

April 22 - 28, 2024

GPC

NEWSLETTER

“Dreams of Harvest: Finding Joy in God's Restoration”





SUNDAY

**04
28
24**

ALTAR FLOWERS

In memory of John Freeburn, Sr.
By the Freeburn and Manna families.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

You're invited to join us for Coffee Fellowship immediately after the worship service.

Coffee hour will be hosted by
The Women at the Well Bible Study Group.

Order of Worship

9:30 am Sanctuary | April 28, 2024 | Fifth Sunday of Easter

Welcome

Karen Allen

Prelude

Prayer of Invocation

Karen Allen

*Opening Hymn

#612 When Love is Found (verses 1, 2, 5)

*When love is found
and hope comes home,
sing and be glad
that two are one.*

*When love explodes
and fills the sky,
praise God and share
our Maker's joy.*

*When love has flowered
in trust and care,
build both each day,
that love may dare
to reach beyond
home's warmth and light,
to serve and strive
for truth and right.*

*Praise God for love,
praise God for life,
in age or youth,
in calm or strife.
Lift up your hearts,
let love be fed
through death and life
in broken bread.*

Passing the Peace

Karen Allen

First Reading

John 15:1-18 NRSV | Bill Trippi

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Karen Allen

Doxology

Second Reading

Psalms 126 NRSV | Rev. Glenn Rounseville

Message

Rev. Glenn Rounseville

Song of Response

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Glenn Rounseville

Announcements

Karen Allen

*Closing Hymn

#432 As Water to the Thirsty

*As water to the thirsty,
as beauty to the eyes,
as strength that follows
weakness,
as truth instead of lies,
as songtime and springtime
and summertime to be,
so is my Lord,
my living Lord,
so is my Lord to me.*

*Like calm in a place of clamor,
like peace that follows pain,
like meeting after parting,
like sunshine after rain,
like moonlight and starlight
and sunlight on the sea,
so is my Lord,
my living Lord,
so is my Lord to me.*

*As sleep that follows fever,
as gold instead of gray,
as freedom after bondage,
as sunrise to the day,
as home to the traveler
and all we long to see,
so is my Lord,
my living Lord,
so is my Lord to me.*

Benediction

Hallelujah Chorus

Postlude

Letters of Encouragement: Transforming a Church with Anonymity and Love

By Reverend Dr. Doug Cederberg

About 25 years ago, I went to my mailbox to see what had been delivered that day. I was excited that about ten envelopes, addressed to me, were there. I opened and read one at a time. Each one had a lovely message thanking me for my service to the church and a word of encouragement. And none of the letters were signed! Each one was anonymously written. The same thing happened the day before, and then the same the next day! What was going on?

I preached a sermon earlier in the week, on Sunday, saying that the people of the church needed to become encouragers. The spirit in the congregation at the time was not positive. I don't recall what discouraging issue was in the church at the time, but something was dividing the congregation into factions. And, being the pastor, I was caught in the middle of it all.

People were coming to me to tell me that 'some people' were unhappy that I wasn't doing 'this' while others were coming to me to tell me that 'some people' were unhappy that I wasn't doing 'that'. I kept wondering who these 'some people' were. Soon, I was suspicious of nearly everyone in the church – "is **he** part of the 'some people'? Is **she** one of the 'some people'?" It became easy to villainize everyone. That was so not good! I resolved to meet the negativity with a call to become, if only for a week, a church of encouragement.

In the sermon I challenged the people of the church to send letters and cards to others in the church, praising and thanking those people for who they were and all the good they have done. AND to do so **anonymously**. I said it would be a pleasure for each of us to



look at others in the church and wonder if this one or that one is the person who gave them/me encouragement. We would look at each other with love and joy! Anybody could be their secret encourager.

At least five times that week, different people came into the church office with tears of joy, holding cards they had received with words of appreciation and gratitude. "I am so happy to be a part of a church of encouragement," they said. As a result, the church overcame the brooding, 'some people are saying' negativity. Whatever the issue was that started the negativity faded away. The atmosphere vastly improved.

Can I request for us at GPC to be careful not to say 'some people are saying,' followed by

a negative statement? It is a very harmful thing to say and do. I have never experienced, in a church, any benefit from 'some people are saying'. It is harmful to a person's peace of mind and to the morale of the congregation. Instead, be an encourager!

And if you want to send a few others in the church a letter of appreciation anonymously, I am sure it will do much good for those folks. You will cause those people to come to church and look at others with positivity and love. How nice would that be?

Doug Cederberg
Pastor, Greendale People's Church

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST: GOOD NEWS, NOT MERELY GOOD ADVICE.

Many churchgoers (and pastors) are unable to define what is meant by 'the Gospel of Jesus Christ.' Somehow, Christianity has been turned into a system of 'dos and don'ts' rather than the **joyful news of what God has done in Jesus Christ and is still doing through the Holy Spirit.** In some cases, political ideologies have become more prominent than the gospel in many churches. Alas, as churchgoing declines in our society, we become so focused on how to keep our church going that we overlook what God has done, is doing, and will do through those who participate in the ongoing life of Jesus Christ. If the church is to live on, we need life from God!

The Christian faith was first and foremost the proclamation of good (joyful) news, which is what 'gospel' means. This course will go back to the basics of Christianity. Pastor Doug will base the course, more or less, on a book written by his friend and former professor, Klyne Snodgrass. Dr. Snodgrass now retired from teaching, remains a world-renowned biblical scholar. He authored the book *'You Need a Better Gospel: Proclaiming the Good News of Participation with Christ'* recently in 2022.



START DATE: Wednesday, May 15
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
LOCATION: 2nd Conference Room
DURATION: 7 Weeks

REGISTER NOW!

508 - 852 -7727

www.GreendalePeoplesChurch.org

Sign-up sheet (Fisher Hall)

office@GreendalePeoplesChurch.org

Support our Mission



Your contributions enable us to continue our cherished traditions, support our community outreach, and maintain worship services that bring us together. Every gift, large or small, fuels our mission and touches lives.

For your convenience, you can donate by simply:

- **Scan the QR code with your phone,**
- **Mail a check to 25 Francis Street Worcester, MA 01606,**
- **Visit our website at www.GreendalePeoplesChurch.org.**

Thank you!

Worship News

Join us for worship service

04 . 28 . 2024
Sanctuary | 9:30 a.m.

Hunger in Action

Breakfast Program

Production line: Sundays



We warmly invite you to join the production line for **'Breakfast for the Homeless'** in Fisher Hall, which convenes every Sunday after worship. This is a wonderful opportunity to spread holiday cheer and make a tangible difference in the lives of those in need.

For more details on how you can become involved as a donor, shopper, or delivery ambassador, please reach out to Lyn Wasilewski at omealaw@charter.net.

Nourish the Need! GPC Food Pantry

Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. | 1st level

In our mission to alleviating hunger and spreading happiness to families in need, we are continuing our weekly Food Pantry donation initiative, **"HEROES AGAINST HUNGER."** This week, we shine the spotlight on a vital ally in our mission:

SOUP!!!

In-person contributions:

can be made this Sunday by bringing your cans to the church, or on the following Wednesday, during the pantry's hours of operation from 10am to 12pm.

Online contributions: you can donate from the comfort of your house, at greendalepeopleschurch.org/give, or if you prefer, checks can be mailed to 25 Francis Street, Worcester, MA 01606.

**Next week's campaign:
CEREAL**

Upcoming Events

Yoga with Nancy

Thursday, May 9, 2024 | 10:00 am | 1st CR



Join us on **Thursday, May 9th, at 10:00 AM**, for a yoga session hosted in the 1st Conference Room.

Unwind, stretch, and strengthen your way to a balanced day. Everyone is welcome, namaste!

Pizza Party

Monday, May 13 @ 12 p.m.

**Mo' Town, Mo' Pizza:
A Groovy Slice
of the '60s and '70s**

Monday, May 13, 2024 @ 12 p.m.

Step back in time with us to celebrate a **groovy Pizza Party** in honor of **Stevie Wonder's birthday!** Dress up in your favorite '60s and '70s outfits and get ready to groove to classic Motown hits while enjoying delicious pizza. It's the perfect chance to have fun, make new friends, and enjoy the community vibe!

Prayer Shawl

Saturday, May 18, 2024 | 10:30 am | Library

Join us for a **Prayer Shawl Gathering on Saturday, April 20th at 10:30 AM in the church library.** We welcome individuals of all skill levels to come together to knit and crochet prayer shawls for those in need, offering comfort and solace through our crafts.

Theology II

Starts Wednesday, May 15, 2024 | 10:00 am | 2nd CR

**"The Gospel of Jesus Christ:
Good News,
Not Merely Good Advice."**

Join us for an enlightening seven-week journey through the foundations of Christian faith in our upcoming theology series, **"The Gospel of Jesus Christ: Good News, Not Merely Good Advice."**

This course, led by Reverend Doug, seeks to rediscover the joyful news of what God has done in Jesus Christ and continues to do through the Holy Spirit.

Course Details:

- Start Date: Wednesday, May 15
- Time: 10:00 AM on Wednesdays
- Location: 2nd Conference Room,
- Duration: 7 weeks

Fellowship Club

Sunday, May 18, 2024 | 6:00 pm | Fisher Hall



The Fellowship Club is thrilled to invite you to **"Game Night"** on **Saturday, May 18th**,

beginning at 6:00 PM. Get ready for an evening filled with fun, games, and wonderful company! Stay tuned—more details will be posted soon!

Proto 4

Monday, May 20, 2024 | 6:00 pm | Fisher Hall

The next Proto 4 meeting will be hosted on Monday, May 20 @ 6 pm in Fisher Call. Contact Deb Richards for more details.

MOTOWN PIZZA PARTY



MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024
12:00 P.M. | FISHER HALL

Governing Board Mtg

Tuesday, May 28, 2024 | 6:30 pm | 2nd CR/Zoom

We would like to remind you that the next **Governing Board meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, May 28th, at 6:30 p.m.** in the second-floor Conference Room.

This meeting is open to all members who wish to attend. For those unable to join in person, you can attend by phone using the following details:

Dial any of the numbers below:

- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
- Enter the **Meeting ID: 920 820 560** and **Password: 020318**

We look forward to your participation.

Church News

Memorial Day

Monday, May 27, 2024



Please be advised that the church office will be closed on **Memorial Day, Monday, May 27th**, in observance of the holiday. We encourage our church family to take this time to honor the brave men and women who have served and sacrificed for our country. Normal office hours will resume on Tuesday, May 28th. Thank you for your understanding, and we wish you a peaceful Memorial Day!

Coffee Fellowship

Sundays, following worship service

Coffee Fellowship is a wonderful opportunity to connect with friends after the service, and we're currently looking for volunteers to help with the coffee and snacks. It's a great chance to collaborate with a friend or a fellow attendee.



If you're interested or have any questions, please contact Karen Allen. We look forward to enjoying this fellowship time with you!

Thank you Carlo!

On behalf of everyone at GPC, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to **Carlo Cimato** for his generous donation of an iPad.

This thoughtful contribution will greatly enhance our worship streaming services, making the process much smoother for both our volunteers and viewers.

We are truly grateful for his support.

Quarterly Statements are in the mail

If you did not pick up your statement this past Sunday, it is now in the mail and you should have it by this weekend.



Please call the office at 508.852.7727 if you have any questions.

Altar Flowers 2024

Bulletin board outside of Fisher Hall

Flower Chart Openings for the Summer!

Check the bulletin board outside of Fisher Hall to sign up to dedicate flowers for a Sunday this summer. The fee is \$35 per Sunday with your check payable to Greendale People's Church with "Altar Flowers" on the memo line.

These may be in memory of, in honor of, or in celebration of a person or event. **Be sure to fill out a green card to let the office know the dedication and types or colors of flowers you want.** Thank you for your continued support.



Success!



GPC has had a strong pledge campaign thanks to all who participated. The Stewardship Team

has received pledges of \$95,961 towards the goal of \$125,000 from 60 participants. That is two more than last year. Just remember that it is never too late to participate or to change your pledge if circumstances change. Again all of your support and help in making this happen just as the pledge campaign stated, these "blessings of the Holy Spirit are moving us forward." If you have any questions or concerns, see Karen Allen.

Spiritual Growth

Women at the Well

Bible Study

2nd & 4th Monday of month | 10:30 am | 2nd CR

We will continue our study about some of the women in the bible. If you are interested on enrolling in this class, please reach out to Karen Allen at karenallen2006@aol.com or call her at:



508.942.2401 if you have a suggestion for our studies or wish to join. We look forward to seeing you.

Wednesday Thoughts Returns!

Every other Wednesday / YouTube & Website



We are excited to announce that **"Wednesday Thoughts with Rev Doug"** is back for another another season,

featuring a series of engaging topics and thoughtful reflections. Join us every other Wednesday on YouTube or directly on the GPC website for new episodes.

Our first episode of 2024 is now available at www.GreendalePeoplesChurch.org

News from our GPC Members

"Dear friends and church family. I want to express my sincere thanks for your daily prayers and well wishes. God is listening and hears and showers me daily with healing help. I truly appreciate your many cards received and the comforting messages and thoughts. You are so kind. God continues to watch over me and showers me with His Grace and love and daily blessings." - Dennis Christo

Community news

Boost Your Spirits with K-LOVE 107.3 FM



Elevate your mood with uplifting music by tuning into **K-LOVE 107.3 FM** for positive music!

SOUP-ER HERO!

LEAGUE OF
FLAVOR & NUTRITION



GPC Food Pantry

Wednesdays | 10am-12pm
(508) 852 7727
25 Francis Street,
Worcester, MA

office@GreendalePeoplesChurch.org
www.GreendalePeoplesChurch.org

JOIN OUR **CANNED SOUP**
DONATION CAMPAIGN!!!
AND HELP FEED OUR
LOCAL COMMUNITY!

Prayer Chain

Beverly
Janice
Stephanie Kissiday
Jessica Angers
Jim & Marie Wilmot
Teresa LaFleur
June Ayres
Don Hebb
Don Wilbur
Laura Giurleo
Astrid Essex
Patty Harnois
Lorna Rollins
Kathy Freeburn

Sheri Kline
Charlotte LeBlanc
Dave Raphael
Tori Jones
Sue Sundquist
Dennis Christo
Fran Langille
Andrea Marsden
Cheryl Brown
Rose Mary G.
Christine
Bryce
Ginna Hopkins

Care Ministry

Forge meaningful connections with fellow GPC members through our Care Ministry. Extend your warmth and compassion by sending personalized postcards that beautifully convey just how much you care.

Astrid Essex
204 Pakaqchoag St.
Auburn, 01501

Earline De Salvo
Christopher House
10 Mary Scano Drive
Worcester, MA 01605

April Birthdays!

Join us in celebrating the special days of our cherished members! Wishing a week filled with joy and blessings to those marking another year of life. **Happy Birthday to one and all!** 🎉

Sarah Blodgett	04/01	Adam Priest	04/19
David Wheeler	04/03	Michael True	04/20
Sheri Kline	04/04	Nels Priest	04/21
Eli Pare	04/04	Meredith Hartleb	04/23
Elaine Doud	04/07	Pamela O'Connor	04/25
Wendy Fillow	04/08	Patricia Sanders	04/26
Linda LaPrade	04/10	Kathleen Gleason	04/30
Ruth Brown	04/14	Jared Giurleo	04/30
Justin Kline	04/15		
Rodney Carlson	04/16		
Steven Dubrule	04/16		

Ministering to The Congregation

OUR TEAM

Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Douglas Cederberg
RevDoug@GreendalePeoplesChurch.org

Music Director:

Annie Arsenault
Annie4music@gmail.com

Communications Director:

Carolina Mata
Carolina@GreendalePeoplesChurch.org

Office Volunteers:

Mondays: Karen Allen, Tuesdays: Jan Whittall,
Wednesdays: Robert Converse, Thursdays:
Marion McLaren.

Deacons:

Deacons@GreendalePeoplesChurch.org

Care Ministry:

CareMinistry@GreendalePeoplesChurch.org

Food Pantry:

FoodPantry@GreendalePeoplesChurch.org

Custodian: Matt Duhamel

Custodian@GreendalePeoplesChurch.org

GOVERNING BOARD

Chair:

David P. Raphael
BoardChair@GreendalePeoplesChurch.org

Vice-Chair:

Karen Allen
ViceChair@GreendalePeoplesChurch.org

Treasurer:

Bob Converse
rconverse8925@charter.net

Church Clerk:

Kim Paré
Clerk@GreendalePeoplesChurch.org

Membership/FUT/Stewardship:

Karen Allen
Office@GreendalePeoplesChurch.org

Christian Education Liaison:

Dennis O'Malley
owensinned@yahoo.com

Coordinator of Teams:

Rev. Dr. Doug Cederberg,
RevDoug@GreendalePeoplesChurch.org

Camp Selah Use Liaison:

Karen Allen,
Office@GreendalePeoplesChurch.org

Building Use Reservations:

Karen Allen,
Office@GreendalePeoplesChurch.org

Facilities:

Carlo Cimato,
Carloc33@verizon.net

Pastor Parish Relation Team (PPT):

Rev. Dr. Doug Cederberg,
RevDoug@GreendalePeoplesChurch.org
Bob Converse,
rconverse8925@charter.net
Lyn Wasilewski,
omealaw@charter.net
Dennis O'Malley
owensinned@yahoo.com
Jan Andersen as alternate.

Join our Social Media Community!

@GreendalePeoples



