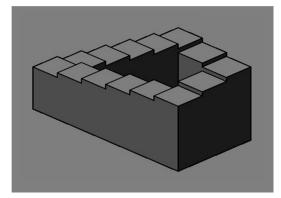
August 2021



24 Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

--John 12:24-25

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, one definition of a paradox is "an apparently self-contradictory statement, the underlying meaning of which is revealed only by careful scrutiny. The purpose of a paradox is to arrest

attention and provoke fresh thought." Scripture makes regular use of paradox in teaching. The passage above from John contains 3 paradoxes. Other examples include, "the last shall be first;" "where sin abounds, grace abounds more;" and "whoever wants to be great among you will be a servant to you." Like the picture at the top of this page, it doesn't make any sense by ordinary logic yet it somehow works.

It has been all too easy for me to see all that is wrong with the pandemic of the past year and a half. We focus on the lives lost, ordinary activities under restriction, inconvenience and uncertainty amid a constantly changing situation. I find I have to be reminded that from the midst of a bad situation can indeed come helpful outcomes. As we sometimes say, "necessity is the mother of invention;" for example, the use of telehealth, our congregation developing our technological capability to stay connected, greater awareness of the inequities of underserved people and communities, and a reevaluation of priorities. To be clear, God doesn't want people to suffer in order to learn life's lessons. Rather, God is at work in the midst of disasters like COVID that grace would still abound. How have you encountered God's grace during the pandemic? How has that grace come in unexpected ways? What "silver linings" will you carry with you beyond the present crisis?

As you consider this possibility, do not forget perhaps the greatest paradox of all for the Christian. It continues to be a marvel to me that God could give up Jesus, God's only son, to the terrible experience of crucifixion so that we could all have life. This doesn't seem possible yet it reflects the glorious and incredible gift of God for each and every person. We could doubt the efficacy of God's gift and deny it. Alternatively, we could receive the gift, enjoy the gift and share God's goodness with everyone.

Grace and peace, Rev. Tim

Another word

With the rise of the delta variant, I have been receiving increasing questions recently about whether the church will be able to continue to have in-person worship and whether COVID protocols might have to be increased in some form. Of course, no one wants to see these scenarios occur. Indeed, we would like to be able to again safely sing freely during worship. Unfortunately, some of what unfolds in coming months will be out of our direct control, including any governmental directives and the direction the pandemic takes as a result of the world's collective choices. Still, there are a number of ways we can individually make a difference. Both the Maine and US CDCs have detailed information about steps individuals and organizations can take. Here are four steps you can take to continue to make it possible for Gray Memorial to offer in-person options for events:

- 1) If you have symptoms of a respiratory infection such as cough, runny nose, fever, congestion, chills, fatigue or sore throat, stay home. Worship is now always streamed online and archived for later viewing. With advanced notice, most meetings and events can be streamed as well.
- 2) Take a COVID test when you have signs of a respiratory infection. Many variants mimic symptoms of the common cold or influenza. Additionally, a vaccine is not a guarantee against infection. While the vaccines greatly reduce the odds of severe illness, hospitalization and death, breakthrough infections even if mild are more common than previously understood.
- 3) Get vaccinated to reduce the risk of contracting and spreading COVID. If you have questions about the vaccine or your medical situation, speak with your doctor or trusted medical professional.
- 4) Do not let your guard down. We all want COVID to be over, but the pandemic continues. Practice good hygiene and remember others in your choices.



The Caribou Clock

Publisher - Gray Memorial United Methodist Church 2 Prospect Street, P. O. Box 69 Caribou ME 04736

E-mail: graymemorial@outlook.com

Date: August 2021

Church Office: (207) 498-2103
Website: http://www.bgmumc.com

Greetings from the Church Office!

The Trustees recently lifted the requirement for members/constituents to sign-in when visiting the church. Contractors or other visitors should sign in. No one should 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.

During our first Outdoor Service on July 25^{th} , we were able to sing several hymns, which was really great! We have two more Outdoor services set for August 29^{th} and September 26^{th} , weather permitting. Coffee Fellowship is not scheduled for those Sundays when we worship outdoors.

Nook forward to seeing many of you as we prepare for and have our Chicken BBQ on Saturday, August 7^{th} !

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, August 20th!!!!

Until next month....

Bobbi Pelletier Church Secretary



July Prayer Joys and Concerns

Prayer Concerns: Debbie & Lu Sharp, Sheila Belyea, Dave DeMerchant, Dave Corriveau, Phyllis Sykes, Robin Stuart, James Stuart, Bob Cyr, George & Joyce Knorr, Richard & Susan Clark, Gary & Marilyn Langley, Martin Gallant, Ralph & Gwen Ferguson, Audrey Bubar (Caribou Rehab Center), Pat & Warren Dobson, Sylvia Akeley, Richard Carde, Carol Doody, Carol & Gary Churchill, Debbie Nichols, Richard (Chad) Stallings, Duane Brown, Kevin Doody

On Family Death: Family of Priscilla (Pat) Dobson

Other: Prayers of joy for Anna Roberts on her 104th birthday (July 5th); prayers of joy for Ward Armstrong and Alison Robinson on their recent marriage (Ward is Avis Armstrong's son); joy for Bob Cyr's 81st birthday!; thanks for church members who attended the Eagle Scout Court of Honor where Alden Wilcox received his Eagle Scout rank;

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

DATE	<u>LITURGIST</u>	<u>COUNTER</u>	COFFEE FELLOWSHIP
Aug 1	Althea Wilcox	Ruthann Weeks	Church Counsel (F/S)
Aug 8	Friedrich Wilcox	Ruthann Weeks	UMW & Jennie Lyon
Aug 15	Tamara Wilcox	Ruthann Weeks	Memorials Committee
Aug 22	Mary Lou Brown	Elsie Doody	Worship Committee
Aug 29	Richard Clark	Elsie Doody	No Coffee Fellowship

Usher Coordinator for August: Bobbi Pelletier

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!

* * August Birthdays & Anniversaries * *

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

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



1 Matthew Doody, Adam Greenier, John Griffeth, 18 Roxann Donovan John Weeks 19 Nicole Sayers Sylvia Akeley, Luke Cyr, Samuela Manages, 22 Cathy Walters 3 Timothy Wilcox Warren Dobson, Samantha Hagelstein 23 4 Caleb Brown, Hillary Irving, Karen White 24 Samella Haley, Diana Rauch Nathaniel Adams, Diana Locke 25 Tyler Lancaster 5 Phyllis Billing, Kayla Collins 11 Denise Cole, Adam Langworthy, Patricia Lombard 26 Nicole Cousins, Jack Doody, 13 Norris Frost 28 Joan Belyea, Seth Cleaves Franklin Simon 14 17 John Forbes, Bob Jordan 31 Melonie Carlson, Ivan Shaw



2	Joan & Steve Belyea	18	Roxann & Tim Donovan, Lisa & Carl Soderberg
5	Beth & Roy Alden, Michelle & Bert Branscom	19	Margaret & Bob Cyr, Carol & Bob Norsworthy
9	Joyce & George Knorr	28	Roberta & Conrad Walton
11	Marilyn & Gary Langley	29	Pamela & Ken Danforth
15	Debbie & Jason Barnes	30	Linda & Gary Doody

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 <u>ALWAYS</u> appreciated!!! If you know someone whose last name has changed, please let Bobbi know so she can update the database.



Worship Attendance and General Fund Offerings:

<u>Date</u>	* Attendance	Operating Fund Offering
Jul 4	37	\$ 5,293.00
Jul 11	45	\$ 2,720.72
Jul 18	55	\$12,158.00
Jul 25	34	\$ 1,167.72 (Outdoor Service)
all		

*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 July 25th, the balance in the account is \$101,162.81 (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.). Expenses totaling \$6,200.00 for the driveway/parking area asphalt work and \$1,145.32 for electrical work in the church and parsonage were paid in July.

Photo Directory Changes (August 2021 Newsletter changes):

Brewer, Catherine: new email address – <u>cbrewer@msad33.org</u> DeMerchant, David: new email address – <u>dwdsr1964@gmail.com</u>

Felix, Corey & Casey: new address – 2102 Portofino Way, Davenport FL 33896





Over the next few months, we will update 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! We would appreciate it if we could get a form from every household!

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 □ Female □	Male □ Female □
Birthday: (mo/day/yr)	Date:	Date:
Preferred or Nickname		
Mailing & Street Address		
Address:		
City, State, Zip:		
Alternate Address	From: To:	From: To:
Address:		
City, State / Zip:		
Home Phone:	() - Unlisted? 🗆	() - Unlisted? 🗆
Cell Phone:	() - Unlisted? 🗆	() - Unlisted? 🗆
Work Phone	() - Unlisted? 🗆	() - Unlisted? 🗆
Email		
Pager #:	() - Unlisted? 🗆	() - Unlisted? 🗆
Fax #:	() - Unlisted? 🗆	() - Unlisted? 🗆
Extra Phone:	Unlisted? 🗅	Unlisted? □
Marital Status:		
Anniversary Date:	Date:	Date:
(mo/day/yr)		
Baptized (if known):	yes 🗆 no 🗅 Date:	yes 🗆 no 🗅 Date:

CHILDREN

Name (first, middle, last)	Birth Date	Grade	Baptized
	(mo/day/yr)		(mo/day/yr)
	Date:		yes 🗅 Date:
	Date:		yes 🗅 Date:
	Date:		yes 🗅 Date:
	Date:		yes 🗅 Date:
	Date:		yes 🗅 Date:
	Date:		yes 🗅 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 quest 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

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

linistries 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

Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry - The CEFP 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 through Friday from 9-noon, but is 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 available for appointments Tuesday - Sunday with Monday being his usual day off. His cell phone number is (207) 551-7924. Depending on the situation, he can arrange for the particular means for the meeting as necessary.



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 \$349.15 from this "fun-raiser"! Thank you!





Tamara Wilcox has several masks available for sale as part of one of our church funraisers. 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



Chicken BBQ!!!!!
Saturday, August 7th!
Open to public 10am to 2pm!

Church helpers plan on 7:30am-3:00pm (depending on what you volunteer for!)



STEWARDSHIP ARTICLE:

Here is this month's edition of "Relationships": Old vs. New...

This past year plus has been a challenge for us all, Gray Memorial included. Gray Memorial has now been open for in-person church services for almost two months. For many of us, it was comforting to walk through those red doors below the stained glass window beckoning Welcome. The renovations done this past year gave a sense of newness to our sanctuary while preserving the "old". We were eager to see familiar faces, rekindle relationships and for a moment forget this past year and all its struggles. Being able to come back to church services brought a sense of normal and routine back into our lives. And yet, what was old and familiar felt new. In some ways, it felt like returning to our childhood home after time away. It was not quite the same. It felt different. For some, even where we sit is different....

We have changed. Each of us. Like watching our children grow, we do not necessarily see the day to day changes in the passage of time. But we can all relate to how much our children change in a year's time, especially when it comes to buying clothes for a new school year. This past year challenged each of us in different ways. Many looked both outward and inward in self-reflection, redefining values and careers, interests, relationships near and far. We held our families closer and pined for family from afar. We each are the same and yet different, old and yet new. We each have grown and are not the same as we were over a year ago. The pandemic gave us each an opportunity of self-examination of ourselves, our fellow man and our faith. Even for those whose life didn't change this past year, the world did. And we each have changed because of it. As has our relationships with each other and our faith.

When Jesus began his teachings some came out of curiosity, some to learn and some to scoff. He proposed something new, something different, a new outlook from previous teachings. Some welcomed the change, likes his message and helped spread it. Others discounted it or demanded proof. We know the stories. His faith in himself and man endured as have his teachings. They have stood the test of time.

Being back at Gray Memorial is different. Church services have changed and there are things that are not as they were. Some things are new and some remain the same. But our faith has endured. What first brought us to Gray Memorial has endured. Our relationships have endured. As we move forward, may we take the time to appreciate the old and embrace what is new in each of us....

Melonie Carlson



The Worship Committee is pleased to announce that we will have Outdoor Worship Services by our Memorial Garden on the following Sundays – August 29th and September 26th (weather permitting).



Dan Schall in Concert! Sunday, September 12th at 10AM

SPECIAL "KODAK" MOMENTS during Worship Services!





July 18 - Rev. Tim dedicated a number of prayer shawls, baby blankets & hats and pocket prayer shawls. The Prayer Shawl Ministry recently donated 60 shawls to the following organizations: Hope & Justice Project, Roads to Recovery, Battered Women's Shelter, Cary Oncology, Healing Hearts, and the Maine Veterans' Home



July 25th – Rev. Tim during our first Outdoor Service by the Memorial Garden



Alaina Pethick, recording and streaming the service



Josselyn Forbes provided the special music on July 25th, singing "My Jesus" by Ann Wilson.





During the Outdoor service, Rev. Tim dedicated our two new signs – the Memorial Garden sign (paid for by Garden funds from bequest received several years ago for on-going garden maintenance) and the Trustee parking lot sign (paid for by the Trustees).

OTHER SPECIAL PHOTOS!





July 15th – Tamara Wilcox pins an Eagle Scout Badge on Alden during the Court of Honor

Alden Wilcox pins a Mentor Badge on Dave Belyea





Alden presents Mentor Pins to his mother & father, Tamara & Rev. Tim Wilcox

SPECIAL CHURCH CONFERENCE (After Worship Service)

To Approve the "Report of Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development" (<u>document follows these minutes</u>)
6-27-21

<u>ATTENDEES</u>: Mary Lou Brown, Melonie Carlson, Erika Carlson, Claire Hodgkins, Wendy Bossie, Penny Shaw, Marjie Edgecomb, Bobbi Pelletier, Deb Pringnitz, Richard Clark, Alaina Pethick, Debbie Barnes, Judson Drake, Bill Thomas, Neal Genz, Judi & Louis Greenier, Brenda Curtis, Gwen Ellinwood, Alden Wilcox, Friedrich Wilcox, Rev. Tim Wilcox

Rev. Tim Wilcox brought the Church Conference together at 11 AM in the Sanctuary to ask the congregation to approve the new incoming members of various committees and new chairs for some of those committees. Kathleen Forbes joined in on Zoom from home.

Rev. Tim announced he had been asked to stand in for our Superintendent to conduct this short but important meeting. Claire Hodgkins, Secretary of the Church Council, was asked to take minutes. Next, he discussed the Church Council which consists of officers, heads of committees, other ministry leaders, and members at large, all of whom are elected for one year terms. New members to be voted on are in bold face type. New on the Council term beginning on July 1, 2021 will be the following:

Kathleen Forbes....... The new Chairman of the Council

Duska Franklin........... The new chair of the Education and Family Ministries Committee

Diane McDonough..... The new chair of Memorials Committee (She took over in mid-term)

Melonie Carlson........ The new chair of Missions and Evangelism Committee

Neal Genz...... The President Elect of the UMM & its representative on Council

Next Rev. Tim discussed chairs of the Ministry Committees which are elected annually, but along with whom members are recruited as needed. New members on the Ministry Committees as follows:

Duska Franklin............. The New chair of the Education and Family Ministries Committee

Melonie Carlson.......... The New chair of the Missions and Evangelism Committee

Will Barnum...... The chair of the newly formed Technology Team which includes Roy Alden, Chris Dare, Gail

Hagelstein, and Alaina Pethick as members.

Deb Pringnitz...... New member of the Education and Family Ministries Committee

Neal asked if anything had happened regarding the locating of a new Choir Director and a new Organist. Debbie Barnes, Chair of SPRC told us that the committee hopes to continue its search and asks anyone who might have ideas to please present them. Advertising is one of the options being considered.

Bobbi Pelletier commented on the inability to find a child care person and volunteers to help. Debbie said she hoped to re-hire Arie Davenport for the summer months while she is home from college.

Next, Rev. Tim focused on the Administrative Committees whose Chairs are elected for one year terms and whose members are elected for three year terms. The Administrative Committee new nominees are as follows:

The Chair for the Finance and Stewardship Committee has yet to be filled. It should be noted that the responsibilities of the former Committee on Finance and Stewardship have been incorporated into the work of the Church Council. A person will continue to be elected to coordinate the financial and stewardship ministries of the congregation. Most members of the Finance Committee were members also of the Council and it became increasingly difficult to secure people to serve on this committee. The Audit Committee position through 2024 has not been filled but the Nominations Committee is working on that.

Diane McDonough........New chair of the Memorials Committee and new member will be Tamara Wilcox (serve until June 2024)

Melonie Carlson.............. Kathleen Forbes nominated her as a new member (serving until June 2024) of the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee

David Belyea...... New member (serving until June 2024) of the SPRC Conrad Walton...... New member (serving until June 2024) of the SPRC

Lay Members to the 2022 Annual Conference: Josselyn Forbes and Alden Wilcox

Debbie Nichols...... New member of the Board of Trustees (serving until June 2024)

Due to the pandemic most positions that would have expired were allowed to continue into the next year.

The Pastor is ex officio on all committees except the Board of Trustees and the SPRC.

Rev. Tim asked the congregation if it would vote to accept the slate of new Committee appointees as presented in the document that was handed out by a show of hands. The motion was unanimously passed without discussion.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:14 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Claire Hodgkins, Secretary of the Church Council

Report of Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development

Updated 6/26/2021

Gray Memorial United Methodist Church, Caribou, Maine

As Approved at Special Church Conference held June 27, 2021 (changes/corrections 7/23/21)

CHURCH COUNCIL

(Consists of officers, heads of committees, other ministry leaders, and members at large. All are elected for one-year terms)

Chairperson Kathleen Forbes
Vice-Chairperson Judi Greenier
Secretary Claire Hodgkins

Co-Lay Leaders Kathleen Forbes & Mary Lou Brown

Lay Member of Annual Conference 2022 Josselyn Forbes Alternate Lay Member/Equalization Member 2022 Alden Wilcox Clergy Member of Annual Conference Tim Wilcox

Cluster Representative(s)

Bill Thomas & Josselyn Forbes

Member-at-LargeNeal GenzMember-at-LargeBill ThomasMember-at-LargeLeland FrostEducation and Family Ministries ChairDuska Franklin

Finance and Stewardship Chair TBD

Memorials ChairDiane McDonoughMissions & EvangelismMelonie CarlsonStaff/Parish Relations ChairDebbie BarnesTrustees Chair (elected by Trustees)Judson DrakeWorship ChairBobbi Pelletier

UMW Representative(s) (elected by UMW)

UMM Representative(s) (elected by UMM) Neal Genz (President elect)

ex-officio: Treasurer Bobbi Pelletier Financial Secretary Tamara Wilcox

<u>Church Historians</u>: Betty Branscom, Wendy Bossie, Mary Lou Brown, Friedrich Wilcox

MINISTRY COMMITTEES

(Chairs of ministry committees are elected annually but committee members are selected as needed by the committee itself)

Education Committee

Chairperson: **Duska Franklin**

Members: Alaina Pethick, **Deb Pringnitz**, Josselyn Forbes, Meagan Irving, Alden Wilcox

Missions and Evangelism Committee

Chairperson: Melonie Carlson

Members: Betty Branscom, Duska Franklin, Leland Frost, Sam Manages, Mary Ouellette,

Bobbi Pelletier, Ruthann Weeks, Tamara Wilcox

Publicity Coordinator: Claire Hodgkins

Worship Committee

Chairperson: Bobbi Pelletier

Choir Director (employee ex officio): *Vacant* Organist (employee ex officio): *Vacant* Head Usher (ex officio): Neal Genz

Members: Beth Alden, Mary Lou Brown, Richard Clark, Diane Fitzpatrick, Claire Hodgkins,

Bobbi Pelletier, Diana Locke

Technology Team ***new***

Chairperson: Will Barnum

Members: Roy Alden, Chris Dare, Gail Hagelstein, Alaina Pethick

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

(Chairs are elected to a one year term and members to a three year term)

**Finance Chairperson

TBD

** The responsibilities of the former Committee on Finance and Stewardship have been incorporated into the work of the Church Council. A person will continue to be elected to coordinate the financial and stewardship ministries of the congregation. This action was taken given that nearly all members of the former Finance and Stewardship Committee were members of the Church Council and the increasing difficulty in securing people to serve on the committee.

Audit Committee:

2022: Craig Staples 2023: Shirley Bowman 2024: *TBD*

Memorials Committee

(No limitations on who may serve or for how long)

Chairperson: Diane McDonough

Members (serve until June 2022): Claire Hodgkins, Ken Peters

Members (serve until June 2023): Diane McDonough

Members (serve until June 2024): Neal Genz, Tamara Wilcox

Nominations and Leadership Development Committee

(Must be a professing member, at least a year off between terms, should have at least one young adult and no two people from the same household may serve)

Chairperson (ex officio pastor): Rev. Tim Wilcox

Vice-Chairperson (elected by NLD): Diane Fitzpatrick

Co-Lay Leader: Kathleen Forbes

Members (serve until June 2022): Diane Fitzpatrick Members (serve until June 2023): Claire Hodgkins

Members (serve until June 2024): Diane McDonough, **Melonie Carlson** (nominated from the floor)

Staff/Parish Relations Committee

(Must by a professing member, may serve for two consecutive terms, no two people from the same household may serve, and should have one young adult.)

Chairperson: Debbie Barnes Co-Lay Leader: Mary Lou Brown

Lay Member of Annual Conference: *vacant* Member (serve until June 2022): Jean Cashman

Members (serve until June 2023): Beth Alden, Diane McDonough

Members (serve until June 2024): Debbie Barnes, David Belyea, Conrad Walton

Board of Trustees

(Two-thirds must be professing members, recommended no more than two-thirds be one gender, no limit on terms serving, and must be of legal age)

Officers will be elected at first meeting after July 1, 2021

Chairperson (elected by Trustees): Judson Drake

Vice-Chairperson (elected by Trustees): Louis Greenier

Secretary (elected by Trustees): Wendy Bossie Treasurer (elected by Trustees): Judi Greenier

Custodian/Maintenance Staff Member (ex-officio): Judson Drake Members (serve until June 2022): Judi Greenier, Judson Drake Members (serve until June 2023): Del Ramey, Louis Greenier, Tamara Wilcox Members (serve until June 2024): Richard Clark, Wendy Bossie, **Debbie Nichols**

The pastor is ex officio on all committees except the Board of Trustees and SPRC.

Additional items for your information (not part of the Nominations Committee report)

Congregational Care Team (not elected):

Mary Lou Brown, Elsie Doody, Judson Drake, Diane Fitzpatrick, Bobbi Pelletier

The Church Council did not meet in July, but the following reports were submitted:

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP:

EOM for June 2021 is as follows:

The subtotal for Regular Offerings for June came to \$9,524.44. Reimbursements were \$50, and Special Offerings for Church Use totaled \$1,899.06. The offerings **not** for church use were for the COVID Response and amounted to \$245.00. The total EOM for June was \$11,718.60.

The June Checkbook Figures:

Beginning Balance \$21,922.62 2021 Operating Income 9,524.44 Fun-Raiser Proceeds 52.50

Mission Shares Paid \$7,408.50 (3 Months)

Interest 2.27
Less EFT fees (29.34)
Less Expenses (20,151.68)

2021 Mission Shares (2,469.50) (Note: monthly amount put into special funds temporarily)

Lawn Mowing Expense (\$300.00) (\$300 for 4 months put into special funds for \$1,200 payment in September)

Ending Balance 15,959.81 (Without \$15,739.57 in PPP money, this would be \$220.24)

The Capital Account Seed Money figures:

Previous Balance was \$106,830.61. Deposits amounted to \$1,335.96. No expenditures. The current Balance is \$106,166.57.

The Memorial Garden * \$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 July 1, 2021, on-line report shows ending value = \$28,512.53

The expenses for June are as follows: Programs subtotal expense for June came to \$790.17; Trustee subtotal expenses were \$2,424.99; SPRC Subtotal expenses came to \$8,716.56; and the New England Conference payment, which included Ministerial support and the Pastor Pension Benefit came to \$8,219.96 for a total expense of \$20,151.68.

Weekly Average Needed for 2021: \$3,986.53. Missions Shares = \$2,469.50; as of EOM June – 3 months behind (\$7,408.50) which is being held in Special Funds for later disbursement.

Dead River Balances at EOM June: Church = (\$2,797.89); Parsonage = \$350.34)

Average Attendance in June: 63*; Average Attendance YTD: 59* (in-person & on-line attendance)

<u>MEMORIALS</u>: Diane McDonough welcomed Tamara Wilcox to the Committee and stated that she would be corresponding much of our business through e-mail unless a meeting was needed. She requested a vote on a request by Margaret Cyr that was unanimously approved via e-mail by members. Memorials will have Coffee Fellowship on August 15th.

TRUSTEES (from July 20, 2021 Meeting):

Present: Wendy Bossie, Richard Clark, Judson Drake (chairman), Judi Greenier, Louis Greenier, Debbie Nichols, Del Ramey, Tamara Wilcox, Rev. Tim Wilcox

Judson opened the meeting with a prayer.

Judson welcomed Debbie, our new trustee member.

<u>Secretary's report</u>: June 15, 2021 and July 4, 2020 (emergency meeting) reports read silently. Judi noted that the treasurer's report for June 15 should say that she got in touch with Mark Pinette regarding the two Turner scholarships and not include the Budd scholarship. Louis moved that the secretary's report be accepted, Debbie seconded. Passed.

<u>Treasurer's report:</u> In Albert Akeley's honor and because he was an advocate of the Permanent Fund, the trustees sent \$300 to the Fund. Judi received a thank you note from Sylvia Akeley who matched the gift with a \$300 check. She has not heard from Mark Pinette, guidance counselor at the high school, regarding the recipients of the two Turner scholarships. Judi sent \$75 to Dustin Gilberti for upkeep of the Turner plots at Southside Cemetery in Mapleton per request of Phil Turner. She passed around copies of the revised edition of the Permanent Fund brochure. These have been placed in the narthex. There is \$18,129.20 in the trustee checking account. Louis moved that the treasurer's report be accepted, Del seconded. Passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. <u>Parsonage windows</u> or Project No. 421. The windows have arrived and are awaiting installation. Judson will install the windows after his broken left hand has healed.
- 2. <u>Caribou utilities.</u> As explained and passed at the emergency meeting, the sump pumps will no longer be hooked to the city sewer system, saving \$350 quarterly.
- 3. <u>Parking lot paving</u> or Project No. 512. The parking lot has been paved. Judson plans to designate handicapped parking. The project cost \$6200, paid from the Capital Campaign Fund (Trip Hazard).
- 4. <u>Sound booth</u> or Project No. 329. Underwood Electric has run 3/4 of the wire. Special sound cable has been ordered.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. <u>Copier contract.</u> Judson included a copier contract (with his agenda) from Tony Nadeau of Office Depot for the new copier in the church office. The quarterly cost is \$201.25 (\$805.00 yearly) and covers all expenses except paper and staples. The cost of this contract is covered by the maintenance section of the church budget but the trustees are being asked to okay it. Rev. Tim noted that his laptop and the library computer are now hooked to the new copier. The library copier has been fixed. Debbie moved that we accept the contract, Richard seconded. Passed.
- 2. <u>Kitchen drain.</u> This problem was explained by Judson during the July 4 emergency meeting gray water backing up in the church kitchen sinks. After much searching with help from the city and a "spotter," the old drain has been located. Judson pointed out on his diagram where the trenching path will be laid out. Quality Home Services, LLC with Mark Wagner as master plumber will begin next week. Joey Cyr with UpNorth Mini Excavating Co. will do the digging. Dig Safe has written off on the project. The roots of the birch tree might be a problem. Del noted that the tree is dying. The birch will come down. A long-lived tree was suggested to replace it red oak or sugar maple. The removal of the tree, which is close to the street therefore needing a professional tree remover, and a replacement tree will be added to the cost of the project \$8000. The money will come from the Capital Campaign. Tamara made a motion that we go ahead with this project, Wendy seconded. Passed.
- 3. <u>Church electrical work</u> or Project No. 457. Spot lights and a period brass light have been added to the ceiling of the porte cochere. Old wiring has been removed and new switches added as well as outside outlets. The bell tower light has been removed and replaced with LED flood lights. These LED lights cost little to operate. This is the first time the tower has been continually lit in many years. Ninety seven percent of our wiring is no load.

4. <u>COVID 19 update</u>. The Delta variant is becoming a topic according to the information Judson is receiving from the CDC. This may affect our church lives again. We must always keep in mind the members of our congregation that have compromised immune systems. Aroostook County is 53% vaccinated. Caribou is 72% vaccinated.

There was a discussion about the old refrigerator in the back hall. It occasionally stops running. The chicken barbecue is coming up and that appliance is needed as well as for other church functions. Judson will look into a new refrigerator.

Rev. Tim mentioned the problems with the church sign on Sweden St. Judson suggested that we purchase an electronic sign at a later date. Prices have dropped and are now reasonable - \$700 on up. The base of the present sign is solid and can be reused.

Rev, Tim asked if the parsonage sidewalk will be rerouted and built before winter. Judson said that he will do so after his hand heals.

<u>WORSHIP COMMITTEE</u>: Minutes from July 1, 2021 Meeting; Present – Bobbi Pelletier (chair), Rev. Tim Wilcox, Claire Hodgkins, Richard Clark, Judson Drake (guest)

Old Business:

- Bobbi led a discussion about having a service to honor those we've lost. We plan to include Dawn Powell in this remembrance. Should it be an outdoor or indoor service? It was decided to have the service inside on August 22nd and that would give us time to let family members know and perhaps get recordings from them on their relative to include in the service. For each person lost, we will have someone (either relative or friend) bring forward a flower to put in a vase on the altar.
- Outdoor services were discussed and it was decided to hold them on the last Sundays in July, August and September, weather permitting. The dates are July 25th, August 29th and September 26th. We will be able to sing during these outside services, so words/music will be made available if it happens.
- Sunday music was discussed. Margaret Cyr schedules the organists/pianists. Dean Rauch schedules the special music. Rev. Tim did state that SPRC wants to fill positions (Choir Director, Organist) but have not been successful when advertising for an organist in the past.
- Follow-up on last month's mention about a letter to new home owners the draft letter(s) from Rev. Tim is still pending. Richard asked if the letter will explain our church.
- The Cluster's UMCOR COVID Relief and Humanitarian Response Fund raised \$245.00 at Gray Memorial. The check will be sent to the Cluster Treasurer.
- Status of Rev. Tim's bible stand still pending. Judson has an idea for a retractable acrylic pedestal stand which will cost approximately \$70. It would have to be built into the existing communion table and once the stand is raised, it will look like the book is "floating in the air"! More to come on that in the future.
- The Homiletics magazine subscription approved last month was ordered by Rev. Tim and billed to his church credit card (Note: Rev. Tim has not ordered it yet.)

New Business:

- Bobbi told the committee that Dan Schall has inquired about visiting our church for a Sunday service on September 12th. After some discussion, it was agreed to invite him on that Sunday.
- Coffee Fellowship after Worship has resumed, but in a very limited fashion. We decided the Worship Committee would retain the 4th Sunday of each month. Trustees have offered to take a week each month. Bobbi will reach out to other committees to create a schedule and also give some guidelines on keeping it very simple to avoid financial burden on any committee members.
- Diane Fitzpatrick asked to schedule a Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting in the Library on Tuesday, July 6th at 6:30pm (approved). She also wanted to schedule a prayer shawl dedication during a Worship service and Rev. Tim selected July 18th.

Rev. Tim's Time:

- Feedback on services people are glad to be back in-person. Bobbi said we miss singing.
- Communion this coming Sunday pre-packaged elements will be available in the Narthex to pick up on the way into the sanctuary. Rev. Tim checked and the opened packets can be placed in the cup holders in the pews and someone can pick them up after the service.

Suggestion to have pre-service singing outside? Perhaps Kathie, Mary Lou, Chris and Dean would be willing to lead
congregation in singing a couple hymns outside before coming into the building? Richard thought that people driving by
would notice. Have familiar hymns and make simple handouts with just the words. Start 10-15 minutes prior to start of
service. Perhaps Dean would be willing to schedule these pre-service hymn sings.

Judson:

• Congregation won't need to sign in anymore when they visit the church. It is still required for visitors and contractors.

Other Discussion:

- Can we sing inside if we wear masks? Rev. Tim will check. Richard says no, especially if we have chance to sing outside. We will table this issue for now.
- Length of service keep it at 45-50 minutes.
- Next Meeting September 3rd at 9:30am in the church kitchen.

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AUGUST 2021!!!

MEETINGS ARE NOW AUTHORIZED TO BE IN-PERSON AT THE CHURCH; STILL POSSIBLE TO JOIN BY VIDEO OR PHONE

ALL SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES WILL CONTINUE TO BE LIVE STREAMED ON YOUTUBE

Sunday Saturday	01	10:00am	Worship in the Sanctuary; Tenth Sunday after Pentecost; <u>Richard Clark is preaching</u> Chicken BBQ (10am until sold out!)
Sunday	08	10:00am	Worship in the Sanctuary; Communion Sunday; Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	15	10:00am	Worship in the Sanctuary; Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost; <u>Preaching: TBD</u>
Tuesday	17	6:00pm	Trustee Meeting
Friday	20	10:00am	DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWSLETTER INPUT
Sunday	22	10:00am	Worship in the Sanctuary; Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost; Memorial Service during Worship for those lost during COVID
Sunday	29	10:00am	Worship by the Memorial Garden (weather permitting); Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Tim is taking vacation days Jul 26 - Aug 1 and Aug 10-17

Note: Instructions to join in through Zoom for those who choose not to attend in-person meetings will be sent out in advance. Committee members should notify the leader of their committee and/or Rev. Tim to make needed arrangements.