



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

December, 2023

Merry Christmas! My friends, the birth of Christ still heralds the coming of Hope and the chance for a new life. God's message of love manifested in the flesh as Jesus Christ is as powerful and relevant today as it was when the shepherds heard the Angels sing. Hallelujah! Just like the Magi, we too are keeping God's light in sight and remaining faithful; driven to finally reach that place where Christ resides. You and I are still traveling on that path towards Hope and new life. God is good!

Gray Memorial UMC has come to realize just how debilitating COVID has been. Though we've come out of it cautiously, COVID is still affecting how we worship, fellowship, and do ministry together. Attendance had been greatly reduced, and in-person visitation had suffered greatly. Our congregation is still reeling from the passing of at least 32 beloved church members over the last few years - That's like losing the entire membership of one small local church. I am proud of our church's resilience. Gray Memorial's congregation refuses to have the pandemic's aftermath define who they are.

In order to better address the need for healing within our congregation, and to empower our committees to boldly move forward, Pastor Rich and church leadership have dedicated themselves to programs that nurture, heal, and empower. Home and Hospital visitation has increased. There are more fellowship and community gatherings. There's a renewed focus on uplifting, prayerful, and Christ-centered worship. We've begun having quarterly healing services. Sunday Worship attendance is increasing. Our Senior Choir has returned, directed by organist, Margaret Cyr. In November, I was able to do my first infant baptism at Gray Memorial. On December 10, we plan to welcome seven new adult members.

Another affirmation that Christ goes with us, is the creation of our "Nurture, Outreach, and Witness Team". It is a committee that was formed to lend support and guidance to committees and other gifted individuals with ideas for ministry. N.O.W. brings people together to use their gifts in Christ's service. The team helps people develop funding and human resources for programs and events that nurture, motivate, and empower - expanding the church's community outreach and mission. Working this way draws-in more people, giving them the opportunity to witness to the awesome power of God. Let's continue on the path to new life!

Making disciples for Christ takes money and resources. It's no surprise that this busy, productive congregation needs all of the financial and laity-driven resources it can muster. Won't you be generous and support Gray Memorial in the year ahead? Admittedly, our 2024 stewardship program got off to a late start. I'm asking anyone who made a 2023 pledge, to consider paying their balance off by the end of this year. I also would expect that a formal 2024 stewardship letter will be released soon. Pray now on what you'll pledge in 2024, before this season gets too busy. Your help will make all the difference.

**Worship with us on Christmas Eve Sunday Morning at 10 AM.** At this time, we don't know if there will be an evening in-person candlelight service. Weather can certainly be an issue, especially for those who don't like to drive at night. None-the-less, we're offering an online Candle Light Service as an alternative.

**May you and your loved ones have a safe, blessed Christmas!**

**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: December 2023

Church Office: (207) 498-2103

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

Greetings from the Church Office!

We had a wonderful Thanksgiving meal here at the church on Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, with 19 people in attendance and we also served a couple of take-out meals. I thank each person who helped prepare the food, baked and brought in pies and other items. In addition, those who helped serve the meal and clean-up afterwards. It was truly a very blessed team effort! The free-will offerings received totaled \$300, which was given to the church's operating account. An additional \$10 donation for left-over vegetables was received on Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.

As we prepare for this year's Advent and Christmas season, we are very busy here at the church - we are participating in providing a tree with gifts at the St. Apollonia "Festival of Trees" along with our Aroostook Cluster church partners; sponsoring the "Angel Tree" again, giving Christmas gifts to local school children; our beautiful "Tree of Lights" that displays white lights on it just outside our church's entrance. It truly is a blessed time of year!

We plan on having a special Christmas Eve morning service on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> and I invite you to come and join us! May you and your family have a very joyous and blessed Christmas!

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

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier  
Church Office Administrator



## November Prayer Requests

Prayer Concerns: Ivan Shaw, Sylvia Akeley, Leland Frost, Gwen Ellinwood, Ralph Ferguson, Bruce Fitzpatrick, Gary & Marilyn Langley, Debbie & Lu Sharp, Sylvia Fox, Betty Branscom, Rodney Nichols, DeDe Nichols, Linda Cyr, Tom Todd, Richard & Sally Carde, Donald DeMerchant, James Stuart, Gail Hagelstein, Lynn Snyder, Frank Beil, Heidi Hicks/Yarbrough, Brian Jones, Laurie Cataldo, Margaret Cyr

Family Deaths: Family of Sharill Anderson; Family of Bertha (Betty) Branscom; Family of Roland Anderson; Family of Lola Black; Family of David Crook; Family of William "Bill" Beutel; Family of James Ramsden

Other: Mari-Jo Hedman (prayers of joy for good test results!); Brenda & Ron Curtis - safe travels to Florida (see you in the spring!)

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!

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## REMINDERS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LITURGIST</u>	<u>Organist/Pianist</u>	<u>COUNTER</u>	<u>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP</u>
Dec 03	Deborah Nichols	Mary Lou Brown	Ruthann Weeks	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Dec 10	Bobbi Pelletier	Judi Greenier	Elsie Doody	NOW Team
Dec 17	Mary Ouellette	Judi Greenier	Elsie Doody	Church Council
Dec 24	Deb Pringnitz	Margaret Cyr	Elsie Doody	Worship Committee
Dec 24 *	Del Ramey	TBD	N/A	N/A
Dec 31	Dean Rauch	Judi Greenier	Diane Fitzpatrick	No Volunteers!!!!

\* As of publication of this Newsletter, the Dec 24<sup>th</sup> evening service is TBD

Usher Coordinator for December: Neal Genz

Communion Stewardess: Diane Fitzpatrick

Communion Bread: David Belyea

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

Branscom, Bertha (Betty) – delete; deceased 11/11/23

Frederick, Elida – add; 166 Sweden Street, Apt. #8, Caribou ME 04736; (207) 492-2155

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

# \* \* December Birthdays & Anniversaries \* \*

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

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



1 Alaina Pethick  
4 Robin Cyr  
7 Bonnie Ward  
11 Elsie Doody, George Knorr  
14 Connie Ennis, Claire Hodgkins  
15 Zelma Merritt

16 Leland Frost  
20 Hazel Barnum  
23 Diane Fitzpatrick, Alison Kieffer  
24 Carol Norsworthy  
29 Jody Smith  
30 Kathleen Forbes



3 Penny & Ivan Shaw  
7 Sally & Richard Carde

24 Jeanette & Ken Peters  
26 Ruthann & John Weeks

*Note: A number of people with birthdays and/or anniversaries are not listed here due to no response to the August Membership Audit project.*

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>
Nov 05	62	8	\$5,958.00
Nov 12	66	5	\$2,896.00
Nov 19	51	7	\$1,959.00
Nov 26	54	(will report next month)	\$1,826.00

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+ 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 are automatically recorded as donations to the Operating Budget. Balance reported last month was \$45,274.56 and the account earned \$3.01 in interest. The balance as of November 29, 2023 is \$45,277.57 (of that amount, the "furnace replacement donation funds" that remain are \$5,424.27).*

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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 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 the donations before November 26<sup>th</sup>, so our proceeds remain at \$936.35! Thank you for your support of this project!***



## 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.

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Here are the links for our December Sunday Worship Services at 10:00am:

Dec 3 - [https://youtube.com/live/aq8\\_W66I51s](https://youtube.com/live/aq8_W66I51s)  
Dec 10 - [https://youtube.com/live/9P\\_RvOY4-v4](https://youtube.com/live/9P_RvOY4-v4)  
Dec 17 - <https://youtube.com/live/QYK9I7NLQkA>  
Dec 24 - [https://youtube.com/live/h-GRPj\\_Vuhl](https://youtube.com/live/h-GRPj_Vuhl)  
Dec 31 - <https://youtube.com/live/Q1gqB8fIE94>

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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).

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The NOW Team will sponsor the "Angel Tree" again this year! As of the publication of this newsletter, this list has not been received. However, we plan to have the angel ornaments on the tree beginning on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. We ask that people sign the clipboard for the ornaments they take. The congregation will be advised of the due date for all gifts to be brought in to the church. We will also accept cash donations to be given to families in need. Thank you!





The Worship Committee is seeking volunteers to be usher coordinator (for October) and liturgists in 2024. If you wish to join either ministry, speak with Neal Genz (Lead Usher) or Bobbi Pelletier (Worship Committee Chair) by December 12<sup>th</sup> so there is time to add you to the 2024 rotation schedules.

The Worship Committee is seeking volunteers to join the monthly communion team to prepare and serve communion elements during Worship. If you are willing to be a steward or stewardess, please speak with Diane Fitzpatrick or contact the church office. Training will be provided. Depending on the number of members on this team, you may only be asked to do the preparation and serving a couple months each year.

Our Home Communion Ministry has resumed bringing communion elements to homebound members of our church family. If you are interested in participating, please speak with Mary Ouellette, Dave DeMerchant or Richard Clark.



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## TREE OF LIGHTS ORDER FORM

The United Methodist Men are sponsoring a "Tree of Light" that can eventually have approximately 400 white lights lit and be on display outside the church.

You may "purchase" a light for \$5 and as the lights are "sold", the lights will be lit! Our hope is that all the lights will be "sold" by Sunday, Dec 24th.

Please complete the form below and proceeds will go to the UMM. Payment to the church is due by Sunday, Dec 24th.

Please make checks payable to Gray Memorial UMC and indicate "Tree of Lights" in the memo line.

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Number of lights: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.00 each    Total \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

The Board of Trustees is announcing the new

*HAZEL GREENIER FAMILY ACCESSIBILITY FUND*

Which has been established in memory of W. Louis Greenier II  
(January 30, 1942 – March 19, 2023)

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to all those who have made gifts to the Church in memory of Louis. The Board of Trustees decided to use all monies recently received in Louis' memory to set up this Fund to begin to prepare ourselves for a large project we anticipate at some point in the not-too-distant future.

That project is the replacement of our Church elevator. Our present elevator has served us well these past 25 years plus and is now requiring more and more maintenance to continue to serve our needs as well as comply with legal standards for elevators set by the State of Maine. The existing elevator made it possible for Louis to attend worship and other Church functions during these past five years and has become very necessary for other members of our congregation as well.

This new Fund has been established locally in the amount of Twenty-five Hundred Dollars and is to be managed by the Board of Trustees. We are hoping that there will be additional donations in the future so when the time arrives that our elevator must be replaced, this Fund can provide a large part of the anticipated expense. We will welcome donations to this Fund from anyone in any amount!

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**FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS SEASON**

Again this year, the Worship Committee is offering people the opportunity to purchase their own plants/flowers and bring them to the church for display during the Christmas Season.

Flowers are to be brought in or delivered from 9am – 12pm or at 1:00pm on **Friday, December 22nd**, when Worship Committee members are here to arrange them for the December 24<sup>th</sup> Service. If the following information is provided by **Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**, a list will appear in the bulletins for the December 24<sup>th</sup> service:

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19<sup>th</sup>!**

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## Pictures from our Sunday Worship Services!



Pastor Rich, holding Austin Edward Felix, presents his parents (Casey & Corey Felix) with a baby's bible at the conclusion of Austin's baptism. His godparents, Aaron & Idella Marquis, are on the right. Austin was so alert and looking around at everyone! What a sweet child!

*(Photo by Karen Rego)*



Mystery Box on November 29!  
(From left to right: Hazel Barnum, Pastor Rich, Charlotte Hise and Gwen Barnum)  
Pastor Rich holds the stuffed animal that Gwen brought in. The two animals, an alligator and a giraffe, were hugging! She said they are hugging because they are friends.  
Pastor Rich said that love is shared between friends and family at Thanksgiving and often includes hugs! (Photo by Melonie Carlson)



*Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> - Pastor Rich asked Aurora and Gwen Barnum to join him!*



*Pastor Rich presented Gwen and Aurora with new age-appropriate bibles.*

*(Photos by Melonie Carlson)*

*(This presentation was planned to happen on this particular Sunday, in honor of International Bible Week, Nov 19 - 25)*





CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
11-16-23

**ATTENDEES:** Debbie Barnes (Acting Chair), Claire Hodgkins, Neal Genz, Bobbi Pelletier, Colleen Harmon, Cheryl Martin, Shirley Bowman, Melonie Carlson, Mary Lou Brown, Erika Carlson

Bobbi asked Debbie Barnes to be the acting leader since Chairperson Alden was away and Pastor Rich was ill. Debbie called the meeting together at 10:01 AM in the church chapel. She asked Mary Lou for a brief prayer.

She read from Roy Alden's instructions as follows:

During the last month, what activities were you individually involved in that we can say demonstrates our ability as a church to enhance the achievement of our mission statement? "To make Disciples of Jesus Christ for transformation of the world."

Neal shared that the Men's Club had a guest speaker, Jillian Philbrick, a recovery coach at the Roads to Recovery, at their last meeting. Neal said that Roy was very impressed and would like to invite her to speak to the Kiwanis Club.

Bobbi reported that the church had purchased 20 turkeys for the Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry, and the Pantry now has 80 to hand out for Thanksgiving.

Melonie reported that the N.O.W. Committee were preparing for the Holiday Fling. The members would be doing a final setup on Friday for their fall fundraiser on Saturday from 10 AM to 2 PM. They had put together 72 baskets filled with goodies which will make lovely presents for Christmas. They had also collected canning jars which would hold all the dry ingredients for various soups and meals. A soup and chili lunch could be purchased on site. On another subject, Melonie reported that 3 pen pals were dropping out of the program but new ones were joining.

Shirley and Bobbi went over the October Financial reports (*information provided in the December Newsletter*). Bobbi shared the reports were very positive, especially at this time of year. She also stated that a new electronic sign to replace the outdoor letter sign in front of the church would be coming soon. Once that installation is complete, Bobbi can make changes to the sign from her new office computer which should be installed while she is on vacation in mid-December.

Another magnetic sign will be purchased by the NOW Team that will be attached to the Parsonage garage door. The sign will have white letters on green and will advertise suppers on one side and craft fairs on the reverse side. This will be very visible to anyone driving down Hershel Street and turning on to Prospect Street.

The budget proposal for 2024 was presented to the Council. After some discussion of its contents, Colleen Harmon voted to accept the budget as is and Mary Lou seconded it. The Council voted unanimously to accept the budget as presented. *(The approved budget is provided on pages 13 & 14 of this December Newsletter.)*

**MEMORIALS COMMITTEE:** Roy, Mary Lou, and Neal will explore the best way to go forward with the function of the Memorials Committee with some functions remaining with the Trustees. Bobbi continues to go through the financial information and get clarification on whether certain funds are encumbered or not. In Roy’s notes to the Council, he suggested two proposal options:

- A. Roy and Mary Lou will be appointed to the Memorials Committee joining Neal Genz. **Rationale:** They will accept donations, keep accurate and up to date records, communicate with family concerning the progress, process thankyou notes, and keep up-to-date data in the Memorial Register Book in the library. The committee will also review requests for money in the Memorials accounts that might be needed by various church organizations for multiple projects.
- B. Funds currently in the Memorials account and new funds received be deposited in the Trustee investment portfolio.  
**Rationale:** The United Methodist discipline requires that memorial funds (bequest) be part of the Trustee portfolio. Also, the process will earn a much higher interest rate than currently earned. The Memorial Committee would do the legwork involved in receiving transactions, keeping accurate records, and in conjunction with the Trustees, distribute funds when and if requests are made.

The Council discussed these two proposal options and decided that even though the money would gain less interest if kept local, it was local money for our church and therefore it would be better for Gray Memorial to choose proposal A. Bobbi Pelletier moved the Council choose option A. Neal seconded the motion and the Council members voted unanimously to go with proposal option A.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Bobbi requests that, based on conversation held during the November Church Council meeting, all committee chairs are to send their meeting minutes to her directly instead of Claire so she can send them out to all the Church Council members prior to their meetings. She can also add them to the monthly Newsletter at the same time.

Roy left these questions to ponder for next time when we meet on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Is our focus too inward as a church? Does our current church structure enhance opportunities for our membership to become actively involved and grow by making the community more aware of who we are and what we do?

**PASTOR’S TIME:** No Report

Next Meeting – Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 10:00am

There being no further business, Debbie Barnes said a brief closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Claire Hodgkins, Secretary

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Here is the 2024 Budget that was approved at the 11/17/23 Church Council Meeting:

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	a/o Oct 2023	Proposed
<b><i>Programs:</i></b>			
Education	900.00	738.38	900.00
Worship	900.00	586.46	900.00
Office	5,000.00	3738.29	5,000.00
Stewardship	300.00	280.90	300.00
Memorial Committee	150.00	0.00	150.00
History & Records	100.00	0.00	100.00
N.O.W. Team (formerly M&E)	800.00	644.80	800.00
<b>Programs Subtotals</b>	<b>8,150.00</b>	<b>5,988.83</b>	<b>8,150.00</b>
<b><i>Trustees:</i></b>			
Church Utilities	13,000.00	11,095.72	13,000.00
Parsonage Utilities	8,000.00	9,589.32	8,000.00
Telephone/Internet/Cell Phone	4,800.00	1,468.55	2,200.00
Property Insurance	10,700.00	9,769.99	14,500.00
Snow Removal/Mowing	5,500.00	2,915.00	4,000.00
Maintenance/Cleaning	3,900.00	2,037.50	2,800.00
Technology	1,400.00	134.53	1,400.00
Real Estate Taxes	2,450.00	2,728.05	3,300.00
<b>Trustees Subtotals</b>	<b>49,750.00</b>	<b>39,738.66</b>	<b>49,200.00</b>
<b><i>Staff-Parish Relations:</i></b>			
Pastor's Salary	51,000.00	42,500.00	52,000.00
Social Security	1,000.00	750.00	2,000.00
Health Insurance	19,152.00	15,960.00	20,160.00
<b>Total Pastor Comp.</b>	<b>71,152.00</b>	<b>59,210.00</b>	<b>74,160.00</b>
Child Care Provider	750.00	0.00	750.00
Organist/Pianist	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Choir Director	2,000.00	1,900.00	2,200.00
Financial Secretary	1,600.00	0.00	1,600.00
Treasurer	1,600.00	1,333.30	1,600.00
Church Secretary	8,000.00	6,666.70	10,000.00
Custodian	15,000.00	14,000.00	19,500.00
<b>Total Other Salaries</b>	<b>29,950.00</b>	<b>23,900.00</b>	<b>36,650.00</b>
<b><i>Other Expenses:</i></b>			
Guest & Subst. Staff	3,000.00	1,800.00	3,000.00
Delegates to Annual Conf.	800.00	0.00	1,000.00
<i>Pastor Reimbursements</i>			3,300.00
SPRC Miscellaneous	250.00	0.00	250.00
FICA	2,500.00	1,866.79	2,600.00
Workman's Comp.	1,100.00	768.40	1,200.00
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>10,950.00</b>	<b>4,813.13</b>	<b>11,350.00</b>
<b>Staff-Parish Subtotals</b>	<b>112,052.00</b>	<b>87,923.13</b>	<b>122,160.00</b>



<b>NEC Payments:</b>			
World Missions (1)	7,012.00	7,012.00	7,227.00
New England Missions (2)	6,947.00	6,947.00	7,083.00
Ministerial Support (3)	16,162.00	16,162.00	15,999.00
<b>Mission Shares Subtotals</b>	<b>30,121.00</b>	<b>30,121.00</b>	<b>30,309.00</b>
Pastor Pension Benefit	9,737.50	8,114.60	9,903.75
<b>Total NEC Payments</b>	<b>39,858.50</b>	<b>38,235.60</b>	<b>40,212.75</b>
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>209,810.50</b>	<b>171,886.22</b>	<b>219,722.75</b>
needed weekly / % budget spent	3,958.69		4,225.44
needed monthly to meet budget	17,484.21		18,310.23

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

### **Aroostook Cluster of the United Methodist Churches Meeting Minutes for November 2, 2023**

PLEASE CORRECT PASTOR JAMES EMAIL TO THE FOLLOWING: choichong@hotmail.com

The meeting came to order at 9:05 am with the following in attendance at Governor's Restaurant in Presque Isle. Tracy Reeves, Carolyn Kimball, Richard Kimball, Paula Lilley, Mary Miller, James Choi Chong, Chris Dare and Sue Brown.

Sue welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. We were pleased to welcome James and meet him in person. Tracy led us in a time of devotions sharing from Day 22 of "40 Days with Wesley" by Reuben Jo. The reflection lifted the Holy Heart/Holy Living connection and encouraged us to walk with Christ in everyday life, i.e. living a Holy live. Tracy shared a blessing from the reflection to close. Thank you, Tracy.

#### **Secretary's Report**

The minutes of the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting were presented. Motion to approve by Mary and seconded by Paula. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Paula reported that we have spent \$41.15 for a tree for the St. Apollonia project. Our current checkbook balance is \$525.25. Motion to approve the report by Tracy and seconded by Carolyn. Motion carried unanimously. Thank you, Paula.

#### **Cluster Thanksgiving Service**

Mary brought information that she and Joyce have prepared for the service on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The service will include Psalms, Musical Offerings from our various churches and presentation of the Discipleship Recognition recipients. Please send any information that you have regarding musical offerings to Mary as soon as possible. Also, names of the Discipleship Recognition recipients are needed ASAP as the certificates need to be prepared.

Sue will compile a list of past recipients from lists Marge has maintained and will send that along with these notes. (Thank you, Margy!)

#### **2023 St. Apollonia Festival of Trees**

This event with theme: "Love Came Down at Christmas" will be held at NMCC on December 1, 2 & 3. Sue has registered us to participate and has purchased a lighted tree – cost about \$41.00. The following are confirmed to participate: Houlton, Hodgdon, Patten, Mars Hill, Washburn, Presque Isle and Limestone. We have not heard from Mapleton or Caribou. Hodgdon, Houlton and Patten are making ornaments for the trees. Tracy has framed prints of the carols prepared. Mary has agreed to gather items from our southernmost churches. Please let Sue know if you have

items that need to be picked up. The set-up will be Nov. 29-30 and Sue will let everyone know a specific day/time when the date gets closer.

**Pulpit Exchange**

Eastertide has been chosen for pulpit exchange. We will keep this in our agenda and discuss closer to that time.

**New Business**

Please continue to encourage greater lay participation in Cluster Council.  
Mary asked that we give thought to Missional Outreach ideas for the future. One that she is particularly involved with at this time is Pura Vita. Tracy will check into our UMC Nicaragua Covenant to see current status.

**Joys and concerns**

We shared joys and concerns. Prayer was led by Sue.  
Activities in our Churches

- Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> – Houlton Christmas Sale
- Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> – Tracy will begin “40 Days of Prayer” using “Unbinding the Gospel”  
This will be an at home study but may also include some gatherings for those who wish.  
To be included, contact Tracy with your email address.
- Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Grant Memorial UMC Annual Christmas Bazaar (9am – 2pm)
- Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Hodgdon Annual Christmas Bazaar (9am – 2pm...?)

Next meeting: Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am via Zoom.  
Devotions for next meeting: James  
Meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.  
Respectfully submitted,  
*Sue Brown*  
Sue Brown  
Secretary  
Aroostook Cluster Council of United Methodist Churches

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**FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP:**

**From Financial Secretary:**

The following is the total church offering for October:

Regular Offering	\$15,694.00
<u>Loose Offering</u>	<u>377.01</u>
Subtotal-Regular Offering	\$16,071.01
Other Sources	
Operating Fund:	.00
Total Operating Fund Income	\$16,071.01
Reimbursements:	6.00
Special Funds for Church Use	
Coffee Fellowship	112.00
Bottle Redemption	16.65
Prayer Shawl Ministry	296.00
Lou Leavitt Memorial	645.00
Gwen Ferguson Memorial	350.00
Audrey Bubar Memorial	25.00
Harvest Supper	1,202.00
Apollonia Festival of Trees Donation	10.00
<u>Saturday Breakfast</u>	<u>155.26</u>
Subtotal Funds for Church Use	2,811.91

Special Funds Not for Church Use	
World Communion Sunday	57.00

Grand Total:	\$18,945.92
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**From Treasurer:**

Beginning Balance	5,436.21	
2023 Operating income	16,071.01	
<b>Bottle Redemption</b>	<b>16.65</b>	
<b>Saturday Breakfasts (Oct)</b>	<b>155.26</b>	
Interest	1.50	
Less EFT fee	(33.25)	VANCO fees (EFT deposits)
Less Expenses	(15,294.18)	
Ending Balance	6,353.20	

\* \$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 October 31, 2023, on-line report shows ending value = \$22,461.48.

The Capital Account Money is as follows as of October 31<sup>st</sup>: Previous Balance - \$69,824.42; Deposit (interest) - \$3.01; Expenses - \$24,549.86 (Portico repair costs); Current Balance - \$45,277.57.

Expenditures for October 2023:

Programs:

Education	\$12.12
Worship	14.00
Office	50.33
NOW Team	72.80
Programs Sub-Total	\$149.25

Trustee Expenses:

Church Utilities	\$1,081.63
Parsonage Utilities	1,905.24
Telephone/Internet	169.96
Property Insurance	1,433.85

Maintenance/Cleaning	421.52
Technology	16.95
Trustee Sub-Total	\$5,029.15

Staff-Parish Relations Expenses:

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

Choir Director	\$300.00
Treasurer	133.33
Secretary	666.67
Custodian	1,500.00
Total Other Salaries	\$2,600.00

Other Expenses:

Guest & Substitute Staff	\$250.00
Pastor Travel	377.94
FICA	153.54
Workman's Comp	76.84
Total Other Expenses	\$858.32
Sub-Total SPRC Expenses	\$9,304.32

New England Conference:

Pastor Pension Benefit	\$811.46
NEC Total	\$811.46
Grand Total Expenses	\$15,294.18

Weekly Average Needed for 2023: \$3,958.69 (53 Sundays)  
Mission Shares = \$2,510.08/mo.; As of EOM August, all 2023 Mission Shares are paid through December!  
Note: Dead River bills for church also include charges for propane deliveries  
Balances as of Oct 31: Church = (\$1,030.46); Parsonage = \$(4,311.86)

2023 YTD REVIEW

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

October:  
Target = \$174,842.08; Beginning Operating Fund Balance (Jan only) - \$15,525.07; Operating Fund Income from F/S YTD - \$150,040.00; Special Funds Used for Operating Fund Expenses YTD = \$12,922.53; Unpaid Mission Shares = \$0.

ATTENDANCE FOR October:  
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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**NOW Team Meeting - November 1, 2023**  
**Nurture - Outreach - Witness**

In attendance: Karen Rego, Colleen Harmon, Bobbi Pelletier, Melonie Carlson, Ruthann Weeks, Kathy Panaro, Sandy Pethick, Alaina Pethick, Joyce Knorr, Pastor Rich Rego, Margaret Cyr  
Absent: Rhonda Cyr

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 am.  
Pastor Rich opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes from October Meeting -  
Ruthann made a motion to approve the updated minutes, which included a correction in the budget update.  
Joyce seconded and the motion passed.

Budget Update -  
Ruthann presented the budget update. Please see the below Treasurer’s Report:

Balance as of September 23, 2023	\$1,917.13
10-5-23 Deposit	\$323.65
Interest to account	.23
10-10-23 Deposit	\$ 96.00
10/10/23 Prayer Shawl Ministry	(\$196.00)
10/10/23 GMUMC operating budget	(\$196.00)
10/12/2023 deposit	\$100.00
10-17-2023 deposit	\$ 58.00
10-19-2023 seed money cookie booth	(\$100.00)
10-23-23 deposit sales cookie booth	\$791.00
10-23-23 deposit seed money	\$100.00
10-28-23	\$ 58.00
Balance 10-31-23	\$2,952.01

Deposit Details  
10-5-23 \$17.00 Pie and bake sale, Lou Leavitt’s reception \$156.65, church replicas \$150.00  
10-10-23 \$5.00 Pie and bake sale, \$75.00 church replicas, \$16.00 postage  
10-12-23 \$100.00 4 church replicas

10-17-23 \$58.00 2 replicas and \$8.00 postage  
10-23-23 \$791.00 cookie booth sales  
10-23-23 \$100.00 seed money  
10-27-23 \$58.00 2 churches & 8.00 postage

#### Status Updates -

**Penpals** - The penpal program is now up and running this year. There are several new students, mostly boys. In relation to this, Pastor Rich let us know that he had recently received a phone call from George Ferland. It was nice to catch up with him. George will be in contact with his penpal soon too.

**Cookie Booth** - Overall, the cookie booth went well. There were lots of cookies. We are grateful for all of our bakers. We do need more volunteers to man the booth, though. The dog treats were very popular, especially the smallest and largest sizes. The specialty cookies sold the best, such as date filled, macadamia nut, no bakes, and thumbprint cookies. Next year, we would like to have the sign-up include specific cookies. We also need to make sure that each bag is individually labeled.

**Church Replicas** - The initial order period is over. Roughly 20 orders were placed, but several of those indicated they would like multiple pieces when they are available. Sandy will be at the Holiday Fling to sell the replicas and have an artist's signing.

#### Expenditure Proposals -

**Parsonage Sign** - Pastor Rich presented a proposal to purchase a sign for the parsonage garage door. That spot is very visible from Herschel Street and many people go past it. The sign would be green with white text, similar to highway signs. It would be double-sided with one side reading "Church Supper" and the other "Church Fair". We generally have standard times for these types of events, so it will be applicable for many occasions. The estimated cost of the sign is \$190. Pastor Rich would bring back more information for us soon.

**Cookie Booth Funds** - Bobbi reported that the refrigerator in the kitchen very recently malfunctioned and needs to be replaced. She suggested we share the expense with UMW. Because this is an immediate need, Karen moved to pay toward the purchase of a new refrigerator and the amount will be determined after a quote is received. Ruthann seconded and the motion passed.

**Table skirt** - Melonie presented information about some table covers that could be used on the serving tables during events. There was much discussion about the durability, care, etc. of the table covers. The need to replace the current white tablecloths for all tables in the fellowship hall and the current vinyl tablecloths came up as well. Further discussion was tabled until our next meeting.

#### Holiday Fling Update/Planning -

First, we reviewed who is making what in regards to the food and the bake table. This Sunday there will be an announcement with a request for donations of baked goods, jars, or items for the basket sale. A bulletin insert and small poster should be ready for this Sunday. We also need to make the notice on our outdoor sign, the Rec center, etc. Several prep days were established as follows: Saturday, Nov. 11 at 1 pm; Monday, Nov. 13 at 1 pm; and Friday, Nov. 17 at 1 pm. We will be completing the baskets, recipes in a jar, and setup during these times.

#### Additional Business -

**Thanksgiving Dinner** - Reservations will need to be made by the Friday before Thanksgiving. Volunteers are needed to help setup (Wednesday, Nov. 22 at 1 pm and Thursday, Nov. 23 at 8 am) and to bake pies. The Wednesday prep day will also include initial prep (peel & chop) of the vegetables. Several of the NOW team members volunteered. Other food donations are needed such as squash, white pearl onions, rolls and green bean casserole ingredients. Related to this, Bobbi also reported that 20 turkeys will be purchased for the Food Pantry. She moved that the NOW team fund this purchase and then accept reimbursement from other committees. Karen seconded and the motion passed.

**Margaret Cyr** - Margaret presented several handmade dishcloths and scarves and Christmas decor items that she is donating for the Holiday Fling. Bobbi and Joyce are also bringing some items they have made. And there will be a grab bag made up of the smaller items. Thank you all!



*Christmas Angel Tree* - This will go up after Thanksgiving

*Thank You Cards* - We received thank you cards from the Prayer Shawl Ministry and Lou Leavitt’s daughter.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 am.  
Our next meeting will be December 6 at 10 am. This will be a brunch at the parsonage. We will also have a Yankee Swap (Left-left-right-right style) with a limit of \$15.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alaina Pethick

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**SPRC (this report was not received prior to the Church Council Meeting and was not shared at the meeting):** The SPRC met on Thursday, November 9 with all but one member in attendance. There were no comments from congregants presented. The meeting opened with prayer by Pastor, then ordinary staff-liaison reports were heard. Discussion was had about the Worship committee’s request to prepare coffee fellowship on a monthly rotation rather than quarterly. The committee would like more clarification as to reasoning for this request. Discussion was had about the revised staff position descriptions, suggesting that the most recent versions be adopted, that copies of the proposed descriptions be distributed ASAP to each staff member for review, and if satisfactory as written, be presented to the Church Council for adoption. Discussion continued about selection of an annual staff review format ensued. This issue continues to remain open at present. (provided to Claire Hodgkins by Debbie Barnes)

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Gray Memorial United Methodist Church  
United Methodist Men’s Club Meeting  
October 28, 2023

1. **Call to order and opening prayer:**
  - Members gathered at 0800 at kitchen/fellowship hall.
  - Meeting was called to order at 0830 by Pres. Neal Genz. Members present were: Neal Genz, Del Ramey, Conrad Walton, Richard Clark, Dave DeMerchant, Tom O’Neal, Judson Drake, Roy Alden, George Knorr, Romeo Bouchard, Dave Belyea, and Pastor Richard Rego. Guest speaker was Ms. Jillian Philbrick,
  - Opening Prayer was led by Richard Clark.
  - Meeting was adjourned at 0832 for breakfast casseroles, muffins, fruit, juice and coffee.
2. **Program:** Our program was a presentation by Jillian Philbrick, Recovery Coach at Roads to Recovery, a Substance Use Peer Recovery Center, a part of AMHC, located on the corner of Water St. and Main in Caribou. Jill gave us an excellent presentation on the services they provide and the support she personally provides to over 45 individuals with substance abuse disorders. Drug and alcohol addiction is often handled by a judicial system that hands out punishment not treatment in most cases. A “drug court” in other jurisdictions seems to be a better solution. She concluded with an inspiring personal journey of abuse, prison, addiction - and recovery. She also offered opportunities to volunteer and donate – they are exclusively a non-profit. They are also accepting adult winter clothing.
3. **Prelate’s message:** Prelate Richard Clark gave the devotional message based on passages from Psalms, Isaiah, John and Mathew. Several familiar passages – “for God so loved the world...”; “my thoughts are not your thoughts, and my ways are not your ways ‘, etc.  
When we leave this physical world for the spiritual world how will we be judged and do we assume God’s justice is perfect?
4. **Old Business:**
  - **Secretary’s Report:** copies of our last meeting minutes, June 24, 2023 draft were emailed and passed out. Accepted as written.
  - **Treasurer’s Report:** Checkbook balance as of Sept. 30, 2023 is \$1456.1

## 5. New Business:

- Voted to switch our checking account from The County Federal Credit Union to the AFSL where the church's other accounts all reside. Authorized signers for the account would be: treasurer – David Belyea; president - Neal Genz; and vice president - Bruce Fitzpatrick.
- Voted to contribute \$100.00 again this year to purchase turkeys for the Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry.
- Voted to sponsor the Tree of Lights again this year. Del will supply the tree.

## 6. Other Business:

- President Neal reminded the members that we are scheduled to do coffee fellowship on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>.  
Next meeting: December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

David Belyea, Secretary

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Board of Trustees Meeting  
Tuesday, November 14, 2023  
1:00 – 2:15

Present: Judson Drake (Chairman), David DeMerchant (Vice Chairman), Wendy Bossie (Secretary), George Knorr, Debbie Nichols

Absent: Judi Greenier (Treasurer), Richard Clark, Del Ramey, Pastor Rich

Judson began the meeting with prayer.

Secretary's report: Read and passed.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer absent.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Snow removal.** A contract has been signed by Jennifer Michaud, Caribou, for the third year. Because of the price of diesel fuel, they are charging \$300 more than last year. Cost \$3,300.

**2024 budget.** There have been two changes in the trustees' budget that we approved last month. Snow removal/mowing reduced from \$4800 to \$4000. Telephone/internet reduced from \$5000 to \$2,200. \$49,200 total.

**Parsonage bedroom ceiling.** Judson and Colleen took down the old ceiling with horsehair plaster, restrapped and put up new ceiling tiles, put the room back together and made a dump run. This was done mostly while the Regos were on vacation.

Judson's time = 30 hrs. Colleen's time = 22 hrs. Cost of materials will be given at the next meeting.

**Church office computer.** Trustees voted to purchase a new computer for the church office at our June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting to replace the 2014 model now being used by Bobbi which is very slow. Judson will see that this is done during Bobbi's December vacation.

**JEI digital sign.** We held off approving the purchase of this outside sign until we were sure that the installation price of \$13,000 was for both sides. It is. Debbie made a motion, George seconded and it was passed that Judson give the go ahead to JEI Signs out of Littleton to insert an LED digital component in the present framework. There is a ten-year warranty. The money will come from capital campaign funds – structure. When the funds that the Memorial Committee manages is reconciled, the Trustees will request use of some of the unencumbered money to reimburse the Capital Campaign funds.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Energy audit.** An energy audit should be done. Installations Unlimited of Presque Isle will use technical equipment and will clarify church energy consumption and identify areas for potential savings. Judson hopes to have them come in February. Cost for church is \$500 and for parsonage \$350. Dave made a motion that Judson have an energy audit done, Debbie seconded. Passed.

**Fellowship hall.** This room and the kitchen need to be tightened up as there are air leaks around the old steam pipes. There needs to be insulation in the back hallway and in the outside walls of the kitchen.

**Christmas party.** We decided on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> for a pot luck supper and Yankee swap. Gift not to exceed \$20. We will also contribute to a charity.

## ROUND TABLE

**Meetings.** All gatherings will be asked to meet in the choir room which has a heat pump and is well insulated. It is hoped that these meetings can be held during the middle of the week, even several meetings a day. All of this is to conserve heat and save money.

**Caribou's homeless.** The presence of a group of people at the "brown house" location/garage across the street from the parsonage and garden is always a topic of conversation. They are using the church's memorial garden as a restroom. Judson plans to address city council in the near future although the Caribou Police Department has already been notified.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy L. Bossie, Secretary

Worship Committee Minutes  
November 9, 2023

Members Present: Bobbi Pelletier (chair), Claire Hodgkins, Gwen Ellinwood, Richard Clark, Margaret Cyr, Pastor Rich Rego  
Bobbi is taking the minutes.

Devotions – Claire Hodgkins. She forgot about having devotions, so just offered that people need to be respectful of other people.

Minutes from October 6, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

Old Business:

- Bobbi reported that SPRC had provided the wording for the job vacancies, so the outdoor sign and office message was changed this week. No calls as of today. At last Church Council meeting, SPRC agreed to use \$300 of the “Youth Account” money to pay for 4 weeks of advertising on the WAGM-TV “Workforce Wednesday” ticker. (*First day it was shown was Wednesday, November 15th.*)
- Bobbi shared the results of the Membership Audit – 112 members who did not respond to the August 8th letter were listed in the Church Conference booklet and read during that conference. These names will be read for another 2 years and then removed from our rolls unless we hear anything from them during that time. Only one person on that list responded since the conference and they asked to be removed. All of these individuals were removed from emails and mailings effective October 1st. The November mailing of the Newsletter, which included some constituents, was reduced from 93 to 31, which reduced our mailing cost by \$70.68. As of today, no one has inquired as to why they’re not receiving correspondence from us.
- Bobbi purchased more coffee fellowship items on her last trip through Bangor. We should have enough to last quite a while, but will plan to get more in December.
- We discussed the All Saints Sunday service and believe it went very well. Several people thanked us for honoring their loved ones. Thank you to Richard for reading the names and everyone else who participated in that part of the service. Special thanks to Alaina for creating the pictures that were displayed when names were read. Also, thank you to Wendy Bossie for creating the beautiful library bulletin board honoring all these saints.
- November 12th – Baptism for Austin Felix. Pastor Rich purchased a “Baby Bible” to present to them. We will prepare the font and place it in front of the altar rail.
- November 19th – Thanksgiving Sunday. We will ask for donations of fresh or canned vegetables for the Food Pantry. Gwen volunteered to help Bobbi bring these donations to the pantry after the service.
- Bobbi asked about any more thought regarding “Passing the Peace”. Pastor Rich said we’d do a trial run on November 19th.
- Bobbi asked how the Home Communion went on November 5th (Dave DeMerchant, Richard Clark and Mary Ouellette). Richard said it went perfect!
- Bobbi asked Pastor Rich if he’d ordered the Bibles for Aurora and Gwen for presentation on the 19th - not yet, but he will.
- The Mission Project boxes do have some donations in them. Bobbi will contact Denise Hamlin about picking up the donations later this month.

New Business:

- Bobbi reminded everyone that the Aroostook Cluster will have their Thanksgiving Service on Thursday, November 16th at 6pm at Grant Memorial UMC. We are asked to bring refreshments. Our choir is not signing, but Pastor Rich said we plan to provide liturgists.
- Discussion about decorating the sanctuary for the Advent season: we will meet on Saturday, December 2nd at 1pm. Diana Locke volunteered to help change our purple candles to blue for this year. The NOW Team will be here as well to put up the Angel Tree and help us if needed. UMM is putting up the “Tree of Lights” that morning too.
- Do we want to purchase Advent gifts? We already have 29 Advent Devotions left over from previous years. Do we really need any more? Diana and Gwen had a few suggestions, but we decided not to purchase any new ones. For the children however, Bobbi suggested we purchase the “Get Ready for Christmas” book for the children – cost is \$.99 each. We decided to do that.
- Bobbi asked about the Advent Sundays – any special plans or ideas? Pastor Rich said we will have people come forward to light the candles each week. We talked a lot about the “Angels” themed Advent season in 2017 – some parts were very moving. We decided that since it was a lot of work to put that together, we will not do that and think about it next year.
- Pastor Rich mentioned that we will welcome new members during our December 10th service.

- Bobbi informed everyone that Grant Memorial will host the “Dan Ladner & Friends” program on Sunday December 17th. Our choir is not participating, but Margaret was asked to play the piano.
- Bobbi mentioned that there will be some discussion about meeting days/times to help reduce our fuel consumption. Meetings will be held in the choir room.
- Bobbi asked if we will have a Christmas Eve afternoon or evening service? It was decided we should ask the congregation (perhaps during the November 19th service) as we been hearing a lot of questions about this. Margaret suggested that would make our morning service “bigger” and not have another service that day. Perhaps invite other churches to attend and offer special music time and include them.
- Bobbi asked the committee if they would consider sponsoring a function to raise money for the church. She and Judson have talked about a couple of public dinners (Boiled Ham/St. Patrick’s day, March 16th; Italian Dinner/Date unknown). These may be in-person sit-down dinners. The committee did not make a decision.

Other Business:

- Margaret shared that she plans to schedule the choir music through January.
- Bobbi asked if we should reinstate greeters? A little discussion about that and it was decided that Bobbi would speak with the NOW Team to see if they would do this. Also, they need to update the Visitors Bags.

Next meeting will be Friday, December 1st at 9:30am. Claire will do devotions.

Bobbi Pelletier (pseudo pretend secretary) ☺



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

Friday	01	9:30am	Worship Committee Meeting
Saturday	02	8:00am	UMM Breakfast & Meeting (Put Up the "Tree of Lights")
		1:00pm	Worship Committee & NOW Team Prepare Sanctuary for Advent
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Sunday	03	10:00am	Worship; First Sunday of Advent
Tuesday	05	2:30pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting
Wednesday	06	10:00am	NOW Team Meeting at Parsonage; Celebrate Christmas, Yankee Swap
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Friday	08	7:00pm	Caribou Choral Society Christmas Concert at Grant Memorial UMC, Presque Isle
Saturday	09	7:00pm	Caribou Choral Society Christmas Concert at Caribou Performing Arts Center
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Sunday	10	10:00am	Worship; Second Sunday of Advent
Tuesday	12	10:00am	Deadline for Volunteers as Usher Coordinators and Liturgists
		6:00pm	Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Dinner/Meeting at Caribou Inn
Wednesday	13	6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	14	1:00pm	SPRC Meeting
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Sunday	17	10:00am	Worship; Third Sunday of Advent
		7:00pm	"Dan Ladner & Friends" at Grant Memorial UMC, Presque Isle
Tuesday	19	6:00pm	Trustee Meeting & Christmas Party; Pot Luck Supper
Wednesday	20	6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	21		<u>FIRST DAY OF WINTER</u>
		10:00am	Church Council Meeting
Friday	22	10:00am	<u>DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWSLETTER INPUT</u>
		1:00pm	Worship Committee Members at Church to Arrange Christmas Plants
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Sunday	24	10:00am	Worship; Fourth Sunday of Advent
Monday	25		<u>FEDERAL HOLIDAY - CHRISTMAS DAY - CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED</u>
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Sunday	31	10:00am	Worship; First Sunday after Christmas Day (New Year's Eve)
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Bobbi will be away from Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Church Office will be closed those workdays (Thursday/Friday/Monday/Tuesday).