

The Grapevine

A PUBLICATION OF Green Street United Methodist Church

THE GRAPEVINE — SEPTEMBER 2021 EDITION

AMAZING GRACE

A Stewardship Reflection

A while back, we were asked to ponder the Exile of the Egyptians, and compare it to our displacement with COVID Challenges. I thought: what was the worst part of the separation? . . . When it began, during the middle, when it came back, or at the very end, (These times now, when we try to return to normal, and is still uncertain)?

For me, it was the middle; the uncertainty of not knowing what to expect, not knowing why this happened, and how long it will truly last. Now that things

seem to finally be getting back to normal, I am beginning to re-think that maybe that wasn't the worst after all. Now, I fear the uncertainty that we are in a false hop that all is normal again, and I can see how fragile that is, as we wait for the daily news that tells us how the World's Health is still under a fog. I see it as a living being that has been broken. Perhaps compare it to the Fall of Man. This world is still broken, & diseased. How soon we forget how wonderful things "WERE", and struggle to get back to good as it was. I feel as I have lost something dear to me, perhaps a handshake, a hug, or just a tap on the shoulder from someone I know, all those things, however simple, and common, were all shattered, and taken away with illness, or the possibility of it spreading through being close in physical form to those we love dearly.

May this year, this season, and this day remind us that God has a plan for good things for all those that love the Lord.

And,
May God Bless all who read.

Paul Doyon



INSIDE this issue

Birthdays	Pg. 2
CCC Worship & BBQ	Pg. 2
Church Meeting	Pg. 2
SB Highlights	Pg. 3
Clothes Closet News	Pg. 3
Gathering Task Force	Pg. 4
SPPRC News	Pg. 5
Calendar	Pg. 6

Sunday Worship

9:30am in person and on Zoom

Church Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

8:30am to 1:30pm

Friday—8:30am—1pm

Pastor's Office Hours

Monday & Tuesday—10am—1pm

Cooperative Coordinating Committee

Let's Get Together, Yeah, Yeah, Yeah!

July 1 was the one-year mark for the Cooperative Parish Ministry between Randolph and Green Street. The Cooperative Coordinating Committee decided our congregations should celebrate!

In early September, we will have two combined worship services:

- 5 September at 9:30** at Green Street, in-person + online (no service at Randolph)
- 12 September at 11:00*** at Randolph in-person (no service at Green Street)

After these joint celebrations of our shared faith, we will celebrate the anniversary of our cooperation. Following worship on the 12th, everyone is invited to the home of Lynn Izzi, 80 Belmont St. in Randolph, for a potluck and fellowship. (When leaving the Randolph UMC building, turn left onto Belmont for about a quarter mile. Her home is on the left.) Lawn games and swimming will be available, but please bring lawn chairs to use. Sign-ups for food and other supplies will be circulated.

Let us know!

The CCC usually meets on the second Sunday each month at 1pm (but for September 2021, we'll meet on the 19th*). We need to know how the Cooperative Parish is working for you and what your needs and expectations are—for future worship planning and beyond!

Green Street's members of the CCC are:

- Kathleen Dunford, *at-large* (tkdunford@gmail.com or (207) 623-3174);
- Valerie Gallagher, *Lay Leader* (JVGallagher2@gmail.com or (207) 458-7779);
- David Robbin, *SPRC Chair* (dwrobbin@gmail.com or (207) 512-8620).

Please email or call any of us with your further questions, concerns, and ideas. (You may also contact any lay member of SPRC to discuss the Bishop's appointment of Rev. White to the Cooperative Parish, and your feedback will stay confidential to SPRC.)

*The Randolph service & potluck rain date is 19 September. If the joint service and celebration scheduled for the 12th are to be postponed because of weather, an announcement will go out on the 11th of September, and each parish will have a separate service at its normal time and place. The CCC will also then meet at 1pm on the 12th.



Special Church Meeting with Augusta Police Resource Officer, Brad Chase

Sunday, September 19th 10:30am

Join us in-person or on Zoom to learn more about our changing neighborhood, the rise in crime, drug addiction, and homelessness. Come with your questions, express your concerns and share your ideas as we learn to safely minister to those around us.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



Autumn Leaves

Every fall, I marvel at the beautiful leaves, studying the intricate shapes and God's creative, colorful displays. Despite its deterioration, the foliage reveals splendor — mere months after bursting out in spring and providing summer shade.

I often think I'm like an autumn leaf. Through many seasons, God has transformed me from a self-absorbed person to one who trusts his steadfast promises. Winter is approaching for me too. Yet the Holy Spirit keeps molding me to reflect God's goodness and beauty. During the autumn of my life, I pray that God helps me embrace changing seasons while reflecting his love and light to all.



Simplified Board Highlights

An excerpt of the ***unapproved** minutes from the Simplified Board Meeting on August 17, 2021

Members present via Zoom: Kathleen Dunford, Valerie Gallagher, Tina Noble, Lori Webber, Ardyce Robbin

Calling Together at 6:05 p.m. Kathleen opened the meeting by noting that there were only three voting members of the Board present (Lori joined the meeting later). Kathleen gave those present the choice of meeting or not; we opted to have discussion around the changes to the Green Street neighborhood and possibly make a recommendation to the rest of the Board.

Kathleen reported on the conversation she and Kristin had with the police community liaison officer. He told them that the demographics of the neighborhood are changing. While there used to be more single-family homes with single parents and their children, the area is now predominantly halfway houses, law enforcement, lawyers, outpatient counseling services, and other services for those in transition from incarceration and addiction. Kathleen noted that we must know where we are (what is our neighborhood) before we can say who we are (our purpose).

Comments/questions from Board members in attendance: Will our focus be insular or on outreach? What do we have the resources and passion for? What can we learn from other churches that have dealt with this? How do we find the balance between keeping ourselves safe and providing spiritual service to those in need? Can we partner with other community groups?

Kathleen will send out a summary of her conversation with the community police officer to all Board members. Board members present at tonight's meeting proposed having an all-church meeting following worship (about 10:30 a.m.) on Sunday, Sept. 19. Kathleen will check with the community police officer to see if he's available that day to provide information on the changes to the neighborhood and answer questions. Time for discussion will follow.

Other items of business:

Regarding drug use on church grounds, Tina commented that it might be helpful to have more outside lighting around the church building to deter such activity.

Approval of minutes from the July 2021 Board meeting: A motion was made by Lori to accept the minutes, seconded by Valerie; **minutes approved.**

Financial and Trustees discussions will be on the agenda for September.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. following a benediction by Kathleen.

Ardyce Robbin, recording secretary



The Clothes Closet has been up and running for three months now. Customer counts are still low we could really use a good promo person to spread the news of the clothes closet even further. If you have these abilities, please call the church office.

In September, we will begin putting out our fall donations, so please come by to see what we have to offer. We have had people say we have a better selection than some of the better known department stores!! Thanks to the wonderful people donating these items, we do feel we have a wonderful selection of clothing from casual to formal wear for women and men, children's clothing, shoes and bedding and curtains. Also towards the end of September we will have a half price sale on our summer merchandise. Come see!!

We are always looking for volunteers, maybe you could come iron for an hour, tag some clothing, sit and welcome people to the clothes closet. Any little bit helps. Drop by.

We are making progress not only in helping the church but so many of the needy people in Augusta. We are making neighbors feel welcome. But the clothes closet is not just for those in need, we have had several "thrift" shoppers in. People who love to find that bargain. It is our hope that we provide a place for all to feel comfortable.

Come visit us and see what you can find.

We are open Tuesday and Saturdays from 10 AM - 2 PM

Green Street UMC Building Use Covid-19 Addendum

Updated August 25, 2021

We care about the physical, spiritual, and emotional well-being of individuals and our community. The Gathering Task Force is continuing to look at available information and recommendations regarding the risk and challenges of COVID-19, and how they apply to our congregation and community. We invite you to experience these criteria not as rules, but as a covenant of love and respect for one another.

Criteria for Use of Green Street UMC

Entering the Building

Please don't enter the building if you're not feeling well.

The primary entrance is currently through the Wesley Center. Everyone who enters must sign in with first name, last initial, telephone number, and date on the sign-in sheet on the clipboard in the Wesley Center entry. This is a precaution in case contact tracing becomes necessary.

Anyone who has entered the building and later suspects, or confirms, they have symptoms of COVID-19 (especially but not limited to fever greater than 100.4°, new cough, sneezing, loss of taste or smell), **or who tests positive for COVID-19, must immediately notify the church office** (622-0843 or greenstreetumc@gmail.com) to slow further spread.

Face Coverings

Persons who are not vaccinated for COVID-19 must wear a face covering that covers both the nose and mouth while they are in the building.

In gatherings that include both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons, or where the vaccination status is not known, everyone at the gathering must wear a face covering the whole time they are at the gathering.

In groups where all persons are fully vaccinated, the group may decide if they are comfortable being without face coverings. If any member of the group is uncomfortable without a face covering, all group members should wear face coverings.

Those authorized to work alone in the building do not need a face covering while alone, regardless of vaccination status.

Social Distancing

Persons who are not vaccinated are asked to stay at least 6 feet away from the person nearest them.

Please be respectful of others' differing comfort levels with social distancing.

Planning Gatherings and Physical Set-Up

Requests for building use by groups or individuals must go through the church office. The Administrative Assistant schedules all building use on the church's master calendar.

The Administrative Assistant will provide any group or individual interested in using the building with the current Green Street UMC Building Use COVID-19 Addendum. Group leaders are responsible for ensuring that group members understand and comply with these criteria.

Church groups (two or more people) may find it helpful to complete the building use questionnaire to discern whether gathering inside the building is the best option for their group activity.

Groups from outside the church must follow the Building Use Policy, and be approved through the process described in that policy before following this COVID-19 Addendum.

Each group that gathers in the church, whether church members or an outside group, must designate a **contact person** with whom the Administrative Assistant can communicate for scheduling, contact tracing, building access, and any other issues.

Group leaders will have participants sign in during their meeting with first name, last initial, telephone number, and date. At the end of the meeting the completed sign-in sheets should be slid under the door to the church office, where they will be kept on file for contact tracing if necessary.

Continued on page 5

All rooms of the church are available under the following guidelines:

Users must keep doors to rooms open to aid ventilation. It is recommended that windows be opened, weather permitting.

Request a space large enough to allow a minimum of six foot spacing for all individuals who are not vaccinated and any other participants who may want it.

The CDC recommends limiting the amount of time that groups spend indoors. Shorter time lessens the risk of transmitting COVID-19.

In addition, the following guidelines apply to specific rooms:

The Fellowship Hall is currently limited to 5 people at a time. This is because of lack of ventilation in that space. A review of options is underway, so this restriction may change. The kitchen area has windows and so could accommodate an additional 2 or 3 people.

Use of LL4 is limited to massage therapy by Susan Cross and must follow specific guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the State of Maine, and applicable professional organizations.

Use of the church office is restricted and must be arranged through the Administrative Assistant.

Specific guidelines for use of the Sanctuary depend on the nature of the gathering.

The use of the Wesley Center 2nd floor is reserved for the use of the Upper Room Clothes Closet ministry.



Let us know what's on your heart

It's

We ♥ our staff!

the SPRC's job to talk to the pastor and staff about the effectiveness of their ministry and their relationships with the congregation.

If you have a question, idea, concern, or comment—no matter how big or small—**please contact any one of us**, and we will confidentially discuss your needs as a committee and get back to you.

Yours in Christ,

We ♥ our staff!	
Staff	Liaison
Pastor, Rev. Kristin White	David Robbin
Administrative Assistant, Darby Rock	Sally Joy
Maintenance Custodian, George Jones	Judy Adams
Nursery Supervisor, Nharra Lapitan	Sarah Barnum
Organist/Accompanist, Lynne Burney	Tricia Webb
Choir Director, Susan Pattershall	Susan Cross

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee		
2021	Sarah Barnum she/her/hers/[none] barnumsarah54@gmail.com	Evelyn Horstman she/her/hers/Mrs. horstman3c@aol.com
2022	Judy Adams she/her/hers/[none] judy.adams@maine.gov	Susan Cross she/her/hers/Ms. mainecross@gmail.com
2023	Gary Alexander galexander@myfairpoint.net	Tricia Webb she/her/hers/Mrs. prwebb9651@aol.com
ex off	Valerie Gallagher, Lay Leader she/her/hers/Ms. JVGallagher2@gmail.com	



Green Street UMC

September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7am Prayer	2 7am Prayer 4pm—7pm Clothes Closet 7pm SPPRC	3 7am Prayer 5:15pm Yoga	4 7am Prayer 10am—2pm Clothes Closet 10am Gathering Task Force
5 9:30am Coopera- tive Parish Wor- ship	6 Labor Day 7am Prayer	7 7am Prayer 10am—2pm Clothes Closet	8 7am Prayer	9 7am Prayer 4pm—7pm Clothes Closet 4:30 Pastoral Support and Ac- countability	10 7am Prayer 5:15pm Yoga	11 Patriot Day 7am Prayer 9am Nominations 10am Gathering Task Force 10am—2pm Clothes Closet
12 11am Cooperative Parish Worship at Randolph fol- lowed by BBQ (NO WORSHIP AT GREEN STREET TODAY)	13 7am Prayer	14 7am Prayer 10am—2pm Clothes Closet 6pm SB Meeting	15 7am Prayer	16 7am Prayer 4pm—7pm Clothes Closet	17 7am Prayer 5:15pm Yoga	18 7am Prayer 10am Gathering Task Force 10am—2pm Clothes Closet
19 9:30am Worship 10:30am Church Meeting with Augusta Police 1pm CCC Meeting	20 7am Prayer	21 7am Prayer 10am—2pm Clothes Closet	22 Autumn 7am Prayer	23 7am Prayer 4pm—7pm Clothes Closet 6pm Women of the Bible discus- sion	24 7am Prayer 5:15pm Yoga	25 7am Prayer 9am Nominations 10am Gathering Task Force 10am—2pm Clothes Closet
26 Giving Sunday 9:30am Worship	27 7am Prayer	28 7am Prayer 10am—2pm Clothes Closet	29 7am Prayer	30 7am Prayer 4pm—7pm Clothes Closet		

notes

Sunday Worship at 9:30 am in person and on zoom

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7925181731?pwd=U083cTIIVWJPWHcwa3RYa1hZellBdz09>

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

Church Office Hours: Mon., - Thurs., 8:30am to 1:30pm—Fri . 8:30am to 1pm

Pastor's Hours: Mon. & Tues. 10am -1pm.

Clothes Closet—Tuesday 10am –2pm, Thursday 4pm-7pm, Saturday 10am—2pm