



And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. --1 Corinthians 3:18

When each of my children were born, I was present for their births. When witnessing my children's appearances into the world, it seemed so natural to be there for their appearances into the world that it was a surprise to me to hear that for colleagues near or in retirement at the time (who were then mostly men whose children were born between the 1950s and the 1980s), most had not seen their children be born. It wasn't a surprise in that I was aware of this history. The source of my surprise came from my heart. As one person thinking about another's experience in light of my own experience, I struggled to understand why what seemed so natural was once viewed differently. Changing gender roles, evolving understandings of healthy practices and asking questions about longstanding practices were among the factors that have led us to a different place in the twenty-first century. Decades of only a mother being present for hospital births had largely been accepted as the way "it was done" or, for those who wanted something different, the thought of changing "the system" seemed daunting. Yet, change has come to the raising of children in various ways.

Sometimes it is worth considering how much has changed. In the life of the church, for example, many of you remember a time when communion was only quarterly, when there weren't printed orders of worship every week, when all or nearly all the pastors were men (though Maine was an early leader in women in pastoral ministry in the latter half of the twentieth century) or when the King James Version was in many churches and families the primary English translation in use. There were both important theological and practical reasons for each of these changes. Many were controversial at the time. Yet, these changes and many like them have made important contributions to worship, study, mission and ministry in the Christian church.

Being a parsonage family has changed over the decades, too. Yes, a parsonage family still lives in the proverbial fishbowl—especially when the church is next door to the parsonage. On the other hand, there is increasing recognition of the importance of connecting with each member of the family on their own terms (anyone remember when the wife of a male pastor was expected to play the piano, teach Sunday School and lead the women's group as a mere extension of the pastor?). Each of my family have been involved in the life of Gray Memorial, both in traditional and in less traditional roles. Yet, each has had opportunities to be involved in ways that are of interest to them. While as a sentimentalist it is easy for me to lament losses due to change, I am grateful that there has been an evolution in the approach to pastors' families. This process continues.

For much of the summer, I preached about some of the significant events in my life that have impacted my faith. Much like the theme scripture at the top of this page, these events were part of my ongoing transformation through faith and the Holy Spirit. This transformation continues to this day and, hopefully, will continue on toward what Methodists refer to as "going on to perfection;" in other words, moving towards being fully motivated by the love of Christ. Transformation by definition involves change. So often, these life events forced me to confront something in the world or something in myself I might not have otherwise confronted. For us as the people of Gray Memorial United Methodist Church, we are called to confront the reality of the world around us. It will mean honestly evaluating the nature and needs of central Aroostook County. Downtown Caribou and the surrounding countryside, bear little resemblance to what it was when the then Peoples Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1913. I would submit that the reality looks quite different from only 30 years ago when Loring was still an operational air base. There are many reasons for the many changes we have experienced. Some we like. Some we don't. Many we resist, even though they might in fact be beneficial. As was pointed out to me in a workshop earlier this year, change itself is usually less a concern to people than the prospect of loss or the grieving of loss that often provides the most resistance. I think that one reason so many long established churches and denominations are struggling is due both to our sense of loss amidst the rapid pace of change and our resulting reluctance to realize that our situation has itself changed. Scripture reminds us of the need of our transformation in the image of Christ, knowing that God will be with us all along the way. Might it be that change is not the enemy we often think? Ask yourself how being transformed—changed—as a person and as a church would be important to furthering the mission of making disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world. Pray about these possibilities knowing they could open for you and for the congregation both opportunities for ministry but the kind of change that brings the hope of Christ into the world. To me that is worth being excited about!

Grace and peace,
Rev. Tim



The Caribou Clock

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Greetings from the Church Office!

As fall arrives, it brings a panorama of color throughout the County! Inside Gray Memorial, I hear the buzz of activity as Judson continues to work on various projects. Most notable is the new sound booth in the balcony! He has put his heart and soul into creating a pleasant space that matches the surroundings and will look like it's been there for years! The technology team will then have a permanent place to work each week as they play music, videos, show slides, etc. during our Worship services and stream the services live on YouTube! Other improvements that we'll soon see - remote access to the screen from the sound booth so they can lower or raise it when needed; access to the sound console currently residing in Rev. Tim's office - just to name a couple. I look forward to the sound booth's completion, as will our technology team!

I've been working on updates to the Historical Booklet that was first written by Phil Turner many years ago. So much has happened since its last edition in June 2016 that it was time to update it. I look forward to sharing it with everyone when it is completed. Rev. Tim's notepad has also received a "facelift" - those are now available in the Narthex. These two new versions are components of our new Visitor Bags, which are almost ready for their debut, thanks to the Missions & Evangelism Committee.

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, October 22nd!!!**

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier
Church Secretary



August 29th & September Prayer Joys and Concerns

Prayer Concerns: Debbie & Lu Sharp, Sheila Belyea, Dave DeMerchant, 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), Sylvia Akeley, Dawn Frost, Dick Daigle, Anthony Coraluzzo, Jason Rife, Bob & Elsie Locke, Margaret Cyr, Warren Dobson, Herman Wright, Troy Levesque, Leland Frost, Rodric Johnson, Ivan Shaw; Melonie Carlson's sister Heidi, son Josh & Josh's sons Tyler & Trea (all have COVID); Louis Greenier, Ruth Ross (recovering from fall), Eddie Ouellette, Gordon Kinney (Lou Leavitt's son—in-law; hospitalized in Bangor), Garrett Michaud, Dave & Sheila Belyea and several family members (contracted COVID, but doing okay), Doug Hallett

On Family Death: Family of Elsie Locke; Family of Chester Gage

Other: Those dealing with the hurricane in Louisiana; 20-year remembrance of 9/11

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!

The Locke family sent the following message to the church office recently and asked it to be sent out to everyone: The Locke family would like to sincerely thank the congregation for their prayers during church services while our wife/mother (Elsie Locke) was ill and for the support after her passing. The weekly cards were a great comfort.

REMINDERS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LITURGIST</u>	<u>Organist/Pianist</u>	<u>COUNTER</u>	<u>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP</u>
Oct 3	Deborah Nichols	TBD	Ruthann Weeks	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Oct 10	Bobbi Pelletier	TBD	Ruthann Weeks	Trustees
Oct 17	Deb Pringnitz	TBD	Ruthann Weeks	Memorials Committee
Oct 24	Del Ramey	TBD	Elsie Doody	Worship Committee
Oct 31	Dean Rauch	TBD	Elsie Doody	Need volunteers!!!

Usher Coordinator for October: Neal Genz

Please note that the church building is open for visitors and committee meetings.
Rev. Tim and the Worship Committee will make decisions on whether Worship Services will be in-person or on-line.

* * October Birthdays & Anniversaries * *

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

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | John Griffeth | 17 | Gary Silsbee |
| 2 | Penelope Alden, Jordan Franklin | 18 | Phyllis Anderson |
| 3 | Marjie Edgecomb, Amy Wischmann | 19 | Nancy Lister |
| 4 | Betheny Anderson | 20 | Rodney Nichols |
| 5 | Vivian Bell, Kamryn Irving, Loreli Lock,
Millie Pangburn | 21 | Jay Bullard, Trent Chandler, Steven Doody |
| 8 | Lou Leavitt, Maisie Sayers | 24 | Meaghan Cousins |
| 9 | Scott Branscom | 26 | Kathryn Bell, Joelene Boucher, Denise Levesque |
| 11 | Kristin McBreairty | 27 | Roland Thibodeau |
| 12 | Jean Kessler | 28 | Barb Brehm |
| 13 | Ivan Shaw, Mary Theriault | 29 | Cindy Branscom, Kim Mayne, MacKenna Smith |
| 15 | Leland Frost, Sheila Norsworthy | 30 | Arieann Davenport, Dustin Nichols, Dean Rauch,
Ruthann Weeks |
| 16 | Samantha Greenier, Dale Sharp | 31 | Bill Thomas |



- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 4 | Amy & Jamey Reitmeyer | 13 | Heather & Trent Chandler |
| 8 | Ruth & Emmett Ross | 14 | Tabitha & Brian Doody |
| | 28 | | Lu & Dale Sharp |

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.

Worship Attendance and General Fund Offerings:

<u>Date</u>	<u>* Attendance</u>	<u>Operating Fund Offering</u>
Aug 29 (Outdoor)	37	\$2,180.00
Sep 5 (Outdoor)	34	\$4,942.72
Sep 12 (Dan Schall)	32	\$2,055.00
Sep 19 (Outdoor)	34	\$1,624.72
Sep 26 (Indoor)	29	\$1,028.00

*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 September 26th, the balance in the account is \$93,103.26 (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 paid on August 31st to Quality Home Services for work on the new water line totaled \$2,500.54.

Photo Directory Changes (October 2021 Newsletter changes):

Lister, Nancy – New address: 5 Nash Street, Lewiston ME 04240

Locke, Elsie - deceased; September 10, 2021



The Missions & Evangelism Committee and the Church Council is seeking a volunteer to handle local publicity for the church's events. This person would be responsible for advertising through a number of sources - WAGM-TV, newspapers, Rec Center sign, flyers, etc. If you are interested, please contact Melonie Carlson or the Church Office.



A new Church Directory is in progress! The new directory will be produced by the church office and look similar to the one printed in 2016. The "Membership/Constituent Information" form had been provided for several months within the monthly Newsletter and is emailed with the weekly email Newsletter. If you have not completed it yet, please contact the church office for the form. It is vital that we have the most update information (names, mailing address, email address, birth dates, anniversaries, etc.) to ensure our database and a new directory is as current as possible! We would appreciate it if we could get a form from every household!

Worship & Ministry Opportunities During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Things have changed over the past several months with regard to our Worship Service. In-person Worship services in the church sanctuary began on Sunday, May 30th. Effective Sunday, August 15th, we decided to require face coverings again due to the delta variant. On Saturday, September 4th, Rev. Tim put out an email that said services would be held outside for the month of September, except for September 12th when Dan Schall would be here. Masking and social distancing for indoor services and meetings is advised.



On Sunday, September 26th, the service was held in the sanctuary due to predicted inclement weather. Masks were required, social distancing encouraged and we were able to sing (with our masks on). For the near-term, coffee fellowship is suspended.

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.

The Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry is in need of the following items: oatmeal and condiments (ketchup & mayonnaise), shelf-stable milk, juice (any kind), spaghetti and beans. Donations may be brought to the church on Monday mornings from 9am to noon. Thank you!



Is your household or someone you know experiencing food insecurity? The Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry serves the communities of Caribou, Connor, Woodland, Wade, Washburn and Perham and will provide food to those households that meet income guidelines. The Pantry, located at 31 Herschel Street in Caribou is open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8am to 11am. Please call between those hours and the pantry volunteers will help provide you with food boxes (available every 4 weeks or as needed.)



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 Vanco Mobile, an app provided by VANCO. You can download on an Apple or android phone. This method supports both recurring and one-time gifts. For more information, contact Tamara Wilcox.

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.

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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 **\$465.30** 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!



The Missions & Evangelism Committee met on Sunday, September 19th and discussed participating in the Caribou Arts & Craft Fair on October 16th and 17th from 10am to 4pm each day.

The venue has changed to the Caribou Rec Center. Due to the increase in COVID cases, the committee decided to **NOT** participate this year. We look forward to doing it next year!



We have a tentative date & time for our Annual Church Conference – it is Sunday, October 24th at 6pm via Zoom. This will be a joint conference with Lidstone Memorial UMC/Washburn. Rev. Choi from Grant Memorial UMC will preside. If this date & time change, the congregation will be notified.

The church received a thank you letter From Dan Schall Ministries:

To the Church Family of the Gary Memorial United Methodist Church,

Linda and I want to thank you for the opportunity to come and share the gospel in song with your community and church family. We thank you too for the gift that was given for support of our ministry. Your gifts allows us to continue sharing the gospel through music. You are in our thoughts and prayers often. We look forward being able to come again and share in the future. May God continue to bless your church family as you bring the gospel to the community, and souls to Christ.

May you continue to be a beacon of Christ's light in your community. Please keep us and our ministry in prayer. Thank you for serving the Lord.

*His servant,
Dan & Linda Schall*

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
9-23-21

ATTENDEES: Kathleen Forbes (Chair), Claire Hodgkins, Neal Genz, Tamara Wilcox, Rev. Tim Wilcox, Melonie Carlson, Bobbi Pelletier, Chris Dare and Mary Lou Brown.

Kathleen Forbes brought the meeting to order at 6 PM in the church dining hall where masks and social distancing could be easily accomplished. Rev. Tim gave a brief prayer before the meeting got started. Bobbi Pelletier moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting and Neal Genz seconded it before the Council unanimously approved.

Kathie told everyone that we needed to discuss and approve Chris Dare as the new Finance Chair, since his agreement to assume this leadership position was not known at the time the church voted on the Nominations at the Special Church Conference that was held in June. This nomination was unanimously approved by the Church Council.

MISSIONS & EVANGELISM: Melonie Carlson reported that her committee has decided not to have a Cookie Booth project this year. Also, the Committee needs to have someone to do publicity so the Council suggested announcing it in church and putting the request in the Newsletter. Melonie stated that her members would be reaching out to various businesses, schools and others to identify needs and how her committee can help.

Bobbi mentioned that new visitor bags have been put together with most contents; updates to the history booklet and new brochure are pending. Melonie told the Council that another project her committee has been doing is card writing for various occasions (miss you, get well, etc.). Members of the Missions and Evangelism Committee include Bobbi Pelletier, Rev. Tim, Tamara Wilcox, Dr. Sam, and Mary Ouellette. Any one of these people can be contacted if a member has someone who should receive a card.

FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP:

Bobbi reported that she had set aside \$12,347.50 toward Mission Shares and asked the Council if it would like to pay some or all of this to Mission Shares which would bring us current to August. She felt it was now safe to let that money be spent. Melonie made a motion to disburse the whole amount for Mission Shares and Tamara seconded that motion. The Council voted unanimously to pay the bill. Bobbi reported that Judson has gone to the bank and signed our PPE loan forgiveness application, which was submitted to the Small Business Association (SBA). Rev. Tim and Chris Dare have discussed this year's Stewardship Campaign; plans pending.

Tamara reported that an unexpected gift of \$10,000 was received in July which made a big difference in our July EOM donations. The mobile giving app used by the church has changed to VANCO Mobile (formerly was GivePlus). This new app also can be set up to use for church mobile directories, calendars, messages, advertising church events, etc. in the future if desired—it no longer is solely a giving app, although that is how we are using it at the moment.

SPRC: A proposal for the 2022 Pastor's Compensation package was brought before the Council. Base salary is \$51,000 (no change from last year). At this time some of the proposed items are estimated as the final numbers are not yet available. These include Pastor's Health Insurance Co-Pay which is currently estimated at \$255.00 per month; Medical Reimbursement Account estimated at \$2,650 (or maximum allowed by IRS); UMPIP is \$2,400. Continuing Education \$1,200 (no change from 2021); Travel \$2,000 (no change from 2021); Health Insurance (Church's share) estimated at \$18,935; Social Security (paid directly to Pastor by Law) \$1,000 (no change from 2021).

The Designation of Housing Exclusion states "Whereas Section 107 of the IRS Code permits an ordained minister to exclude from his gross income" the rental value of the home owned by Gray Memorial, \$5,000 is hereby designated as the housing exclusion pursuant to Section 107 of the IRS Code.

The Council reviewed the Pastor's Compensation package proposal and Neal Genz moved to accept the proposal with a second from Mary Lou Brown. The Council voted unanimously to accept it.

The Finance Committee reminds those Chairs who have budgets that they will receive the form to use to propose their 2022 budgets at the next meeting and budget requests are expected to be presented at the November meeting for discussion and approval.

OTHER: Mary Lou asked about the Northeast Propane tank as the company's owners have not received an order for propane in quite some time. It was made clear that a misconception was on-going that it was being filled by Dead River. Due to COVID the kitchen has not been used as in normal times and Dead River was not filling the tank.

Kathy brought up for discussion the fall fundraisers. There will be no Cookie Booth. Neal will bring up the topic of the Harvest Supper and the Christmas tree sales to the men at their UMM monthly breakfast meeting to take place Saturday, September 25th. Neal asked if UMW would do the supper and Bobbi mentioned that UMW is not really active right now, but there are too few women to pull off a big fund raiser at this time.

On behalf of Worship Committee, Bobbi stated that Sunday was expected to be rainy, so after some discussion with Rev. Tim and others, it was decided to hold church service in the Sanctuary. There will be no Coffee Fellowship for now, due to the rise in COVID-19 cases in the County. Members need to stay tuned as we go forward to learn of future services. Bobbi also mentioned that the red hand truck that Judson uses to transport the pulpit to the garden is missing. Other items have gone missing in the past and suddenly reappeared, so the Trustees need to discuss this situation at their next meeting.

Rev. Tim: Pastor Choi from Grant Memorial will preside over our Annual Church Conference through Zoom. This will be a joint conference with Washburn (Lidstone Memorial UMC). Tentative dates given were the last 2 Sundays in October at 6pm. This was discussed and our Church Council requested it be held on October 24th.

Next meeting – Thursday, October 21st at 6pm, in the Fellowship Hall.

Submitted by:
Claire Hodgkins
Secretary

REPORTS RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:

CLUSTER:

The meeting came to order at 10am with the following in attendance via Zoom. Cheryl Stratton, Bill Thomas, Paula Lilley, HyungYong Choi, Dan Blevins, Victor Han, Chris Dare, Tim Wilcox, and Sue Brown. Devotions were shared by Cheryl who shared a reading based on Ezekiel 34:15-16 and a poignant reading about “church” with all of our warts and flaws and joys and love.

Treasurer’s Report

Paula reported on the offerings received from our “promo video” to support the work of UMCOR in their efforts to relieve the pandemic worldwide. Four of our Cluster churches participated and sent a total of \$1366.00. Our Cluster added \$300. From our treasury as voted. Paula sent a check for the total of \$1666.00 to UMCOR for Covid relief. Paula received a letter of thanks from UMCOR. The current checkbook balance is 223.05. Motion to approve the report by Cheryl and seconded by Dan. Motion carried unanimously.

Cluster Leadership

Tim stepped forward to lead the Cluster meetings. Thank you so much, Tim!

Current worship in our churches

Limestone has returned to remote while school is in RED mode. Patten is in-person with live streaming. Hodgdon/Houlton online only for two Sundays then reevaluate return to in-person. Grant in-person only and has stopped live streaming – masks optional. Gray Memorial have been in-person with masks mandatory and an outdoor service at the end of each month. Caribou schools have been in Red mode but are going back this week. This may/may not impact worship this week. Mars Hill is in-person with masks optional but may return to masks mandatory.

2021 Discipleship Recognition

A reminder that Pastors/SPRC members should submit recipient names for recognition by our October meeting.

Cluster Thanksgiving Service

It was decided to plan for an in-person worship on November 21st if possible. Plan B would be for the Cluster Council to gather and live-stream or record a service for distribution. Plan C would involve members of the Cluster Council recording a portion of the service and having all parts combined electronically for distribution.

Cheryl brought to our attention the following:

- **The Boarding School Healing Project has designated October 6 as a Day of Remembrance.** On that day in 1879 General Richard Pratt took children from First Nations and opened the boarding school in Carlisle, PA. This year, we call on the Church to observe October 6, 2021 as a day of Truth and Repentance for Our Children. These are the concrete acts that will begin a process a healing, justice and reconciliation for families and communities to heal as the voices of the lost children are heard once again, as they are honored with the respect and love they did not receive from the Methodist Christians of the time.

October 6th has been designated as a day of Call to Repentance for the horrors inflicted on Native American children following the discovery of mass graves at Church Operated Boarding Schools. (Some operated by Methodist Churches).

Although we might not have time to plan for October 6th, we discussed gathering more resources and employing this Call to Repentance as part of our Thanksgiving Service. Please bring your thoughts and ideas to the October meeting.

Cluster Mission Project – St. Apollonia Festival of Trees

Cheryl reported that this event WILL happen. Bill suggested a theme honoring First Responders (Nurses, EMTs, Physicians, etc.). If you like this theme or have other ideas, please share via email with the Cluster Council or bring them to the October meeting where we will finalize this year’s theme. Deepest gratitude goes out to Cheryl for leading this project for our Cluster.

Meeting Time Going Forward

We discussed if this new date/time works better for all. It was decided to return to first Thursdays at 9am but to revisit this at each meeting to be sure we do not come up against DCOM (or other) meetings.

Cluster Council Gathering

Informal gathering of Cluster Council members – not for business –tabled until Covid-19 is less rampant making it safer for us to gather together. Tim offered the Sanctuary at Gray for a movie night and Cheryl suggested her camp in Millinocket for next summer as possibilities.

Cluster Confirmation Class

Tim and Choi have students for confirmation classes if Covid concerns allow – more likely in the spring. They will keep us posted on if/when and invite others to participate.

Tim asked if there is a way we can stay connected to and be of support to the Fort Fairfield United Parish congregation. Sue shared that Mary continues to provide pastoral care. Do they currently have an ongoing worship leader or lay persons from the congregation?

Dan closed our meeting with prayer.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 7th at 9:00 am.

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP:

The Committee reported the following Income figures for August:

Regular Offering was \$13,039.55.

Reimbursements were \$203.00; \$3 for Education and \$200 for the Pastor’s cell phone.

Special Funds for Church Use came to \$5,894.05.

- Growing in Faith received \$1,381.56.
- Lawn Care Contract received \$1,431.64.
- Bottle Drive Fund received \$44.35.
- Chicken BBQ received \$3,012.50.

The Total EOM for August was \$19,136.60.

The following is the report on the August Operating Account Check Book:

Beginning Balance	22,283.18	
2021 Operating Income	13,039.55	
Fun-Raiser Proceeds	3,253.98	(Bottle Redemption and Chicken BBQ)
Lawn Mowing Paid	600.00	
Interest	2.48	
Less EFT fee	(29.34)	VANCO fees (EFT deposits)
Less Expenses	(14,140.69)	
2021 Mission Shares	(2,469.50)	(Note: Monthly amount put into Special Funds temporarily)
Lawn Mowing Expense	(300.00)	(Note \$300 for 4 months put aside for \$600 payment in Aug; \$600 payment in Sep)
Ending Balance	22,239.66	(Without PPP money of \$15,739.57, would be \$6,500.09)

\$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 August 31, 2021, on-line report shows ending value = \$28,951.88.

Capital Account Seed Money Figures for August:

Previous Balance - \$101,167.24; Deposits - \$1,385.93; Spent - \$10,931.45; Current Balance - \$91,621.72 (Furnace Fund = \$32,153.05).

Expenditures for August are as follows:

Programs - \$1,993.13; Trustees - \$3,074.23; SPRC - \$5,809.00 (Pastor's Compensation); SPRC - Other Salaries \$2,045.83; SPRC - Other expenses \$407.04; New England Conference - \$811.46 for Pastor's Pension Benefit.

Total Expenses for August was \$14,140.69. YTD Expenses = \$112,069.13.

Dead River balances at EOM August - Church: (\$4,094.00); Parsonage: (849.55)

At EOM August, we were 5 months behind in Mission Shares payments - \$12,347.50. This amount is held in the Special Funds for Church Use.

Average attendance (in-person and virtual) for August was 62; average YTD = 60.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE:

Old Business:

- Bobbi mentioned that there had been positive feedback on the August 22 service where we honored those who have passed away during the Covid pandemic.
- Rev. Tim suggested holding outside worship services at the church garden during the month of September, weather permitting. For September 12th when Dan Schall is here, if there is inclement weather, we will have the service in the sanctuary with everyone wearing masks and keeping socially distanced. This will only be an in-person service, no on-line presence.
- The recent spread of Covid in our area is cause for concern. For all other Sundays through the end of September, we will be outside if weather permits and if not, services will be in the sanctuary and Rev. Tim will determine if congregation can attend or have service only available on-line.
- Bobbi reported that she has sent out letters to one hundred sixty-nine household of people new to our area to invite them to join us for worship. We haven't seen any new folks in attendance as a result but hope that we will have some response in the near future.
- The Homiletics subscription that had been approved will be ordered soon by Rev. Tim.
- Bobbi reported that she could not find anyone willing to lead in the singing of a few hymns outside the church before entering for worship.
- Help is needed on Sunday mornings to set up and take down equipment for the outside services.

New Business:

- Jud has expressed a desire to reseed the grass on the lawn to the right of the church garden and would like to have it paid for out of the garden funds. Bobbi feels that garden funds should not be used for this project where the area to be reseeded is not part of the garden.
- Richard expressed concern about reaching out to others by methods other than letters of invitation. He suggested advertising our church in a manner that would offer spiritual growth and stewardship, perhaps by way of television or newspaper.
- Bobbi outlined several upcoming special observances:
 - October 3: World Communion Sunday
 - October 17: Laity Sunday; Rev. Tim said that he would ask Dr. Sam if she would be interested in speaking at this service.
 - November 7: All Saints Sunday
- Rev. Tim reported that he has been asked if we can resume singing in the church since we are wearing masks. He suggested a trial run in October to see how it goes.

TRUSTEES: No Meeting

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OCTOBER 2021!!!

**MEETINGS ARE AUTHORIZED TO BE IN-PERSON AT THE CHURCH (MASKING & SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIRED); STILL POSSIBLE TO JOIN BY VIDEO OR PHONE
ALL SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES WILL BE LIVE STREAMED ON YOUTUBE**

Friday	01	9:30am	Worship Committee Meeting in Fellowship Hall
Sunday	03	10:00am	Worship - Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost; World Communion Sunday
Tuesday	05	2:30pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting in Library
		6:00pm	Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Meeting at Pantry
Thursday	07	9:00am	Aroostook Cluster Meeting (Zoom)
Sunday	10	10:00am	Worship - Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost; Organ & Tissue Donor Sunday
		11:30am	Education Committee Meeting
Monday	11	<u>FEDERAL HOLIDAY - COLUMBUS DAY - CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED</u>	
Thursday	14	6:30pm	SPRC Meeting
Sunday	17	10:00am	Worship - Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost; Laity Sunday; Children's Sabbath
		11:30am	Missions & Evangelism Committee Meeting
Tuesday	19	6:00pm	Trustee Meeting
Thursday	21	6:00pm	Church Council Meeting in Fellowship Hall
Friday	22	10:00am	<u>DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWSLETTER INPUT</u>
Saturday	23	8:00am	UMM Breakfast/Meeting; Program - Facetime with Ryan Genz
Sunday	24	10:00am	Worship - Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost
		6:00pm	Joint Annual Church Conference for Gray Memorial UMC and Lidstone Memorial UMC/Washburn through Zoom; Rev. Choi (Grant Memorial UMC) presiding
Sunday	31	10:00am	Worship - Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost; Reformation Sunday

Most committees did not meet in the summer months, but resume meeting in September. Some of the meetings listed in this calendar are based on the "normal schedule", especially if the chairperson has not notified the Church Office of any changes.

Note: Instructions to join in through Zoom for those who choose not to attend in-person meetings will be sent out in advance by arrangements of each group's leader.