

FROM WHERE I SIT



There is a warmness in the air. The sun (whenever it decides to shine) is brighter and warmer than it has been. Flowers are poking up out of the ground, and remnant piles of blackened snow (once over 100 feet high) have pretty much melted away. Spring has certainly arrived! Our dog Thurston and I have just begun to take our usual places on the parsonage porch, watching our part of the world go by. From where I sit, I cannot help but ask: *“Have any of these hurting folks been transformed by Easter Sunday?”* It seems for many in the world, that the rock on Christ’s tomb was never rolled away for them. How about you?

Every year at this time, I ponder on what the truth of the Resurrection means to my life. This year, I’m compelled to ponder how those in my congregation, and in my community cope with the

disparity between God’s Resurrection Power and our world in turmoil. With the personal challenges we face every day, it’s easy to dwell on what it is we want out of life. We forget to leave room for God. If we strive to listen to God’s Holy Spirit, it will move us to being more concerned, for what it is **God wants** for our life.

Are you building up more treasures for yourself than you are building people?

I want to bring your attention to an interesting dynamic from John 12:

“Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³ Then Mary took about a pint^[a] of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.”

“⁴ But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵ “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.^[b]” ⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. ⁷ “Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. ⁸ You will always have the poor among you,^[c] but you will not always have me.”

This story recounts the time Jesus and his Disciples visited the home of Mary and Martha. Martha was so busy attending to the guests, that she was fuming. She believed Mary, who was listening intently to Jesus, should stop what she was doing and help her out.

So adamant was Martha. She was so blinded and focused on what she believed was right, she asked Jesus to admonish Mary. “Tell her to stop what she’s doing and help me.” Martha’s **perspective** was skewed. She didn’t even think of the value of listening to the Lord while she had the chance.

You already know the hazards of being too focused on what it is YOU want to do. You really don’t listen to God, but do your own thing. When we become so focused on ourselves and on what we need, we often forget to consider the things of God. It can be about accumulating wealth or wanting to be in control.

Remember, a life without God may help build up treasures on earth, but it does not build up treasure in heaven - That is where our true home is.

God bless you
Pastor Rich



The Caribou Clock

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

E-mail: bessiegraymemorial@outlook.com (Note: new email address!!!)

Date: May 2023

Church Office: (207) 498-2103

Website: <http://www.bqmumc.com>

Greetings from the Church Office!

Just wanted to share with you the results of the Caribou Ecumenical Spaghetti Supper that was held on Saturday, April 15th. Due to our very generous sponsors and those who did come to get a take-out dinner, we raised over \$5,000! The pantry board thanks all who came to help us with the supper and everyone who came by to support it! The proceeds will help us continue giving food to those in our local area who need help providing meals for their families! God bless you!

I truly enjoyed the few days I spent with my family in Massachusetts recently! Getting to see everyone, especially my newest great-granddaughter Cierra, was a much needed short break from all the various activities in recent months.

I apologize for the recent dilemma about the church's email account being hacked. I have reached out to the Microsoft Company MANY times and it has been a very frustrating experience. Thus the creation of our new email account - at least for the time being! This is the reason why this Newsletter is so late!!!!

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 Wednesday, May 24th!*

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier
Church Secretary



April Prayer Requests

Prayer Concerns: Jason Giggie, Jeff Giggie, James Stuart, Norman Davin, Kathy Pelletier, Don Sellars, Ralph & Gwen Ferguson, Richard & Sally Carde, Warren Dobson, Ivan Shaw, Amy Wischmann, Connie Foster, Susie Hanscomb, Amelia Baker, Debbie & Lu Sharp, Gary & Marilyn Langley, Sylvia Akeley, Leland Frost, Gwen Ellinwood, Ken Peters, Mary Lou Brown, Claire Hodgkins, Audrey Bubar, George Knorr, Rob Wright, Masha Ben Tephherith, Sue White, Paul Dobson, Chuck Brown, Dave DeMerchant, Pastor Rich & Karen Rego, Peter & Marjie Edgecomb, Colleen & Jim Murphy, Dana & Linda Cyr, Judi Greenier & family, Mari-Jo Hedman, Judson Drake

Family Deaths: Family of Louis Greenier; Family of Daniel "Danny" Raymond; Family of Robert "Bob" White; Family of Norman Davin; Family of Margaret Fayle; Family of Warren Dobson (passed away Saturday, April 15th); Family of George Peters, Jr.

Other: Caribou Fire Department (loss of Danny Raymond)

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 PASTOR RICH. WE OFTEN HEAR FROM RECIPIENTS ON HOW TOUCHED THEY ARE THAT WE OFFERED PRAYERS FOR THEM!

Notice: "There will be a funeral interment service for Eugenia Pelletier Gardner, sister of Judi Greenier and Betty Branscom at 1pm, Wednesday, May 24 at Evergreen Cemetery in Caribou. All are invited."

REMINDERS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LITURGIST</u>	<u>Organist/Pianist</u>	<u>COUNTER</u>	<u>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP</u>
May 7	Del Ramey	Margaret Cyr	Diane Fitzpatrick	Prayer Shawl Ministry
May 14	Dean Rauch	Margaret Cyr	Mary Ouellette	UMW & Education
May 21	Sue White	Margaret Cyr	Mary Ouellette	UMM
May 28	Mary Lou Brown	TBD/Hymnal CDs	Mary Ouellette	Worship Committee

Usher Coordinator for May: Roy Alden

Communion Stewardess: Beth Alden

Communion Bread: Dave Belyea

Changes to the May 2022 Church Directory (please update your copy!):

Dobson, Warren: deceased (April 15, 2023)

Greenier, Louis: deceased (March 19, 2023)

Kieffer, Robert: change email address to RobKieffer207@gmail.com

* * May Birthdays & Anniversaries * *

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

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



2	Jeannette Belyea, Donald DeMerchant	17	Vincent Bell, Lu Sharp, Denise Witmer
4	Mariah Mockler, Locke Wakana	18	RJ Nichols
5	Erika Carlson, Beth Greenier	19	Sonia Calloway, Annette Staples, Mari Witmer
6	Joe Botterill	20	Ashley Bell, Josselyn Forbes, Meagan Irving
7	Richard Rego, Matthew Smith	21	Debbie Nichols, Glen Warner
8	Judson Drake	22	Gary Doody
9	Peggy Nichols, Michele Sterner	23	Jacob Walton, Justin Walton
10	Kyle Alden	24	Kiele Rife
11	Gerald Drake	26	John Branscom
13	Ralph Ferguson	28	Richard Clark, Edie Shea
14	Gwen Barnum	29	Mary Lou Brown, Douglas Lombard, Althea Wilcox
16	Linda Pangburn	31	Bonnie Topping



10	Katie & Josh Cyr	24	Gail & Bruce Hagelstein
15	Rebecca & Jason Rife	27	Katie & Whitney Smith, Annette & Craig Staples
20	Mary & Ed Ouellette		

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

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


 Finance &
 Stewardship
 Committee

Worship Attendance and General Fund Offerings:

<u>Date</u>	<u>In-Person Attendance</u>	<u>*On-Line Attendance</u>	<u>+ Operating Fund Offering</u>
Apr 2	51	2	\$6,176.00
Apr 9	49	5	\$4,439.00
Apr 16	49	3	\$4,108.00
Apr 23	43	2	\$2,509.75
Apr 30	48	(will report next month)	\$1,860.00

+ Needed weekly to meet 2023 Budget: \$3,958.69

* On-line attendance shows the number of views (watched entire service), 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: The Capital Campaign officially ended December 31, 2022. Any donations marked for this Capital Campaign will automatically be recorded as donations to the Operating Budget. Balance at EOM March was \$76,839.31 (\$3.32 interest received). Payment in April of \$1,597.34 for new kitchen stove hood and received \$3.16 in interest. Balance now is \$75,245.13 (of that amount, the "furnace replacement donation funds" that remain are \$5,424.27.)

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 is no longer mandatory. *In-person meetings are authorized.*





The Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry is in need of the following items: elbow macaroni, jelly and marshmallow fluff. Donations may be brought to the church on Sunday and placed in the marked box in the Narthex
 OR Monday/Wednesday/Friday mornings from 9am to 2pm.
 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).

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, you may bring them to the church and we will take them to the Redemption Center. *In late March, we received \$21.70 and in April, we received \$35.75! So now, our proceeds from this fun-raiser total \$851.80!*



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 Shirley Bowman (493-1039), 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 Shirley Bowman.

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 Shirley Bowman for more information on giving options.

Here are the links for our May Sunday Worship Services:

- May 7 – <https://youtube.com/live/OnGCe7IazzE>
- May 14 – <https://youtube.com/live/RpeVKeSZsz8>
- May 21 - <https://youtube.com/live/MJr6qTpspGs>
- May 28 – <https://youtube.com/live/EamjLWYX8yU>

The Caribou Assembly of God Church offers "Friday Nite Meals" and they recently expanded this outreach program to offer hot meals to more households in the area. In order to receive these meals, you must call on Monday of every week if you want a meal for that Friday. Please call Diane at 207-496-0373. You may also pick-up you own meal(s) or eat-in. Deliveries are made to Rose Acre residents or those in town (Caribou).



The Worship Committee has suspended their school-year project to provide school supplies (pencils, pens, paper, etc.), clothing (socks, underwear, coats, etc.) and hygiene items (shampoo, soap, toothpaste, etc.) to local school children for this school year.

We will resume the project in September when the new school year begins.

Please consider helping our local school children with these much needed items.



The 2023 Scholarship Information and Application package is available from the church office. Please contact Bobbi at 498-2103 to obtain either a hardcopy package or one through email. Deadline for applications is Monday, May 15th!



Our March Church Council Meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. Our April Church Council Meeting was held on Thursday, April 20th and a special Church Council Meeting was held on Thursday, April 27th. Minutes of both of these meeting, along with other reports from Committees are as follows:

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

4-20-23

ATTENDEES: Kathleen Forbes (Chair), Claire Hodgkins, Debbie Barnes, Shirley Bowman, Neal Genz, Melonie Carlson, and Bobbi Pelletier

Kathleen Forbes called the meeting to order in the Church Library at 6:30 PM and reported that Pastor Rich was unable to attend. She said a brief prayer, then called for the financial report. Shirley Bowman reported on the figures below as follows:

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP:

The following is the total church offering for March:

Regular EOM Offering	\$10,071.00
Loose Offering	52.00
<u>Subtotal Regular Offering</u>	<u>10,123.00</u>
Total Regular Offering	\$10,123.00

Special Offering for Church Use

Emmett Ross	\$25.00
Bob White	100.00
Coffee Fellowship	36.00
Prayer Shawl	20.00
<u>Spring Fling</u>	<u>205.00</u>
Sub Total Special Funds for Church use	\$386.00

<u>Special Funds Not for church Use</u>	<u>150.00</u>
Total EOM for March	\$10, 659.00

Bobbi Pelletier then went over the checkbook figures as presented below:

Beginning Balance	<u>16,221.32</u>	
2023 Operating Income	<u>10,123.00</u>	
Interest	<u>1.85</u>	
Less EFT fee	<u>(34.15)</u>	VANCO fees (EFT deposits)
Less Expenses	<u>(14,277.72)</u>	
Ending Balance	<u>12,034.30</u>	

* \$25,000.00 invested with Thompson/Hamel LLC for Memorial Garden on June 29, 2017. Investment cost was \$1,073.78; withdrew \$3,000 in March 2021; as of April 6, 2023, on-line report shows ending value = \$26,608.84.
 The Capital Account Seed Money is as follows as of March 31st.
 Previous Balance - \$77,045.99; Deposits- \$3.32; Spent- \$210.00; Current Balance- \$76,839.91.

Expenditures for March 2023

Programs	
Education	\$144.00
Worship	69.74
Office	185.87
<u>(NOW)Prev. Missions & Evangelism</u>	<u>78.80</u>
Programs Sub Total	\$478.41

Trustees Expenses	
Church Utilities	\$1,467.40
Parsonage Utilities	503.89
Tel/Internet/Cell Phone	139.96
Property Insurance	1,093.69
Snow removal/ Mowing	305.00
Technology	<u>7.94</u>
Trustee Sub Total	\$4,242.88

Staff/Parish Relations Expenses	
Pastor's Salary	\$4,250.00
Social Security	250.00
Health Insurance	<u>1,596.00</u>
Pastor's Total Comp	\$6,096.00

Choir Director	\$200.00
Treasurer	133.33
Church Secretary	666.67
Custodian	<u>1,250.00</u>
Total Other Salaries	\$2,250.00
Other expenses	
Guest/Subst. Staff	\$150.00
FICA	172.13
Workman's Comp	<u>76.84</u>
Sub Total Other expenses	<u>\$398.97</u>
Sub Total SPRC Expenses	\$8,744.97

New England Conference	
Pastor Pension Benefit	<u>\$811.46</u>
NEC Total	<u>\$811.46</u>
Grand Total Expenses	<u>\$14,277.72</u>

Weekly Average Needed for 2023: \$3,958.69 (53 Sundays)

MS=\$2,510.08/mo; As of EOM March, 3 months behind (\$7,530.24)

Note: Dead River bills for church also include charges for propane deliveries

Balances as of March 31: c=(\$330.51);

p=(\$1,718.78)

Note: transferred \$2,786.00 from church's account to parsonage's account in Oct 2022

2023 YTD REVIEW

Annual Budget	\$209,810.50
Required Monthly	\$17,484.21
Required Weekly	\$3,958.69

MARCH

Target- \$52,452.63; Operating Fund Income from F/S - \$39,150.47; Special Funds Used for OF Expenses YTD - \$17.85; Unpaid Mission Shares - \$7,530.24

ATTENDANCE FOR MARCH

An aggregate of in person and Virtual Attendance shows 53 by month and 51 YTD.

Note-Feb 5th and March 26th not included in monthly & yearly averages

(Building closed due to cold or inclement weather)

SPRC: Debbie Barnes reported that SPRC had put an ad on Opportunities Aroostook for a new Organist.

Bobbi called around looking for an organist for Louis Greenier’s funeral this Saturday and had no luck until she called Mary-Jo Hedman who has agreed to do it.

She also said that Judson Drake has had to check for flooding most nights because water was coming in and he had to be sure the sump pump was doing its job.

N.O.W. (Formerly Missions & Evangelism):

Melonie Carlson reported that the Spring Fling event raised \$2069.00. Her committee has not met yet, but plan to decide how that money will be spent. She hopes it can be divided up into a few different places, to be shared later. She also stated that her committee expects to have another Spring fling next year. Other churches seem interested in doing a similar event at their respective places of worship.

Melonie reported that the new collection envelopes for the fall are currently stored in the Parsonage. Also, Roy Alden and Colleen Harmon have agreed to do the Audit again this year.

UMM:

Neal Genz stated that the Men plan to meet on the last Saturday of April, but, in order to be able to have a presentation by the Caribou State Champion Electronics Team, they moved the meeting to May 13th.

Other:

Bobbi Pelletier reported that the hood for the new stove which was purchased with Emmett Ross Memorial funds is here but has not been installed. There will be a pot filler so the ladies will no longer have to lug water to the stove. She hopes to get a cart to carry the pot from the stove to the sink for easy handling. Down the road the ladies envision getting an industrial size mixer.

Next, Bobbi shared that she had difficulty getting all the slots for the Holy Week filled until almost the last minute. She also remarked that only the Baptists and the Catholics brought refreshments and that the Gray Memorial ladies, which were few, had to provide the other three days of refreshments. She is considering not offering refreshments when other churches are not able to provide them.

Bobbi also reported the Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry spaghetti supper netted a little over \$5,000.00. She then reminded the Council that the Worship Committee project to give needed goods to school students will end on Sunday, April 30th and resume again in the fall.

The Council plan to hold a special meeting on Thursday, April 27th at 6:30 PM pending a prior meeting of the SPRC and Trustees.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Claire Hodgkins, Secretary

SPECIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
4-27-23

ATTENDEES: Pastor Rich Rego, Claire Hodgkins (Secretary), Judson Drake, Bobbi Pelletier, Dean Rauch, Neal Genz, Shirley Bowman, Mary Lou Brown, Richard Clark, Debbie Nichols, Romeo Bouchard, Wendy Bossie, Beth Alden, Conrad Walton, Del Ramey, and Melonie Carlson

A special meeting of the Church Council was called at 6:30 PM in the church sanctuary which included members of the Trustees, the Staff/Parish Relations Committee, and the Church Council to discuss and vote on a proposal from Judson Drake to

let the congregation know how he has been feeling and what it would take for him to continue staying in the congregation, doing custodial duties, maintenance, and be the Chair of the Trustees. No one in the church wanted Judson to leave. He has been a valued member of this congregation, but well-meaning, but insensitive comments along with the loss of \$1800.00 from his salary without knowledge of the importance that money meant to the church caused Judson to feel he was not valued. (Judson puts that money back into the church saving the congregation money that would otherwise need to be spent.)

The following is the Proposal Summary Pastor Rich brought to the council meeting:

1. We will put a team together to iron out details which will include: Two from the Trustees, Two from SPRC, and Two from the Administrative Council.
2. Jud wants to worship as he wants to worship without negative comments. (Judson often does work around the church on Sundays that may require him to dress for work.)
3. Jud will remain as Trustee Chair and Custodian, and the \$1,800.00 removed from his salary will be returned.
4. A Trustees "Work Team" would be developed which would work with Jud and the rest of Trustees to focus on needed projects that fall between major projects (Contractor-based), and lesser projects that are beyond the scope of Custodian. Those with skills specific to particular projects will come and go, adding to the energy of this group. Jud will lend his knowledge for support and to ensure things are to code, etc. Trustees will have the right of first refusal for projects of a greater scope, and communicate to the congregation in the future in a more transparent and public way, about what work is being done so as to keep the whole congregation informed. This would include, as in the past, estimates for work to be done, and the disclosure that Jud is donating his labor and/or materials without necessarily putting a dollar figure on it. This would be part of his tithe.
5. There needs to be someone on Trustees who knows everything Jud does with a project. This is not to judge, or to make changes, or to cast doubt on its validity, but to be responsible for knowing and recording the scope and progress, so it can be positively communicated to the rest of our congregation, and any red-flags communicated as to keep Jud and church safe and supported. We'll work on what those parameters are.
6. There will be someone on Trustees or added to the Trustees who would be responsible for taking Trustees' minutes and re-framing various elements for public announcements – in the Newsletter, announcement time in worship, and however those public minutes are made available in the church's library. This will address any doubt members may have about what is going on.
7. Jud will write a job description that provides what he needs and how he feels he must work, and available to the committee reps mentioned above. They will work through that together.

Are there any issues with this proposal that cannot be worked out through the new task group helping to iron out details?

1. So, do we want Jud to stay?
2. Then, the immediate question to be addressed tonight is, does Jud get the \$1,800.00 added back to his salary?

Pastor Rich stood at the pulpit microphone and went over Jud's proposal and gave some backstory as to how we have gotten to this point. There was much discussion and questions for clarification. It was made clear that the Trustees and the SPRC needed to work together since Judson's service to the church touched on both committee jurisdictions. Because Jud spends a lot of odd hours doing things for the church, he needs to be able to do his work as effectively as possible. It is also clear that church members need to understand this, so that Jud's job description represents what he needs and what the church can support. Pastor Rich wants to create a group to work with Jud to accomplish this – Representative of two members each from SPRC, Admin Council and Trustees. Rich asked for volunteers but no one came forward at that time. Members will be selected via phone and email.

It was clear that no one wants Jud to leave. He is a valuable member of our church.

Finally, a vote was taken. Jud's proposal was unanimously agreed upon (items 1 to 7 above) by the 15 members present.

Bobbi conferred with the Council to see how the \$1,800.00 would be put back into Jud's salary. Starting with the May paycheck, Jud will receive an extra \$225.00 each month through the rest of this year. Jud indicated that was agreeable to him.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Claire Hodgkins, Secretary

Committee minutes received prior to April 20th Church Council meeting:

CLUSTER:

The April 6th meeting came to order at 9:00 am with the following in attendance via Zoom. Tracy Reeves, Victor Han, Paula Lilley, Chris Dare, John DeFelice, Cheryl Stratton and Sue Brown.

Victor welcomed everyone and invited Tracy to lead our time of devotions.

Tracy shared a powerfully dramatic reading from Simon Brett about crucifixion at Calvary written in the voice of the one who hammers the nails, ties the ropes and breaks the legs of those to be crucified.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the March 2nd meeting were presented. Motion to approve by Chris and seconded by Paula. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

A check was written to reserve Mantle Lake Park on June 4th for \$100. Our current checkbook balance remains at \$243.05. Motion to approve the report by Sue and seconded by Chris. Motion carried unanimously. Thank you, Paula.

Cluster Worship Service – Aldersgate Day Music Festival

The Cluster Music Service will be held at Grant Memorial UMC on Wednesday, May 24th at 6:30pm. The deadline to provide Tracy with information on music selections/performers is May 8th. Tracy will send us our “assignments” for this

service. After discussion, we decided on the title: “Songs of the Heart” service of music. Tracy will make a poster and email it to everyone to share. There will be light refreshments to follow after the service. Grant Memorial will provide beverages. Each of the other churches is asked to bring a few goodies to share.

As decided at the last meeting, the offering will be used to provide for a Cluster Seed Money fund to bring a positive message for the United Methodist Churches in our Cluster.

Cluster Council Gathering in the Spring

We have a reservation for Mantle Lake Park on Sunday, June 4th at 2:00 pm for a potluck picnic. If the weather is inclement, we will meet at Grant Memorial. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend as we thank and honor our retirees for 2023. Sue & Victor will work together to plan for honoring our retirees.

New Business

Pulpit Exchange

Pulpit exchange is scheduled for Sunday, April 30th. Participating churches include Hodgdon, Houlton, Mars Hill, Mapleton, Lidstone in Washburn, Limestone and Gray Memorial in Caribou. Participating pastors include Mary (Hodgdon), Ellen, Sue, Rich, Victor, Cheryl, Joyce and Paula. Victor will contact everyone with their assigned church for that day.

2023 St. Apollonia Festival of Trees

“Love Came Down at Christmas” has been selected as our theme. Before the next meeting, Cheryl, Paula, Tracy and Sue will brainstorm ideas for items to go under the tree. We will provide a “list” at our next meeting. Each church will be invited to select an item or items from this list.

Joys and concerns

We shared joys and concerns. Prayer was led by Chris.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 4th at 9:00 am (Maundy Thursday). Victor will send a Zoom link.

NOW Committee Minutes, March 2023

Present: Melonie Carlson, Bobbi Pelletier, Karen Rego, Pastor Rich Rego, Colleen Harmon, Joyce Knorr, Alaina Pethick and Rhonda Cyr. Honorary attendees Hazel Pethick, Erika Carlson.

First item agenda involved discussion for April 1st Spring Fling event. Pastor Rich discussed concept of NOW (Nurture, Outreach and Witness). Discussed that concept needs to be present both in planning evenings, assisting others in planning/completing events, and utilizing funds raised. Much positive discussion.

Karen Rego agreed to be in charge of the soup table and bake table. Menu for the event would be various soups, rolls, tossed salad and drinks. Bake table items would be used in lieu of desserts. There would be a jar for donation offering.

Colleen Harmon agreed to be in charge of the silent basket auction, basket tables and Easter bonnets. Discussion of types of basket ideas, items needed, bidding process and dates for donation and building baskets. Dates to build baskets 3/23 noon-3pm, 3/29 noon-e, and final set-up 3-31 10-2pm.

Melonie Carlson would be in charge of children's activities with Alaina Pethick and Rhonda Cyr. Some discussion occurred with Alaina, Rhonda & Melonie to meet later to finalize activities and prep work. No charge to families.

Advertising discussed for event. Pastor Rich had draft brochure and would update for FB page, to be placed with church bulletin for church members and for out in community. Bobbi to contact Caribou Rec Center to advertise on their marque sign and Joyce to handle radio PR. Too late to advertise on County Calendar. Pastor Rich to contact WAGM in event might make exception.

Signup poster to be placed in Narthex for volunteers for soups, rolls, bake table items. Volunteers needed for soup tables, basket tables, and children's crafts. Sign up would be for 10-noon and noon to 2pm.

Further discussion determined ideal lead time for event is 3 months from proposal to NOW committee to event.

Discussion for funds raised from Spring Fling occurred. Final decision to take place at next meeting due to number of factors including potential proceeds unknown. Items discussed included raising money for a potential marque sign for the church. Costs to be explored by Pastor Rich. Seed monies for future events, operating budget and needs both within church and community also discussed.

Future project for committee involved future item for the monthly Church newsletter. Pastor Rich led the discussion re: capturing some of the history of the church and members with the church. Volunteer needed to interview a member of the congregation every month. The idea is to learn more of who we are individually and create a stronger sense of belonging.

Future potential events discussed was Easter breakfast to be at Gray this year at 8:30 Easter morning, city-wide yard sale 5/20, Caribou Cares about Kids 7/27, cookie booth and annual Christmas bazaar.

Next meeting scheduled for 4/12/23 at 11:30am. Meeting adjourned.

TRUSTEES:

There was no meeting in March. These minutes are from meeting held April 27, 2023:

Present: Judson Drake (Chairman), Wendy Bossie (Secretary), Richard Clark, Debbie Nichols, Del Ramey, Pastor Rich

Absent: Judi Greenier (Treasurer)

Guest: Romeo Bouchard

Richard opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary's report. Minutes from February 20 and phone meeting on March 7 distributed. Judson noted that the scholarships will be awarded for 2023.

Treasurer's report: Judi absent. There is \$7,600 in the trustee checkbook.

OLD BUSINESS

United Methodist Foundation. The fixed rate interest is now 3.75%.

Stove. The new kitchen stove is ready to use. On April 28, Sprinkler Systems Inc. will move the pipe over the stove so a hood can be put in. A new circuit has been put in place for the hood.

Fan in the Fellowship Hall. The fan is now running. It is still noisy and should be turned off if there is a speaker.

NEW BUSINESS

Organ. A safety light has been attached to the wall showing if the organ blower is running i.e. the organ has not been turned off. If no one is using the organ and the green light is showing, push off.

Parsonage/Church Security System. Blink Outdoor offers a 5 camera system – wireless, weather-resistant HD security camera with a two-year battery life and motion detection. Four cameras will be set up at the parsonage and one at the church. Price \$400 - \$500. Debbie made a motion that we install this system, Richard seconded. Passed.

Sprinkler Systems Inspection Co. It's time for a five-year trip test on our sprinkler system. Debbie made a motion that this test be done, Del seconded. Passed.

ROUND TABLE

Repairing winter damage. Reno Corriveau is bringing in loam for the parking lot.

Garden. Del noted that Randy Martin would like to take care of the church garden again this year. His wage last year was \$1,600 (*Note: Garden care is funded by the Memorial Garden Committee*). There is red mulch available. Randy will spread the mulch.

Tree by the parsonage garage. Should it come down? Del will check.

Needles in upper parking lot. Judson is finding more hypodermic needles. Disturbing.

Pastor Rich closed the meeting with prayer.

Worship Committee (Meeting held Friday, March 31st)

Members present: Bobbi Pelletier (chair), Pastor Rich Rego, Gwen Ellinwood, Margaret Cyr, Richard Clark, Diane Fitzpatrick

The meeting was opened by Bobbi at 9:30 a.m.

Diane Fitzpatrick offered devotions, a reading from Mornings with Jesus, about how our faces reflect our trust in Jesus.

The minutes from the March 3, 2023 meeting were approved as presented.

Old Business:

- Mission Project: Bobbi reported that she gave some of the clothing that has been donated to Denise Hamlin, Social Worker for RSU #39 Caribou. Bobbi will talk with Denise about when she would like to receive the rest of the donations.
- Bobbi reported that there is a little over \$400.00 in the coffee fellowship account. She will purchase kitchen supplies (coffee, paper plates, napkins, etc.) at Sam's Club when she is in Bangor in the near future.
- The SPRC has not yet updated Bobbi on their plans for filling the organist and child care provider positions. Pastor Rich suggested that they may want to advertise these positions on the New England Conference website.
- The bulletin inserts for Holy Week have arrived.
- Bobbi will pick up the palm fronds and altar palm fan this afternoon at Noyes Florist. Bobbi suggested we separate them after Bob White's service. Bobbi, Diane and Pastor Rich will do that.
- The Advent wreath will be used on Palm Sunday and throughout Holy Week for the noon services. The Paschal Lamb candle will burn all week and will be extinguished on Good Friday. Each of the other four purple candles will be extinguished during the week, one each day.
- The Holy Week pastors for the noon services have been scheduled:
 - Monday – Father Raymond from Holy Rosary Catholic Church
 - Tuesday – Pastor Michael Sullivan from Caribou Baptist Church
 - Wednesday – Isaias Lopez from Seventh Day Adventist Church
 - Thursday – Pastor Ron Rosser, retired, Woodland First Baptist Church
 - Friday – Pastor Rich Rego

Will the noon services be live-streamed? No. (*update – they will be!*)

- Refreshments for the noon services on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday are needed. (*noted later – only for Wednesday and Thursday*). Margaret will play the organ on Wednesday and Friday and the CDs will be used on Thursday. Pastor Rich will introduce and welcome the speakers each day.
- Bobbi will strip the altar on Friday morning in preparation for the noon and 4pm Good Friday services.
- Margaret, Diane, and Gwen volunteered to arrange the Easter plants on Saturday, April 8th at 1:00 p.m.
- On Palm Sunday, African palm crosses will be distributed. Those attending will have the choice of leaving their crosses to be blessed after the service, or take them home.
- The Good Friday service will be held at 4:00p.m. in the sanctuary. Margaret will play the organ for this service.
- Pastor Rich reminded us that if we plan to attend the Easter breakfast, we need to let Neal or Del know. He also reported that he is not aware of plans that have been made for an Easter Egg Hunt for the children.

New Business:

- April 23 is Native American Indian Sunday and there will be a special offering received. Inserts will be placed in the bulletins. Gwen and Diane will coordinate coffee fellowship on that day.
- April 30 is the fifth Sunday of the month. There will be no coffee fellowship unless someone volunteers.
- May 14 is Mother's Day. Bobbi suggested that we give gifts that are already available from past years to give out on both Mother's Day and Father's Day in June.
- May 21 is Ascension Sunday and Heritage Sunday. We have eight new fifty-year members to be honored during the service (Lou Leavitt, Del Ramey, Scott Branscom, James Mockler, Diana Locke, David Fowler, Brian Sutherland and Maia Fowler). We will invite them to come that day to be recognized and presented with a certificate (will get mailed if they are not here).
- May 28 is Pentecost Sunday. Pastor will have a surprise for the congregation! A flying fish with tongues of fire hanging below it will fly above the congregation!!
- June 4 is Trinity Sunday and Peace with Justice Sunday. A special offering will be taken.
- June 11 is Graduation Sunday. Margaret suggested that we honor George Ferland and Nick Anderson who are graduating from high school. This will also be the last Sunday that the choir will be singing until the fall.
- June 18 is Father's Day and St. John's Sunday.
- Pastor Rich mentioned that an Aldersgate Day service will be held at Grant Memorial UMC on Wednesday, May 24th at 6:30pm (*our choir may be singing*). Packets of seeds will be distributed to those in attendance.

Our next meeting will be held on May 5, 2023 in the church library at 9:30 a.m.

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MAY 2023!!!

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

Tuesday	02	2:30pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting in Library
Wednesday	03	12:30pm	NOW Meeting in L
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	04	9:00am	Aroostook Cluster Meeting via Zoom
Friday	05	9:30am	Worship Committee Meeting in Library
Sunday	07	10:00am	Worship: Fifth Sunday of Easter
Tuesday	09	6:00pm	Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Board Meeting at Pantry
Wednesday	10	6:30pm	Senior Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	11	1:00pm	SPRC Meeting (subject to change; unknown at time of publication)
Saturday	13	8:00am	UMM Breakfast & Meeting (note date change)
Sunday	14	10:00am	Worship: Sixth Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day
Monday	15	1:00pm	Trustee Meeting
Wednesday	17	6:30pm	Senior Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	18	6:30pm	Church Council Meeting in Library
Friday	19	7:00pm	Caribou Choral Society Concert at St. Mary's Church, Presque Isle
Saturday	20	7:00pm	Caribou Choral Society Concert at CPAC, Caribou
Sunday	21	10:00am	Worship: Ascension Sunday; Heritage Sunday
Wednesday	24	10:00am	<u>DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWSLETTER INPUT</u>
		6:30pm	Aldersgate Day Cluster Music Festival "Songs of the Heart" at Grant Memorial UMC (our Senior Choir is singing); our church is to bring "goodies" to share following the event
Sunday	28	10:00am	Worship: Pentecost
Monday	29		<u>FEDERAL HOLIDAY - MEMORIAL DAY - CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED</u>



Pastor Rich and Karen are taking vacation days from May 8 - May 13.