



## Life is More Than Your What You Accumulate.

### How do you catch a monkey in the wild?

Here's how traditional hunters in Africa have done it for years: first, they find a fresh cocoanut, and cut it in half. Next, the milk inside is poured out and some of the cocoanut meat is removed. A hole is then carved out of one of the sides. Finally, the hunter places a small orange in the cocoanut and roped the entire thing back together, lashing it to the trunk of a tree. The monkey, being able to smell that orange and the fresh fruit of the cocoanut, climbs the tree. The monkey reaches into the hole to get at the orange, but the hole is only big enough for his hand, let alone the orange.

The monkey can't get his hand out, it's clenched around the orange. He tries and tries to remove the orange but he won't let it go. The monkey is so intent on what he has in his hand that he doesn't see the trouble he's in. He's now easily captured by the hunters. Is there is any part of your life that you hold onto so tightly, that you don't clearly see the Lord in it? And you don't readily see the problems that causes. Do you?

In the gospel of Luke, Jesus said: *"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life doesn't consist in an abundance of possessions."*

John Wesley put it another way.

*"When I have money, I get rid of it quickly, lest it finds a way into my heart."*

In the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 16 - verses 16 to 21

Jesus shares a parable about putting your life focus in the wrong place.

*<sup>16</sup> Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup> And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' <sup>18</sup> Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' <sup>21</sup> So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."*

Scripture doesn't say that the man woke up one morning and "Bam"! - the fields were tilled as if by magic; the rows of seeds had planted and fertilized themselves. No, this farmer, like us, had to work diligently and faithfully for what they have. Jesus had said "the ground yielded an abundant harvest. "

The man must have worked for it, sweated over it, and God blessed it. What a gift to see God's provision.

What are the trappings in your life? Those things that are not necessary in order to have an abundant life?

I am not talking about money. For example, if we know we are blessed by family and love our partners and our children. Why do some of us push and stress and strain, to accumulate more? We work so hard to make for an abundant life, we often don't "live in the moment" and cast away the joy found at those times. Please make sure you involve the Lord in your private life. Be careful not ignore the very blessing God has given you – including your family, your friends, your church.

**In Christ's Service – Pastor Rich Rego**



# The Caribou Clock

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

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

Date: September 2023

Church Office: (207) 498-2103

**Website:** <http://www.bgmumc.com>

Greetings from the Church Office!

During August, I initiated the Membership Audit project, which required that we send letters to every non-active member or constituent to request if they wish to remain a member or constituent of our church. It was surprising how many letters were returned for incorrect addresses! For some, I was able to get current information to resend their letter simply because I usually correspond with them through email. But for many, I was not so lucky. In those cases, their names will be read at our next few Church Conferences before we can officially remove them from our rolls. *For those who do not respond at all, we will discontinue emailing or mailing any correspondence to them at the end of September.*

As a member or constituent of Gray Memorial UMC, it is important that you let us know when anything changes for you ~ name, address, email, phone number, etc. ~ so that we can maintain accurate records. We do spend quite a bit of money each year in mailing letters or Newsletters, so accurate records are very important! Having to re-mail these Membership Audit letters also increases our costs!

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, September 22<sup>nd</sup>!*

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier  
Church Secretary



## July 30<sup>th</sup> and August Prayer Requests

**Prayer Concerns:** Debbie & Lu Sharp, Gary & Marilyn Langley, Sylvia Akeley, Leland Frost, Gwen Ellinwood, Richard & Sally Carde, James Stuart, Ivan Shaw, Audrey Bubar, Ralph & Gwen Ferguson, Dale Sharp, Linda Cyr, Dana Cyr, Bruce Fitzpatrick, John Walsh, Margaret Cyr, Karen Rego, Betty Spencer (Beth Alden's mother - moving to a long-term care facility), Willis (Bill) Laskey, Mari-Jo Hedman, Jeff Franklin, Tom Todd, Gabriel Ben-Tepherith, Harold Tardy, Bob & Carol Norsworthy, Lynn Groff Synder, Bethany Souther Zell, Margaret Cyr (surgery), Louis Leavitt, Peggy, Sheila Belyea, Whitney Nichols, Justin Rossignol

**Family Deaths:** Family of Beverly McNeal; Family of Wayne Ferland; Family of Gerard Kolb; Family of Brian N. Ouellette; Family of John Walsh; Family of Gwen Ferguson; Family of Joyce Price in England

**Other:** Victims of Maui Hawaii Fire

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!

Correspondence received:

From Sally Carde - Thank you everyone for all your prayers & support during Richard's surgery on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August. It was a successful recovery. He is doing better but still has a long ways to get better. He still has another surgery to have on his heart. God is good. We are very grateful that it was O. K. He had a 70% chance of having a heart attack but didn't. Thank you everyone for your prayers.

## REMINDERS

DATE	LITURGIST	Organist/Pianist	COUNTER	COFFEE FELLOWSHIP
Sep 3	*Deborah Nichols	Margaret Cyr	Ruthann Weeks	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Sep 10	N/A (Dan Schall)	N/A	Ruthann Weeks	UMW & Education
Sep 17	*Cheryl Martin	Judi Greenier	Elsie Doody	UMM
Sep 24	Mary Ouellette	Judi Greenier	Elsie Doody	Worship Committee

\*=change from published schedule

Usher Coordinator for September: George Knorr

Communion Stewardess: Beth Alden

Communion Bread: Debbie Nichols

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

*Barnes, Shelby - Delete; Requested removal from Membership List 8/26/23*

*Doody, Matthew - new address: 1205 Mill Rd., Ronkonkoma NY 11779; phone (518) 928-8149*

*Ferguson, Gwen - deceased 8/23/23*

*Fowler, David - phone number: (336) 298-4817*

*Fox, Kitty - delete; letter returned as unable to forward*

*Holdsworth, Betty - new address: 522 W. Presque Isle Road, Caribou ME 04736*

*Jordan, Bob - new phone number: (207) 416-3214*

*Martin, Cheryl - add to directory; address - 50 Rose Street, Caribou ME 04736; email - [jigsawpurple@gmail.com](mailto:jigsawpurple@gmail.com); phone number - (207) 227-8618*

*Milton, Norma - phone number: change to (207) 999-1075*

*Sutherland, Rebecca - new address: Cummings Health Care Facility, P. O. Box 367, 5 Crocker Street, Howland ME 04448*

*Veilleux, Drenna - new address: 492 Webb Road, Caribou ME 04736; phone (207) 509-8541;*

*Email: [vdrenna@yahoo.com](mailto:vdrenna@yahoo.com)*

*Ward, Bonnie - new phone number: (207) 493-6367*

*Wardwell, Kelly - new mailing address: P. O. Box 1095, Caribou ME 04736; phone (207) 551-8583*

*Witmer, Denise - new mailing address: 22 Ranoldo Terrace, Cherry Hill NJ 08034*

*(Italics indicate updates due to Membership Audit project responses.)*

# \* \* September Birthdays & Anniversaries \* \*

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

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



1	Kristi Bell	16	Peter Campbell
4	Angie Harbert, Nicole Rainey, David Silsbee	19	Romeo Bouchard, Connor DeMerchant, Del Ramey
5	Gail Hagelstein	21	Christopher Silsbee, Daryla Simon
9	Cherie Goranites	22	Justin McLauchlan
10	Robert Locke	23	Joyce Knorr, Robert Mockler, Lisa Wilcox
11	Marie Strouse	25	Garrick Alley, Dave Wakana, Dawn Westman
12	Lydia Kieffer-Till	26	Ian McLauchlan, Kyle Staples
14	Kim Barnes, Jeffrey Mazursky	29	Bob Norsworthy



1	Cindy & John Branscom	5	Sheila & Dave Belyea
3	Jennifer & Scott Branscom, Nicole & Ryan Cousins, Lori & Jeffrey Mazursky	10	Casey & Corey Felix
		20	Joelene & Mark Boucher

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:

Date	In-Person Attendance	*On-Line Attendance	+ Operating Fund Offering
July 23	57	2	\$1,864.00
July 30	46	5	\$1,816.00
August 6	46	3	\$5,177.00
August 13	46	7	\$2,849.00
August 20	45	2	\$ 875.00
August 27	39	(report next month)	\$12,237.00

\*\*\*\*\*

+ 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 of \$69,850.50 reported in last month's Newsletter was as of July 24th. Since then, account earned \$3.09 interest and we had no expenses. As of August 28<sup>th</sup>, the balance in the account is \$69,853.59 (of that amount, the "furnace replacement donation funds" that remain are \$5,424.27).

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## **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.**



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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 – 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).***



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.

***We did NOT pick up in August, so our total proceeds remain at \$900.25! Thank you for all your generous donations!***



## 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 September Sunday Worship Services:

Sept. 3 - [https://youtube.com/live/k\\_TcOjkIOzI](https://youtube.com/live/k_TcOjkIOzI)  
Sept. 10 - <https://youtube.com/live/E5bOBJQZGoE>  
Sept. 17 - <https://youtube.com/live/QBnNFAw9XIM>  
Sept. 24 - <https://youtube.com/live/RTKNZ5P5Ag4>

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 your own meal(s) or eat-in. Deliveries are made to Rose Acre residents or those in town (Caribou).

From "Spreading The News" – Dan Schall Ministries, August 2023

### ***"Assemble With the Saints"***

Watching church on a livestream is like watching a fireplace on a screen.  
You see it but you don't feel the warmth.



Our "Saturday Breakfast Crew"  
(Judson Drake, Gwen Ellinwood & Bobbi Pelletier) will offer  
breakfasts on a couple Saturdays each month from  
8am to 10am. (September 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>)

The menu will vary each time!

These breakfasts raised free-will offerings of \$914 in 2022 and all  
donations went to the church's operating fund.

Come join us for good food and fellowship!

If you wish to volunteer to help, please contact one of us! We would  
love to include others in this community outreach project!

Pastor Rich will offer 6-week Membership Classes  
beginning on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> for individuals  
who are interested in becoming members of  
Gray Memorial UMC.  
See the registration form on page 8.

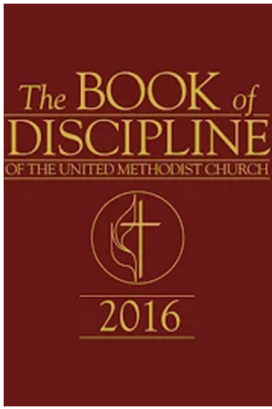


Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am  
"Dan Schall in Concert"

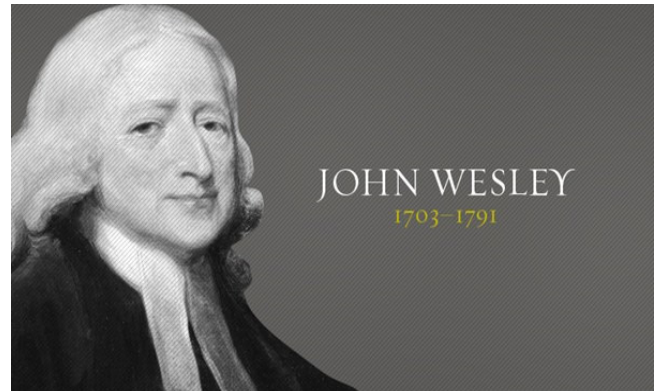


## Pie and Bake Sale

On Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, the NOW Team is sponsoring a pie and bake sale at the church. The last one, held on June 30<sup>th</sup>, raised \$1,118.00! This sale will hopefully be held outside under the portico, as we did that day. We are inviting everyone to help out by providing home-made pies and/or baked goods for this sale, which will begin at 10:00 a.m. Bring your items on Friday from 9am to noon, or Saturday from 9am to 10am. We look forward to a good turnout with lots of goodies to offer folks in our church and community. Anyone having questions may call the church office or any member of the NOW team. Lets work together to make this another successful event!



## GRAY MEMORIAL UMC NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS



Pastor Rich is offering a six-week “New Membership” class. We will review the major tenants of the United Methodist Church and its membership, as outlined in our denomination’s Book of Discipline. For comparison and discussion, we’ll review at least five of the world’s major religions. Bring your favorite Bible!

Toying with the idea of becoming a Gray Memorial UMC member? Do you want to find out how recent splits in our conference affects us in New England? This journey will be both educational and entertaining for you. It will lead us into video presentations, with specific trained conference speakers who will walk us through what’s happening with both factions of the Methodist denominations in New England. Peppered through this experience will be detailed information about how our UM Conference works. You’ll learn how this connectional system helps integrate our faith with what John Wesley called “Practical Divinity”, allowing us to better follow God’s call.

These classes will take place every Tuesday morning at 10:30 AM and again at 6:30 PM starting September 5, 2023. Pastor Rich would like to know who is interested in taking this class. Please complete the following survey and return your responses by Sept. 3.

When would you like to take this class (check ALL your workable times):

Tuesday Mornings 10:30 AM \_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday Evenings 6:30 PM \_\_\_\_\_

How many? \_\_\_\_\_ What part interests you? \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_



## *Special Kodak Moments from Worship Services*



August 6 - "Mystery Box" brought in by Gwen Barnum. Here is her script:

"This is one of my daddy's nomex shirts. It's a fire resistant material they wear on wildfires. God gives everyone gifts – things they are good at. Like Aurora is good at art. I am good at cooking. Daddy's gift is fighting wildfires. He loves to do it. But it takes him away from us for about two weeks at a time, a couple times a year. I miss him when he's gone. My sisters miss him too. It's especially hard for Hazel, who doesn't really understand. It's hard for my mom too. She has to take care of all of us by herself. But I just learned that fire is actually a gift too. There are some types of plants whose seeds won't germinate without going through fire. So even though wildfires seem bad, there's blessings in them too. The fire helps new plants to grow while the fire fighters help keep the fire under control. They work together. Another one of our blessings is family. Our family helps us while Daddy is gone. We go to dinner at Grandma's. We have friends who have become like family who help us when a bear breaks into our garbage shed. And we have our church family who ask about how Daddy is doing, check in on us, and pray for our whole family. When I miss Daddy, it makes me feel better to know I have so many people who care about us. The message I hope you learn from this is that even when things seem bad, there's always a good side to it. You just have to look for the blessings from God. (And for those who are wondering Daddy is flying home today and will be back tomorrow morning.)" **(Photos by Melonie Carlson)**



August 13 – Special Music was provided by Melonie Carlson on the dulcimer, with the children and Mary Lou singing some camp songs! *(Photo by Karen Rego)*



August 13 - Mary Lou Brown brought in the "Mystery Box". Inside the box were a number of items she brought from home. She asked "How does the Lord affect us in this church?" She was quite young when she started here (perhaps 5 or 6). She had wonderful parents. She had a wonderful mother and she patiently sewed pieces of cloth together to make chair pads for them when they sat at the table. Then she had pictures of her mother and father before he went off overseas. She spoke about how her parents brought them to church and sat in front rows. She showed a picture of the Lord with children. A picture of her parents at their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary here in the Fellowship Hall. A picture cube with pictures of family members. A picture of her father while in the military.

The key of her message that when she was little and through high school, the thing that was so special was coming to the church and singing. Then she sang a hymn from an old 1939 hymnal. Her mother and her siblings and families use to sing when they were together. That's a reason for loving the Lord and giving you a voice and inviting you to sing. *(Photos by Melonie Carlson)*



Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> - "Blessing of the Animals" during Worship Service (photos by Neal Genz):







August 20 - Mary Ouellette brought in the “Mystery Box”. Inside was a Cat’s Meow wooden depiction of her church in Millinocket Maine. Her mother and she were both baptized there. She told us about many experiences she had at that church. She said the seed that was planted while going to that church still remains and that’s why she started coming to our church and became part of our church family! (*photo by Melonie Carlson*)

### OTHER KODAK MOMENTS!



July 26, 2023 - Picture of the contractor removing tree limbs that were hanging over our shed!  
(Photo by Colleen Harmon)





CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES  
8-17-23

**ATTENDEES:** Pastor Rich Rego, Claire Hodgkins, Bobbi Pelletier, Shirley Bowman, Mary Lou Brown, Melonie Carlson, and Judson Drake

Pastor Rich called the meeting together at 6:32 PM and said a brief prayer. He passed out copies of the last meeting minutes for a final approval. The minutes were unanimously approved as printed and published.

Bobbi gave a recap of her digital Church Conference Form training session she attended over Zoom on Wednesday evening. There is another session Saturday at 9:00 AM. The goal of the conference is to go paperless as much as possible by having all forms online which can be copied and filled out before specific meetings, annual conference, and to meet deadlines. This will allow forms to be put up on screens at annual and special charge conferences. There will be some forms, like those involving Lay Servants that must be completed as well. Bobbi indicated that the church secretary/administrative assistant can print out a hardcopy form for others to fill out (Finance Chair, Trustees, Lay Servants, etc.) and that individual could actually complete the form on-line. She also pointed out that our conference booklets have worked very well, and our members are able to have hard copies of all the forms since not everyone has a computer. However, it will be necessary to comply by putting all relevant forms on line to meet our obligation to the Conference. The only people who can access these Conference Forms are those that are currently listed as holding a Leadership role for the church.

**FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP:** Shirley went over the July offerings and Special funds and reported that the total deposits for July came to \$16,339.92.

Bobbi reported that she had paid five months of Mission Shares in July because she had received most of the Employee Retention Credit refunds that she applied for. She also thought she would be able to pay one or two more months in August as the final ERC refund has been received. This time last year, we were not able to pay any Mission Shares, so we are very fortunate this year. She notified everyone that the reports will look a little leaner next month as she was able to pay out many of the lines in the "Special Funds for Church Use" sent to both the NOW Team and Trustees. Bobbi also reported that the church had expenses of \$23,717.69. This reflects the use of the ERC money as well as offerings. Our attendance average went up slightly in July to 56 from 53 in June. This was the first month we did not show any unpaid bills.

Bobbi reported that she had sent out 166 letters to inactive members and constituents. She has found some addresses to be inaccurate and, in many cases, could not learn the current addresses. Some inactive members who were contacted wanted to remain on the rolls. There will be a number of inactive members who will be listed for eventual removal roll at the next Church Conference if they have not responded.

**SPRC:** Pastor Rich reported that evaluations were discussed at the last meeting. Evaluations have become an issue because the staff do not feel they have any input in the process and in many cases there is no real feedback. Some wonder why they should be evaluated since they have volunteered to be on staff. Bobbi does not feel an evaluation should be a surprise. The liaison should be communicating with staff so there are no surprises. Their concerns should be addressed by SPRC soon.

**N.O.W.:** The secretary appreciated Melonie giving her a copy of the N.O.W. committee notes. Melonie's committee has been busy. She hopes people will view the bulletin board that depicts all the activities which the committee has been involved. The Caribou Cares events went very well. So, her committee will sponsor a pie and bake sale with the Prayer Shawl Ministry on

September 16<sup>th</sup>. Melonie plans to schedule a meeting with Denise Hamlin, the liaison at Caribou High School, regarding the Pen Pal program. She plans to reach out the first week in September. In other business, Melonie reported that her committee will be

able to set up the Cookie Booth at the Caribou Craft Fair on the Friday before the event. The Committee will be branching out to include cookie treats for pets which will be tried out at the September event, and if successful will continue to include. Also, her committee will sponsor a Holiday Fling event on November 18<sup>th</sup>.  
The Halfway Home Pet Rescue Board much appreciated the meal put on and requested if the Committee would be willing to do it quarterly.

**TRUSTEES:**

Judson Drake discussed highlights of his pantry renovations by reporting he was finalizing the pantry blueprint which will include a new floor which will allow the heat to work in that room. Also, Andrew Michaud has been hired to put a new façade on the front of the church which includes the portico pillars. Judson hopes to get a new mixer for the church kitchen that is restaurant size.  
Judson stated that the Trustees are committed to having a zero carbon footprint and to that end are planning to erect a solar array in the not too distant future.

**PASTOR’S TIME:**

Pastor Rich said that he plans to hold the Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> Worship service in the garden and would be blessing the animals weather permitting. One of the animals mentioned is a horse.  
The Council discussed building fees because several events were not charged. That will be addressed by the Trustees.  
Dan Schall will be “In Concert” for our September 10<sup>th</sup> Worship Service. The Senior Choir will also sing that day.  
Mari-Jo Hedman will be providing special music on September 24<sup>th</sup>.  
Pastor Rich stated that the Council could approve nominations between Church Conferences. He also said that the Conference would not allow the One Board concept.

Pastor Rich will be holding a six-week members class starting September 5<sup>th</sup>. He is open to splitting and having a morning and an evening session to facilitate attendance. Classes are expected to be an hour and a half long. *(Note: classes are 1 hour long)*  
  
There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.  
Respectfully submitted by Claire Hodgkins, Secretary

*NOTE – NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING IS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> AT 6:30PM.*

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**REPORTS OR MEETING MINUTES RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:**

**FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP:**

**From Financial Secretary:**

The following is the total church offering for July:

Regular Offering	\$14,450.00
Loose Offering	511.00
Subtotal-Regular Offering	\$14,961.00
Other Sources	
Operating Fund:	.00
Total Operating Fund Income	\$14,961.00
Reimbursements: Upper Room	
Education (Discovery)	\$3.00
Office-Postage	50.00
Upper Room	10.00
Sub-Total Reimbursements	63.00

Special Funds for Church Use	
Bottle Redemption Fundraiser	15.30
Coffee Fellowship	62.50
Pie/Bake Sale	1,118.00
UMW	20.00
Subtotal Funds for Church Use	1,215.80

Special Funds Not for Church Use	
Jeff Cyr-Teach Beyond	100.00

Grand Total: 16,339.80

**From Treasurer:**

Beginning Balance	12,385.13
2023 Operating income	14,961.00
Pie & Bake Sale Donation	300.00
Bottle Redemption	15.30
ERC Refunds	8,870.94 (3 of 4 checks from IRS; use for Mission Shares)
Interest	2.31
Less EFT fee	(34.15) VANCO fees (EFT deposits)
Less Expenses	(23,717.69) (5 months of Mission Shares paid)
Ending Balance	12,782.94

\* \$25,000.00 invested with Thompson/Hamel LLC for Memorial Garden on June 29, 2017. Investment cost of \$1,073.78; withdrew \$3,000 in March 2021 and \$3,000 in May 2023; as of July 31, 2023, on-line report shows ending value = \$23,717.94.

The Capital Account Money is as follows as of July 31<sup>st</sup>:

Previous Balance - \$72,234.93; Deposit (interest) - \$3.06; Spent - \$2,384.43; Current Balance - \$69,853.59

Expenditures for July 2023:

Programs:

Education	\$21.24
Office	366.00
NOW Team	28.80
Programs Sub-Total	\$406.04

Trustee Expenses:

Church Utilities	\$337.81
Parsonage Utilities	639.90
Telephone/Internet	139.96
Maintenance/Cleaning	85.78
Technology	16.95
Trustee Sub-Total	\$1,220.40

Staff-Parish Relations Expenses:

Pastor's Salary	\$4,250.00
Health Insurance	1,596.00
Pastor's Total Comp	\$5,846.00

Treasurer	\$133.33
Secretary	666.67
Custodian	1,500.00
Total Other Salaries	\$2,300.00

Other Expenses:	
Guest & Substitute Staff	\$250.00
FICA	256.55
<u>Workman's Comp</u>	<u>76.84</u>
Total Other Expenses	\$583.39
Sub-Total SPRC Expenses	\$8,729.39

New England Conference:

New England Missions	\$1,408.56
Ministerial Support	\$11,141.84
<u>Pastor Pension Benefit</u>	<u>\$811.46</u>
NEC Total	\$13,361.86
<u>Grand Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$23,717.69</u>

Weekly Average Needed for 2023: \$3,958.69 (53 Sundays)  
Mission Shares = \$2,510.08/mo; As of EOM June, 4 months behind (\$10,040.32)  
Note: Dead River bills for church also include charges for propane deliveries  
Balances as of June 30: Church = (\$330.51); Parsonage = \$(512.87)

2023 YTD REVIEW

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

July:

Target = \$122,389.46; Beginning Operating Fund Balance (Jan only) - \$15,525.07; Operating Fund Income from F/S - \$98,432.22; Special Funds Used for Operating Fund Expenses YTD = \$9,294.69; Unpaid Mission Shares = \$0.

ATTENDANCE FOR JULY:

An aggregate of in-person and virtual attendance shows monthly average of 56 and 54 YTD.  
Notes – Feb 5<sup>th</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup> are not included in monthly & yearly averages (Building closed due to cold or inclement weather); June 18 & June 25 services were not streamed (no virtual counts included).

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*From the Files – History & Records Committee*

*Cedric and Marion Porter were pillars of the church in the 1940s, 50s and 60s. They moved to southern Maine and have since passed away. Their daughter Faith Porter Prior lives in Sun City West in Arizona and their son Daniel resides in southern Maine and Florida. This information sent to Mary Lou Brown in December 1996 has some information about Gray Memorial that is not included in newspaper articles and locally written church history.*

*Wendy L. Bossie*

*Notes for 50th Anniversary from  
Cedric Porter, Coolidge Ave., Caribou  
1962*

*Source: Percy D. Coy, Retired Carpenter, Mars Hill  
He is Marion Porter's uncle – interviewed by  
Cedric Porter in 1962 in Mars Hill.*

*Percy Coy came to work on the new building [Methodist-Episcopal Church] in the winter of 1913(?) for Schuyler Page. Others working were Ora Howe, Caribou, Harry Gogan, Houlton and Cuthbert Clark, painter from Connecticut. Perhaps Wm. Ballard also worked on the building.*



*Pearl (Reynold) Coy says cornerstone contains a metal box in which there is a plan of the church, a picture of minister and wife (Gray).*

*Schuyler Page was the architect and contractor. His nephew Charles Page (Atwood and Lendel's father) helped dig the cellar with his team.*

*The window frames were made and set; then the window sashes were made and fitted. The latter were then removed, crated and sent to Boston where the stained glass was inserted in the sashes, recoated and returned to Caribou and replaced where they are now.*

*During construction the building was heated by a temporarily installed furnace (hot air) – coal fired. Each night the fire was extinguished, watered down and left cold. Plumbers had been using gasoline one day and left a couple of quarts in a water pail. At close of day, Charles Varnum took up the pail and was about to throw it on the fire when he decided to smell it!*

*The very long and large cross-section main ceiling joists were ordered out of Oregon. They are western fir. They are so long that two railroad flat cars were placed in tandem and the beams were secured in such a manner to allow for lateral movement as the cars negotiated various curves.*

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### **NOW Team Meeting - August 2, 2023 at 1:30 pm Nurture - Outreach - Witness**

In attendance: Karen Rego, Colleen Harmon, Bobbi Pelletier, Melonie Carlson, Ruthann Weeks, Kathy Panaro, Sandy Pethick, Alaina Pethick

Ruthann opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes from July Meeting -

A note was made to correct Kathy Panaro's phone number on the contact page.

Bobbi made a motion to approve the July minutes, Kathy seconded, motion passed.

### **Old Business:**

Caribou Cares Events -

Overall opinion was that the Thursday event was successful. The photobooth went over well. We would like to consider having a sign next time. It would be nice to have a visual way to show who we are, where we are from, and what we were selling. Some people were hesitant because they didn't realize the photos were free or they thought we were using our own camera. We passed out many of the cards advertising the October cookie booth too. Karen shared that Pastor Rich felt our presence and the outreach we were able to do was worth much more than the cookies!

The parade was also considered a success. We used all the cookies that had been donated. Colleen estimated there were 100 dozen (1200 total) cookies! We would like to thank all the bakers for their donations. The overall response from the parade participants was very positive. Many shared their gratitude for the gift and their compliments on the cookies. One thing we decided to keep in mind for next year is to try to stay closer to the church. It was tempting to walk ahead to the next float or group and end up around the corner. Sandy asked if the church owns any canopies. Judson told Bobbi there are some in the shed. We will need to double check what size and type they are. We thank Colleen for allowing us to borrow her canopy this time. For next year we would also like to look into getting a sign or banner with the church name and a message along the lines of "Cookies compliments of Gray Memorial UMC."

Upcoming Events -

October Cookie Booth - We are looking forward to this event after the positive response to the cookies at the Caribou Cares Events. There were several requests for specific types of cookies. We decided that Alaina will create a poll on the church Facebook page to help get some information about what types of cookies are most wanted. Melonie

also suggested we might consider making dog treats as well this year. The team agreed this was a great idea and several of us have good recipes that would work.

Pie/Bake Sale on Sept. 16 - The Prayer Shawl meeting had been pushed back, so we were unsure whether they wanted to join us in this event like before. Melonie said she will contact Diane F. and see what she thinks. We will begin to announce/advertise this event around Labor Day. It will be in the August church bulletin and we'd like to have it in the County Calendar and on the sign at the Rec. Center too.

Penpal Startup - Melonie is planning to meet with Denise from the high school to set up the start of this year's penpals. There have been some new students and some that have graduated or moved away, so the current list of penpals needs to be confirmed. We discussed providing envelopes as we had done over the summer last year, but decided not to do so as the students were already getting them from the high school. The penpal program should start after Labor Day.

Holiday Fling on Nov. 18 - We need to make an announcement about this event just so that crafters in our church will have a heads up and time to make their crafts. Karen shared a photo of a cute way to package our popcorn that looks like an ear of corn. We would like to try that, possibly using popcorn balls. Then we discussed the setup of the event - would there be a meal like the Spring Fling? We settled on having soup/salad like before, craft tables, some sort of holiday baskets or gifts for purchase, and a bake table. Mac and cheese should also be an option for kids as it was such a success at the Spring Fling. One idea was to have mason jars with pre-measured cookie mixes and recipes. We can also do this with dry soup ingredients and other recipes. These make great gifts for teachers, hostess gifts, yankee swaps, etc. The jars could be donated and we would just need to buy the lids. Another suggestion was to have some sort of DIY craft such as wreaths or pine cone bird feeders. We also discussed reusing the photo booth. Both sides could be used with a turkey on one side and a snowman on the other, for example. We will let Sandy use her creativity to come up with festive designs.

#### Budget Update -

Ruthann reported that our checking account is now open and we have the checks ready to use. Our balance as of Aug. 1 is \$2267.63. Bobbi made a motion to pay Sandy the \$500 today for her wooden church replicas. Ruthann seconded and the motion passed. Bobbi also reminded us not to worry about recouping the costs of the popcorn machine and to view it as an investment that will benefit the church in the long term.

#### Halfway Home Pet Rescue Drive -

There are now some totes at the church that donations can be stored in. Some items have already been brought in. We will take these totes out to collect donations at the outdoor service with the blessing of the animals on Aug. 13 (or Aug. 20 rain date).

#### Sweden St. Event on Aug 10? -

We discussed participating in the last Thursdays on Sweden event this season. We were unsure whether the movie theater already sells popcorn. We also did not think there would be electricity available for us to run our popcorn machine. Melonie or Bobbi will try to get the answers to those questions.

*Addendum: We have since learned that the movie theater does indeed open their concessions and popcorn sales for the Thursdays on Sweden events. Given this information, we think it's best not to participate and be in competition with them.*

#### Food Pantry Update -

Ruthann reported that the need has increased. From January to July last year the pantry served 791 families totalling 1937 people, 90 of which were new. During the same time this year 926 families totalling 2312 people, 66 of which are new, were served. Similar patterns are being seen statewide. Needs are going up, costs are going up, and donations are decreasing. Some of the programs and grants that started with covid are ended, but there are still more grants available.

#### New Business:

Joyce could not be at the meeting today, but requested we talk about ways to bring in more youth. We brainstormed ideas such as kid-friendly movie nights or game nights with kid themes. These could be advertised on our facebook page and shared with the penpals to help get the word out.

#### Prayer Chain Update -

Bobbi updated us on the recent meeting of the Prayer Chain members. There had been some concerns because accurate messages were not being passed along the chain. The member list was verified and will stay the same, but Bobbi will replace Pastor Rich and Karen. This way she can verify the accuracy of the message and Pastor Rich and Karen will only receive the messages from Bobbi.

#### Meeting Time for School Year -

Because school will be starting, our meeting time will be adjusted to the first Wednesday of the month at 10 am.

#### Church Replicas -

Sandy had to leave the meeting early, but Alaina will check in with her regarding how the church replicas are coming along and if there is anything she needs from us.

#### Coffee Fellowship -

A quick reminder that our committee has coffee fellowship on August 13. This is the date of the outdoor service. Unless the outdoor service is postponed due to weather, we will not need to bring anything. In the case the service is inside that day, please bring a dish to share.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:29. Our next meeting will be September 6 at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alaina Pethick

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### **Gray Memorial United Methodist Church**

Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, August 14, 2023

Library

1:00 – 3:30 P.M.

Present: Judson Drake (Chairman), Dave DeMerchant (Vice Chairman), Wendy Bossie (Secretary), Judi Greenier (Treasurer), Richard Clark, Del Ramey, Pastor Rich

Absent: Debbie Nichols

Richard opened the meeting with prayer

**Secretary's report:** Judi noted in the paragraph about the Turner Trust that Phil did not specify the amount specifically be given yearly toward maintenance to the Southside Cemetery in Chapman. The trustees had decided on \$75. Del made a motion, Richard seconded, to accept the secretary's report. Passed.

Wendy, as a member of the History & Records Committee, gave a brief report on our present elevator which was installed in 1991. Tim Cushman constructed the shaft, CMC Elevator Corp. put in the machinery with various other local craftsmen furnishing finishing touches. The final cost was \$32,033.01.

**Treasurer's report:** Judi distributed local accounts and checking account information. She has set up the Hazel Greenier Family Accessibility Fund CD (at 4.25% for one year) at Aroostook Savings and Loan with \$2500 received in memory of Louis Greenier. There is \$8,749.95 in the trustee checking account.

Judi would like to access the trustee account at Aroostook Savings from her home computer. She will talk to Bobbi about a password as all church accounts are under Gray Memorial United Methodist Church and one password. *(Note: Bobbi talked with Aroostook Savings as she only has access to her two accounts, not all of them. She told Judi to make an appointment at the bank to make arrangements for her to get access to the Trustee accounts.)* Richard moved that we accept the report, Del seconded. Passed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**First Aid.** The new First Aid Kit (for 50 people) has been installed in the Fellowship Hall. This will be paid by donation. A \$100 donation has been received.

**Tree Disposal.** Stairs Tree Removal took down the one split tree and removed branches from two other boxelders. The original bid was \$1500; final cost was \$620.

**Parsonage Security System.** The last security camera has been put in place and the system is up and running thanks to the in-parsonage security professional.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Voting on officers and members.** Welcome to our new member David DeMerchant. He is taking Louis Greenier's seat on the board. Louis' term ended June 2023; Dave agreed to stay for another three years. Louis was vice chairman; Dave said he would take that position. Pastor Rich suggested that George Knorr be asked to join the board of trustees. This needs to be passed by the Administrative Council.

Voting on officers will be moved to the end of the year. The present officers agreed to remain in their positions.

**Parsonage ceiling tiles.** This problem and solution is tabled until November.

**Church pantry.** The storage room off the kitchen will become a pantry for the kitchen with the following changes done in-house: drop ceiling tiles \$250, 3 LED lights \$160, update electrical outlets \$15, 16 running ft. of wire shelving \$675, 4 boxes of flooring \$300 (there may be a donation of flooring) totaling \$1400.

Judson will tear up the floor as there are several layers, and this is affecting the amount of heat from the baseboard heating system. The wire shelving is commercial grade, free standing and will be purchased in Bangor.

There was much discussion about the purchase of a KitchenAid mixer for the kitchen. What is really needed is a mixer/masher for potatoes and other vegetables in very large pots. Judson will look into this. In the meantime Dave, after having purchased KitchenAids for his whole family last Christmas, will purchase a KitchenAid for his church family for this Christmas.

**Office copier.** The copier contract is up for renewal for the 2023-24 year with ODP Business Solutions (Rick Theriault). Last year's contract was \$1,189.00 for the year. The new contract is \$1,218.73, an increase of \$29.73. Note – neither of these contract prices include the overage fee of \$411.40 for 2022-2023 and \$26.75 for 2023-2024 that we had to pay. The motherboard was damaged twice this past year by lightning, a \$1400 repair if not covered by contract. Del moved and Judi seconded that we renew the contract. Passed.

**Custodian job description.** Judson Drake's custodian position, revised in June 2023 by the SPRC, was considered. There was much discussion, led by Pastor Rich, about payment to the custodian, before and after special events, by the event sponsors. There was also a suggestion that if church members can use the church "free" there be a line item in the budget to cover extra costs and work involved. The custodian job description was tabled.

**Solar panels.** Judson, Del and Pastor Rich attended a solar energy meeting via ZOOM. There was a long discussion led by Judson on the possibility of solar power for the church. The advantages and disadvantages of roof panels as opposed to array solar panels or free standing panels that follow the sun. Maine has on average 265 sunny days. We talked about the cost of heating the church before with fuel oil, now with heat pumps and propane and hopefully, in the future, off the grid. Electricity is going up 40% next year and may go up 60%.

**ROUND TABLE.** No discussion.

Pastor Rich closed the meeting with prayer.

The next Board of Trustees' meeting will be Monday, September 18, possibly at 7:30 am for a breakfast meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy L. Bossie, Secretary



## LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SEPTEMBER 2023!!!

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Friday	01	9:30am	Worship Committee Meeting in Library
Saturday	02	1:00pm	Celebration of Life Service for Gwen Ferguson; Reception to follow

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Sunday	03	10:00am	Worship; Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Monday	04	<u>FEDERAL HOLIDAY - LABOR DAY - CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED</u>	

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Tuesday	05	10:30-11:30	Morning Membership Class (1 <sup>st</sup> of 6 sessions)
		2:30pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting in Library
		6:30-7:30	Evening Membership Class (1 <sup>st</sup> of 6 sessions)
Wednesday	06	10:00am	NOW Team Meeting in Library (note new meeting time)
Saturday	09	8-10am	Free-Will Offering Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

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Sunday	10	10:00am	Worship; Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost; <u>Dan Schall in Concert</u>
Tuesday	12	10:30-11:30	Morning Membership Class (2 <sup>nd</sup> of 6 sessions)
		6:30-7:30	Evening Membership Class (2 <sup>nd</sup> of 6 sessions)
Thursday	14	1:00pm	SPRC Meeting in Library
Saturday	16	8-10am	Free-Will Offering Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
		10am-2pm	NOW Team Pie & Bake Sale

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Sunday	17	10:00am	Worship; Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Monday	18	7:30am	Trustee Breakfast Meeting (note time change)
Tuesday	19	10:30-11:30	Morning Membership Class (3 <sup>rd</sup> of 6 sessions)
		6:30-7:30	Evening Membership Class (3 <sup>rd</sup> of 6 sessions)
Thursday	21	6:30pm	Church Council Meeting
Friday	22	10:00am	<u>DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWSLETTER INPUT</u>
Saturday	23		<u>FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN!!!!</u>
		8:00am	UMM Breakfast & Meeting

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Sunday	24	10:00am	Worship; Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost; Special Music - Mari-Jo Hedman
Tuesday	26	10:30-11:30	Morning Membership Class (4 <sup>th</sup> of 6 sessions)
		6:30-7:30	Evening Membership Class (4 <sup>th</sup> of 6 sessions)
Wednesday	27	6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice

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