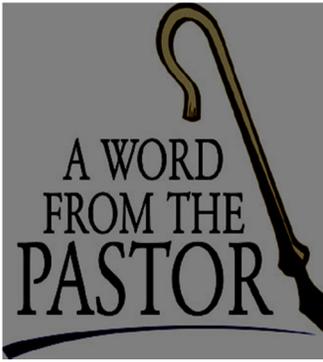


July 2021

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.
--1 Corinthians 3:16-17



Tamara and I had not been married long on this particular visit to my parents' house. Mom was learning how to cook while taking Tamara's allergies into account. Then, as now, we had a list of foods and ingredients that caused allergic reactions along with ideas for ingredients and meals that she could eat. We also had a number of questions we would ask regarding particular meals. On this particular day, mom had made a crumble with a topping on it. Normally, this would have included ingredients like all-purpose flour, brown sugar and cinnamon. In this case, we had previously asked mom to substitute rice flour. On a previous visit the crumble was fine, so we didn't ask on this occasion. Mom had reverted to using wheat flour (for those who might be wondering, I would note that many family and church members have worked around these food parameters successfully; it takes learning, patience and vigilance but it is doable). A couple bites into the crumble, Tamara knew something was wrong. She tried to get my attention discreetly but I hadn't noticed at first. Over the coming minutes, the color drained out of her, speaking was nearly impossible and breathing was difficult. She had begun to shake. Tamara was having an anaphylactic reaction. I had witnessed one a couple times before but was still frozen by the sight. Imagine the closest person in your life in immediate, mortal danger. It is a terrible experience. We were lucky this wasn't necessary. Fortunately, although Tamara has had some smaller reactions to foods over the years, there has not been a reaction that severe since. When it comes to food, Tamara has since taken a "zero tolerance" approach meaning that she doesn't eat anything in which she doesn't know the ingredients or hasn't double checked. Having watched a colleague with many of the same allergies nearly die multiple times who used to be more casual about food, you might appreciate why Tamara has made a concerted, consistent effort at being careful about what she eats. It is a matter of survival.

Foods aren't the only obstacle that lurks for Tamara. One of these are ordinary cold and influenza infections. They often morph into pneumonia or bronchitis. It took me years to recognize how much these infections take out of her or to appreciate how long it takes for her to overcome them. I was thinking of my own experience with these viruses rather than recognizing her quite different experience.

It has been suggested to me by more than one of you that the Gray Memorial congregation as a whole may not understand the reasons why I have approached the pandemic as I have. My perspectives have changed greatly due to the experiences of my immediate family, of my extended family and of several parishioners over my years of ministry. For example, most congregations have participants who are cancer survivors or undergoing treatments, have autoimmune conditions, are in an immuno-compromised state and whose health is affected by factors the average person doesn't think about.

As a society, our tendency to focus on individual rights obscures the initiative of Christ toward community and its members' needs. While it is true the pandemic led to difficult choices and that meeting everyone's needs proved impossible, I erred on the side of preserving life—of upholding the "temple" of our bodies as the scripture puts it and "doing no harm" according to Wesleyan, Methodist tradition.

It is, of course, impossible to prove an event that never happened. But, from my experiences as a spouse, friend, family member and pastor, I could imagine my reaction if we had had a COVID outbreak in the church or, worse, if someone had died as a result. Yes, there has been a spiritual, emotional and financial toll for many people. Given the constantly evolving situation of the past year, our actions were imperfect. Yet, as long as we are alive we can work through those affects. A life lost cannot be recovered. As it was I lost a grandmother, a Rotarian and a colleague's spouse to this awful disease. Yes, I had a personal interest in health during COVID. It is also true that my experiences alerted me to the risks so many in our congregation face because of age or medical condition. For me it was not a question of faith (more on that another day) for God was with those developing vaccines, on the front lines, in people reaching out to their neighbors and in so many other ways. Instead, it was a question about our responsibility to the health of this community of faith and the "holy temples" that comprise it.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Tim



The Caribou Clock

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E-mail: graymemorial@outlook.com

Date: July 2021

Church Office: 498-2103
Website: <http://www.bgmumc.com>

Greetings from the Church Office!

On June 20th, our in-person Worship service protocols were lifted! Face masks are now optional but recommended for those who are not fully vaccinated and social distancing is no longer required, so everyone can sit wherever they wish! Coffee Fellowship has resumed with volunteers serving those who come to have a snack and socialize with others in the Fellowship Hall. Funerals and memorial services are now being scheduled, along with receptions after those services. Committee meetings in the church are also authorized. Refer to the Church Council minutes from June 17th that are included in this Newsletter for information on other changes that will happen soon.

For now, the following simple rules still apply if you visit the church at other times: sign-in & out on the clipboard that hangs just inside the back door or is in the church office when I am present, do not turn on any sanctuary lights using the "old" breaker panels, and if you use the new upstairs bathroom in the Narthex, please close the door when you leave.

I had a wonderful vacation from June 7- 11 and was able to visit my family and friends in Massachusetts. It was great to get away even for a short time!

Please help me meet deadlines by submitting things for the Newsletter when due. **For our next Newsletter, all input must be submitted by 10am on Friday, July 23rd!!!!**

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier
Church Secretary



May 30th & June Prayer Joys and Concerns

Prayer Concerns: Debbie & Lu Sharp, Sheila Belyea, Dave DeMerchant, Dave Corriveau, Phyllis Sykes, Robin Stuart, James Stuart, Bob & Margaret Cyr, George & Joyce Knorr, Richard & Susan Clark, Gary & Marilyn Langley, Martin Gallant, Ralph Ferguson, Audrey Bubar (Caribou Rehab Center), Alex Hilleman, Pat & Warren Dobson, Sylvia Akeley, Alex Thibodeau (Betty Branscom and Judi Greenier's great-great nephew; having surgery to correct leg issues), Gwen Ferguson, Russell Sutherland, Chantal Hayes & family (involved in car accident), Emmett Ross, Ruthann Weeks, Debbie Nichols, Diana Rauch

On Family Death: Family of Dorothy Stairs Adams (Sheila Belyea's mother); Whitely family (death from car accident);

Other: Congratulations for Dr. Sam Manages on passing American Board of Family Medicine Re-certification!; prayers of joy for Brenda Curtis on good test results

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PROVIDE A MAILING ADDRESS FOR PEOPLE OR FAMILIES YOU PUT ON THE PRAYER LIST SO WE CAN SEND THEM A NOTE FROM REV. TIM. WE OFTEN HEAR FROM RECIPIENTS ON HOW TOUCHED THEY ARE THAT WE OFFERED PRAYERS FOR THEM!

REMINDERS

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>LITURGIST</u> | <u>COUNTER</u> |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Jul 4 | Del Ramey | Diane Fitzpatrick |
| Jul 11 | Dean Rauch | Mary Ouellette |
| Jul 18 | Sue White | Mary Ouellette |
| Jul 25 | Alden Wilcox | Mary Ouellette |

Usher Coordinator for July: Debbie Barnes

Please note that the church building is now open for Sunday Worship Services and other services (i.e. funerals or weddings) and committee meetings.

If you would like to have someone placed on the prayer list and/or you would like an alternate (non-internet based) way of receiving notes from the sermon, please call the church office. Bobbi has transcribed all the Sunday Worship services and Thursday Devotions since the middle of March 2020 until March 2021 for emailing or mailing. Please contact the church office if you are interested in receiving any of the earlier transcripts.

In April 2021, the DVD Ministry began and several people are now receiving DVDs weekly to watch services on their home devices. Contact the church office if you wish to receive a DVD!

* * July Birthdays & Anniversaries * *

Birthdays and Anniversaries are celebrated on the first Sunday during Coffee Fellowship.

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1 | Robert White | 17 | Nicole Cyr, Shawn Frost, Neal Genz, Deanna Whitmore |
| 2 | Marilyn Langley, Tyra Sterner | 18 | Hugh Kirkpatrick, Emily Soderberg |
| 3 | Tracey Nichols | 19 | Ginger Buck, Sara McBreairty |
| 4 | Friedrich Wilcox | 20 | Robert Cyr |
| 5 | Madison Jandreau, Anna Roberts, Skip Walters | 21 | Deborah McPherson |
| 6 | Christopher Belyea | 26 | Mary Anderson |
| 9 | Jillian Langworthy, Garrick Milton | 27 | Susan Clark, Phil McDonough |
| 13 | Kaitlin Alden, Bruce Fitzpatrick, Norma Thompson | 29 | Gwen Ellinwood, Mena Irving |
| 14 | William Barnum, Robert Irving, Norma Milton | 30 | Pearl Cole, Cindy Morrow |
| 15 | Duska Adams, Sue White | | |
| 16 | Jessica Michaud | | |



- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | Phyllis Anderson & Dan DaCosta | 11 | Elsie & Robert Locke, Victoria & Keegan Wakana |
| 5 | Kathy & Skip Walters | 15 | Denise & Dale Levesque, Tamara & Timothy Wilcox |
| 9 | Lydia & Matthew Till | 23 | Betheny & Greg Anderson, Barb & Dale Dee |
| 10 | Marjie & Peter Edgecomb, Karen & Robert White | 29 | April & Chad Stallings |
| | | 30 | Kathleen & Kent Forbes |

If your name or the name of someone in the Gray Memorial Family does not appear on this list and you would like to add it, please contact the church office, 498-2103.

Corrections are ALWAYS appreciated!!! If you know someone whose last name has changed, please let Bobbi know so she can update the database.


 Finance &
 Stewardship
 Committee

Worship Attendance and General Fund Offerings:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>* Attendance</u> | <u>Operating Fund Offering</u> |
|-------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| May 30 | 46 | \$2,779.72 |
| June 6 | 37 | \$5,361.00 |
| June 13 | 44 | \$1,253.72 |
| June 20 | 50 | \$1,895.00 |
| June 27 | 39 | \$1,014.72 |

*In-person attendance only

Needed to meet 2021 Budget: \$3,986.53 weekly

“Growing in Faith” Capital Campaign Account (previously known as “Capital Account Seed Money”):

As we continue to receive the Growing in Faith (GIF) donations, we will report the balance in the account each month. As of June 27th, the balance in the account is \$106,162.17 (of that amount, the “furnace replacement donations” total \$32,153.05. All remaining donations made for the “Furnace Replacement” will be held in this account until needed.) .

Photo Directory Changes (July 2021 Newsletter changes):

Ellinwood, Gwen: New address – 9 Thomas Avenue, Apt. 7

Doody, Brian & Tabitha: New address - 27 Dahlgren Street, Caribou



Over the next few months, we will be updating our membership database in order to produce a new Church Directory. The new directory will be produced by the church office and look similar to the one printed in 2016. The “Membership/Constituent Information” form on the next page should be completed and returned to the church in order to update information (names, mailing address, email address, birth dates, anniversaries, etc.) and ensure the directory and our database is as current as possible!

Membership/Constituent Information

Date: _____

| | Head of Household | Spouse |
|--|--|--|
| Title: (Circle one) | Mr. Mrs. Miss. Ms. Dr. Rev. Other _____ | Mr. Mrs. Miss. Ms. Dr. Rev. Other _____ |
| Name: (First / Middle or Maiden / Last) | | |
| Sex: (Check one) | Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> | Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Birthday: (mo/day/yr) | Date: _____ | Date: _____ |
| Preferred or Nickname | | |
| Mailing & Street Address Address: | _____ | _____ |
| City, State, Zip: | _____ | _____ |
| Alternate Address Address: | From: _____ To: _____ | From: _____ To: _____ |
| City, State / Zip: | _____ | _____ |
| Home Phone: | () - _____ Unlisted? <input type="checkbox"/> | () - _____ Unlisted? <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cell Phone: | () - _____ Unlisted? <input type="checkbox"/> | () - _____ Unlisted? <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Work Phone | () - _____ Unlisted? <input type="checkbox"/> | () - _____ Unlisted? <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Email | | |
| Pager #: | () - _____ Unlisted? <input type="checkbox"/> | () - _____ Unlisted? <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fax #: | () - _____ Unlisted? <input type="checkbox"/> | () - _____ Unlisted? <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Extra Phone: | _____ Unlisted? <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ Unlisted? <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Marital Status: | | |
| Anniversary Date: (mo/day/yr) | Date: _____ | Date: _____ |
| Baptized (if known): | yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> Date: _____ | yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> Date: _____ |

CHILDREN

| Name (first, middle, last) | Birth Date (mo/day/yr) | Grade | Baptized (mo/day/yr) |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------|--|
| | Date: _____ | | yes <input type="checkbox"/> Date: _____ |
| | Date: _____ | | yes <input type="checkbox"/> Date: _____ |
| | Date: _____ | | yes <input type="checkbox"/> Date: _____ |
| | Date: _____ | | yes <input type="checkbox"/> Date: _____ |
| | Date: _____ | | yes <input type="checkbox"/> Date: _____ |
| | Date: _____ | | yes <input type="checkbox"/> Date: _____ |

You can make a contribution to our church through a mobile app!

To get started, download GivePlus Church for free from the App Store or Google Play. Simply search for "GivePlus Church" to quickly find and download the app today. Then, you can easily make donations directly from your smartphone using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account.

You can also choose to donate as a guest or set up an account that allows you to securely and conveniently schedule recurring donations and manage and review your giving history.

We hope you enjoy this new way to contribute to our ministry! Thanks for your support!

Please note that you can make arrangements to have your tithes and offerings withdrawn from your account on a regular basis, thus ensuring your donations are received even when/if you are unable to attend church. Please contact Tamara Wilcox for additional information.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES, CLOTHING (SOCKS, UNDERWEAR, ETC.) AND HYGIENE ITEMS FOR LOCAL SCHOOL CHILDREN.

DUE TO THE COVID-19 SITUATION, THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE WILL SUSPEND THIS PROJECT UNTIL IT IS SAFE TO ACCEPT DONATIONS.

Worship & Ministry Opportunities During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Sunday Worship – as of May 30th, we will begin having in-person services in the sanctuary. The service will also be available Sunday mornings on YouTube (live) and then on our Facebook page

Bible Study – if you are interested in an online Bible Study, contact Rev. Tim

Phone Tree – please reach out to people in the congregation, family, friends and community members; if you are comfortable, there are persons confined to their homes for health reasons that may need deliveries of food, medicine and other necessities

Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry – The CEFPP implemented a plan we hope will allow the pantry to keep open on a no or limited contact basis for the duration of this crisis as food insecurity appears to be growing in our area.

Bobbi Pelletier is available by phone at the church office, at home and email for church business during her usual hours, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-noon, but is more often working from home. Tithes and offerings can be brought with you on Sundays and you can still contribute using one of the methods outlined below. . Rev. Tim is available for appointments by phone and video conference. Mondays continue to be his usual day off. Contact him by phone or email to arrange a time.

**** In-person Worship services in the church sanctuary began on Sunday, May 30th. Beginning June 20th, the face mask requirement was lifted but we encourage those who are not fully vaccinated to wear a face covering. No need to reserve seats as social distancing protocol was lifted.**

Reminder from Rev. Tim -

Rev. Tim's "office hours": He is primarily available for phone and online appointments Tuesday - Sunday with Monday being my usual day off. His cell phone number is (207) 551-7924.





Give Us a Hand

Giving continues to be important for our ministries that are continuing and adapting. Your ongoing tithes and offerings will make it both possible to maintain ministries during this time of international pandemic and to position us for ministry needs when the crisis is over.

There are currently three ways to make your contributions to GMUMC:

- Send checks by mail to Gray Memorial United Methodist Church, PO Box 69, Caribou, ME 04736. Include your offering envelope if you have one.
- By EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) via VANCO--several people have already chosen this method for recurring gifts. If you are interested in this method, please contact Tamara Wilcox, 492-0371, to set up an EFT.
- By GivePlus, a mobile application, also offered by VANCO. You can download GivePlus from the Apple App Store or from Google Play. This method supports both recurring and one-time gifts.

All VANCO methods include a nominal service fee for the church. Many people choose the options provided by VANCO for convenience and, for the electronic options, to ensure their gifts are always regularly given. Because of regular giving, research shows churches receive more funds overall using these methods. Contact Tamara Wilcox for more information on giving options.

+++++

The Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry is in need of the following items: oatmeal and condiments (ketchup & mayonnaise). Donations may be brought to the church on Monday mornings from 9am to noon. Thank you!



Gray Memorial UMC has an account at the Bennett Drive Redemption Center. When you bring your bottles/cans to the center, you may designate the proceeds to go the church's account! If you are not comfortable bringing them yourselves, contact the Church Office and we'll make arrangements to pick them up! So far, we have received donations of **\$322.40** from this "fun-raiser"! Thank you!

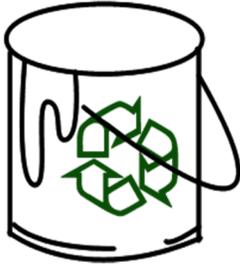




Tamara Wilcox has several masks available for sale as part of one of our church fun-raisers. Adult/teen and small children's sizes are available. Themes include holidays, outdoor activities and a variety of colorful designs. Contact Tamara (492-0371) if you are interested!

NEW FUN-RAISERS!

Paint Recycling
\$2 per container



Due to pending funeral & memorial services, we will postpone this project until the fall. The church will accept paint cans for recycling. Just donate \$2 per can and we will take care of their disposal. All proceeds will benefit the church's operating budget. Look for more details later this summer on when you may bring in your leftover paint cans for recycling!

+++++ Other fun-raiser events that are being considered (we will ask for a small donation for each of these projects):

- Electronic device donations (recycle used computers, tablets, TVs, cassette players, etc.)
- Home tighten-up project in the fall (September/October); help households prepare for the winter months

Friedrich Wilcox volunteered to spearhead the Chicken BBQ this summer, set for Saturday, August 7th. A planning meeting was held after Worship on June 27th and we are grateful for Friedrich's willingness to lead us in the event that we have missed so much! More information will be coming out in the near future regarding opportunities to help with this project. We will need many volunteers to help prepare the food, serve and clean up.

Scholarship Opportunity

The Church Office received a letter regarding "The George W. and Beulah Barton Akeley Scholarship Fund" along with an application form. This year, two scholarships are available to "graduating high school seniors or to non-traditional students who will be attending post-secondary schools during the 2021-2022 school year" and are members of the Northern District Cluster's Methodist churches and/or to qualified Akeley descendants. Please let the church office know if you wish to receive an application. Deadline to return the application is "before July 31" in care of Gray Memorial UMC.

A memorial service for Dale Fowler will be held on Wednesday, July 14th at 2 p.m. at Gray Memorial United Methodist Church; a luncheon will follow; the congregation is invited and the Fowler family requests everyone who is unvaccinated to wear a mask since one of Dale's grandsons is not yet able to be vaccinated.

+++++

A graveside service will be held for Mrs. Dawn Powell on July 29, 2021 at noon at the Evergreen Cemetery in Caribou. A time of refreshments will follow at the Caribou Inn and Convention Center following the service. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Lou Brown.



STEWARDSHIP ARTICLE:

Here is this month's edition of "Relationships":

The mighty unsung.....

Who are the mighty unsung among us? They are the silent, the wallflowers, the unknown, the unseen, the unacknowledged, and often the unappreciated among us. This past year plus, as a society, we learned that those we took for granted suddenly became the mightiest among us. And for some, it was the first time they were seen or acknowledged for their worth. I have thought of this often as we reflect on relationships and stewardship both within our church and communities.

A church congregation in many ways mirrors the community that surrounds it. There are those you notice when you first enter the sanctuary simply by their prominence, be it the minister, the usher, the organist or the liturgist to name a few. But as you look closer you see society mirrored. There are the leaders, the workers, the followers, the watchers, the skeptics and those that appear to sit on the sidelines. For we too have unsung among us.

At first glance they may sit in the back pews or balcony. They may not feel comfortable serving on a committee and yet their presence is often felt or seen only in their absence. There are many in our congregation that move within the background helping where needed without fanfare or recognition. We have many unsung among us that helped each of us get through this past year. It behooves us to acknowledge each other's presence and worth, before we miss their gifts due to their absence.

In reading back over this, I find myself thinking of the wife of Noah. She's never given any true mention, but think of what she endured as his wife. Think of how strong her faith and commitment was to stand beside her husband while he built the ark with their sons. Of what she endured both prior to the rains and on the ark itself. And then to help start anew. She may not be acknowledged or given her due in the stories of Noah, but she must have been mighty in her own right.

May we look and see each other with an open heart and an open mind.

Melonie Carlson

SPECIAL "KODAK" MOMENTS!



On May 30th, we celebrated four new 50-year members! Rev. Tim recognized Robert & Karen White and Deborah Barnes during the service and presented each of them with 50-year member certificates. Lori Mazursky (Zelma Merritt's daughter) was also honored, but was not able to attend. Thank you to Melonie Carlson for taking this picture.



Wendy Bossie created a beautiful display in the Library to honor those who we have lost since our building closed last March. We plan to hold a special service to honor these individuals later on this summer. Included in this display are from left to right, top row: Avis Armstrong, Eloise Penny, Darlene Nelder, Doris Jeffery, Dale Fowler and Albert Akeley. From left to right, bottom row: Melvin Griffin, Joanne Smith, Marcia DeMerchant and Leila Robertson. (Photo by Melonie Carlson)



During the June 13th Worship service, Judi Greenier (representing the Trustees) presented the Jack & Juanita Lancaster Memorial Scholarship to Friedrich Wilcox. (Pictures by Melonie Carlson)

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

6-17-21

ATTENDEES: Roy Alden (Chair), Claire Hodgkins, Rev. Tim Wilcox, Tamara Wilcox, Friedrich Wilcox, Debbie Barnes, Bobbi Pelletier, Kathie Forbes, Melonie Carlson, Neal Genz, Diane McDonough, Will Barnum, Alaina Pethick, and Judson Drake

The meeting was called to order by Roy Alden at 6:30 pm on Zoom. Based on recommendations from the Trustees and the Re-entry Task Group, the Church Council unanimously agreed to make some changes to our protocols for Sunday Worship in the building beginning this coming Sunday, June 20th. Here are the changes that were published in a special email sent out on Friday, June 18th:

- 1) Wearing face masks is now optional (encouraged for anyone who is not fully vaccinated or at “high risk”)
- 2) Social distancing and reserved seating is no longer required (name tags will be removed from the pews), so you can sit wherever you want to
- 3) Coffee Fellowship will resume, but with a few changes for the time being – limited menu for now and volunteers will serve you from the food line

Other items discussed:

Congregational singing will not resume right away, but soloists/duets can perform in-person from the choir loft
 Committees can resume meeting in the church. If someone does not feel comfortable attending in-person, we can make arrangements for them to participate remotely

Communion – pre-packaged elements will be available for pick-up in the Narthex as you enter the building. You can then take the elements during the communion time and place the empty package in trash cans on your way out of the sanctuary

Offering time – for now, we will continue to have the plates in the Narthex so you can place your offering in them as you enter the sanctuary; these offerings will be brought forward for a blessing as the Doxology is played

Funeral/memorial services are now allowed; family will be asked to sign a “Building Use Policy” and adhere to the policy’s requirements; receptions are authorized with the same conditions used for Coffee Fellowship (volunteers will serve the food)

Bulletins are planned to be prepared starting in a few weeks. They will be on a table in the Narthex for everyone to pick up their own copy

Just a few other comments –

If for any reason, a person attending church is not comfortable with our eliminating the social distancing requirements, they are encouraged to sit in a place where they are not near others, such as the balcony.

If you are not feeling well or have symptoms of a respiratory infection, please stay home.

All Sunday Worship services will continue to be live streamed with available replays in case you are not able to attend in-person.

If you have any questions or wish to provide feedback, please contact Rev. Tim (thirdtimothy98@gmail.com) or Bobbi Pelletier (graymemorial@outlook.com)

Rev. Tim shared a screen shot of the 2022 Offering Envelopes, showing pictures of our church on the booklet cover and the envelopes. Melonie arranged these changes at no extra cost to the church.

The Council voted to approve Will Barnum and Alaina Pethick to form a Tech Team to oversee the technology now being implemented to stream services and create CDs for shut-in members, etc. The following people were mentioned to form this team: Gail Hagelstein, Chris Dare, Roy Alden, Will Barnum and Alaina Pethick. Roy has to be away for a couple of Sundays and Will and Alaina will make the CDs for the shut-ins. It is not expected to be very many.

Rev. Tim told everyone that we have a Special Church Conference on Sunday, June 27th, following our Worship service to approve the slate of nominees from the Nominations Committee.

SPRC: Debbie Barnes said the committee is reviewing Rev. Tim’s request for vacation time in the summer as they will have to schedule lay speakers. They discussed finding a temporary replacement for the secretary’s vacation times. At this time, they have not been able to find someone to fill-in.

Trustees: Judson told everyone that some of the church’s parking lot was going to be paved on Monday, June 22nd. Phone lines were fixed after recent troubles and new phones were purchased. Also found rodents had created breaks in the lines. Plans to replace the decorative stonework at base of church. Memorial Garden and Trustees parking lot signs will be installed on June 21st at 11pm. The church sign that Phil Turner arranged to have placed on Rte. 1 (see mention in Trustees’ minutes) needs to be replaced – Judson will contact DOT to start that process. It was then noted that the parking lot pavement work should be postponed until at least June 28th as it would interfere with the Memorial Service for Doris Jeffery on June 26th.

Friedrich Wilcox presented a very enthusiastic proposal to have the Chicken BBQ this year, which the Council quickly endorsed. Friedrich will organize the whole thing and has already done some of the preliminary ground work such as locating the grill, and checking food sources. The Chicken BBQ will probably occur in August, probably August 7th. Watch this space. His only problem has been finding a source for coleslaw, but he will check with the new proprietor of the establishment that once did that.

Judson talked a little about his next fun-raiser endeavor – “36 Days of Summer” – providing take-out lunches three days per week. He hopes to clear about \$8,000 in proceeds which will go towards the operating fund.

Rev. Tim plans to honor those we’ve lost during an upcoming Sunday service.

Rev. Tim is developing a letter to send out to new arrivals to the area. Bobbi obtained a list of approximately 170 households, so we will send a letter to them inviting them to our church.

FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP: Tamara reported the Financial Secretary report for EOM May as follows:

The beginning Balance in Regular Offerings was \$53,071.96. May Regular Offerings were \$13,812.16 giving an Ending Balance for the year to date of \$66,884.12. Other sources adding to the operating funds were \$83 toward the Birthday Fund brings the Regular operating money to \$13,895.16.

Special Funds for church use yielded \$5,885.21, the bulk of which came from \$2,121.34 for Growing the Faith, \$1,403.25 from the pulled pork BBQ, and \$1,891.00 from the yard sale.

Special Funds Not for Church Use were \$31.68 most of which was for the Food Pantry. That brought the total May EOM to \$19,817.20.

Bobbi reported on the following checkbook figures:

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Beginning Balance | <u>18,688.06</u> | |
| 2021 Operating Income | <u>13,895.16</u> | |
| Fun-Raiser Proceeds | <u>3,399.60</u> | |
| Interest | <u>2.31</u> | |
| Less EFT fee | <u>(31.84)</u> | |
| Less Expenses | <u>(11,261.17)</u> | |
| 2021 Mission Shares | <u>(2,469.50)</u> | (Note: Monthly amount put into Special Funds temporarily) |
| Lawn Mowing Expense | <u>(300.00)</u> | (Note: \$300 for 4 months put aside for \$1,200 payment in September) |
| Ending Balance | <u>21,922.62</u> | |

* \$25,000.00 invested with Thompson/Hamel LLC for Memorial Garden on June 29, 2017. Investment cost was \$1,073.78; withdrew \$3,000 in March 2021; as of May 28, 2021, on-line report shows ending value = \$28,296.62.

Capital Account Seed Money: Balance of \$104,830.61 at EOM May

EXPENSES for MAY 2021:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Programs | \$173.16 |
| Trustees | 2,189.99 |
| SPRC: Pastor’s Comp | 5,809.00 |
| Other Salaries | 2,045.83 |
| Other Expenses | 231.73 |
| New England Conference | 811.46 |
| Total Expenses | \$11,261.17 |
| May Budget: Target: \$86,374.79; Tithes & Offerings: \$68,527.12; Total Expenses: \$77,886.12; Unpaid Expenses: \$12,347.50; | |
| Average May Attendance: *50; YTD: *58 | |

* Attendance is aggregate of in-person and virtual counts.

Roy Alden is stepping down as Church Council chair, so he was thanked for his many years of service.

The next meeting, if the new Chair decides to have a meeting to prepare for the Chicken BBQ in August, is Thursday, July 22nd at 6:30pm.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Claire Hodgkins, Secretary

REPORTS RECEIVED PRIOR TO CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:

TRUSTEES:

Treasurer's Report: Judi has been in touch with Mark Pinette, the guidance counselor at Caribou High School regarding the Turner scholarship and the Budd scholarship. They will be awarded. Friedrich Wilcox received the Lancaster scholarship, given to him by Judi during the church service on June 13th. The Permanent Fund brochure is at County Quik Print to be printed. On Judi's "to do" list is to send the annual \$75 to the Mapleton Cemetery as per Phil Turner's request. There is \$18,510.49 in the trustee checking account. Louie moved that the treasurer's report be accepted, Richard seconded. Passed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Parsonage windows. The six windows ended up at Portland Lowe's instead of Presque Isle Lowe's and spent a week there enjoying the coast. They came to Presque Isle on June 14th.
2. Lawn care. The Wilcox Bros. Have an almost new Cub Cadet, push button start, self propelled lawn mower donated by Gwen Ellinwood.
3. Parsonage microwave. A Whirlpool hood microwave has been ordered from Lowe's; it will take 6 to 8 weeks to come in. The price is \$449.00. The Wilcox's are willing to pay \$100 toward the cost.
4. Church entrance doors. Eight doors, instead of six, were painted red.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Parking lot paving. D. J. Paving will be doing the work for \$6000 within the next two weeks. Vehicles will not be allowed on the surface for at least one Sunday. People may walk on it. This project will be paid from the Capital Campaign "Trip Hazard" Fund.
2. Sound booth. It is back on Underwood Electric's work list.
3. Church phone lines. There has been a problem with the phones at church lately. They have been updated, now on wireless phone jacks. Part of the problem involved chewing rodents. The phones will be located in the main office, the pastor's office and the kitchen.
4. Decorative stone on foundation. This foundation work needs to be done before the paving begins. Calcium has worn the finish away. Judson will sandblast and spray on polymer to seal. The job will receive top priority of the six projects the trustees(?) have in progress.
5. Garden parking lot sign. The sign is ready to put in. Dig Safe, a state organization overseeing any digging in the ground, will need to give their okay first.
6. Methodist Church sign on Route 1. This sign, by the old Funland, is in disrepair and needs work before fall. The trustees tabled this project.

Rev. Tim mentioned that the Wilcox Bros. would like to have a bag of grass seed and Bio Advance grub killer. Judson said he would take care of this.

Judson has been approached (at Men's Club in particular) about opening the church fully, no required masking and no social distancing. He put the "opening" question before the Trustees. Louie made a motion that the church be fully opened, no mandates, Richard seconded. Passed. Most churches are now fully open. There was some discussion with Rev. Tim. He will check about singing in church.

Rev. Tim asked about ventilation in the church. There is no air movement at present. Judson has been working on a design. He explained his plans so far. Judi questioned whether the plan would involve a draft in/on the congregation. There should be no "felt" air movement.

WORSHIP:

Old Business:

- Bobbi reported that she has purchased the new streaming license which will replace our current CCLI and Worship Cast licenses.
- Forty-six people were in attendance at our first in house service on Sunday, May 30. It was reported that the hearing devices were not working properly, so this will be fixed right away.
- Wendy Bossie has created a beautiful bulletin board in the church library featuring those we have lost since our church closed in March of 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. Discussion was held on having those loved ones recognized at a service later this summer. Their families will be contacted to see if they prefer holding an outside service at the church garden or a service in the sanctuary. Bobbi suggested that if the service is held

outside, it would be a good time to dedicate our new sign for the garden. Rev. Tim will be working on a theme for the service.

- Graduation Sunday is on June 13. High School seniors who have a relationship to our church will be recognized during the service. Friedrich is the only student who has requested a scholarship application at this time.
- Discussion was held on June 20 being Father's Day. Since we weren't in the church building on Mother's Day, we decided to honor all men and women of the church with small gifts on June 20.
- Bobbi reported that the Church Council has decided to wait several weeks (no later than early July) before lifting any Covid restrictions which are recommended by the CDC. Bobbi will be looking at the survey results that are returned as soon as they begin to come in.
- Music for the Sunday services was discussed. Margaret will play this Sunday (June 6), but may not be available for the next few weeks. Mary Lou Brown and Judi Greenier will be asked if they are willing to fill in. The CDs are also a possibility. Rev. Tim will speak with Margaret to see if she and Dean Rauch have had a chance to discuss who will be scheduling the music for each Sunday service.
- We are still waiting to hear from the high school about the possibility of having a few students trained to assist Will and Alaina with the technology. This would make coverage possible on Sundays when Will and Alaina won't be in church.
- Rev. Tim reported that Mission Sunday has not yet been scheduled. He will be reaching out to Alan Merrill soon.

New Business:

- Bobbi reported that she has acquired a list of new families in town who we could reach out to. Rev. Tim will send letters inviting them to worship with us.

Rev. Tim's Time:

- The Cluster is going to sponsor the UMCOR Covid Relief and Humanitarian Response Fund in our area. A video has been created and the churches of this cluster will present it on June 13. People will be invited to donate to the fund up until July 9.
- Rev. Tim asked if it was still okay to order a Bible stand that he can use during communion. Since that had been approved at an earlier meeting, Bobbi gave him the go ahead to order one that he chooses. He also asked about the subscription to the Homiletics magazine that we have been getting. It is time to renew it, so the committee approved renewing the subscription for one year at a cost of \$69.95. Rev. Tim will order it.
- Rev. Tim mentioned a few of the other Methodist churches in our cluster in regards to their reopening status. Mars Hill has reached 100% vaccinations in their church and Houlton has begun lifting some of their restrictions.

July 2021



Connected is a publication of the New England Conference of The United Methodist Church. This monthly insert is designed put Conference news directly into the hands of our local church members.

Find more at www.neumc.org.

Bishop names new Director of Connectional Ministries

Bishop Devadhar has appointed Rev. Ashley Renée Johnson as part-time Director of Connectional Ministries. She takes over for Rev. Erica Robinson-Johnson, who served as DCM and Assistant to the Bishop.

The responsibilities of the Assistant to the Bishop will be taken care of by other episcopal office staff and consultants as needed.

In announcing the appointment, the bishop said, "As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Order of Deacons, I am very excited about Ashley bringing her presence and perspective as a young deacon to the position of DCM and to the Extended Cabinet table as well as to the many Conference committees on which she will serve."



Rev. Johnson, who is a teacher at Epiphany School in Dorchester, MA, returned to school and graduated from Boston University School of Theology with a Master of Theological Studies degree in 2017. She is a member of Union Church Boston.

Her appointment begins July 1.



2021 Annual Conference recap

Here's a short recap of what happened during the business sessions of the 2021 Annual Conference, June 10-12. (More details, including the full text of legislation and links to videos, can be found on our website).

The Annual Conference approved the 2022 budget that was \$175,000 less than originally proposed. The Board of Pensions agreed to absorb the \$175,000 cost for the Missional Pension/Benefits Fund (Fund 3).

For 2022:

- \$6,159,706 actual spending limit
- \$7,269,340 apportionment amount

Approved the formation of a Vision Forward Team "to advance the strategic imagination and mission" for the New England Conference." (Read more on page 2).

Annual Conference approved the Commission on Native American Ministries resolution asking the NEAC to acknowledge and commemorate May



5th as National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and celebrate the second Monday in October as Indigenous People's Day. United Methodists are encouraged to wear red on these days to show support and raise awareness.

Approved the Commission on the Status and Role of Women's (supported by the Commission on Religion and Race, the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Committee on the Episcopacy) proposal to create a Sex/Gender-Based Crisis Response Team "to address, heal, and seek justice in circumstances where persons have been harmed on the basis of their sex, gender, gender identity, or gender expression."

Approved disaffiliation of 3 churches:

- Chebeague Island (ME) UMC
- Hope.Gate.Way, Portland, ME
- Tuttle Road UMC, Cumberland Center, ME



FOR MORE DETAILS LOOK FOR STORIES HEADLINED AC21
www.neumc.org/news

2021 Annual Conference

Vision Forward Team approved

Members approved Bishop Devadhar's proposal to create a Vision Forward Team based on the work of the New England delegation to the General and Jurisdictional conferences to gather leaders and stakeholders to "provide collaborative insights to the incoming Bishop, and to the delegation as they deliberate in the coming Conferences."

The bishop called on the Annual Conference to authorize the formation of a Vision Forward Team "to advance the strategic imagination and mission" for the New England Conference.

"We have an amazing opportunity before us as we emerge from the wilderness of the past 15 months of the pandemic," Bishop Devadhar said. "As we imagine a 'future with hope,' we can also build from our strengths and pick up where we have left off and complete the unfinished work."

The team would comprise the organizing members of the delegation's consultations: Amanda Bonnette-Kim, Rev. Becca Girrell,

Rev. Leigh Goodrich, Claire Holston, and Rev. Dr. Jay Williams. And three members, clergy or laity, one each chosen by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, the Trustees and the Board of Pensions. The bishop, the Dean of the Cabinet and the Director of Connectional Ministries would be members with voice, but no vote.

The bishop's proposal also includes hiring Rev. Meg Lassiat, who has been facilitating the consultation process, to act as a consultant. Rev. Lassiat was acting assistant general secretary for the Division of Ordained Ministry of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Bishop Devadhar called on the Vision Forward Team to "help our conference dismantle the silos, build more trust, and collaborate better together" by reviewing and improving the Strategic Plan to bring to the 2022 Annual Conference. Funding would come from non-apportionment, unrestricted funds.

Service of Ordination and Commissioning

The 2021 in-person service on June 12 included the clergy classes of 2020 and 2021 as well as two deaconesses. Bishop Devadhar was preacher.

2020

Ordinands

Deacons

Natalie Hill
Sheri Smith

Elders

Kathleen Decker Szakas
Shannon Keeney
SeokCheol Shin

Commissionees

Deacons

Adama Brown
Ashley Johnson

Elders

Brian Hyungsuk Choi
Sooyoun Kim
Sunjae Lee
Adam Randazzo
Alicia Vélez Stewart

Deaconesses

Tracy Tarver-Weisel
Wanda Winnicki

2021

Ordinands

Deacons

Caroline Bass
Karen Skalla

Elders

Ross Johnson
Yunki Kim
Kenneth Mantler
Dongmyung Shim

Commissionees

Elders

Michelle Ashley
Sungmin Jeon
Juhee Lee
Junsang Lee
Minchang Lee
John Melick
Jamie Michaels
Christy Wright

See photos & more online in the Saturday recap at www.necumc.org/news

Awards

2021 Ziegler Preacher

Rev. Rae Fraumann, pastor of Hedding UMC in Barre, VT, is the 2021 winner of the Wilbur C. Ziegler Award for Excellence in Preaching. Rev. Fraumann is the first non-binary person to earn this award.

2021 Laity Address

The opening worship on Friday included the 2021 Laity Address. The winner of the 2021 Laity Address Challenge is Heather Josselyn-Cranson, lay leader of Sudbury (MA) UMC. Find the recording on our website.

One Matters Awards

The One Matters Awards are presented annually by the New England Conference Office of Congregational Development in conjunction with Discipleship Ministries. The awards recognize churches that, in 2020, received a high percentage of professions of faith (relative to average worship attendance), baptized both children and adults, and are focused on the process of making disciples of Jesus Christ. Each church will receive a plaque and a check for \$1,000. This year's recipients are:

Highgate Center UMC in Vermont
First UMC in Southbridge, MA
St John's UMC in Jefferson, NH

Let's Connect Do you have a story to share? A feature idea? A question to ask? Contact Beth DiCocco, Conference Director of Communications, at communicate@neumc.org or (978) 682-8055 ext. 150



SEE MORE CELEBRATIONS 6/11 RECAP
www.neumc.org/news

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JULY 2021!!!

MEETINGS ARE NOW AUTHORIZED TO BE IN-PERSON AT THE CHURCH
ALL SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES WILL CONTINUE TO BE LIVE STREAMED ON YOUTUBE

| | | | |
|----------|----|--|---|
| Thursday | 01 | 9:00am 10:30am | Aroostook Cluster Meeting (Zoom) Worship Committee Meeting (Zoom or in-person TBD) |
| Sunday | 04 | 10:00am | Worship in the Sanctuary; Sixth Sunday after Pentecost |
| Monday | 05 | <u>FEDERAL HOLIDAY - US INDEPENDENCE DAY - CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED</u> | |



| | | | |
|-----------|----|---------|---|
| Thursday | 08 | 6:30pm | SPRC Meeting (Zoom or in-person TBD) |
| Sunday | 11 | 10:00am | Worship in the Sanctuary; Seventh Sunday after Pentecost |
| Wednesday | 14 | 2:00pm | Memorial Service for Dale Fowler, followed by reception in church's Fellowship Hall |
| Sunday | 18 | 10:00am | Worship in the Sanctuary; Eighth Sunday after Pentecost |
| Tuesday | 20 | 6:00pm | Trustee Meeting |
| Thursday | 22 | 6:30pm | Church Council Meeting (Zoom or in-person TBD) |
| Friday | 23 | 10:00am | <u>DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWSLETTER INPUT</u> |
| Sunday | 25 | 10:00am | Worship in the Sanctuary; Ninth Sunday after Pentecost; Parents Day |
| Thursday | 29 | 12:00pm | Graveside Service for Dawn Powell; Presiding - Mary Lou Brown; Evergreen Cemetery; Reception to follow at Caribou Inn |

Note: Instructions to join in through Zoom for meetings will be sent out in advance.