



Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." --John 13:33-35, NRSV

This is it: my final newsletter article as your pastor. To be clear, I am not comparing myself to Jesus in the above scripture. Yet, these verses resonate with me, capturing some of my sentiments about both this transition time and for your future. The reality is that a United Methodist pastor knows that this time will come. The time when we are sent by the bishop to serve people in a different community. As an itinerant pastor in a connectional denomination, my covenants are explicitly with more than those I am serving at any given time. I am too sentimental to be able to say that I know the drill and that another pastoral transition will simply roll off my back like another day at the office. I also know that it is important to mark the changes, transitions, losses and celebrations in our lives along with having closure when chapters in life come to a close.

This chapter of life and ministry has been by some measures the most eventful for me yet. Pastor Ellen Cleaves has said I should write a book. Here are some moments that might be sections of that book:

- Disciple II, III and IV; Disciple: Romans & Genesis; and Companions in Christ classes
- Sunday morning classes, Lenten and Advent studies, including The Redemption of Scrooge
- the most sermon series I have done in one place to date, including several developed by Marcia McFee
- an unprecedented, ongoing pandemic from which we continue to learn and be challenged
- successes and mistakes (for which I am saddened) as we tried to navigate the pandemic without any prior experience to guide us and the energy it took amidst continually changing conditions
- visits and photo collages during the pandemic
- a boiler that failed spectacularly and nearly sparked a fire in the church building
- a waterfall and flood triggered by a failed sprinkler that was brand new
- a family who wasn't who they said they were; a solo traveler here a couple weeks & who shared her music
- BBQ's, Christmas Tree Sales, Harvest Suppers, Living Nativities, movie nights, UMM & UMW events
- Growing in Faith capital campaign which already accomplished more than I imagined: rehabilitating most sanctuary surfaces, new bathroom, AV booth, sprinkler repair, electrical upgrades and so much more
- the senior choir, hand bells, special music, PA youth choir and the summer chorale
- having all 3 children progress through Caribou schools with 2 of them graduating from CHS
- numerous scouting events, music concerts, soccer games, ski meets and other school events
- Alden's Eagle Scout project at the Aroostook National Wildlife Refuge
- pandemic-era worship in the Memorial Garden, leading worship from the parsonage dining room, preaching to an empty sanctuary and not being together on Christmas Eve and Easter
- investing in and making available an online ministry and learning how to use new-to-us technologies
- saying goodbye to so many saints of the church
- saying hello to other saints of the church along with baptisms, weddings & confirmations
- Thursday Devotions
- experiencing Aroostook County at places like Deboullie, Mars Hill, the Aroostook River, nearby lakes and ski trails, fiddleheads, the stars at night, maple syrup, moose, flora and fauna across the beautiful countryside
- 3 hour trips to Bangor and 5+ hour trips to the "deep south"
- (pre-pandemic) family outings around Maine, Vermont, nearby Canada and in the American South
- counseling at Camp Mechuwana
- receiving prayer shawls and Erika's colored pages
- an inviting, spectacular sanctuary and a beckoning clock tower
- individual moments of grace with so many of you + so much more

For all the ups and downs, joys, grace, challenges, unrealized hopes and difficult moments of the last 7 years, there are many memories that I will not only carry with me but that will inform ministry and life in all the years to come. What will you carry with you from our time together? What do you need to let go? What needs forgiving? Where has God been at work? I wish you grace, peace and the abiding love of God in Jesus through the Holy Spirit, now and always!

Grace and peace,
Rev. Tim



The Caribou Clock

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Greetings from the Church Office!

I thoroughly enjoyed the few days that I took to visit family in Massachusetts and look forward to my next vacation in July to see them all again!

It was recently announced that the Take-Out Spaghetti Supper for the Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry held on Saturday, April 23rd, raised over \$5,500! That was the best result from this fundraiser the pantry ever had, thanks to many generous sponsors and people who came by and picked up their meals. Gray Memorial's Missions & Evangelism Committee thanks everyone who helped in any way (volunteered, donated, picked up meals, etc.) for their support!

SPRC asked me to include the document called "The Point of Appointments" in this Newsletter. You can find that document on pages 8-10.

I finally produced a new Church Directory, which will be available on Sunday, May 29th. You can pick one up during the week while the Church Office is open or on Sunday mornings.

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 Thursday, June 23! If not received by that deadline, it will NOT be included in the Newsletter.*

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier
Church Secretary

Clergy Ethics

As part of the clergy covenant that all United Methodist pastors share, pastors agree to observe a set of ministerial ethics. The primary purpose of this code is so that we do not interfere in the ministry of another pastor given that each congregation and ministry only has one pastor at a time. The new (or existing) pastor deserves the opportunity to make the connections and to have the relationships with the people and community that come naturally through ministry. When a former pastor returns to conduct pastoral functions, this undercuts that process and interferes with ministry. As part of these ethics, Rev. Tim will not ever return to perform ministerial functions like baptisms, funerals, weddings and leading worship without an invitation from the current pastor. Rev. Tim will not discuss church politics or offer guidance on church decisions in any conversations that arise over the years. While these understandings do not preclude contact with a former pastor (the pastor's family is, by the way, not held to the same standard), the reality is that the early months of a new pastorate will involve meeting a lot of people and beginning new ministry that in many ways will leave little time for anything else. A lack of reply from Rev. Tim, especially in the first two years away, is not a sign of uncaring but rather a sign of energies needed where he will be serving. Plus, Gray Memorial and Rev. Tim need an emotional and spiritual break from the relationships as they have been. Unfortunately, ministerial etiquette has not always been explained over the years nor have all pastors been blameless in following these expectations. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Rev. Tim or in the future speak with Pastor Rich about these matters.

Rev. Tim

Hello Caribou!

My wife Karen and I are looking forward to getting to know you and becoming part of Bessie Gray Memorial UMC.

I must say, in my twenty-four years as a licensed local pastor; and during my prior fifteen years as a creative marketing professional; a lay-person in the pew, a certified lay speaker; a youth leader; and director of two men's gospel groups - neither of us have ever seen a more uniquely beautiful sanctuary than yours at Gray Memorial. Karen and I can't wait to hear your choir sing in such an awesome space.

Let me mention here, that a new pastor appointment is fraught with emotion. Please know that before a new pastor is appointed, our Bishop works in concert with the Holy Spirit, the Bishop's Cabinet, the District Superintendent, to create an appointment that becomes the catalyst of God's grace.

Wherever the gifts of Gray Memorial UMC intersect with the needs of the Caribou community, and where all of that intersects with my specific gifts as your new pastor – that's where we'll accomplish God's vision.

We'll have a great time worshiping Christ in safe and powerful ways, and continue to connect the hurting children of God to the Love of Jesus Christ.

Now let's pray for each church, for each pastor, and each of their families:

“The Peace of the Lord” by Babbie Mason:

May the grace of God surround you,
may His light direct your path
May His Spirit lead and guide you,
as the weeks and months go past
May your soul be blessed, and your joy be full of the love that His light brings
As you obey His call, remember most of all, You're a child of the King! Amen

God's Grace & Peace to all of you.

Pastor Richard and Karen Rego



May Prayer Joys and Concerns

Prayer Concerns: Warren Dobson, Louis & Judi Greenier, Alex Hilleman, Richard Carde, Ivan Shaw, Malcolm Hare, Tim Richards, Debbie & Lu Sharp, Ralph & Gwen Ferguson, Gary & Marilyn Langley, Audrey Bubar, Connie Collins, Leland Frost, Sylvia Akeley, Richard & Susan Clark, Gail & George Brogdon, Larry Lagasse, Brian & Tabitha Doody, Gail Johnson, Laurie Cataldo, Norma Milton, Jason Giggie, Bob Locke, Doreen & Doug Hallett

On Family Death: Family of Jeanette Hanson; Family of Gail Johnson; Family of Donna McGary

Other: Prayers for the members of the Stonington UMC (closing next month)

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!

Correspondence Received:

A Note of Thanks...

We are so grateful that Louis is doing much better after dealing with several critical health issues during the winter. One of his home-healthcare nurses commented that he seems to have "nine lives"! We know surely that it's God's healing touch and the power of prayers and cards and phone calls and visits that have brought him through. We are so grateful for our friends and Church family. Thank you to each and every one.

Louis and Judi Greenier

REMINDERS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LITURGIST</u>	<u>Organist/Pianist</u>	<u>COUNTER</u>	<u>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP</u>
Jun 5	Sue White	Margaret Cyr	Elsie Doody	Trustees
Jun 12	Alden Wilcox	Judi Greenier	Elsie Doody	Missions & Evangelism
Jun 19	Althea Wilcox	Mary Lou Brown	Diane Fitzpatrick	Church Council
Jun 26	Mary Lou Brown (change)	Mary Lou Brown	Diane Fitzpatrick	Worship Committee

Usher Coordinator for June: Bill Thomas

Staff Position Opening!

Gray Memorials' SPRC is looking to fill the Financial Secretary position as soon as possible. The position requires good mathematical skills and keyboard/software skills. It also requires someone with excellent ability to maintain complete privacy of donor information. If anyone is interested or has someone to refer, please speak with one of the SPRC members: Beth Alden, Jean Cashman, Mary Lou Brown, Conrad Walton, David Belyea or Debbie Barnes.

* * June Birthdays & Anniversaries * *

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

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



1	Wendy Bossie	18	Kathryn Fletcher, Erin McBreairty
2	Craig Staples	19	Michele Blackstone, Dale Dee
3	Melinda Thibodeau	22	Gwen Ferguson
5	Betty Branscom, Glen Warner	24	Ben Wakana
8	Stephen Bailey, Tom Richardson	25	Michelle Branscom
10	Ashleigh Craig, Corey Felix	26	Dave Belyea, Sherri DeMerchant
12	Cameron Doody, Scott Witmer	27	Amanda Mockler
15	William Skidgel	28	Audrey Bubar, Quinn DeMerchant, Carole Doody, Caleb Espling
16	Jillian Jandreau, Danielle Lombard	29	Charlene Gage, Rebecca Rife, Alden Wilcox
17	Brian Doody		



20	Diana & Dean Rauch	26	Kim & Travis Barnes
21	Diane & Bruce Fitzpatrick	27	Peggy & Stephen Bailey, Hope & Scott Walton
23	Mary & Mike Ayers	28	Carole & Steve Doody, Duska & Jeff Franklin
24	Sherri & Ray DeMerchant	29	Kristi & Vince Bell
25	Debbie & Bob Jordan		

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>In-Person Attendance</u>	<u>On-Line Attendance</u>	<u>+ Operating Fund Offering</u>
Apr 24	43	* 115	\$1,012.00
May 1	40	* 33	\$2,315.75
May 8	50	* 24	\$4,270.00
May 15	33	* 42	\$1,140.50
May 22	39	(will report next month)	\$1,680.00
May 29		(will report all data next month)	

+ Needed weekly to meet 2022 Budget: \$4,191.14

* On-line attendance shows the number of views, but doesn't capture accurate number of people if more than one person is viewing the service from one location

"Growing in Faith" Capital Campaign Account: As we continue to receive the Growing in Faith (GIF) donations, we will report the balance in the account each month. As of May 22nd, the balance in the account is \$ 110, 956.62 (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.)

Worship & Ministry Opportunities During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Worship Services will be held in the church sanctuary and will continue to be streamed live. Masking and social distancing for indoor services and meetings is advised. *Note: In-person meetings are authorized (masks are required & social distancing advised).*

Reminder from Rev. Tim -

Rev. Tim's 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.

On Rev. Tim's day off (usually Monday), on a Saturday, or in an emergency (for example, a death, hospitalization or family crisis) the best way to reach him is by first calling the parsonage, 207-492-0371. Someone is at the parsonage most of the time. For the most part, he does not often check phone or email messages on a day off or during family time.

When Rev. Tim is traveling and on most other occasions, the best way to reach him is on the cell phone, 207-551-7924. You can also call the church office at 207-498-2103. Ordinarily, his goal is to respond within 24 hours. It may take additional time to return your call when he is traveling or when a day off is involved.

If you have any questions or need more information about reaching Rev. Tim when needed, please contact him.



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 to the church's account!

If you are not comfortable bringing them yourselves, you may bring them to the church and we will take them to the Redemption Center.

Our total donations are now **\$571.75** from this "fun-raiser"! Thank you!



The Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry is in need of the following items: jelly, marshmallow fluff, soup and spaghetti. Donations may be brought to the church on Sunday or Monday - Friday 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 493-4860 between those hours and the pantry volunteers will help provide you with food boxes (available every 4 weeks or as needed).

A message to the members and friends of Gray Memorial UMC from your Transition Team:

Some of the Transition Team members have received questions about the pastor who we expect to be appointed to serve Gray Memorial effective July first. Remember that pastors are appointed annually during General Conference. Also included in this newsletter is an article called "The Point of Appointments" (see pages X – X) which provides some insight about the pastoral appointment process for the United Methodist Church, which might be helpful.

We plan to welcome Richard Rego, generally referred to as Pastor Rich, and his wife Karen just a few days ahead of July 1. He is coming from Boothbay Harbor where he has been serving a three-point charge. He was called to the ministry and has served as a local pastor in Massachusetts and Maine for about 20 years following several years in marketing and technology fields.

The SPRC did meet with him and Karen. Pastor Rich was very friendly and comfortable in conversation, answering the committee's questions and asking lots of questions about the Gray Memorial church and members. Together he and Karen attempt to be a ministerial 'team'. Among his goals he wants to have Bible study classes and become involved, both personally and as a church, with the local community. SPRC was comfortable with him and was all in agreement that Pastor Rich would be a good fit for Gray Memorial.

The Transition Team is aware that a change of pastors is a time of uncertainty, a time to wish our existing pastor grace in his change of appointment and then come to know and trust another pastor. Change is hard sometimes, but we are sure our congregation will come to know and love Pastor Rich just as we have Rev. Tim and all our pastors who preceded him.

Debbie Barnes

THE POINT OF APPOINTMENTS

For the Sake of God's Mission in the World

**Sudarshana Devadhar, Bishop
The New England Conference of
The United Methodist Church**

I. THE PURPOSE OF APPOINTMENTS

God's mission to love and save our world resulted in the most profound "missional appointment" in history. God sent Jesus Christ, not to take care of an institution, but to proclaim in his life, death and resurrection Good News for all people of the world. This remains the primary point and purpose of appointments!

In His risen power and with the promise that He would always be with us, Christ made the "missional appointment" of sending His followers to "go make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28: 18-20). This is still the primary mission of United Methodist laity and clergy, who our appointment system is meant to serve in a creative and dynamic way.

John Wesley's movement to make disciples of Jesus Christ in England and America in the eighteenth century recovered this highly effective itinerant, missional, sending strategy for the sake of the Gospel. He went out and sent out (appointed) others to all kinds of places where there were people who needed to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. As he moved around, he claimed, as we still do, "the world as our parish."

So the missional appointment system focuses primarily on sending out pastors to team up with congregations for the purpose of reaching out to the people in the "world" of that community with the Good News of Jesus Christ that invites them into discipleship.

This can be a joyful and fulfilling adventure of faith for the clergy who have chosen to be a part of the United Methodist itinerant, sending system, having vowed to "offer themselves without reserve to be appointed," and also for the congregation who, as the continuing witnesses for Christ in their community, benefit from the variety of gifts that a variety of pastors, over time, bring for strengthening that congregation for their mission of making disciples in that part of God's world.

II. THE PRINCIPLES OF APPOINTMENT

Along with the purpose of mission described above, the following major principles undergird the appointment making process:

1. **PRAYER:** This is God's process, not ours! Therefore, the whole process is filled with prayer through which we seek God's will together. Whatever part you play in this process, you are asked to be in prayer concerning the appointment.
2. **CONSULTATION:** Through prayer all of us stay in touch with God in this process. Through consultation the Cabinet stays in touch with the congregation (via the Pastor Parish Relations Committee) and the pastor. While our primary focus is on the mission of Christ in your community, there is also significant sensitivity to the unique needs of the church, the pastor and his or her family. All contacts throughout the year, including your reports, profiles and meetings with your District Superintendent contribute to this sensitivity and knowledge. There is also a more intensive consultation process involving the District Superintendent, the Pastor Parish Committee and the Pastor during a change of appointment.

3. **OPEN ITINERACY:** The focus is always on appointing the best possible pastor for the particular missional needs of the community and church. Therefore, guided by God's will, appointments are made without regard to race, ethnic origin, gender, color, marital status or age (except for mandatory retirement). Special resourcing concerning cross racial/cross cultural appointments will be provided to pastors and congregations by the Conference and Cabinet.
4. **THE LENGTH OF APPOINTMENTS:** In general, we continue to work toward longer tenures in appointments. However, it is possible that any pastor or any church, for missional reasons, may have a change in appointment in any given year. While salary or seniority levels are taken into consideration, they are not the determinative factors in making appointments.
5. **THE NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE STRATEGIC PLAN** adopted in 2017 is built on our vision that "transformed by the Holy Spirit, we will become united in trust as we boldly proclaim Christ to the world." Our mission is "Our mission as the New England Conference is to equip, connect, and support local, regional and global ministries to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." All appointments place major emphasis on the commitments and effectiveness of pastor and congregation as they team together in living out this vision and mission.
6. **THE DISCIPLINE OF 2016:** All appointments are made according to provisions of the Discipline of 2016. The United Methodist Church places pastors through an appointive, "sending" system, not a "call" system. The District Superintendents are an extension of the Bishop's superintending role, and, with the Bishop, compose the Cabinet. The Bishop, after prayer and consultation, makes all appointments for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ in our world.

III. THE PROCESS OF APPOINTMENT

A short definition of this appointment process is: "Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and in consultation with the pastor and congregation, to send the person who can do it, where it needs done." The definition of "it" is Christ's mission in that particular community.

1. Cabinet discusses and lists the missional needs of communities in our conference and missionally strategic appointments.
2. A change in appointment may be requested by a pastor (including a request to retire or move to or from extension ministry) and/or a Pastor Parish Relations Committee. Such a request is part of the consultation process but does not guarantee a move. A change may also be initiated by the Bishop and Cabinet without the request of either a pastor or congregation.
3. When a new appointment is being considered for a church, the missional needs of its community and the profile of the congregation are presented to the Bishop and Cabinet by the District Superintendent of that church. That presentation is based upon her or his experience and consultation (see Principles 2) with that church.
4. The Bishop and the Cabinet then enter into a time of prayer seeking God's guidance for the names of pastors who could bring gifts to the missional needs of that community and church.
5. After prayer, those names are offered and listed, and consideration is given to each pastor's profile and gifts for the mission that is needed. A consensus is sought in this process.
6. Following the discussion with the District Superintendents, the Bishop makes the final decision. Prayer is then offered for the mission of Christ in that community, the church, the pastor, and God's presence in the rest of the process.

- 7. A District Superintendent will contact the pastor to be appointed and share with her or him information about the community and church and the missional reasons we believe this appointment is God’s will.
- 8. The pastor will be given a reasonable amount of time to pray and reflect on the appointment. Pastors are expected to keep this matter confidential outside of one or two confidants. If a pastor wishes to ask the Bishop and Cabinet to reconsider the appointment, she or he will do so in writing with a primary focus on the missional reasons. Other reasons such as family and personal concerns may also be shared for the requested reconsideration. The Bishop and Cabinet will receive the request for reconsideration and in prayer make the final decision as to whether or not the pastor will be appointed to that appointment.
- 9. The District Superintendent will then convene the Pastor Parish Relations Committee of the receiving church to introduce the pastor and provide information about the pastor and the missional reasons we believe this appointment is God’s will. The Pastor Parish Relations Committee will have the opportunity for discussion and questions with the pastor. If the committee or pastor wishes to ask the Bishop and Cabinet to reconsider the appointment with a primary focus on the missional reasons, they must do so before the close of that meeting. This entire process is to be kept in confidence.
- 10. If there is a request for reconsideration at the above meeting, the request must be received by the District Superintendent in writing within 24 hours. The Bishop and Cabinet will receive any request from the Pastor Parish Relations Committee for reconsideration, and in prayer make the final decision as to whether or not the pastor will be appointed.
- 11. When the appointment is moving forward, the District Superintendent will convene the pastor’s present Pastor Parish Relations Committee so that the pastor may share that he or she is being reappointed. At that same meeting the District Superintendent will review the church’s profile with the Pastor Parish Relations Committee as the first step in preparing to appoint a new pastor to that church. The steps beginning at number 3 will then follow for that now “open” church.
- 12. The District Superintendent will indicate to the church receiving the new appointment the date on which the public announcement will be made. Within a few days of the announcement a letter will be sent to the congregation by the Pastor Parish Relations Committee introducing the new pastor.
- 13. At the Annual Conference session, the appointment will be read and celebrated in a service of commitment to our shared mission in Jesus Christ. The newly appointed pastor and a representative of the congregation will be invited to receive from the Bishop the “missional epistle” which describes the reasons this appointment has been made for the sake of God’s mission in the world!

Thank you for your prayerful and faithful participation with God and your Bishop and Cabinet in the appointment making process.

If you have any questions, please contact your District Superintendent. If you do not know who he or she is, you may call the New England Conference Center at 978-682-7555 for that information.

“BEST OF ALL, GOD IS WITH US.”
JOHN WESLEY



INVITATION TO ATTEND A CELEBRATION EVENT FOR THE WILCOX FAMILY!

Dear Gray Memorial Members and Friends,

The Gray Memorial UMC Transition Team invites you to join us on Sunday, June 12th, to recognize Rev. Tim Wilcox and his family for their 7 year ministry in Caribou and wish them a fond farewell as they leave us to minister at the Moultonborough NH UMC. This celebration is from 1:00-3:00pm and includes light refreshments outside in our church’s parking lot (weather permitting) and time to share our memories and best wishes. We recommend casual attire.

Please let us know by Monday, June 6th if you are able to join us so that we may plan to accommodate everyone. If you would like to share a memory of your time with Rev. Tim or a member of his family, please let us know. You may call the church office at 498-2103 from 9am to noon Monday – Friday, or leave a message if no one is available when you call.

We look forward to you celebrating Rev. Tim’s ministry with us!

God’s grace and peace be with you!

Bobbi Pelletier
Member of Transition Team Sub-Committee # 4: Celebrations



Juneteenth is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African-Americans. It is also often observed for celebrating African-American culture. Originating in Galveston, Texas, it has been celebrated annually on June 19 in various parts of the United States since 1865.

Special Kodak Moments during Worship Services! (photos provided by Melonie Carlson)

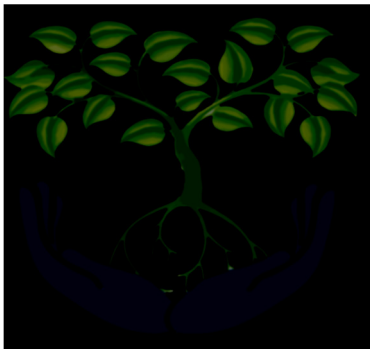


May 8 - Bobbi Pelletier (above left) shared a thank you message from Diane Fitzpatrick about the church's support of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, which is celebrating its 18th year! She also shared a couple of personal events related to her partnership with Cary Medical Center and the baby blanket/hat sets she makes and gives to the nursery. Then Rev. Tim blessed all the shawls and baby blanket/hat sets as members of the ministry came forward. Members shown in the second and third pictures along with Rev. Tim are Diane Fitzpatrick, Bobbi Pelletier, Brenda Curtis, Debbie Nichols and Ruthann Weeks.

Other Special Kodak Moments



Judson Drake (along with Erika Carlson and Gwen Barnum) was honored at a surprise birthday celebration after Worship on Sunday, May 8th! (photo by Melonie Carlson)



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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Church Council Minutes - May 19, 2022

ATTENDEES: Kathleen Forbes (Chair), Clarisse Hodgkins, Rev. Tim Wilcox, Judson Drake, Bobbi Pelletier, Debbie Barnes, Melonie Carlson, and Neal Genz

Kathleen Forbes brought the meeting to order at 6:30 PM using Zoom and asked Rev. Tim to start with a brief prayer. Then Kathleen requested to hear from Committee chairs starting with Melonie Carlson.

MISSIONS & EVANGELISM:

Melonie reports that her committee has organized a hot dog cookout at Beth and Roy Alden's lake home for members of the Pen Pal Project. She expects at least 27 students and church members to attend on Thursday, May 26th at 11 AM.

TRUSTEES: Judson reported that Trustees will be meeting next week. Proceeds from the recent Pulled-pork BBQ will go towards the Operating Budget. He also shared that some outside painting work on the church has had to be suspended due to weather. The Sound Booth for streaming the services is up and running. Judson says the Trustees plan to change over to heat pumps to save on fuel bills. He has been getting cost estimates from several dealers.

CHURCH OFFICE: Bobbi reported that she has been working on the new Church Directory and it should be out within two weeks. She must be sure of addresses and e-mails and other details that are included or associated with our membership rolls. This was a very labor-intensive project.

SPRC: Debbie Barnes stated that the SPRC has a brief meeting on Thursday, May 12th and discussed one really important issue and that is the vacancies, particularly the Child Care and Financial Secretary positions. She also told everyone that the Transition Team met for the first time on Wednesday, May 11th at 6:30pm through Zoom. The team created four sub-committees to focus on different aspects of the transition: Team #1 – Departing Family; Team #2 – Welcome New Pastor; Team #3 – Parsonage

Preparation; Team #4 – Celebrations for Both Departing and New Families. Each team scheduled their first meetings (Team #1 – May 18th at 6:30pm using Zoom; Team #2 – May 17th at 6:30pm using Zoom; Teams # 3 & 4 – Sunday, May 22nd in-person after Worship Service). The entire Transition Team will meet again on Wednesday, May 25th to bring forward results and plans discussed at their various sub-committee's meetings.

UMM & USHERS: Neal Genz announced that the UMM will meet at Collins Pond Park on Saturday, May 28th for special get-together before the summer break. He also reported that vacancies for ushers will have to be addressed (he will provide Bobbi with some information for the next monthly Newsletter).

PASTOR'S TIME: Rev. Tim reported (while he was at Rolling Ridge Conference Center):

1) The Disciple Genesis Book Study Bible class will have one more session on June 1st to conclude the class. He wished to thank Richard Clark, Mary Ouellette, and Debbie Nichols for leading the sessions which he could not attend. He also wishes to send his sincere thanks for Richard and Kathleen for preaching on the Sundays he was on vacation.

2) We have a special Church Conference on Sunday, May 22nd to vote on the Nominations for 2022-2023 year. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Jackie Brannen, will preside over that part of the Worship Service. There is one remaining slot to fill.

3) The Aroostook Cluster had their final meeting of this program year earlier this month. All were grateful to Alaina Pethick for the wonderful work she did putting the special videos together for the Maundy Thursday Service during Holy Week. They plan to send her a card and gift to express their appreciation. There is a Cluster picnic planned for June. He said that he's been serving as the chair for the Cluster, which always was a lay person. However, since that is not the case right now, Victor Han will assume role of chair for the upcoming season. Pastor Choi from Grant Memorial will provide pastoral oversight for Mars Hill UMC as Sue Brown is retiring in June.

4) Regarding his move, he does not have an official moving date as the movers are experiencing some labor shortages. Therefore, he cannot determine when his final Sunday will be yet. He thinks it will be either June 12th or June 19th.

5) SPRC encouraged him to scale back on his plans to visit congregation members over the next several weeks as he's busy getting ready to move. They advised him to focus on people who can't come to worship.

6) He will be attending the Annual Conference on-line this year.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Bobbi Pelletier pointed out that Alaina and Will need back up for times they are unavailable. Will Barnum plans to train Roy. Bobbi asked if Gail Hagelstein has been approached about this, as she is a member of the Technology Team. Rev. Tim did explain that anyone filling in for Will and Alaina don't have to do as much as they (Will & Alaina) do each Sunday. They have some instructions to help someone learn what needs to be done. The Council wants to reach out to see if Gail Hagelstein might be interested in doing the live stream if needed.

Bobbi asked that everyone take a look at the email she sent out with the March Finance/Stewardship reports telling everyone that expenses have exceeded our operating budget donations each month. The surplus we had in operating funds at the beginning of the year have been depleted and the April reports show that all the money we'd placed into Special Funds for Church Use to hopefully pay Missions Shares was returned to the income just to pay the bills in April. Therefore, we have not paid any Mission Shares yet this year and no money has been put aside to do that yet this year.

Rev. Tim reported that Mary Ouellette has agreed to join the Memorials Committee to assist Mary Lou Brown with the finance piece of the committee's responsibilities. Her only stipulation being that all donations received be deposited directly into the Memorial's checking account so she would not have to handle the money herself. It was pointed out that the Memorials funds would require a separate deposit slip for the bank. The Financial Secretary (or whoever does this work until position is filled) will need to have deposit slips and know to make a separate deposits for Memorial donations. Bobbi has been holding all the Memorial donations since Diane McDonough passed away funds in various lines in her Special Funds for Church Use category as separate line entries until another person can take that responsibility over. Bobbi will work with Mary Ouellette to go through all the records that were retrieved from Diane's home and help her resume maintaining this records on behalf of the Memorials Committee.

The issue of how to bring the deposits to the bank and retrieve the deposit slips was discussed. Debbie said that the operating budget donations are not large, so they can easily use a regular bank bag or envelope. The keys to the church's lock bag and

bank's lock box have been missing for a long time. If we tried to return that bag without the keys, they would charge us. Bobbi said she'd check for the keys. (*Update – Bobbi did look and could not find them....yet!*) Bobbi said that Tamara usually picks up the deposit ticket and leaves it in the church office each week, so what will happen now? Debbie said the bank could mail us the slip, but she knows there are quite a few people authorized to pick up the church's deposit slips (this list should probably be updated). Bobbi is willing to pick up the deposit slips each week (*until a new Financial Secretary is hired*) as she normally goes to the bank for other business quite regularly.

Rev. Tim noted that in the Nominations document that will be presented on May 22nd indicates that because they were not able to find a person willing to fill the Finance/Stewardship Chair position, the responsibility will be folded into the Church Council. Bobbi said that most of the duties performed by the F/S Chair are currently being done by either she or the Financial Secretary. However, the bigger piece not being done right now is the Stewardship piece. Melonie stated that she felt that the Stewardship piece should be a year-long project, pointing out how often Rev. Tim has been incorporating it into his weekly sermons. She also did monthly articles regarding Stewardship, but that has not happened for quite some time. Melonie told everyone that has ordered the offering envelopes for the coming year and was able to get a discount for early ordering.

The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 16th at 6:30pm. Unsure at this point whether the meeting will be in-person or through Zoom.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.
Respectfully submitted by Clarisse Hodgkins, Secretary.

OTHER REPORTS RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:

CLUSTER:

The meeting came to order at 9:11 am with the following in attendance via Zoom. Tim Wilcox, Chris Dare, Mary Miller, HyungYong Choi, Victor Han, Cheryl Stratton, Paula Lilley and Sue Brown.

Choi shared devotions from Genesis 12 where God told Abraham to go...but without specific directions of where to go and how he would "make a great nation." God wanted Abraham and us to trust and stand on God's promises even when we do not see the future ahead of us. God always kept God's promises to Abraham and to us. Choi closed devotions with prayer.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the April 7th meeting were presented. Motion to approve by Paula and seconded by Victor. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Received for UMCOR (Ukraine) from the Cluster Maundy Thursday service so far \$3,135.66. Paula will send a check from our Cluster once all offerings have been received. Limestone sent \$1,300 separately to UMCOR. Grant Memorial sent \$6,500 directly to the Conference as well. There is a little more from Mars Hill and then Paula will send the check. The checkbook balance not including the UMCOR offering is \$223.05. Motion to approve the report by Sue and seconded by Cheryl. Motion carried unanimously. Thank you, Paula!

Checking In

We took a few moments to check in on one another regarding our churches as well as personal and emotional health.

Cluster Maundy Thursday Service

Many thanks to Mary, Alaina, and all clergy and laity who participated in the virtual Maundy Thursday Service. The feedback from many folks in our churches was positive – folks felt it was meaningful and appreciated. Cheryl made a motion to provide a thank you and a \$100 prepaid debit card to Alaina for her service to the Cluster. Paula seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Cluster members are invited to send gifts to the Aroostook Cluster to help defray this if they feel moved to do so. (Paula Lilley, 227 Smyrna Center Road, Smyrna, ME 04780)

Cluster Mission Project – St. Apollonia Festival of Trees

Cheryl noted that this will likely continue this year and we will move on this as soon as we have additional information.

Cluster Council Gathering

We are all set for Cluster members and families to meet at Mantle Lake Park on June 4th at 12:00 noon. We have a reservation at Mantle Lake Park (11:00am – 2:00pm) – thank you Choi! Families are invited. Potluck picnic (or bring your own if you have special dietary restrictions). Bring your own beverages please. Choi will bring paper plates, forks, etc.

Cluster Confirmation Class

Tabled until the next school year.

Pulpit Exchange

Tabled until fall.

New Business

Cluster Council Leadership for 2022-2023

Victor agreed to serve as chair for the ensuing year. Paula will continue as Treasurer and Sue will continue as Secretary. Our deepest gratitude to Tim for his leadership as he transitions to his new appointment in Moultonborough, New Hampshire.

Joys and concerns

We shared joys and concerns – prayer was led by Tim.

We all offered our love and appreciation to Tim for his time with us and his many gifts. Tim...you will be deeply missed.

Next meeting: Thursday, September 1st at 9:00 am. Victor will send a Zoom link for the meeting.

Devotions for next meeting: Sue

FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP:

Financial Secretary's Report:

The regular offerings for April amounted to \$10,408.00 with an additional \$180.00 for Easter bringing the subtotal to \$10,588.00. Reimbursements included \$732.00 for Property Taxes, \$50 for Office, and \$315.31 for Maintenance. Special Funds for Church Use included \$15.00 for Benevolence, \$2,132.00 for Growing the Faith, \$21 from the bottle redemption project and \$343.50 for Caribou Ministerial Assoc (Holy Week). The total deposits for April were \$14,196.81.

Treasurer's Report (for Operating Budget Funds):

Beginning Balance	867.75	
2022 Operating Income	10,588.00	
Fun-Raiser Proceeds	21.00	(Bottle Redemption)
Return of 2022 MS	7,545.75	
Interest	1.55	
Less EFT fee	(32.35)	VANCO fees (EFT deposits)
Less Expenses	(12,846.15)	
Ending Balance	6,145.55	

* \$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 April 29, 2022, on-line report shows ending value = \$26,605.38.

The previous balance of the Capital Account Seed Money was \$107,303.09. Deposits in April came to \$2,136.53 bringing the current balance to \$109,439.62.

Treasurer's Expense Report:

Programs:

Worship spent \$83.26; Office spent \$24.10; Missions & Evangelism spent \$50.00. The Programs subtotal came to \$157.36.

Trustees:

Church Utilities were \$1,426.85; Parsonage Utilities were \$700.54; Telephone/Internet/ Cell phone were \$382.42; Property Insurance was \$279.01; Maintenance/Cleaning was \$180.00; Technology spent \$14.99. The subtotal for Trustee expenses came to \$2,983.81.

Staff Parish:

Pastor's Salary was \$4,250.00; Social Security was \$250.00; Health Insurance was \$1,577.00 for a total Pastor's Compensation of \$6,077.00.

Other SPRC Salaries:

Financial Secretary was paid \$133.33; Treasurer was paid \$133.33; Church Secretary was paid \$666.67; The Custodian was paid \$1,401.67. The subtotal for other salaries was \$2,335.00.

Other SPRC Expenses:

Guest & Subst. Staff was \$200.00; Pastor Continuing Education was \$13.50; FICA was \$178.62; Workman's Comp was \$89.31 for a sub total of \$481.52. The total SPRC expenses for April came to \$8,893.52.

Payment to the New England Conference for the Pastor's Pension Benefit added another \$811.46. The grand total expenses for April came to \$ 12,846.15.

THE APRIL 2022 YTD REVIEW:

Target = \$72,646.50; Income = \$41,565.22; Expenses = \$56,441.83 Unpaid Mission Shares = \$10,061.00. The Aggregate of in-person and virtual attendance for April was 110. The YTD was 71.

Balances in Dead River Accounts as of April 20: Church = (\$580.90); Parsonage = (\$788.79). No payment due in May 2022

WORSHIP COMMITTEE:

Members present: Bobbi Pelletier (chair), Gwen Ellinwood, Claire Hodgkins, Neal Genz, Richard Clark, Diane Fitzpatrick, Rev. Tim Wilcox

The meeting was opened at 9:31 a.m. by chair, Bobbi Pelletier.

Devotions were offered by Gwen, a moving reading called "The Preacher". It illustrated that sometimes the best sermons are the ones left unspoken.

Minutes from the April meeting were approved.

Old Business:

- Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter services went well. Offerings that were received will be divided between the three churches that provided refreshments each day. We will realize \$176.00, or \$234.00 if Holy Rosary does not wish to be reimbursed. The money will be put in the coffee fellowship fund.
- The Devotionals for Women for Mother's Day have arrived. Gwen offered to pass them out to all women following the service.
- UMM will begin coffee fellowship on May 15. Our committee will provide coffee fellowship every fourth Sunday beginning on May 22. Diane and Claire will provide refreshments on May 22.
- June 5 will be graduation Sunday. Alden Wilcox will be our only graduate. Bobbi will check with Beth about providing a framed picture of the church to present to him. The trustees have the scholarship application to review.
- On June 12, the SPRC will host a reception for the Wilcox family from 1:00 – 3:00 in the fellowship hall. Our committee will give them a framed Holub print of our church.

- June 19 will be Father's Day and Rev. Tim's last Sunday with us. Bobbi and Diane will pass out devotionals to the men following the service.
- On June 26, a lay speaker will lead the worship service.
- On July 3, Pastor Rich will preside over the Communion section of the service. Bobbi has suggested to the SPRC that Kathleen Forbes lead the service and also involve Mary Lou Brown in the service. Name tags that were previously used have been cleaned up and Bobbi will prepare some for new people. We will be encouraged to wear them beginning on July 3. Prayer shawls will be presented to Pastor Rich and his wife, Karen, during the service.

New Business:

- May 27 is Heritage Sunday. There are no new fifty- year members to recognize this year, but we will have several the next year.
- There has been a question about holding outside worship services this summer. Bobbi will talk with Pastor Rich about this and will suggest holding only a few outside, with the majority of services being held in the sanctuary.
- Organ and piano schedules for Margaret, Mary Lou, and Judi have been set through the month of July.
- We need to find someone to assume responsibility for organizing communion stewards for the near future. Due to the present uptick in Covid, we will continue using the prepackaged communion elements until June.
- The Pennsylvania Youth Choir is returning to present a concert here on June 20 at 7:00 p.m. They will be staying in a hotel instead of with church families this year and would like to have a supper meal provided for them prior to the concert on the 20th. They have also requested bag lunches for all participants for Tuesday. Bobbi, Claire, Gwen, and Diane volunteered to work on plans for the meal and lunches. We don't know at this time if a free will offering will be taken.

Rev. Tim had the following suggestions:

- Invite Pastor Rich to join us remotely for our June Worship Committee meeting. This was also suggested by the Transition Team.
- Think about how we put people's names on the prayer list each Sunday. Rev. Tim voiced a concern about confidentiality when these people's names are going virtual. Claire suggested blanking that part of the service out. Neal pointed out that others who watch the service virtually need to hear the names of folks who are in need of prayer. No decision was made at this time.
- We should be training others to run the technology used to live stream our services in the event that Will and Alaina are not available. Friedrich and Alden have been filling in thus far, but will not be available come June.
- We should share bulletins, newsletters, etc. with Pastor Rich in order to make a smooth transition for him. Bobbi reported that she has been sharing them with him.

Next Meeting is Friday, June 3rd at 9:30am in the fellowship hall.
Neal volunteered to offer devotions.

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JUNE 2022!!!

COMMITTEES/GROUPS MAY MEET IN PERSON IF THEY CHOOSE TO. MASKING IS REQUIRED AND SOCIAL DISTANCING IS RECOMMENDED.

ALL SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES ARE IN-PERSON AND STREAMED LIVE ON YOUTUBE

Wednesday	01	9:30am	Disciple Book Study - Genesis (Session 10 - Final Session)
Friday	03	9:30am	Worship Committee Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Sunday	05	10:00am	Worship - Pentecost
Tuesday	07	11:00am	Extension Group Meeting & Lunch (Betty Branscom)
		2:30pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting in Library
Thursday	09	6:30pm	SPRC Meeting

Sunday	12	10:00am	Worship - Trinity Sunday; Peace with Justice Sunday (special offering)
		11:30am	Missions & Evangelism Committee Meeting in Library
		1-3pm	Farewell Reception for Rev. Tim Wilcox and Family
Thursday	16	6:30pm	Church Council Meeting I

Sunday	19	10:00am	Worship - Second Sunday after Pentecost; Father's Day; Juneteenth
Monday	20	7:00pm	Grove Youth Choir from West Chester PA "God is Our Rock" Concert
Tuesday	21		<u>FIRST DAY OF SUMMER</u>
		6:30pm	Trustee Meeting
Thursday	23	10:00am	<u>DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWSLETTER INPUT; <i>Items received after this deadline will NOT be included in the Newsletter</i></u>
Saturday	25	8:00am	UMM Breakfast & Meeting

Sunday	26	10:00am	Worship - Third Sunday after Pentecost; Preaching: Kathleen Forbes
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