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September
2020

The Grapevine

A PUBLICATION OF GREEN STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE GRAPEVINE—SEPTEMBER 2020 EDITION

September Fuel Day Challenge
Our challenge together is to raise 30 Fuel Days!
One for each day of September.



Fuel Day Challenge

Even though our church building is closed we still have to be good stewards and keep the pipes from freezing over the winter and avoid the damage that can come from not heating a building! You can help by giving a day of Day of Fuel in honor or memory of someone special! Each day of fuel is \$25.

In Honor or Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Complete this form and send it along with payment to:
13 Green Street, Augusta, ME 04330

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FROM THE PASTOR: Standing on Holy Ground

Many of us have favorite memories of our church sanctuary. Perhaps it's the quiet candlelight on Christmas Eve; Ash Wednesday's contemplative start to Lent; gathering for a baptism, wedding or funeral; joining voices in a hymn or listening to the choir; or sitting silently with head bowed in prayer. Our church sanctuary is a special place. It is consecrated space, our holy ground.

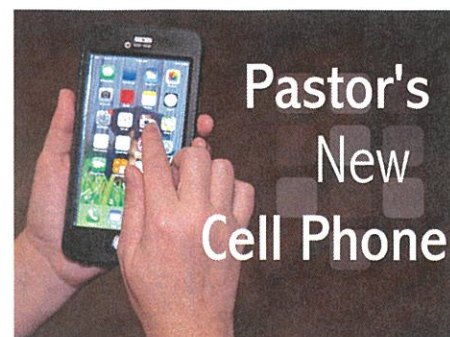
The Exodus story helps shape my understanding of being the church during a pandemic. The Exodus story begins on holy ground. In Exodus 3, God appears to Moses in a burning bush, both calling Moses into relationship with God and sending him forth to do God's work. The Exodus story reminds me that holy ground is where ever God declares it to be. The consecrated space of Moses' meeting with God was not a building, palace or temple. It was neither in Egypt, where God's people currently lived, nor in the Promised Land, which lay ahead. Holy ground was the wilderness, a place where Moses would live for 40 years.

For Christians today, our holy ground is not only the sanctuary where we have worshiped and hope to do so again. It is also in the wilderness, the ordinary and between places where we currently find ourselves. A place is holy ground not because of our beliefs, but because God declares it to be so. Holy ground is every place in the world that God meets us, calls us, and sends us.

While Moses stands in awe of God at the burning bush, holy ground is not just a place for worship. Holy ground is a place where God sends us into the world, where we are shepherded forth to be God's hands and feet and voice.

How does the Exodus story of holy ground help to reframe our story as a church in the wilderness? Even as we are separated from our sanctuary, we are still on holy ground. We are called to worship God wherever God finds us, in the wilderness as well as in the building. Church is both worshiping God and being sent by God. And our sanctuary, as holy ground, is the beginning, not the end, of our journey.

Pastor Kristin



The parsonage phone number has been transferred from a land-line to a cellphone. This will now be the most convenient way to reach Pastor Kristin, as she will be able to carry the phone with her. Please use this number:

207-622-3656

Also, please delete her personal cell phone number from your contacts. She is able to receive both calls and texts. Thank you.



17—Kristin White	26—James Douvielle
18—Sandy Barringer	28—Alex Roberts
19—Joan Berry	28—Andrew Roberts
22—Rob Shore	30—Ashley McGuire
25—Kathy Raymond	

I hope you have had a refreshing summer! It is time for us to find new ways to share our musical talents! One of the most important ways we can support one another is to be with one another.

Let's get creative!

Choir will resume on-line meetings Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30. Bells will meet September 23 at 5:30 in the sanctuary following safety guidelines. All must wear a mask and our set up will be different to accommodate distancing. More info to come.

Sue Pattershall



Simplified Board Highlights

August 2020

Kathleen Dunford, Board Chair, opened our meeting with a reflection about the Israelites who had to learn new ways of being together and supporting each other while in Exile, as we have been doing during our time away from the building. She encouraged us to be sustained by Psalm 46:10, "Be still, and know that I am God!"

We had several informational updates. First, from the interim Current Expense Treasurer, Sue Pattershall, that our 2020 budget is on track, with the first half of the year completed at about \$2,000 under budget, and significant income from outside sources (Perry Rich grant and Equitable Compensation grant) received as expected in July. Paperwork for the PPP loan forgiveness process is not quite ready yet from the bank. We heard updates from the SPRC, who are reviewing and updating all the job descriptions for paid staff; from the Gathering Task Force, who have been meeting weekly to work on many issues related to the well-being of people in community (see article in this newsletter); and from the Cooperative Parish Coordinating Committee, who have been looking at the fall schedule of events and planning pastor Kristin's time to develop shared and cooperative relationships between the two congregations.

The Board approved spending up to \$1500 from the Bridge Family Memorial Fund to support participation of Green Street members in the Leadership Institute 2020, to be held online Sept. 24-25, hosted by Rev. Adam Hamilton and the Church of the Resurrection. This is an exciting opportunity for us. We hope many people from Green Street will attend for as much as they can. Attendees will be invited to report back on their experience.

We had a general discussion about the life cycle of ministry teams, and the way ministry teams begin, are organized, led, and let go. Some specific examples of ongoing needs were raised. One possibility would be to have two types of ministry teams: one type that rises and falls from within the congregation based on passions and interests, and another type that is created by the Board to serve a specific purpose and can only be dissolved by the Board. We agreed to return to the discussion when we have concrete examples. In some ways this will be easier when we are gathered in the building. Some of the difficulty in finding volunteers and maintaining ministry teams might be the need for a shared vision for the church.

To round out the meeting, Kathleen asked Board members what we would like to see or where we would like to be in six months. There was quite a range of responses from things we miss by not being together (singing, hugs, seeing everyone again), to carrying forward some things we have learned (Zoom worship, being creative, more remote activities, developing online presence), to pursuing new relationships (networking with the community, finding different ways to connect, minister, and worship). The need to consider our finances was raised as a necessary part of the conversation. Next month we will look at the recommendations of the 213 study that included specific avenues for change, including asset-based community development, utilizing the building to bring in revenue, and developing partnerships in the community.

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, 2d Tuesday each month 6 pm on Green Street Zoom!

Gathering Task Force



The Gathering Task Force honors the importance of gathering for the emotional, spiritual and physical well-being of the congregation, while also seeking best ways to ensure the safety and well-being of our gatherings. The criteria below invite us into Christian community beyond just Sunday morning worship. These criteria invite us to care for the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of the whole congregation and our community. We invite you to experience these criteria not as rules, but as a covenant of love and respect for one another.

We celebrate that Green Street continues to be God's church outside the walls of the building – through worship services on Zoom and Facebook, worship at home packets, Care Team calls, and Zoom gatherings including study groups, games nights, yoga classes, video series, VBS, poetry nights, regular church meetings, prayer gatherings, choir rehearsal, and one-on-one conversations with Pastor Kristin. Although minimal, in person gatherings have included Angel Food takeout meals on the side yard, outdoor cleanup days, and a drive-by birthday celebration for Gladys Schacht.

Both the State of Maine CDC and the New England UMC Annual Conference offer a range of recommendations and guidance for in-person gatherings. The Gathering Task Force has familiarized themselves with these general recommendations, and taken into consideration the unique needs of our members, community and building. As part of this, we are looking at a limited way to use the meeting space at the church. For the time being, worship will continue to meet on Zoom. While other churches have made other choices on how to gather, based on recommendations and the needs of our own congregation and community, we have decided to continue worship online for the time being.

Our discernment process includes looking at how both being in the building and being out of the building contribute to our physical and emotional well-being. Our lists are below and we would love to hear from you what you would add.

Gathering Task Force

Henry Berry, Susan Cross, Kathleen Dunford,
Ardyce Robbin, Marianne Tibbets, Kristin White

Thank
You!



Thank you all for your cards, well wishes and prayers. God is good and I am well on my way to recovery from my hip surgery. Modern medicine is amazing and it certainly helps to know others are supporting me.

Sue Pattershall



September brings me back to the church office full-time. Since the pandemic began last March, schedules and boundaries have become a little blurred so I just want to remind everyone of my deadlines and expectations going forward.

Office Hours (beginning 9/8)

Monday – Friday from 8am to 2pm.

You can always leave a message for me after hours
at **207-622-0843**

or **greenstreetumc@gmail.com**

I will respond to messages on my next scheduled work day. Please do not message me via Facebook, my personal email or my personal cell phone. If you have an emergency that can't wait for office hours please contact Pastor Kristin at 207-622-3656.

- The deadline for the newsletter is the 15th. If you are unable to provide your newsletter items by the 15th it is no problem as long as you let me know so I can save space.
- The deadline for the "What's Happening this Week" email is by noon on the Friday before.
- The deadline for the "Prayer List" email is Monday at noon however I can send out individual prayer requests at any time.
- The deadline for the monthly SB Packet information is the Wednesday before the meeting.

I am happy to help anyone in any way that I can but please give me at least a 24-48 hour turn around on your requests. I love working with all of you in ministry and truly appreciate your efforts in helping to make my work flow smoothly.

In Christ, Darby

New England



The 2020 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 livestreamed on our website.

During this shortened session, we will care for the necessary business of the Annual Conference as outlined in the *Book of Discipline*. The Agenda Committee will set the day's schedule.

Some events and traditions that are part of our time together at Annual Conference will simply not be able to happen in 2020. Others have been or will be cared for in new ways.

The Laity Session will be an online event beginning at 10 a.m. on Sept. 26; watch e-news and our website for more details about how you can watch.

Find all the info you need at www.neumc.org/acsessions

September Sermon Series

Our September worship series uses four scriptures from the Book of Exodus to explore our current circumstances and experiences of the world. Adapted from a study by the General Board of Discipleship, this series journeys with the Israelites as God leads them into a new life.

From umcdiscipleship.org:

A tweet is floating around that simply says, "I miss precedent times." How often do you hear that these are unprecedented times? Of course, like all broad statements of that kind, this is both true and untrue. It is true that most of us haven't lived with a pandemic. The natural disasters and the political and racial unrest all roll together to create a miasma of despair unlike anything we've ever experienced. Except we have. Maybe not exactly this, but we know the experience. We've been here before. We call it wilderness. It is a regular occurrence in the lives of followers of Jesus. One might say it is standard operating procedure. But familiarity doesn't mean ease. Wandering through the wilderness is a difficult journey at the best of times. Other times, it can seem impossible. Our task in this series is to help us find our way through the wilderness of this time by allowing the first of God-wanderers in the book of Exodus to speak to us. The stories of the people of God, along with the hymns of the faith in the Psalms, become our guides through the wilderness today.

Tasty Tidbits from the Welcome Table Ministry Team Submitted by Valerie Gallagher

With September already here, I suspect some of you may have already enjoyed fresh corn and tomatoes from your gardens. Salsa with these fresh ingredients is the best! Below is a recipe that has been popular at our church activities as well as get-togethers with friends (pre-Covid19, of course!). The recipe uses canned tomatoes and frozen corn, however one can easily substitute fresh tomatoes and garden fresh corn cooked and chilled. Add some tortilla chips of your choice!

Black Bean and Corn Salsa

1 can (14.5 oz) Del Monte Petite Diced Tomatoes, no salt added variety, slightly drained

3/4 cup Bush's Black Beans, rinsed

3/4 cup Birds's Eye frozen corn, cooked, drained and cooled

3 tsp chopped cilantro

3/4 tsp minced jarred garlic

3/4 tsp ground cumin

Juice of 1 lime

3 very small pinches of salt

Mix all together. Makes about 3 cups. Serve with any type of chip that suits your fancy!

Ideas – Insights - Information

Books you may find interesting:

- *Living Faithfully: Human Sexuality and The United Methodist Church* by Alex Joyner and David L. Barnhart, Jr; references the 2019 special session of General Conference and what it means for the present and future.
- *Bible, Gender, Sexuality: Reframing the Church's Debate on Same-Sex Relationships* by James V. Brownson; grapples conscientiously with biblical texts at the heart of the church's debate over same-sex relationships.
- *Becoming Nicole* by Amy Ellis Nutt; the inspiring, true story of transgender actor and activist Nicole Maines, whose family join her on an extraordinary journey to understand, nurture, and celebrate the uniqueness in us all.

Suggestions from the Welcoming Task Force



It Only Takes a Spark

NOTES FROM THE SPRC

Fellow Green Streeters:

At our August meeting, we discussed our staff and their job descriptions. The *Guidelines* from the denomination put it quite nicely: staff are hired to do ministry *with* (rather than *for*) the congregation. But what is the job description for the *congregation*? It might be this:

Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Core roles:

- Give thanks for all that God has already given us.
- Participate faithfully in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Primary tasks:

- Reach out and receive with joy all who will respond.
- Encourage people in their relationship with God and invite them to commit to God's love in Jesus Christ
- Provide opportunities for people to seek strengthening and growth in spiritual formation.
- Support people to live lovingly and justly in the power of the Holy Spirit as faithful disciples.

It is in the primary tasks that we see our job as *leading* others into the church—the body of Christ. Jesus said “The rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

What does leadership look like to you? Please be in touch.

Yours in Ministry,

	The Staff–Parish Relations Committee		
2021	Sarah Barnum she/her/hers/[none] barnumsarah54@gmail.com	Evelyn Horstman she/her/hers/Mrs. horstman3c@aol.com	Dave Robbin, <i>Chair</i> he/him/his/Mr. dwrobbin@gmail.com
2022	Judy Adams she/her/hers/[none] judy.adams@maine.gov	Susan Cross she/her/hers/Ms. mainecross@gmail.com	Sally Joy she/her/hers/[none] srjoy43@gmail.com
<i>ex off.</i>	Valerie Gallagher, <i>Lay Leader</i> she/her/hers/Ms. JV Gallagher2@gmail.com		

**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!

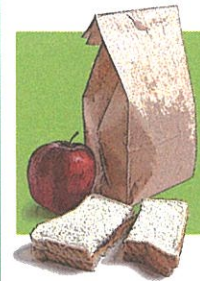
This Bible study will help us:

- *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.

If you are not able to join the study on Zoom, or miss a session on Zoom, you

**Angel Food Supper
Saturday, Sept. 17
at 4:30pm.**



**Angel
Food
Take Out**

We will be serving take-out meals while practicing social distancing! If you would like to volunteer please contact Sandy or Randy Grady at 207-832-2044 to find out ways you can safely help out!

**Adult Discussion
Group on Break**

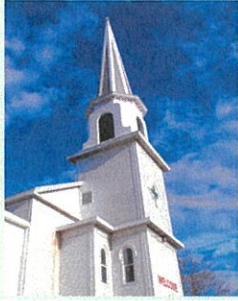
The Adult Discussion Group, which met before worship until recently, will be taking a break during the month of September. No definite plans are in place for what may follow, but the core group is open to suggestions from folks interested in being part of such a group. Are there conversations about the Christian faith you'd like to have? If so, please let us know. Contact Sally Joy, Ardyce Robbin, Henry Berry, or call or send an email to the church office.



Green Street's members of the Cooperative Coordination Committee

- Susan Cross, at-large (mainecross@gmail.com);
- Kathleen Dunford, at-large (tkdunford@gmail.com or (207) 623-3174);
- Valerie Gallagher, Lay Leader (JVgallagher2@gmail.com or (207) 458-7779); and
- David Robbin, SPRC Chair (dwrobbin@gmail.com or (207) 512-8620).

Please email or call any of us with your further questions and feedback. (Because these matters are related to the Bishop's appointment of a Pastor to Green Street, you may also contact any lay member of the SPRC.) If you would prefer to raise a question or concern anonymously, you can give your feedback to the Green Street office,



Green Street UMC

September 2020

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 7am Prayer	2 7am Prayer 7pm Bureaucracy Meeting	3 7am Prayer 7pm SPPRC Meeting	4 7am Prayer 5:15pm Yoga	5 7am Prayer 10am Gathering Task Force 4pm Meditation
6 9:30 am Worship	7 Labor Day Church Office Closed Today 7am Prayer 8am Yoga	8 7am Prayer 9am Staff Meeting 6pm Simplified Board Meeting	9 7am Prayer 7pm Bureaucracy Meeting	10 7am Prayer 6pm Vital Conversations on Race and Racism	11 7am Prayer 5:15pm Yoga	12 7am Prayer 10am Gathering Task Force 4pm Meditation 5pm Lay Leaders Meeting
13 9:30 am Worship	14 7am Prayer 8am Yoga	15 7am Prayer 8am Yoga 6pm SB Meeting	16 7am Prayer 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bureaucracy Meeting	17 7am Prayer	18 7am Prayer 5:15pm Yoga	19 7am Prayer 9am Cluster Prayer and Share 10am Gathering Task Force 4pm Meditation 4:30pm Angel Food Supper
20 9:30 am Worship	21 7am Prayer 8am Yoga 6pm Welcoming Task Force	22 Fall 7am Prayer	23 7am Prayer 5:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bureaucracy Meeting	24 7am Prayer 6pm Vital Conversations Racism	26 7am Prayer 5:15pm Yoga	27 7am Prayer 10am Gathering Task Force 4pm Meditation
28 9:30 am Worship	29 7am Prayer 8am Yoga	30 7am Prayer				

Notes

Sunday Worship at 9:30 am

All meetings, classes and services are on Zoom until further notice. 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