

March 1, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Easter comes early this year, and there is so much to pray about as we go on this journey together. I challenge you to sit down with your friends and members of your family to read the Book of John entirely. It's uniquely different from the other gospels, because it speaks to the Divinity of Jesus Christ.



As we approach Holy Week, my heart is filled with both sorrow and joy. Sorrow, because we must remember and reflect upon the passion, suffering, and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. But also joy, because we know that His ultimate sacrifice led to His glorious resurrection and our salvation.

As followers of Christ, it's crucial that we try to relate to Christ's passion and suffering. If we don't try to understand the suffering, we won't truly understand the power of Easter morning. We mustn't shy away from the gruesome details of His crucifixion, but instead embrace them, allowing the reality of Jesus' suffering to pierce our hearts. Only then can we fully comprehend the magnitude of sacrifice and the depth of love.

In our busy lives, it can be easy to overlook or even avoid the difficult parts of the Easter story. But I urge you to take the time to truly connect with Christ's growing frustration before he rode into Jerusalem on what we call "Palm Sunday". Imagine yourself a witness to Christ's suffering during his final days. Read through the Gospel accounts of His crucifixion and ponder on each of the events that unfolded upon his death; like the total darkness of an eclipse, and the temple's huge "Holy of Holies" curtain being torn in two; ending forever the separation between us and Almighty God.

You can also attend Gray Memorial's Annual Holy Week Program at 12 Noon from Monday, March 25th to Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. A different area church will give the message each day. Rather than hosting a Good Friday evening service, Gray Memorial will have a Maundy Thursday Service of Progressive Darkness, Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. We may also be live streaming that service. Our plan is to release our April Newsletter early, so you'll have the most up-to-date March 31 Easter Program calendar. We hope to also offer a Sunrise Easter service, an Easter morning breakfast and Easter egg hunt.

Consider bringing a friend with you during Holy Week. Help them relate to Christ's passion and suffering. It not only deepens our appreciation for Christ's sacrifice, but it also prepares us to fully experience the joy and triumph of His Resurrection. We must fully embrace the sorrow and darkness of Holy Week in-order to fully appreciate the light and joy of Easter Sunday. Until that glorious day, let's continue to come together as a community of believers during Lent. Let's support and uplift one another as we journey with Christ to His glorious Resurrection.

My prayer for you is that you never forget the incredible love and mercy of our Savior. May you never take for granted, the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus made for us. May we carry the memory of His passion and suffering in our hearts, so that we can truly celebrate the miracle of Easter! There is not only power in His blood – there's also blessed Hope and Love in His Resurrection. Amen to that!

May God bless you all and may His love and grace guide you always.

Yours in Christ,

**Pastor Rich Rego**

Gray Memorial United Methodist Church  
Caribou, Maine



# 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)

Date: March 2024  
Church Office: (207) 498-2103  
**Website:** <http://www.bgmumc.com>

Greetings from the Church Office!

Please remember that the church office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am to 2pm. The regular hours of 9am ~ noon will resume on Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. You can always leave a telephone message or send an email that I can get when I am in the office.

We applied for a \$90,000 loan from the United Methodist Foundation of New England to help us pay expenses related to the January 11<sup>th</sup> water incident. We are also awaiting news from our insurance company on how much the church will receive on the claim. In the meantime, nearly all of the work that was needed to get done has been accomplished and we are back to normal schedules again with meetings and in-person services.

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, March 22nd!!!!***

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier  
Church Office Administrator



## February Prayer Requests

Prayer Concerns: Anna Roberts, Leland Frost, Richard Carde, Ralph Ferguson, Sylvia Akeley, Debbie & Lu Sharp, Gwen Ellinwood, Ivan Shaw, Don DeMerchant, Linda Cyr, James Stuart, DeDe Nichols, Diana Rauch, Jana Davenport, Arthur Philbrick, Rodric Johnson, Linda McNett, Douglas Allen, Richard & Sue Plourde, Del Ramey, Richard Plourde, Norris Frost, Sean & Cambria Peterson, Emily Robertson, Bunny Berube, Diane Levesque, Robert Vandenburg, Erica LaPlante, Sally Carde

Family Deaths: Family of Gerry Willard; Family of Gerald Drake; Family of Mary Siver; Family of Clinton Sawvel; Family of Odette Pelletier; Family of Billy Weatherhead; Family of Gary Levesque; Family of Patricia St. Peter Curry; Family of Norm Collins

Other: For all soldiers in harm's way; Victim of accident on 161 (Feb 4<sup>th</sup>)

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>
Mar 3	Mary Ouellette	Margaret Cyr	Ruthann Weeks	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Mar 10	Bobbi Pelletier	Margaret Cyr	Ruthann Weeks	NOW Team
Mar 17	* Kim Miller	Mary Lou Brown	Ruthann Weeks	UMM
Mar 24	Dean Rauch	Margaret Cyr	Elsie Doody	Worship Committee
Mar 31	Karen Rego	Margaret Cyr	Elsie Doody	No Coffee Fellowship – Easter Sunday

\* Change to published schedule

Usher Coordinator for March: Debbie Nichols

Communion Stewardess: Debbie Barnes

Communion Bread: Debbie Barnes

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

Drake, Gerald – deceased 1/29/24; remove from directory

Willard, Gerry – deceased 1/13/24; remove from directory

# \* \* March Birthdays & Anniversaries \* \*

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

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



1	Mary Kirkpatrick, Adam Lombard	10	Ryan Genz, Jeanette Peters, Debbie Sharp
2	Marilla Cushman, Bobbi Pelletier	15	George Cushman
3	Kitty Doar	16	Beth Alden
4	Kent Forbes	25	Casey Felix
5	Robert Kieffer	26	Roy Alden
6	Duska Franklin, Roberta Walton		



NO ANNIVERSARIES

*Note: A number of people with birthdays and/or anniversaries are not listed here due to no response to the August Membership Audit project and church members were reported in the October 15, 2023 annual Church Conference Booklet for ultimate removal from our membership rolls.*

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	<u>In-Person Attendance</u>	<u>*On-Line Attendance</u>	+ <u>Operating Fund Offering</u>
Jan 28	52	27	\$1,908.00
Feb 04	47	30	\$7,118.00
Feb 11	57	33	\$2,939.00
Feb 18	52	27	\$1,401.00
Feb 25	49	(will report next month)	\$2,092.00

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+ Needed weekly to meet 2024 Budget: \$4,225.44

\* On-line attendance shows the number of unique viewers, but may not 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 in last month's Newsletter was \$30,856.42. Since then, we received \$1.84 interest and paid the following bills related to the January 11<sup>th</sup> incident - \$1,845.00 to Sullivan's Floor Covering for the new rug in the basement hallway; \$130.27 to S. W. Collins for replacement ceiling tiles for the nursery area and \$200 to AVM Electric for work done due to that incident and \$450 to United Methodist Foundation of New England (UMFNE) as 50% of the \$90,000 loan application fee. We intend to reimburse this account for the payments once insurance claim disbursement is received. So far, we have received a total of \$10,005.00 for the "Emergency Sprinkler Fund". All these transactions leave us with a balance of \$38,237.99 in the account (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 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 received \$21.15 in February donations, so our proceeds are now No donations received so far in January, so our proceeds are still \$988.85! Thank you for your support of this project! Just a reminder that these monies are used to cover operating expenses.*



## 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 our ministries.

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 March Sunday Worship Services at 10:00am:

March 3 - <https://youtube.com/live/Blj9cC0z0gI>  
March 10 - <https://youtube.com/live/3exhHL3Ro8I>  
March 17 - <https://youtube.com/live/ZPThNcKJIa4>  
March 24 - <https://youtube.com/live/hKcqDTxXPEM>  
March 31- <https://youtube.com/live/a5HaJ9dmnA8>

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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 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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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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The Worship Committee plans on sponsoring the Holy Week Ecumenical Noon Services, inviting various clergy in the area to conduct a service one day that week. Their church will also be asked to provide a pianist or organist for the service and refreshments following the service.

Plan on attending these Holy Week Noon Services March 25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>.

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### **FLOWERS FOR EASTER – March 31, 2024**

The Worship Committee invites you to order or purchase your own plants/flowers and bring/deliver them to the church for display on Easter Sunday.

Flowers are to be brought in or delivered on Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 9am-2pm or at 1:00pm on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> when Worship Committee members are here to arrange them for the Easter Sunday Service the next day. If the following information is provided by Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, it will be listed in the Easter Sunday Bulletin.

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

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

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Pictures from our Sunday Worship Services! (all photos taken by Melonie Carlson)



Pastor Rich presented the Mystery Box on Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Inside the box were “worry stones” that he shared with everyone – Aurora brought the box around the sanctuary to make sure everyone had an opportunity to take one.





February 18<sup>th</sup> - Pastor Rich sang "Just Give Me Jesus" for Special Music.



Feb 25 – Gwen Ellinwood brought in the “Mystery Box” which contained an old school bell. She said it belonged to her mother-in-law’s great-grandparents and believes it is well over 100 years old. Pastor Rich talked about the use of a bell like this was commonly to call children in for dinner and we could use it’s ringing as a reminder that it’s time to come to Christ.



Feb 25 – These pictures show all the prayer shawls and baby blanket/hat sets that were dedicated during the service.

## *Other Kodak Moments!*



*Members of the NOW Team presented a check to the Caribou Parks & Rec. Dept to support their summer programs. Gary Marquis (Rec. Center director) took this picture on Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> when he and Neal Sleeper came to thank the NOW Team members during their meeting. Pictured from left to right: Pastor Rich, Neal Sleeper, Melonie Carlson, Cheryl Martin, Kathy Panara, Bobbi Pelletier, Ruthann Weeks and Alaina Pethick.*



Wendy Bossie's February display in the Church Library. Any group or committee wishing to reserve this space may sign-up on the poster to the left of the board.  
(photo by Melonie Carlson)

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SPECIAL CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCE  
February 10, 2024

Attendees: Pastor Richard Rego, Rev. Tracy Reeves (Grant Memorial UMC), Claire Hodgkins, Wendy Bossie, Mary Lou Brown, Bruce & Diane Fitzpatrick, Judi Greenier, Gwen Ellinwood, Colleen Harmon, Karen Rego, Bobbi Pelletier, David DeMerchant, Judson Drake, David Belyea, Ruthann Weeks, Shirley Bowman, Conrad Walton, Neal Genz, Cheryl Martin, Margaret Cyr, Kim Miller, Del Ramey.

Pastor Rich Rego opened the Special Church Charge Conference at 11 A.M. in the Sanctuary by introducing special envoy of the District Superintendent, Rev. Tracy Reeves to declare this special church conference open after a brief prayer.

The first order of business was to elect Claire Hodgkins, Recording Secretary while Bobbi Pelletier took attendance.

Pastor Rich read aloud the following statement. "We call this church charge conference in response to funding emergency repairs, and any required modifications as a result of Gray Memorial's January 11, 2024 sprinkler fail and the resulting flood, that affected the attic, sanctuary, fellowship hall, and adjacent rooms..... Gray Memorial UMC members will be asked to vote on securing a \$90,000.00 loan from the United Methodist Foundation of New England."

A very extensive description of the event of January 11<sup>th</sup> and what transpired in the aftermath appeared on the back of the agenda that was handed out before the meeting started. Pastor Rich read the contents to the members. This was followed by more description and discussion in the "question and answer" period.

### **Gray Memorial Preliminary Summary: of January 11, 2024 Sprinkler Fail**

On Thursday evening January 11, 2024, Pastor Rich and our Trustees chairperson, responded to an alarm at the church. The sprinkler system failed in the attic, resulting in the flooding of sanctuary, electrical outlets, lighting fixtures, fellowship hall and adjacent rooms. Within 15 minutes of its discovery, we notified the trustees, every church contact for mitigation services, electricians, our District Superintendent's office, and our insurance company, Fred C. Church. Emergency services were immediately engaged to ensure sanctuary ceiling integrity, mitigation of water damage, and modifications necessary for safety and climate control in the attic and sanctuary.

Trustee members and the pastor worked all Thursday night until early Friday morning to remove much of the water gathering in the fellowship hall. Our Trustees chair stayed overnight on "Fire Watch" because we had no working sprinkler system.

**Our Sprinkler Service attributes this failure to temperature fluctuations between below freezing and above freezing that create condensation on the pipes and sprinkler heads.** Our unheated attic was designed to be the same temperature as the outside, with snow acting as an insulator for the top-most sprinklers and pipes.

In this instance, Unseasonable daily fluctuations between below-freezing temperatures and above freezing temperatures caused condensation on pipes that froze, causing one particular sprinkler head to freeze and break. This caused the attic to flood, saturating the paper-based insulation. Much water also streamed out into our sanctuary, into light fixtures and electric boxes.

That saturated insulation rests on the top of the sanctuary's thin tin ceiling. Below freezing temperatures froze the water on top of the tin ceiling. This eventually generated over six tons of heavy ice and insulation that had to be removed for fear of a ceiling collapse. Work teams have been on the job since Friday, January 12, and are still working to re-insulate and mitigate any further damage.



Within one week, Trustees formed an “Emergency Sprinkler System Repair Fund”. This was announced from the pulpit on Sunday, January 21 and Sunday, January 28. It was posted again in Bobbi Pelletier’s weekly email Sunday Worship recap.

Donations are coming in and someone has even pledged to match each donation up to a specified amount. We have met with the insurance company and are awaiting their response. We have been in communication with the UMC Foundation about securing a loan in a way that protects our invested trustee accounts. This loan would allow us the immediate funds to work with while donations and insurance monies come in.

None-the-less, no matter what the donations eventually amount to; no matter what the Fred C. Church settlement is, and no matter what the “matching-quote” initiative generates - most or all of the emergency work (prompted by fluctuating temperatures), will have ended up being accomplished

BEFORE we know any final numbers, insulation still has to be added to our attic and to any other” cold spots” that still hinder maintaining above freezing temperatures. Further details will be made available today by the Board of Trustees.

When asked why we need to borrow the \$90,000.00 now, Judson explained that while we have pledges of over \$60,000.00 now, it is not cash in hand. The contractor must be paid in a timely manner because his creditors expect it and his business depends on his paying his creditors on time. Also, with the money that has been pledged, there is a reasonable confidence that we can pay this debt in a timely manner as well. Judi Greenier, with much authority, reminded the members that while the Insurance company has not made a decision on how much it feels it should compensate us, the company is notoriously slow in making decisions and compensating its customers, so the Trusts feel it must not wait, but take care of building now.

After much discussion, it was now time to take a vote. Gwen Ellinwood moved the following: “We agree to secure a \$90,000.00, twenty-year loan to complete the repairs to Gray Memorial caused by the January 11,2024 flood with the hope of paying it all back much sooner”. Colleen Harman seconded the motion. There being no more discussion, the congregation voted to approve the loan with two members opposed and one member abstaining.

There were a few encouraging words from Rev. Tracy Reeves, then Pastor Rich said a brief prayer and declared the meeting over.

Respectfully submitted by Claire Hodgkins, Council Secretary

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CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES  
2-22-24

ATTENDEES: Roy Alden (Chair), Claire Hodgkins, Pastor Rich Rego, Bobbi Pelletier, Neal Genz, Melonie Carlson, Shirley Bowman, Cheryl Martin, and Judson Drake

Roy Alden called the meeting together at 1pm in the church chapel. Pastor Rich said a brief prayer. Roy requested that we consider a short 12-minute discussion to consider if our current church structure enhances opportunities for our congregation in growing our membership.

Bobbi Pelletier volunteered that, since we do not have an active Christian Education program for children, we have nothing to offer families with young children. Without the children and young families to help grow our church, the church will struggle. Should we consider trying to organize a Vacation Bible School, perhaps together with one or more other community churches? The members discussed this idea at length and Cheryl Martin volunteered to work on that as a project if she could have a co-leader or chairman. Another suggestion was to see if outside organizations would be willing to hold their meetings in our building as they once did. Use of our building by outside organizations is reported annually in our Statistical Reports and could potentially reduce our Mission Shares.

The N.O.W. group is doing a lot of outreaches which has been helpful in gaining some recognition in the community.

Judson Drake was clear when he said our elevator must be replaced because he could no longer find parts to keep it up to code. Roy said he wanted to donate to the elevator fund and was told he could give his donation to Shirley so it would be listed on his tithes before handing it over to Trustees.

Bobbi asked that all groups or committees who meet in the church be asked to prepare their own meeting space, rather than having Judson set-up and breakdown all of these spaces. That's how it always used to be done. Each group is also asked to make sure the lights are turned off, doors are closed and locked, and if the heating system has been adjusted, it must be set back to where it belongs.

Roy brought up the subject of the Stewardship campaign which is a few months behind schedule. Pastor Rich said the group that has met regarding the Operating Budget Stewardship campaign is still working on that project. This group is currently Pastor Rich, Melonie Carlson, and Cheryl Martin. Bobbi will be asked to join the group. In further discussion about how to "invite" more people to participate in the life of the church, Bobbi mentioned that year's ago, we included a "Time and Talent" sheet that outlined what the various committees do and also asked if people have skills to offer – electrical, plumbing, etc. It was decided to postpone the normal stewardship program until the fall.

Due to the January 11<sup>th</sup> water incident, the church has established the "Emergency Sprinkler System Repair Fund" and donations have been pledged. Pastor Rich and Judson will draft a special letter asking for donations to help us ensure there are enough funds to cover all the expenses related to that incident, pending receipt of any insurance money that is received.

Shirley Bowman reported that in January the regular offerings were \$13,046.00. The Special Funds for church use came to \$904.48, and the Special Funds Not for Church Use was \$97 for Human Relations Day. The total offerings were \$14,047.48.

Bobbi Pelletier reported she felt comfortable to pay two months of Mission Shares in January because her beginning balance was \$25,724.03. Some lines in her checkbook under Special Funds for Church Use were paid out to the Trustees in January after a meeting she had with Judi Greenier. Many of the current lines will then be gone in the February reports.

Bobbi stated that she has changed the way she will record the monthly Worship attendance. She will be combining in-house and "unique viewers" (rather than those who watched the entire video which was used last year) together. Using this new calculation, the January average attendance was 75.

Bobbi told everyone that in anticipation of a July vacation, Cheryl Martin, who is the current Finance Chairperson, has agreed to fill in for her as Treasurer and she must be added to the accounts at the Aroostook Saving & Loan Bank so she will be able to pay the church's bills while Bobbi is away. Currently, Chris Dare is on the Operating Budget account and needs to be removed. The following motion was made and approved - Remove Chris Dare from the Operating Budget checking account and add Cheryl Martin as a signer on that account as well as the Sharing the Grace/Growing in Faith Checking Account.

The Council members discussed our financial obligations regarding the cost of the flood. Bobbi reported she paid most of the expenses that could not wait, using the Capital Campaign funds as directed by the Trustees which will be reimbursed. The



emergency funds that come in as donations or insurance money received will be kept in the Capital account but accounted for on a separate spread sheet. This will show up in the February reports. Bobbi reported that she has received donations for the emergency fund of \$9,000.00 already. We need to keep track of the donations because someone has pledged to match contributions up to \$50,000.00.

The Insurance Company has been very slow in getting back to us, so at this time, we do not know what the end result of the claim.

The Council learned that large expenses over 25 % of the value of the property requires our church to call a Church Charge Conference of the congregation to approve. However, smaller expenditures would only require approval of the Church Council.

Judson said the New England Conference Trustees do have grants to help in these situations. We will ask the Conference about these grants to see if we can submit an application.

As a final thought, the group decided that if any church members have issues or concerns about any of the activities or functions of our church, that committee members are open to discuss with them any of the activities their committees are involved in. All committees are open to anyone to attend, except for Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) due to the confidentiality of the issues they may be dealing with.

There being no further business, Pastor Rich gave a brief prayer and the Council adjourned at 2:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Claire Hodgkins, Secretary

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**REPORTS OR MEETING MINUTES RECEIVED IN FEBRUARY:**

**Aroostook Cluster of the United Methodist Churches  
Meeting Minutes for February 1, 2024**

The meeting came to order at 9:06 am with the following present via Zoom. Victor Han, Tracy Reeves, James Choi Chong, Charlene Buzza, Rich Rego, Paula Lilley, Mary Miller, Joyce Kang, Sue Michaud, Melonie Carlson, Sara Hill and Sue Brown.

Victor welcomed everyone, and we all introduced ourselves to new members Sara Hill and Melonie Carlson. Victor shared with us the prayer of St. Francis.

**Secretary’s Report**

The minutes of the January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting were presented. Motion to approve by Mary and seconded by Choi. Motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Paula reported that our current checkbook balance remains at \$525.25. Motion to approve the report by Sara and seconded by Rich. Motion carried unanimously. Thank you, Paula.

**Aldersgate Day Service**

Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> is Aldersgate Day. We will come together to have a Cluster Service at Houlton UMC at 6:30pm. Tracy will send along the bulletin from the 2023 service and Victor will begin planning the service. Mary agreed to help Victor in the planning. We discussed and agreed to ask our various churches to provide music - encouraging use of John and Charles Wesley hymns (or others as appropriate). After discussion, Victor asked that we think about a title for the service. Fellowship time with refreshments to follow. Houlton will provide beverages and dishes while folks attending are asked to bring light refreshments as they are able.

**2023 St. Apollonia Festival of Trees**

It was agreed to move forward and support this mission again in 2024. Sue B. agreed to chair this event and asked that everyone be thinking about a theme for this year. Sue M. offered to help with this also. Melonie suggested we dovetail off last year by incorporating “Family” (whether blood, church, close faith friends, etc.) and Tracy suggested we use an acronym of Faith, i.e. Family in Aroostook Incarnates The Holy (Thank you, Tracy).

**Pulpit Exchange**

We have agreed on April 21<sup>st</sup> as Pulpit Exchange Sunday. Current participants include Victor, Joyce, Rich, Mary, Paula and Sue. Limestone is willing to participate though Choi will be away. Rich will check with Lidstone to see if they are willing to participate. We will need to check with John DeFelice to see if he and Mapleton UMC would like to participate. Victor will prepare an initial list to match churches with speakers.

**New Business**

**New Mission Opportunities**

Melonie shared about a meeting with the Social Worker/Guidance Counselor at Caribou High School. Gray Memorial works with their SW to provide in significant ways for students at the High School. Currently there is a significant population of homeless students (living in transient/unsafe situations). Raising awareness is a major concern. Gray Memorial is seeking ways to raise awareness and provide assistance for these children. Pastor Rich encouraged all to check in our respective communities for similar situations and ways we might be able to help.

**All Saints Day Service**

November 1<sup>st</sup> Cluster Service to be planned and held at Grant Memorial UMC. Details can be discussed at a later date.

**Spring In-Person Cluster Council Gathering**

Just a note to have this on your radar as we move toward spring. We need to decide: if, when, where.

**Joys and concerns**

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

**Next meeting: Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am via Zoom.**

**Devotions for next meeting: Tracy**

Meeting adjourned at 10:24 am.  
Respectfully submitted,  
*Sue Brown*  
Sue Brown  
Secretary  
Aroostook Cluster Council of United Methodist Churches

**FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:**

**From Financial Secretary:**

The following is the total church offering for January:

Regular Offering	\$13,000.00
<u>Loose Offering</u>	<u>46.00</u>
Subtotal-Regular Offering	\$13,046.00
Other Sources Operating Fund:	.00
Total Operating Fund Income	\$13,046.00

Reimbursements: .00

Special Funds for Church Use

Coffee Fellowship	15.50
Prayer Shawl Ministry	50.00
<u>Trustees</u>	<u>838.98</u>
Subtotal Funds for Church Use	904.48

Special Funds Not for Church Use

Human Relations Day	97.00
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Grand Total: \$14,047.48

**From Treasurer:**

Beginning Balance	25,724.03	
2023 Operating income	13,046.00	
Interest	2.55	
Less EFT fee	(35.55)	VANCO fees (EFT deposits)
<u>Less Expenses</u>	<u>(22,060.49)</u>	
Ending Balance	16,676.54	

\* \$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 January 31, 2024, on-line report shows ending value = \$24,694.11.

The Capital Account Money is as follows as of January 31<sup>st</sup>: Previous Balance - \$45,281.41; Deposit (interest) - \$1.84; Expenses - \$14,424.99; Current Balance - \$30,858.26.

Expenditures for January 2024:

Programs:

Education	\$121.72
Worship	99.66
Office	796.77
<u>NOW Team</u>	<u>50.00</u>
Programs Sub-Total	\$1,068.15

Trustee Expenses:

Church Utilities	\$1,769.78
Parsonage Utilities	521.31
Telephone/Internet	183.91
Property Insurance	1,433.85
Snow Removal	785.00
Maintenance/Cleaning	1,226.88
<u>Technology</u>	<u>33.90</u>

Trustee Sub-Total \$5,954.63

Staff-Parish Relations Expenses:

Pastor's Salary	\$4,333.34
<u>Health Insurance</u>	<u>1,680.00</u>
Pastor's Total Comp	\$6,013.34

Choir Director	\$200.00
Treasurer	133.33
Church Office Administrator	833.33
<u>Custodian</u>	<u>1,625.00</u>
Total Other Salaries	\$2,791.66

Other Expenses:

Guest & Substitute Staff	\$150.00
FICA	134.66
<u>Workman's Comp</u>	<u>71.24</u>

Total Other Expenses	\$355.90
Sub-Total SPRC Expenses	\$9,160.90

<u>New England Conference:</u>	
Ministerial Support (3)	\$5,051.50
Pastor Pension Benefit	\$825.31
NEC Total	\$5,876.81
Grand Total Expenses	\$22,060.49

Weekly Average Needed for 2024: \$4,225.44 (52 Sundays)  
Mission Shares = \$2,525.75/mo. As of EOM January, 1 month ahead (paid Jan & Feb)  
Note: Dead River bills for church also include charges for propane deliveries  
Balances as of Jan 31: Church = (\$729.09); Parsonage = (\$2,827.44)

<u>2024 YTD REVIEW</u>	
Annual Budget	\$219,722.75
Required Monthly	\$18,310.23
Required Weekly	\$4,225.44

December:  
Target = \$18,310.23; Beginning Operating Fund Balance (Jan only) - \$25,724.03; Operating Fund Income from F/S YTD - \$13,046.00; Special Funds Used for Operating Fund Expenses YTD = \$00.00; Unpaid Mission Shares = \$0.

ATTENDANCE FOR JANUARY:  
An aggregate of in-person and virtual attendance shows monthly average of 75 and 75 YTD.  
Note – Jan 14<sup>th</sup> not included in monthly & yearly averages (Building closed due to water issue on Jan 11<sup>th</sup>)  
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NOW Team Meeting - January 31, 2024  
Nurture - Outreach - Witness

In attendance: Melonie Carlson, Cheryl Martin, Alaina Pethick, Kim Miller, Karen Rego, Bobbi Pelletier, Kathy Panaro, Ruthann Weeks, Joyce Knorr  
Also Present: Denise Hamlin  
Absent: Sandy Pethick, Rhonda Cyr, Colleen Harmon

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

Opening Prayer - Melonie

Denise Hamlin-  
Denise Hamlin shared with us regarding the homelessness issue in the schools. It was quite a lengthy and detailed discussion, very informative. We are grateful to Denise for spending the time with us to help learn more about the issue and what we can do to help. She shared the types of assistance that currently exists and what needs there are. There is a lot of misunderstanding about what homelessness really means and how it affects all aspects of students’ lives, in and out of the classroom.  
Some action points that came out of the discussion are the need for advocacy. We talked about possibly writing letters than Denise can include in her packet as well as making phone calls to legislators. Denise is going to come up with a list of items that can be donated to include in the snack packs she makes for the kids and other items such as gym clothes that are needed. Ruthann is going to create a list of local food shelters and resources for Denise to share with families. Melonie is going to speak to the Administrative Council about this topic. And Karen is going to talk with Pastor Rich to see if he can bring the issue to the Aroostook Cluster or the group of local pastors he meets with.

### Budget Update -

Ruthann presented the budget update.

Balance January 1, 2024	\$4,161.80
1-5-24 Interest posted to account	.80
1-9-24 Reim. Bobbi Pelletier for postage (\$4.22) mail church	
Balance on January 31, 2024	\$4,158.38

### Review of Jan. 17 minutes -

The minutes had been emailed out and accepted. After a brief discussion, Bobbi made a motion to set our quorum at 7 people in attendance (our committee is 12 people in total). Joyce seconded the motion and the motion passed.

### Saturday Luncheon - Halfway Home Pet Rescue -

The luncheon will take place Saturday, Feb. 3 at 1 pm with approximately 15-20 people. Setup will begin at noon on Saturday. We determined who would be bringing what to complete the menu. Melonie, Cheryl, Ruthann, Bobbi, and Kathy will be there to setup, serve, and clean up.

### Youth Sponsorship Program -

Melonie summarized the information presented to us by Neal Sleeper at the last meeting for those who were not present. She also had a sample of the catalog cover. She asked how the group felt and we agreed it was in line with the outreach part of our mission. Bobbi made a motion to make a full \$1500 sponsorship. Karen seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Karen also said she will speak to Pastor Rich about our logo to put on the catalog cover.

### Status Updates -

**Tablecloths** - Bobbi showed us the tablecloths that were purchased for the Fellowship Hall. The total, including shipping, was \$293.08. They look really nice. She suggested sorting through the old ones and selling the ones we don't want to keep at the Spring Fling. UMW will likely contribute \$150 to the purchase and the NOW Team will pay the balance.

**Table Runners** - Bobbi also showed us the first of the table runners that Kitty Doar is making. It was very lovely, with a Valentine's theme on one side. She is planning on making one for each holiday. They are double sided to reduce storage space.

They will be placed on the main table in the Fellowship Hall under plastic to protect them. We are so grateful to Ruth Ross for suggesting this and to Kitty Doar for her talents and time!

**Wreaths** - There is no real update yet. Patti Corriveau is working on them.

**Penpals** - No penpals updates beyond what Denise shared. Letters will be delivered this week.

**Prayer Chain** - The Prayer Chain has now been updated with Kim Miller being the new member.

**Visitor Bags** - This group has not met yet.

### Coffee Fellowship Calendar Review -

Melonie distributed an updated copy of the schedule. Bobbi summarized the responsibilities for those who haven't helped with coffee fellowship before. We are supposed to provide light refreshments as well as setup and clean up.

2nd Tuesday of each month:

Odd months - Ruthann, Karen, Melonie, Sandy, Alaina, Cheryl  
(1/14, 3/10, 5/12, 7/14, 9/8, 11/10)

Even months - Joyce, Bobbi, Kathy, Rhonda, Colleen, Kim  
(2/11, 4/14, 6/9, 8/11, 10/13, 12/8)

### Spring Fling Discussion -

The last meeting we tentatively set the date for March 16. Since then, we have learned that the Anah Shriners are hosting their Easter Basket Extravaganza that same day. After some discussion, we decided to postpone the Spring Fling until



later and work with a theme of gardening. Bobbi shared some history about the care of the gardens. We could have clippings, seedlings, and/or talks about techniques. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting.

Joyce also shared with us the marketing plan she has created. And Melonie distributed an updated contact list for our committee members.

Review of Forms -  
Postponed until next meeting.

Additional Business -  
Melonie read two thank you cards we received for the donation to Sarah’s House and from the Ferguson family for the luncheon.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.  
Our next meeting will be February 7 at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alaina Pethick

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**NOW Team Meeting - February 7, 2024**  
**Nurture - Outreach - Witness**

In attendance: Melonie Carlson, Joyce Knorr, Sandy Pethick, Cheryl Martin, Alaina Pethick, Ruthann Weeks, Bobbi Pelletier, Kathy Panaro, Pastor Rich (left shortly after start of meeting)  
Also Present: Neal Sleeper, Gary Marquis  
Absent: Rhonda Cyr, Colleen Harmon, Karen Rego, Kimberly Miller

The meeting began with a photo outside with Neal and Gary from the Rec. Center. They expressed their appreciation for our sponsorship and gratitude that we see the benefit and need for the programs they provide.

Opening Prayer – Melonie

Homelessness in Our Schools -  
Melonie sent out the list of needed gym clothing that Denise Hamlin had provided. Bobbi will create an insert in the Sunday bulletin so that the whole congregation can donate. Melonie will collect the items and get them to Denise. The deadline will be March 3.

Budget Update -  
Ruthann presented the budget update.

Balance as of January 31, 2024	\$4,158.38
Sales toward Spring Fling	\$20
Church Replica Order	\$25
Pet Rescue Luncheon	\$225
Interest	\$0.72
Balance on January 31, 202	\$4,429.10

There was a brief discussion of contributing to the attic repair fund from the flood. We decided to donate toward the purchase of new chairs for the Fellowship Hall instead. This matter will be discussed further at a future meeting.

#### Review of Jan. 31 minutes -

Two amendments were made. Rescue was misspelled. The section on forms should have stated that the matter was tabled, not that there were no forms.

Bobbi moved to accept the minutes as amended. Ruthann seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### Saturday Luncheon - Halfway Home Pet Rescue -

The luncheon went well. There was plenty of food. The rescue staff was very appreciative. They plan to have a luncheon every 3 months. The next one will be some time in April. There may be a request to have food provided for the volunteers at their clinic, but we are awaiting more information regarding the date and time, etc. Bobbi suggested next time we may want to include some hot dishes as well.

#### Review of Forms -

A sample form was shared that Melonie received from Pastor Rich for use in planning events. The Trustees already have a Building Use Form, which is slightly different from this one. Ours includes a section for the purpose of the event and is intended more for use within the church organization. Bobbi will bring a copy of the Trustees form to the next meeting. She also suggested the forms would help to keep track of the use of the building for the statistical report. Ruthann suggested we may use a different form or modify it for use by external organizations. Bobbi made a motion that we begin using the form as is, starting with the Spring Fling, and make amendments to it as needed down the line. Kathy second the motion. The motion passed.

#### Review Youth Sponsorship -

A followup discussion took place regarding the Rec. Center Youth Sponsorship. Do we need to be involved going forward? The consensus was no, once they received our donation the decision about how it is used are up to them. We are wondering how the logo design is coming along. It will be needed around the end of March.

#### Status Updates -

**Visitor Bags** - Still pending. The group will set a time to meet.

**Coffee Fellowship** - A reminder that our committee has coffee fellowship this week and it will be Valentine's themed

#### Spring Fling Discussion -

We continued with the idea of pushing the event back to May and having a gardening theme. There are a lot of special days and events in May, so it was difficult to pick a date. We settled on Friday, May 17 and Saturday, May 18.

This is the same weekend as the city wide yard sale, so people will be out and about. We decided on also offering the event on Friday, but only having the luncheon on Saturday. Both days will be 10 am - 2 pm.

Sandy suggested having "robins eggs" hidden around the hall. In the eggs would be a coupon, discount, or other offer. If someone finds an egg, they can apply the offer to their purchase. Bobbi said the UMW will have a table with Rada cutlery and we should try to sell the unwanted tablecloths that are in good shape. Joyce suggested having a white elephant table with quality, gently used items for sale.

A separate meeting to plan more details of the Spring Fling is needed. A tentative plan is for a meeting following the March 6 NOW Team meeting. Bring your lunch and we can eat together!

#### Additional Business -

None

Joyce offered a closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.

Our next meeting will be March 6 at 10 am, with a Spring Fling Planning meeting to follow.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alaina Pethick

SPRC: The SPRC met at 1:00 pm on February 8 in the chapel with all but one member present. Pastor Rich offered up a prayer for the committee members. Minutes of the January meeting were read and approved. Liaison and pastor reports were heard. Discussion was had about the continuing vacancies, the Conference Leadership Training held on January 17, updating the committee's coffee fellowship responsibilities. The committee again received revised position descriptions and position review drafts for consideration. Meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.

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## **Gray Memorial United Methodist Church**

Board of Trustees Meeting  
Tuesday, February 20, 2024  
Choir Room  
1:00 – 4:00

Present: Judson Drake (chairman), Dave DeMerchant (vice chairman), Wendy Bossie (secretary), Judi Greenier (treasurer), Richard Clark, Debbie Nichols, Pastor Rich  
Absent: George Knorr, Del Ramey  
Richard Clark opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary's report: Read silently, motion to accept by Dave, Richard seconded, passed.

Treasurer's report:

*Scholarships.* The Turner scholarships to Kallee Parent and Jonathan Lovewell have been paid. Judi will pay the three church scholarships (Brown, Budd and Lancaster) to George Ferland when he responds. The church scholarships are given to church members who are planning to attend institutions of higher education. If there is no one applying, a church member, then the trustees can decide to double the money for next year or keep the scholarships at their present amount. Judson suggested that we table the issue until we find out if there are any candidates for the year 2024.

*UMFNE Loan \$90,000.* The application was sent on February 12<sup>th</sup> and accepted. Judi distributed a list of the accounts from the trustee portfolio that will be used as collateral. On February 16<sup>th</sup>, we received the Initial Loan Letter and Judson noted that the monthly payment will be \$645.

Trustee Portfolio. Judi distributed a list of all accounts in the trustee portfolio.

*Provided by Judson 2/23/24 - local accounts as of 2/20/24:*

*Organ Fund - \$2,293.00*

*Clock Account - \$535.33*

*Steeple Maintenance - \$1,020.86*

*Pastors Moving Account - \$100.49*

*Trustees Checking Account - \$6,952.57*

*Trustees CD - \$11,206.40*

*Hazel Greenier Family Accessibility Fund- \$7,375.45*

*Memorial Funds.* Judi met with Bobbi to go through the monies in the Operating Account that needed to go to the Trustees. Bobbi gave her a check for all that needed to get into various Trustee accounts. While in the office, Judi mentioned that she was not able to get on-line access to her accounts, so Bobbi called Aroostook Savings & Loan and asked Kristi Bell to help Judi get on-line access to her local accounts, which was accomplished.

*Income and Payouts.* Judi distributed a list of income received and payouts from 09/19/2023 to 02/20/2024 and explained some of these transactions. The checkbook balance is \$6,952.57. Debbie moved, Pastor Rich seconded that the treasurer's report be accepted. Passed.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Catwalks in the attic.** The catwalks are in place. Sprinkler heads and electrics can now be easily accessed. Extra 2x4s were left behind.

**Installations Unlimited (James “Buddy” Collins, Jr.).** The company has finished putting foam along the underside of the roof. Infrared cameras were used to find other uninsulated areas in the church. There was a large hole behind the altar and one in the organ closet and these were foamed. The final cost is \$91,000. There is still uninsulated areas by the church office and near the former minister's office. These will be fixed later. The temperature in the attic the morning of 02/20/2024 was 48 degrees. Zero degrees outside.

**Trap door.** The temporary “hole” in the north side of the church that allowed the workmen to pull out water-soaked insulation has been closed. A permanent trap door will be constructed in the fall.

**Air Handlers.** Air handlers will be purchased to circulate the air in the sanctuary depending on the amount of insurance received and the amount of money donated through the Emergency Fund raising.

**Church Mutual Insurance.** The insurance adjuster was a month late in coming to Gray Memorial as all repair work had been done. It will be at least another 30 days before we will know about the amount we will receive. Judson met with the insurance structural engineer via ZOOM. His office is in Farmington; he did not intend to come in person. Judson is to do his legwork. Pastor Rich explained the district's dissatisfaction with Church Mutual Insurance. He thanked Judson for his expertise in getting us through this “flood of 2024.” Judson reiterated that the foam insulation just completed is not part of the insurance payout.

**Memorials.** Pastor Rich informed us that the Book of Discipline indicates the trustees should be in charge of memorial funds. Our church decided some time ago to have a special committee to take care of memorials. There was much discussion on memorials.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Security Team.** This is a branch of the trustees plus other members. They are fundraising for new security equipment. The Shrove Tuesday pancake supper brought in \$659. Judson announced plans for a St. Patrick's Day boiled dinner supper on Saturday, March 16th 4:30 – 6:00.

Six orange traffic cones have been purchased at a sale price of \$5 each to use, for example, on icy spots in the church driveway. The Team has been viewing videos on church security and safety. A security log is in the office to record any major or minor accidents on church property. A wireless portable door bell system has been purchased.

## ROUND TABLE

*Endangered Membership List.* There was much discussion on how this could be addressed.

*Custodian Job Description.* Pastor Rich distributed a proposed job description from the SPRC for the trustees to read and comment on. There was not time to do that late in the meeting but we were asked to notify Pastor Rich via e-mail if we had comments.

*Custodian Liaison SPRC and Trustees.* SPRC member, Dean Rauch, is Judson Drake's (custodian) liaison. It was moved and passed that Dave DeMerchant be the trustees' custodian liaison to meet with Dean and Judson when necessary.

Richard Clark closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy L. Bossie, Secretary

Gray Memorial United Methodist Church  
United Methodist Men's Club Meeting  
January 27, 2024

**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, Judson Drake, Romeo Bouchard, George Knorr, Ken Peters, Dave Belyea, Pastor Rich Rego, and Bruce Fitzpatrick.
- Opening Prayer was led by Richard Clark.
- Meeting was adjourned at 0832 for ham, eggs, home fries, homemade toast, fruit, juice and coffee.

**2. Program:** None

**3. Prelate's message:** Prelate Richard Clark gave the devotional message based on scripture from Song of Solomon; Luke Ch 7 & 9; John 16; and 1 John – concerning love.

**4. Old Business:**

- **Secretary's Report:** copies of our last meeting minutes, December 2, 2023 draft were emailed and passed out. Accepted as presented.
- Discussed the picnic table project. Jud has them all cut out, ready to assemble in May. One 6 ft. table will be placed and secured by the Memorial Garden; the other – round will be placed on the parsonage patio.

**5. New Business:**

- **Treasurer's Report:** Checkbook balance as of January 20, 2024: \$ 1945.16 at the AFSL. Treasurer: deposited \$715.00 - proceeds from the tree of lights on January 4<sup>th</sup>; and closed out the Credit Union checking account on January 17<sup>th</sup> and transferred \$ 1,261.16 to the AFSL checking account

**6. Other Business:**

- Coffee fellowship dates for the rest of the year: Mar 17; May 19; July 21; Sept 15; and Nov 17. President Neal will send a reminder to all on the Wednesday before each time.
- Program next meeting: a presentation by Dr. Samuela Manages  
Next meeting: February 24, 2024

David Belyea  
Secretary

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**Worship Committee Minutes  
February 2, 2024**

Members Present: Bobbi Pelletier (chair), Diane Fitzpatrick, Beth Alden, Diana Locke, Pastor Rich Rego, Gwen Ellinwood, Richard Clark, Margaret Cyr

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

Devotions were offered by Diane Fitzpatrick. She shared a reading from Mornings With Jesus about the importance of our relationships with Jesus in good times or difficult times. We should always be thankful and praise him with prayer or in song.

The minutes from the January meeting were presented. After making one correction (Human Relations Day was observed on January 14, not on the 15<sup>th</sup>), the minutes were approved as amended.



### **Old Business:**

- Bobbi reported that the lady who had called her to express an interest in the child care position has not submitted a resume and it is not known at this time if the woman is still interested in the position. There has been no response to the organist/pianist position.
- Margaret stated that she is willing to continue, as long as she is able, with the choir singing on the first two Sundays of each month. The choir will, however, sing four of the five Sundays in March as Palm Sunday and Easter are the last two Sundays of the month. Choir rehearsals will now be held on Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m.
- Discussion was held on the difficulty some people are having with the hearing devices. Pastor Rich mentioned that there are some sound deficits with our present system. Will and Alaina are working on implementing a new sound board. There are plans in place to purchase new hearing devices that should be more efficient.
- Bobbi requested that Pastor Rich make an announcement for those present to silence themselves before the prelude begins. Although this request is printed in the bulletin each week and is on the screen, some people are continuing to talk after the prelude begins.

### **New Business:**

- January 11 will be Scouting Sunday. Ellen Cleaves will be preaching as Pastor Rich will be at Lidstone in Washburn.
- Wednesday, February 14 will be Ash Wednesday. A Prayer Vigil will be held from 9:00 a.m. until noon. People attending will be able to choose between the chapel and the sanctuary. Beth Alden will make posters for folks to sign up for a preferred time slot (½ hour slots). Beth suggested that we invite the folks at Lidstone to attend and will make a poster for them as well. The Ash Wednesday Service will be held at 12:00 noon following the prayer vigil. Pastor Rich will provide “Ashes on the Go” from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. outside the church for folks wishing to receive them on their way to work.
- The Security Team will be hosting a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on Tuesday, February 13.
- March 10 will be UMCOR Sunday with a special offering to be taken. Kim Miller will preach on “People Who Walk in Darkness”.
- March 24 will be Palm Sunday. Bobbi will order the African palms, palm fronds and an altar arrangement.
- Holy Week will be March 25 through the 29<sup>th</sup>. Noon services will be held followed by refreshments on only the days that the other churches involved are willing to provide them. Pastor Rich will preach on Friday so we will provide refreshments on that day.
- March 28 will be Maundy Thursday and a service will be held at 6:00 p.m.
- March 31 will be Easter Sunday. Bobbi will prepare a bulletin insert for those who would like to provide plants. Discussion was held on whether there would be a Sunrise Service and breakfast. Decisions will be made at the next meeting.
- On April 14, Richard Clark will lead our worship service.
- Pastor Rich mentioned that a service for Aldersgate Day will be held at the Houlton church on Friday, May 24, at 6:30 p.m. There was some concern expressed by our committee members about the time and distance for this service in Houlton. Further information will be provided at another meeting of this committee.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, March 1, at 9:30 a.m.

Diana Locke volunteered to offer devotions.

Diane Fitzpatrick, Secretary

## LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARCH 2024!!!

Friday	01	9:30am	Worship Committee Meeting
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Sunday	03	10:00am	Worship; Third Sunday in Lent
Tuesday	05	2:30pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting
Wednesday	06	10:00am	NOW Team Meeting
		12:00pm	Pastor Rich Meets with CLM (Certified Lay Minister) Members; <u>Note Time Change!</u>
		2:00pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	07	9:00am	Aroostook Cluster Meeting via Zoom
		10:00am	Book Study Group (week #5)
		7:00pm	Book Study Group (week #5)
Saturday	09	<u>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS - PUT CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR</u>	
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Sunday	10	10:00am	Worship; Fourth Sunday in Lent; UMCOR Sunday (special offering); <u>Worship Leaders: Kim Miller, Melonie Carlson, Cheryl Martin</u>
Tuesday	12	6:00pm	Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Board Meeting at Pantry
Wednesday	13	11:00am	Pastor Rich Meets with CLM Members
		2:00pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	14	10:00am	Book Study Group (week #6)
		1:00pm	SPRC Meeting
		7:00pm	Book Study Group (week #6)
Saturday	16	4:30-6pm	St. Patrick's Day Boiled Dinner Sponsored by Security Team
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Sunday	17	10:00am	Worship; Fifth Sunday in Lent
Tuesday	19	<u>FIRST DAY OF SPRING</u>	
		1:00pm	Trustee Meeting
Wednesday	20	11:00am	Pastor Rich Meets with CLM Members
		2:00pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	21	10:00am	Book Study Group (week #7 - final session)
		1:00pm	Church Council Meeting (note time change)
		7:00pm	Book Study Group (week #7 - final session)
Saturday	23	8:00am	UMM Breakfast & Meeting
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Sunday	24	10:00am	Worship; Palm/Passion Sunday
Monday	25	12:00pm	Ecumenical Holy Week Service; Preaching - Father David Raymond
Tuesday	26	12:00pm	Ecumenical Holy Week Service; Preaching - Pastor Michael Sullivan
Wednesday	27	12:00pm	Ecumenical Holy Week Service; Preaching - Isaias Lopez
		2:00pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	28	10:00am	Ecumenical Holy Week Service; Preaching - TBD
		6:00pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday	29	12:00pm	Ecumenical Holy Week Service; Good Friday; Preaching - Pastor Rich
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Sunday	31	TBD	Easter Sunrise Service (location - TBD)
		10:00am	Worship; Easter Sunday
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