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February 2018

The Grapevine

A PUBLICATION OF GREEN STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE GRAPEVINE — FEBRUARY 2018 EDITION

Kennebec River Churches
Invite you to a Lenten journey of
"Holy Solitude"

Saturdays, 8:30am to 10am, February 17 - March 24

Our faith is full of heroes who experienced God powerfully in solitude. From Hagar that the Hebrew prophets to Jesus in the wilderness. See how escape from the toil and temptations of daily life can open our eyes, ears, minds and hearts to the still, small voice of God. While most of us can't take weeks or even a few days for private retreat Holy Solitude offers thoughtful inspiration and practical devotional activities. Daily reflections guide our own spiritual practices as we seek to know God more fully and follow Christ more faithfully. Cost is \$10 for the study book and gathering will be held at various host churches. Speak to your Pastor to resister

Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed

Monday, February 5 - Friday, February 9

Pastor Kristin will be available at the office or parsonage.
Thank You!



VISIT US ONLINE: www.greenstreetumc.net



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Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 14
At 7pm



FROM THE PASTOR:

A Season of Transformation

The word Lent comes from an Anglo-Saxon word that means “spring.” In Maine, Lent usually begins during a time of snow and cold. Yet as we journey through Lent, drawing closer to Easter, we witness changes around us: longer hours of daylight, warmer temperatures, perhaps even buds on flowers and trees. During Lent, we witness the transformation of winter into spring.

In New England, the seasons of the earth mirror the transformation of Lent: a journey that takes us with Christ from death into new life. On Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, we reflect on our mortality; ashes symbolize the dust of the earth from which we come and to which we return. During Holy Week and especially on Good Friday, the final days of Lent, we reflect on Jesus’ mortality, his death and burial. But just as winter gives way to spring, so too Lent gives way to Easter. On Easter morning we begin a new season; we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection and his promise of eternal life for each of us. No matter how hard a New England winter is, it cannot hold back spring forever; new life is inevitable. Lent and Easter together remind us that death cannot hold back the life of God; resurrection is inevitable.

During Lent we witness spring’s transformation around us, but the spiritual purpose of Lent is transformation within us. Lent is a time of soul-searching and spiritual growth; through spiritual practices of repentance, prayer, fasting, reading scripture and worship, we seek a deeper understanding of faith and a closer relationship with God. We hope to arrive at Easter as new people, transformed in our spiritual lives. In many ways, winter prepares the earth for spring, giving plants, soil and animals a chance to rest and regenerate. Lent prepares us for Easter; it prepares us to welcome new possibilities of faith, to embrace new works of God in our lives and through us, and to place our hope in the inevitability of resurrection.

In Christ,
Pastor Kristin



2 – Rebecca Pullen
6 – Sue Landreth
8 – Donna Alexander
15 – Darby Rock
16 – Linda Forbes

17 – Robert Thurlow
24 – Kristen Tripp
25 – Charlotte McGuire
26 – Maria Elmhauser



February 4

Greeters: Sandy and Larry Labreck

Acolytes: Gary and Donna Alexander

Nursery Volunteer: Caitlyn McGouldrick

Coffee Hour Hosts: The Horstmans

Liturgist:

February 11

Greeters: Nancy and Kathy Merrick

Acolytes: Nancy and Kathy Merrick

Nursery Volunteer: Nharra Lapitan

Coffee Hour Hosts: Nancy Miner

Liturgist:

February 18

Greeters: Patty Rogers and Sonny Richards

Acolytes: Terri Williamson

Nursery Volunteer: Sarah Barnum

Coffee Hour Hosts: Donna Alexander and Tammy Roberts

Liturgist:

February 25

Greeters: Donna and Gary Alexander

Acolytes: Della and Anne Kimball

Nursery Volunteer: Lila Atwater

Coffee Hour Hosts: Patty Rogers, Sonny Richards, Mary Lewis

Liturgist:

Spiritual Life Center

Are you interested in being part of a Spiritual Life Center that will reconnect people with their authentic, God-created selves in order to live healthy, faithful, community-supported lives? Green Street is beginning a new ministry. When fulfilled, this ministry might look something like this:

- ~ In morning meditation and yoga groups, people begin the day spiritually grounded, open to the opportunities before them, and with clarity about upcoming decisions.
- ~ Midday spiritual life and prayer groups invite people to step away from daily commitments to gain new insight, and to return to life renewed and hopeful.
- ~ Evening sessions help people to relax, and transition from day to home in peace and compassion. An evening examen group helps people to process decisions of the day and set new intentions for tomorrow.
- ~ Spiritual direction throughout the day helps people to process life's complexities, and make wise decisions for themselves and their communities.
- ~ Weekend retreats and worship offer deeper dives into life-giving discernment and spiritual practices. Art therapy, music therapy, poetry, and writing are some spiritual tools for deeper self-awareness and connection with God.
- ~ Reconnecting with their authentic, God-created selves, people learn to love and trust themselves. They are buoyant with passion for God, and unshaken in life's storms because of their connection with a community of faith.

**Come to a conversation gathering to learn more:
Sunday, February 4, 12 pm
Monday, February 12, 5:30 pm**

Simplified Board Highlights

The Simplified Board met for the first time on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Now that Trustees, Staff-Parish Relations (SPRC), Finance and Church Council committees are combined in the Simplified Board, December minutes and reports from those committees were presented. Some of the highlights of those reports were:

- Trustees: a new snow blower was purchased for the church; the parsonage refrigerator was replaced; funds were released from a few little used accounts to be used for current expenses
- SPRC: Nharra Lapitan will be the Sunday morning nursery attendant; personnel reports have been completed; following Dan's retirement custodial duties were consolidated into George's position
- Finance: approximately \$5,400 was paid toward our 2017 conference mission shares due to generous year-end gifts and donations; 2018 budget is not yet complete but income projections look to be less than expected expenses
- Church Council: worked on a profile for mission and ministry, discussed proposal for a Spiritual Life Center and the possibility of hosting concerts and performances

Church Discipline requires each church to have a Trustees Chair. Gary Alexander was nominated and elected to serve in this position for the coming year.

Three short-term (2 – 3 months) task forces were established to assist in the following areas: Finance, Building Use Policy, Buildings and Grounds. Any member of the congregation interested in serving on one of these task forces should contact Sue Pattershall or Pastor Kristin.

United Methodist Women News

Our United Methodist Women continue to meet for lunch and a program at noontime on the second Wednesday of each month in Rooms 1&2 of the Wesley Center. We each bring a bag lunch. Someone volunteers to be hostess for each meeting. That person brings dessert and chips and makes sure coffee and tea are available.

Members generally give \$10 annually as a "pledge to missions," and we suggest that those attending the next meeting (February 14) come prepared to participate in that offering.

We have a Secretary and a Treasurer, but currently no one willing to serve as President. There's good fellowship and we have a desire for the unit to continue and to grow. We encourage women of the church who haven't participated to come and enjoy the group. Don't let the fact that we're in need of a President put you off. On the other hand, if you have experience that you feel may have prepared you to serve in this capacity, or a willingness to grow into the position, we'd be very happy to talk with you about that possibility.

What's Inspiring Pastor Kristin?

United Methodist General Commission on
Religion and Race

Check out the website for articles, insights, and
ideas: <http://www.qcorr.org/resources/>

Come to a Sunday morning class to watch a
their video series on Racism & the US Church
(9 am, Lower Level Room 1&2)

Upcoming Worship Series

Lent - Forgiveness
April - The Work of the Holy
Spirit



Love 101

Setting Resolutions to Learn from God

If God were to teach a class through the adult education program, what would it be?

What topics would be on the syllabus?

What resources would be on the reading list?

What field trips would the class take?

What would be on the final exam?

Retreat participants on the *Four Resolutions* retreat imagined God teaching Love 101, including such topics as generosity, kindness, listening, seeing the world through others' eyes, and how to be humble. Resources might include the Bible, the Koran, the 10 commandments, the Magna Carta, and Mister Rogers. Field Trips would visit hospitals, orphanages, soup kitchens, convents & monasteries, and national parks. The final exam: an on the job internship that lasts for a lifetime of training us to love. This, and other activities throughout the day, encouraged us to reflect on how God calls us to grow with our minds, hearts, bodies, and souls this year. A special thank you to Nancy Miner for lovingly providing lunch, which culminated in strawberries, ice cream and hot fudge sauce! Keep an eye out for upcoming retreats to be held this spring.



Angel Food Team News

The Angel food suppers offers free hearty meals every third Saturday of the month. We serve 60-90 people. We average about 150 meals, including the take-outs. A vegetarian option is offered as well as the hearty meal. Nancy Miner and Sandy Grady are scheduled to attend a cooking class at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension on January 23.

Volunteers are always welcome. We start serving at 4:30. We accept your returnable bottles and cans which help fund this mission. Please place your bottles and cans in the large receptacle in fellowship hall.

Children's Center Celebrates 50 Years!

The Children's Center has been a resource to local families since its humble beginnings in 1966. Their vision is a world where communities, families and caregivers join together to create nurturing environments in which all children are embraced as unique and valued individuals. They offer inclusive early education, pediatric therapies, specialized programs and family services.

They are celebrating their 50th anniversary! In their fall 2017 newsletter they have featured Kathy Merrick and Randy and Sandy Grady's children, Jamie and Suzie. Copies of the newsletter are posted on the church bulletin boards please take a minute to read the article and see the lovely pictures they included.

To support the Children's Center donations can be made on their web site
<https://www.childrensctr.org/ways-to-support/>

We Need a Lawn Mower!

Grass cutting season will be here before we know it and the church needs a new lawn mower.

If you are contemplating purchasing a new lawn mower this year please consider donating your gently used one or maybe when you purchase a new mower you could purchase two – one for you and one for the church!



Remember your donation is tax deductible!

Church Supplies Collection



THANK YOU to everyone who helps out in donating frequently used supplies! You have really helped our church save money! We are always in need of:

Paper Towels

Toilet Paper

Tall Kitchen Bags

Coffee Cups (no Styrofoam please)

Coffee Creamers (non-perishable)

Juice Boxes for the nursery

You can drop off donations in fellowship hall or the church office. Thank you.



Mandala Monday

February 5 ~ 5:30 pm

- ~ Do you seek answers to a question?
- ~ Are you looking for the correct path in your life?
- ~ Are you concerned about a loved one?
- ~ Are you desperate for ways to relieve anxiety?

Coloring mandalas can slow our thoughts, calm our worries, and bring spiritual insights to our minds and souls. Coloring mandalas can help to bring complex issues into simpler focus.

Mandalas are an ancient spiritual practice that span many spiritual traditions.

Come for 5 minutes, or for an hour and a half. Mandalas and coloring utensils are provided. Color by yourself or with a group. Quiet background music helps to soothe the mind. Guidance is available, if desired.

This program is free and open to the community. Any donations will go to Green Street's ongoing ministries and providing mandala coloring materials.



Green Street UMC

February 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3 8:30 AM Cluster Meeting Noon Garments of Praise 7:00 PM AA
4 Noon – Spiritual Life Center Discussion	5 Church Office Closed 3pm Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Mandalas 6:30 PM NA	6 Church Office Closed	7 Church Office Closed 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 6:45 PM Choir Practice	8 Church Office Closed	9 Church Office Closed	10 7:00 PM AA
11	12 3 pm Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Spiritual Life Center Meeting 6:30 PM NA	13	14 7 PM Ash Wednesday Noon UMW Meeting 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 6:45 PM Choir Practice	15 1 PM Visitation Committee Meeting	16	17 1:00 PM Bishop's Meeting 4:30 PM Angel Food Supper 7:00 PM AA
18 First Sunday of Lent	19 President's Day Church Office Closed 3 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM NA	20	21 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 6:45 PM Choir Practice	22	23	24 7:00 PM AA
25 Second Sunday of Lent	26 3PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM NA	27 9:00 AM DCOM	28 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 6:45 PM Choir Practice			

Notes

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Sunday Worship at 8am and 10:30am - Sunday School for all ages at 9am – Fresh Expressions at 5pm

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



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