we can be faithful stewards of God's church in its exile.

## Cooperative Parish In Person Worship begins October 4th!

What a blessing it has been to worship together as a Cooperative Parish this summer! Both Green Street and Randolph members have attended services on Zoom, or watched the recording later on Facebook. Our combined music team of Sue Pattershall, Lynne Burney, and Ralph Cheney have provided a beautiful selection of anthems and special music. Each week we introduced leaders from both congregations as a way to learn about each other.

**Beginning Sunday, October 4 at 11am, the Randolph congregation will return to in person worship.** We anticipate that there will be additional space for about 8-10 individuals from Green Street who would like to worship in person. Green Street will continue to worship on Zoom and Facebook during October, welcoming Randolph members who aren't ready or able to worship in person. **If you are interested in worshipping in the Randolph sanctuary, please let Pastor Kristin know.** We encourage that priority be given to those who are unable to access Zoom or Facebook worship. As always, this plan is subject to change, depending on changes in covid outbreaks.





# Green Street UMC

## October 2020

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
				1 7am Prayer  7pm SPPRC Meeting	2 7am Prayer  5:15pm Yoga	3 7am Prayer 10am Gathering Task Force 4pm Meditation
4 World Communion Sunday 9:30 am Worship 4 pm Animal Blessing	5 Church Office Closed Today  7am Prayer 8am Yoga 6pm LGBTQ+ Bible Study	6 7am Prayer  9am Staff Meeting	7 7am Prayer  6:30pm Choir	8 7am Prayer	9 7am Prayer  5:15pm Yoga	10 7am Prayer 10am Gathering Task Force 4pm Meditation
11  9:30 am Worship  1 pm Cooperative Parish Meeting	12 Columbus Day Church Office Closed Today  7am Prayer 8am Yoga 6pm LGBTQ+ Bible Study	13 7am Prayer 8am Yoga  6pm SB Meeting	14 7am Prayer  6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	15 7am Prayer  7 pm Bureaucracy Meeting	16 7am Prayer  5:15pm Yoga	17 7am Prayer 10am Gathering Task Force  4:30pm Angel Food Supper
18  9:30 am Worship  1pm Welcoming Task Force Meeting	19 Darby  7am Prayer 8am Yoga  6pm LGBTQ+ Bible Study	20 on  7am Prayer  6pm SB Planning Meeting	21 vacation  7am Prayer  6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	22 this  7am Prayer	23 week  7am Prayer  5:15pm Yoga	24  7am Prayer 10am Gathering Task Force  4pm Meditation
25  9:30 am Worship	26 7am Prayer 8am Yoga  6pm LGBTQ+ Bible Study	27 7am Prayer	28 7am Prayer  6:30pm Choir	29 7am Prayer  7pm Election Prayer Gathering	30 7am Prayer  5:15pm Yoga	31 Halloween 7am Prayer 10am Gathering Task Force 4pm Meditation

### Notes

Sunday Worship at 9:30 am

All meetings, classes and services are on Zoom until further notice. Bell Choir will meet in the Sanctuary.

Zoom: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7925181731>

Meeting ID 792 518 1731 Password: 091547

Zoom call in by phone 301-715-8592 (toll charges may apply)

Church Office Hours Monday – Friday from 8am to 2pm



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