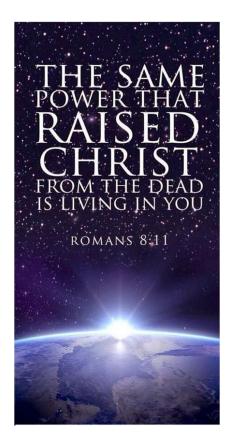
The Resurrected Christ is Our "Living Hope"

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Easter brings with it a glorious promise that Christ is with us always, enlivening the hope that we have as believers in Christ. In our world, where chaos and uncertainty can dampen our spirits, it's easy to lose sight of our hope when we face difficulties. We have to trust the fact that the same power that raised Christ from the dead is living in you. *Romans 8:11*

The Apostle Peter, in his first epistle, reminds us that the living hope that we have in Christ impacts our lives today. In verse 3, Peter says, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy, he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." The foundation of our hope is the mercy and grace of God. It's not based on our own efforts or merits, but solely on the work of Christ on the cross. Through his death and resurrection, we have been given new birth into a "living hope."

Saints, our hope came at a great cost: the life of our Savior. It was through Christ's sacrificial death on the cross that we were redeemed from the empty way of life that we inherited from our ancestors. We were bought with a price – the blood of the perfect and spotless Lamb, Jesus Christ.



Consider the immense price that was paid for our hope. We each are called to be an extension of Christ's grace and love out into the world. How can we take it all for granted?

Think about the people in your life who love you and support you. Recognize who has been there for you in good and bad times. Have you taken them for granted? Spring would be a good time to reach out to those you depend upon. Show them that you appreciate them. Let them know you care.

On another note, I hope you get a chance to "safely" experience the total eclipse. Many people will gather, vying for the best place to see it all happening. Though it will only be for a few minutes, it's sure to evoke the awareness of a power way beyond ourselves. Maybe some will remember how the eclipse appeared when Jesus died on the cross. Maybe the eclipse experience could be a faith-sharing opportunity for you. Recount what scripture says about the day Jesus died – and how he was resurrected three days later. You may just change someone's perspective on hope.

In a world where everything is temporary, our hope in Christ gives us an eternal perspective. It reminds us that our present troubles are only temporary, but our future glory in Christ is eternal. Let's live each day with this glorious hope in mind.

As believers, our hope is secure in the mercy and grace of God, paid for by the blood of Jesus Christ, and leading to our eternal inheritance. It should be our soul's anchor in-the-midst of life's storms.

Let's remember that as Christians, our hope is not in the things of this world, but in the living hope that we have in Christ. No matter what comes our way, we can hold on to this hope, knowing that it's firmly rooted in the mercy and grace of God. May this hope be a source of comfort and courage.

Yours in Christ, 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

Date: April 2024

Church Office: (207) 498-2103
Website: http://www.bgmumc.com

Greetings from the Church Office!

Tax season is coming to a close, so the regular hours of 9am – noon will resume on Wednesday, April $17^{\rm th}$.

We received the check for the \$90,000 loan from the United Methodist Foundation of New England last week and paid our largest bill for all the insulation removal and all new insulation throughout the attic. Our monthly payments of \$628.06 will begin on April 12th. Donations to this "Emergency Fund" continue to come in each week. Thank you!

The 2024 Scholarship Application Package is available as of April 1st. Anyone interested in applying can reach out to the office to have it emailed or you can pick up a copy whenever the church office is open.

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 Tuesday, April 23rd!!!!

Until next month....

Bobbi Pelletier Church Office Administrator



March Prayer Requests

<u>Prayer Concerns</u>: Gwen Ellinwood, Del Ramey, Anna Roberts, Ivan Shaw, DeDe Nichols, Sylvia Akeley, Linda Cyr, Dave & Sheila Belyea, Sheila Breault, Jean Johnson, Arthur Philbrick, Rodric Johnson, Debbie & Lu Sharp, Ralp Ferguson, Leland Frost, James Stuart, Don DeMerchant, Richard Carde, David White, Norma Thompson, Debbie Nichols, Bob & Carol Norsworthy, Colleen Harmon, Duska & Jeff Franklin, Diane Levesque (fire victim, out of coma, doing better), Arthur Philbrick (won't need heart surgery), Jack

Family Deaths: Family of Carolyn Kelley; Family of Helen Kelley

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!

REMINDERS

DATE	<u>LITURGIST</u>	Organist/Pianist	<u>COUNTER</u>	COFFEE FELLOWSHIP
Apr 7	Sue White	Margaret Cyr	Elsie Doody	Trustees
Apr 14	Melonie Carlson	Margaret Cyr	Diane Fitzpatrick	NOW Team
Apr 21	Richard Clark	Mary Lou Brown	Diane Fitzpatrick	Church Council
Apr 28	Diane Fitzpatrick	Judi Greenier	Diane Fitzpatrick	Worship Committee

Usher Coordinator for April: Neal Genz Communion Stewardess: Mary Theriault Communion Bread: Ruthann Weeks

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

No changes reported this month!

* * April Birthdays & Anniversaries * *

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

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



- 4 Greg Anderson
- 6 Teelynne Herbert
- 14 Debbie Barnes
- 18 Larry Conrad, Peter Edgecomb
- 19 James Smith
- 21 Sally Carde

- 24 Richard Carde, Debbie Jordan
- 26 Austin Felix
- 27 Shirley Bowman
- 28 Margaret Cyr
- 30 Walker Doody



7 Diana Locke & Dave Wakana

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.



Worship Attendance and General Fund Offerings:

<u>Date</u>	In-Person Attendanc	e *On-Line Attendance	+ Operating Fund Offering
Feb 25	49	26	\$2,092.00
Mar 03	58	31	\$5,974.00
Mar 10	39	41	\$2,092.00
Mar 17	52	28	\$2,261.00
Mar 24	0	(will report next month)	Service canceled – video provided
Mar 31		(will report data next month)	

"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 \$38,237.99. Since then, we received \$1.48 interest and received a total of \$3,875.00 in donations. We also received a check for the \$90,000 loan from the United Methodist Foundation of New England. We have also paid the following bills related to the January 11th incident - \$305.00 to AVM Electric (replace 2 x 4 light damaged by flood), \$236.09 to Sprinkler Systems for a service call on 2/29, \$450.00 to the United Methodist Foundation (loan fee) and \$95,550.00 to Installations Unlimited Maine (removal and replacement of all the insulation). All these transactions leave us we with a balance of \$35,573.38 in the account (of that amount, the "furnace replacement donation funds" that remain are \$5,424.27).



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).

⁺ 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.

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 received \$20.00 in March donations, so our proceeds are now \$1,008.85! 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.

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

April 7 - https://youtube.com/live/W0e9bO-eCgg

April 14 - https://youtube.com/live/Ey9QENAb7jo

April 21 - https://youtube.com/live/kF-RT-a0sIo

April 28 -https://youtube.com/live/1bwz9iCjVro

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

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACKNOWLEDGES WITH GRATITUDE CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED AS FOLLOWS:

* * * For the Marie Sutherland Memorial Fund * * *

In memory of Jean Gardner

by Sheila Dawn Pelletier Judi & Louis Greenier

* * * For the Herbert and Elizabeth Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund * * *

In memory of Rev. Richard and Arlene Hamilton and in honor of the Hamilton family

by Mary Lou Brown

* * * For the Hazel Greenier Family Accessibility Fund * * *

In memory of Louis Greenier

by

Ellouise Somers

Paul and Millie Pangburn

Louis Leavitt

Richard and Betty Hatch

Ruthann and John Weeks

Tom and Bette Olson

Mary Ouellette

Carol and Bob Norsworthy

Diane and Bruce Fitzpatrick

Mary Lou Brown

Sheila Dawn Pelletier

Donald and Laura Audibert

Sam and Lise Collins

Bob and Donna Umphrey

staff of the Caribou Utilities District

Ted and Sallie St.Pierre

Mary and Todd Theriault

David and Bonnie Tingley

Peter and Marjie Edgecomb

Ivan and Penny Shaw

David & Ron & Steve Belyea and families

Ruth H. Ross

Delbert E. Ramey

Mount Blue Masonic Lodge

Karen and Lindsey McKenna
Sanae Huston, Kevin Huston
Barbara Dechaine
Betty Branscom
Scott and Jennifer Branscom
John and Cindy Branscom
Bert and Michelle Branscom
David and Dottie Wakem
Carol Fitzherbert
Christine Ireland
Cindi Turner
The Greenier Family

 * * Additional gifts to the Hazel Greenier Family Accessibility Fund * *

(the elevator fund) from family of **Gwen Ferguson**

Also additional gift from Philip Brown

* * * For the Edward and Betty Branscom Memorial Fund * * *

In memory of Betty Branscom by Sanae Huston Donna Hurley Sheila Dawn Pelletier Paul and Millie Pangburn Soderberg Co., Inc. Bert and Michelle Branscom Margaret and Edward Jalbert Delbert E. Ramey Vernon and JoAnne Barnes Alroy and Valerie Chow Lorraine McMullen Jeannie Burnette Todd and Mary Theriault Bruce and Diane Fitzpatrick Judi Greenier Richard and Betty Hatch Ruth H. Ross Mary Lou Brown

John and Cindy Branscom Mary Ouellette

* * * For the Harold Clark Organ Fund * * * In memory of Susan Clark

by
John Hedman
Ellen Cleaves
Louis Leavitt
Del Ramey
Mary Ouellette
Arthur Philbrick
Judi Greenier

* * * For the Margaret Brewer Memorial Fund * * *

In memory of Richard Brewer

by Susan H. Brewer

* * * For the Donald T. and Zelma Merritt Memorial Fund * * *

In memory of **Zelma Merritt**

by Cynthia Tornquist

* * * For the Norris Brown Memorial Fund * * *

In memory of Bertram and Erma Frost

by Leland Frost

* * * Recent gifts to the Board of Trustees local **Organ Fund * * ***In memory of **Elsie Locke**In memory of **Dr. Buchanan**

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES....

Update on the *Hazel Greenier Family Accessibility Fund* (also known as "the elevator fund"):

The Fund was established August 2023 with proceeds given in memory of Louis Greenier (\$2,500).

Since then, the Board of Trustees has received an additional \$4,875.00 to be added for the anticipated elevator project here at Gray Memorial. Including bank interest, the balance as of March 18, 2024, has grown to \$7,426.75!



Spaghetti Supper

All proceeds to benefit the Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry

SATURDAY – May 4, 2024

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$10 per meal

Caribou Assembly of God Fellowship Hall Sweden Street, Caribou



Church Council Meeting Minutes March 22, 2024

Attendees: Roy Alden (chair), Shirley Bowman, Cheryl Martin, Melonie Carlson, Pastor Rich Rego, Bobbi Pelletier

Roy called the meeting to order at 1:02pm. There was some discussion about the recent weather issues and how to plan meetings and services. Claire Hodgkins, our Church Council Secretary, was not able to attend. Bobbi agreed to take minutes.

Pastor Rich offered a prayer.

<u>Open Discussion</u>: In Roy's agenda, he stated "At times, the work of our church can become overwhelming and somewhat stressful. Are there ways we as an administrative council can relieve some of that stress by encouraging greater involvement by our Congregation, or can our tasks become more enjoyable and fun as we focus on our mission of making disciples for the transformation of the world."

How do we get more people involved? We have to resurrect committees such as Education. Roy said that the Church Council's mission is to get people excited. Melonie shared that the Lidstone UMC had started a blanket ministry at their church, enabling more people to work together on this project.

During our next Stewardship campaign, we should provide a list of committees and their members along with notes from these groups on how they enjoy these things. Include a "Time and Talent" survey. Bobbi talked about updating the committee descriptions that were done several years ago and/or have a meeting to encourage more people to join committees that offer opportunities to share their gifts and interests. Pastor Rich will send us something to review to find peoples' gifts.

Roy said that we need to get back to being friends. Perhaps do potlucks and game nights. Encourage people to work together to do lawn work, clean sanctuary, become pen pals?

We discussed the February statements (provided later in the Newsletter). Shirley outlined our Financial Secretary report, stating our total operating fund income was \$13,550.00. Special Funds for Church Use included donations of \$600 to the Louis Greenier Memorial-Elevator and \$10,005.00 for the Emergency Fund. Total donations received were \$24,239.94.

Bobbi briefly discussed her Treasurer's reports (provided later in the Newsletter), noting that many of the Special Funds for Church Use lines will not be in the March reports as many of the funds were given to the Trustees during February. She told everyone that the donations to the Emergency Fund are first recorded by Shirley so people will have those contributions recorded in the yearly financial statements and then she moves the funds into the separate "Sharing the Grace/Growing in Faith" checking account.

Bobbi explained that she and Cheryl Martin went to the Aroostook Savings and Loan and were able to remove Christopher Dare as a signer on the Operating Fund checking account and add her and Cheryl as the two signers on that account. Unfortunately, they were not able to change the signers on the "Sharing the Grace/Growing in Faith" campaign checking account as the bank required specific language in the minutes regarding Judith Greenier and

Deborah Barnes being listed as signers currently. So, we have to fix that in this month's meeting and minutes. Melonie Carlson made the following motion: "I make a motion to remove Judith Greenier and Deborah Barnes as signers on the "STG/GIF" account and update the signers to be Roberta Pelletier and Cheryl Martin". Pastor Rich seconded the motion and all present approved the motion. Bobbi and Cheryl will go back to the bank to get this done.

Next there was discussion about highlights in committee reports that have already been distributed. Bobbi told everyone that four new offering plates were ordered and received. The current plates we use are 70 years old and Judson is no longer able to polish them and make them look nice. The four new ones are much lighter in weight as well. They will be dedicated on Easter morning. The lights in the Fellowship Hall will soon be replaced with LED lights, which will make the room much brighter. The upgrade in lighting is being funded by a grant the Trustees obtained. Bobbi also reported that new rugs were purchased for the church office and the Narthex entry. The 2024 Scholarship package was updated and will be released on April 1st with a May 10th deadline for applications.

Bobbi reported that the \$90,000 loan check from the United Methodist Foundation of New England was received and deposited on Monday, March 18th. A check was paid to Installations Unlimited Maine for \$95,550.00 which pays in full the work they did to remove all the damaged attic insulation and replace it and add more insulation throughout the attic and roof.

Pastor Rich showed everyone the new church logo he created for the NOW Team. The logo will be provided to the Caribou Recreation Center to be included on their upcoming package for summer programs.

Roy wanted to clarify the issue about kids needing gym clothes. The impression that if children do not have gym clothes and are not able to participate in gym class are kicked out or flunked after 3 misses is not correct. He stated that the school does provide clothes and sneakers for any student that needs them, but some students do refuse them. Students who refuse to wear the clothes and participate are not flunked.

New Business

Roy – do we want to plan a Vacation Bible School? Not sure. Roy wants to have a youth group formed again. It was decided that during the next Katahdin District "Musings" session, Melonie would ask how other churches in the district engage kids in summer programs.

April 5/6 – the Caribou United Baptist Church is hosting a Youth Rally. Bobbi heard last week that they have over 100 children registered to attend! We received the notification quite late and did not look into having any eligible children at our church participate. Perhaps some of our church members might be willing to volunteer to help them? Roy was going to reach out to ask.

Melonie had requested that we be updated on the progress of the security team. After some discussion, it was decided that the Church Council receive a report from Judson Drake regarding the Security Team's earnings and what they have already bought and plans for future purchases.

Pastor Rich's time: He would like to do more children events. As of July 1st, he will no longer be the coordinating pastor for Lidstone UMC. Sue Brown will become 1/4 time pastor effective July 1st.

No further business to discuss. Next meeting is on Thursday, April 18th at 1pm. Meeting adjourned at 2:20pm.

Bobbi Pelletier Fill-in Secretary

REPORTS OR MEETING MINUTES RECEIVED PRIOR TO CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:

Aroostook Cluster of the United Methodist Churches Meeting Minutes for March 7, 2024

The meeting came to order at 9:00 am with the following present via Zoom. Victor Han, Joyce, Kang, Tracy Reeves, Chris Dare, Charlene Buzza, Carolyn Kimball, Paula Lilley, Sue Michaud, Melonie Carlson, Sara Hill, John DeFelice and Sue Brown.

Victor welcomed everyone. Tracy shared devotions from a 40 Day Lenten devotional beginning with the Prayer of Presence. She shared a writing from Reuben Job regarding being good, doing good...on our own. Without the action of God's sanctification within us we will not be changed. Sanctifying grace assures us that we can practice what the Gospel teaches us. God's work of transformation within us is achieved by being open to God's grace...a grace that leads us on toward Christian perfection. Tracy closed with a blessing.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the February 1st meeting were presented. Motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Sara and seconded by Charlene. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

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

Aldersgate Day Service

Friday, May 24th is Aldersgate Day. We will come together to have a Cluster Service at Houlton UMC at 6:30pm. We are asking our various churches to provide music - encouraging use of John and Charles Wesley hymns (or others as appropriate. 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. After discussion, it was decided to maintain the title "Songs of the Heart" from last year for this service. Folks will begin to remember and know what to expect.

2024 St. Apollonia Festival of Trees

We agreed on the theme "FAITH". Family in Aroostook Incarnates The Holy (Thank you, Tracy). A small group agreed to brainstorm what we will need for the tree: Sue Michaud, Paula Lilley, Melonie Carlson, Carolyn Kimball and Sue Brown. This group will bring ideas back to this Cluster at our April meeting.

Pulpit Exchange

April 21st will be Pulpit Exchange Sunday. The pulpit exchange list is as follows:

Gray Memorial UMC -- Mary Miller

Hodgdon UMC -- Sue Brown

Houlton UMC -- Rich Rego

Lidstone Memorial UMC -- Paula Lilley

Mapleton UMC -- Victor Han

Mars Hill UMC --- John DeFelice

Stetson Memorial UMC -- Joyce Kang

All Saints Day Service

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

Mission Opportunities

Melonie shared more about the Pen Pal ministry at Gray Memorial UMC as well as finding ways to provide necessary items for transient youth. Sue B. shared about a ministry to provide blankets for school students in need. Tracy shared that Grant Memorial is making bag lunches at Riverside Park on April 8th (Eclipse Day). Tracy also shared that We

Chang and the Vision Forward Team are recommending a Regional Mission Hub in areas of the Conference. Tracy will be part of the meeting to discuss and have input and asked if others would like to participate (Tuesday, March 19th). Tracy provided a link to the Zoom meeting.

We Chang is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Regional Mission Hub

Time: Mar 19, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

https://zoom.us/j/96885045487 Meeting ID: 968 8504 5487

Victor shared that Houlton UMC will be preparing a supper and warming center along with a historical organ tour during the time of the eclipse. Sue M. asked if we might think about a mission to provide for folks' pets. Melonie shared information on how Gray Memorial has worked with a local pet rescue and also offered a Blessing of the Animals Service which included gathering needs for the pet rescue.

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.

New Business

None at this time.

Joys and concerns

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

Next meeting: Thursday, April 4th at 9:00am via Zoom.

Devotions for next meeting: Joyce

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 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 February:
Regular Offering	\$13,434.00
_oose Offering	116.00
Subtotal-Regular Offering	\$13,550.00
Other Sources Operating Fund:	.00
Total Operating Fund Income	\$13,550.00
Reimbursements: Education/Discovery	6.00
Special Funds for Church Use	
Coffee Fellowship	46.79
Bottle Redemption	21.15
Security	11.00
∟ouis Greenier Memorial – Elevator	600.00
Emergency Fund	10,500.00
Subtotal Funds for Church Use	10,683.94

Grand Total:	\$24,239.94	
From Treasurer:		
Beginning Balance	16,676.54	
2024 Operating income	13,550.00	
Bottle Redemption	21.15	
Interest	1.81	
Less EFT fee	(35.55)	VANCO fees (EFT deposits)
Less Expenses	(16,058.93)	
Ending Balance	14,155.02	
_		

1,680.00

\$200.00

\$9,361.04

.00

The Capital Account Money is as follows as of February 29th: Previous Balance - \$30,858.26; Deposits - \$10,006.48; Expenses - \$2,625.27; Current Balance - \$38,239.47.

Expenditures for February 2024:

Special Funds Not for Church Use

Experiultures for February 2024.			
Programs:			
Education	\$501.74		
Office	373.09		
NOW Team	50.00		
Programs Sub-Total	\$924.83		
Trustee Expenses:			
Church Utilities	\$1,672.91		
Parsonage Utilities	411.72		
Telephone/Internet	174.96		
Property Insurance	1,433.85		
Snow Removal	660.00		
Maintenance/Cleaning	577.36		
Technology	16.95		
Trustee Sub-Total	\$4,947.75		
Otaff Davids Dalations France			
Staff-Parish Relations Exper			
Pastor's Salary	\$4,333.34		

Pastor's Total Comp	\$6,013.34
Choir Director Treasurer	\$200.00 133.33
Church Office Administrator Custodian	833.33 1,625.00
Total Other Salaries	\$2,791.66
Other Expenses:	

Guest & Substitute Staff

Health Insurance

FICA	213.56
Workman's Comp	142.48
Total Other Expenses	\$556.04

New England Conference:

Sub-Total SPRC Expenses

Pastor Pension Benefit	\$825.31
NEC Total	\$825.31
Grand Total Expenses	\$16,058.93

^{* \$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 March 8, 2024, on-line report shows ending value = \$25,082.19.

Weekly Average Needed for 2024: \$4,225.44 (52 Sundays)

Mission Shares = \$2,525.75/mo. As of EOM February, paid up-to-date (paid Jan & Feb in Jan)

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

Balances as of Feb 29: Church = (\$101.45); Parsonage = (\$2,324.72)

2024 YTD REVIEW

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 - \$26,596.00; Special Funds Used for Operating Fund Expenses YTD = \$21.15; Total Expenses YTD - \$38,119.42; Unpaid Mission Shares = \$0.

ATTENDANCE FOR FEBRUARY:

An aggregate of in-person and virtual attendance shows monthly average of 80 and 78 YTD.

Note – Jan 14th not included in monthly & yearly averages (Building closed due to water issue on Jan 11th)

140te – Jan 14 - not included in monthly & yearly averages (building closed due to water issue on Jan 11 /

NOW Team Meeting - March 6, 2024

Nurture - Outreach - Witness

In attendance: Colleen Harmon, Kathy Panero, Karen Rego, Alaina Pethick, Sandy Pethick, Ruthann Week, Bobbi

Pelletier, Melonie Carlson, Cheryl Martin, Kimberly Miller, Pastor Rich Rego

Absent: Rhonda Cyr, Joyce Knorr

Meeting was called to order at 10:08 am.

Opening Prayer - Ruthann

Budget Update -

Ruthann presented the budget update.

February 2024 Beginning Balance \$4,158.38

2-5-24 Deposit	\$ 270.00
2-5-24 January interest posted	\$.72
2-7-24 Caribou Rec. Dept. Outdoor Program	(\$1,500.00)
2-24-24 Deposit	\$ 50.00
2-24-24 Interfaith FCU (tablecloths)	(\$143.08)

Balance as of 2-29-24 \$2,836.02

2-5-24 Deposit details: \$20.00 Holiday Fling, 1 soup jar and 2pkgs dish cloths; \$25.00 for a church

replica; \$225.00 Pet Rescue luncheon. 2-24-24 Deposit details: 2 church replicas

Review of Feb. meeting minutes -

The minutes had been emailed out and accepted. Ruthann made a motion to accept the minutes. Sandy seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Status Updates -

Gym Clothes - Donations have been coming in and all have been delivered so far. Denise is very grateful and has already been putting the items to use. There is still a need for socks and shorts.

Penpal Letters - Melonie shared the "Becoming a Penpal" document with other churches in the Katahdin District and gave a presentation about our penpal program. The idea was well received and at least one other church would like to start their own penpal program between youth members and members who are now in nursing homes.

Visitor Bags - The group that met to update the visitor bags would like to update the pamphlets and combine them. The booklet and notepad need to be updated as well. They suggested changing from the sticker and insert card to a refrigerator magnet with the church contact info. Pastor Rich suggested using a bracelet with a usb drive to include a video presentation about the church. There are also pocket New Testament Bibles at the dollar store that could be included. The group will continue to work on this. They plan to have 20-30 bags.

Coffee Fellowship - There was a quick reminder that the NOW Team Odd Months group has coffee fellowship this week.

Church Replicas - Bobbi reported there are 23 replicas left in the church office. Pastor Rich and Karen will take one to the Brambleberry Market to possibly carry there.

Food Pantry -

Ruthann gave some updates and information regarding the Ecumenical Food Pantry. There has been a 20.5% increase from 2023. From Feb. '23 to Feb. '24 they served 100 more people. There has been an average of 11 new clients every month for the past 2 years. The increased need will only continue. There have not been donations at our church lately. The biggest needs are macaroni (or any pasta other than spaghetti), marshmallow fluff, and jelly. Karen will make an announcement during the March 17 church service.

Bobbi shared the need for volunteers to help with the annual Spaghetti Supper fundraiser in May. This is the only fundraiser that the food pantry does each year and it is well attended. She is hoping they will be doing an in person supper this year. Volunteers will be needed to help prep and serve on Friday and Saturday.

Parcel Post Auction Boxes -

There is a church in Alaska that collects donated items from each state and creates boxes that are auctioned to benefit their food pantry. Each box sells for \$50-100. The boxes need to be shipped by April 10. Ruthann made a motion that the NOW Team fills a flat rate box with local items to send to this fundraiser. Alaina seconded the motion, the motion passed. Please bring your items to our next meeting. Bobbi will pick up the box from the post office.

Camp Mechuwana -

In the past the church has sponsored youth going to camp. Aurora Barnum is interested in attending this year. Ruthann made a motion that the NOW Team make a contribution to the cost of her camp. Bobbi seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Logo and Garage Sign -

Pastor Rich shared several drafts of the logo for the C.R.O.C. booklet cover and discussed his ideas behind the design. The group chose a design with a colored clock face and the church name. Melonie will get technical specs from Neal Sleeper as far as size, resolution, etc.

Pastor Rich is still working on the garage sign. A proof will be sent out in an email to everyone.

Additional Business -

Kathy had a suggestion for a new event, Spud Night. She had participated in this event at another church. There are baked potatoes and a buffet of a variety of toppings. It seemed very fitting for our area. The group loved the idea and we will possibly plan one this fall.

Bobbi had more information regarding the Half Way Home Pet Rescue clinic we have been asked to cater. The clinic is May 10, 11 and 12. There are 12 workers, including several vegetarians. They are asking for just cold dishes. Sunday the 12th is Mother's Day, so we discussed just covering the 10th and 11th. The menu will be

discussed at our next meeting. Ruthann moved to cater the lunch on the 10th and 11th. Kathy seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Colleen formally requested to be removed from the NOW committee to pursue other uses of her gifts with the church. We wish her well.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 am. Our next meeting will be April 3 at 10 am.

Following a brief break, the meeting was resumed to discuss the Spring Fling event.

Much discussion took place to begin filling out the event form provided by Pastor Rich.

The event is tentatively scheduled for May 17 & 18, the weekend of the citywide yard sale. We plan to have a garden theme with cuttings and seedlings available from the garden. There will be a soup lunch, bake table, children's activities, a white elephant table, and possibly seedlings for sale.

Ruthann made a motion for the proceeds to go toward the purchase of new chairs in the fellowship hall. Karen seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Bobbi moved to continue the planning discussion another time. An email will go out if any needs come up, otherwise we will discuss further at our April 3 meeting.

Melonie offered a closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03.

Respectfully submitted, Alaina Pethick

SPRC Report: The SPRC met on Thursday, March 14 with all but one committee member present. The meeting was called to order at 1:20 pm and Pastor Rich led the group in prayer. Liaison reports were called. Discussion about the vacant positions ensued. Minutes of the February 8 meeting were approved. A final review of proposed job descriptions was had with only minor amendments thereto, with the revised editions approved as amended for all but one. Work still continues one description. The committee accepted a revised version of a staff annual review document that was presented, so planning that staff reviews may commence within a month or so. Adjourned at 3:40 pm.

United Methodist Men's Club Meeting February 24, 2024

1. Call to order and opening prayer:

- o Members gathered at 0900 at the library for coffee and donuts courtesy of Pres. Neal.
- o Members present were: Neal Genz, Conrad Walton, Richard Clark, Dave DeMerchant, Judson Drake, Ivan Shaw, Dave Belyea, Pastor Rich Rego, and Bruce Fitzpatrick. There were also 8 guests present.
- A everyone moved to the sanctuary at 0930 for our program
- 2. **Program**: Dr. Samuela Manages gave a presentation about her sabbatical at Mass General Hospital in Boston to become certified to treat substance abuse disorder and how she has returned to Aroostook to help integrate the several programs in the area and to treat the disease. She also showed a video of a person who had suffered from addiction, finally overcame it, but still struggles with the damage in his life.

3. Business Meeting: Due to the late time and low attendance, the officers decided to postpone the business meeting to the March 24th meeting.

The checking account balance is \$1,955.37.

David Belyea Secretary

Worship Committee Minutes March 1, 2024

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

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

Devotions were offered by Diana Locke with a meditation on Psalm 37. This lovely reading encouraged us to keep calm, not worry, and trust in God's everlasting faithfulness.

The minutes from the February meeting were reviewed. After making one correction (Scouting Sunday and retired pastor Ellen Cleaves preaching on February 11, not January 11), the minutes were approved as amended.

Old Business:

- Bobbi reported that one new hearing device has arrived and was tested by several people. It was determined that it was not an improvement over those that we are currently using as muffled noises could be detected while wearing them. It was suggested that perhaps Anna Roberts could find it helpful since there would be no background noise while she was following the service on line.
- No response has been received from the woman who had previously expressed an interest in providing child care on Sundays. Beth suggested that the SPRC request for a resume may be a factor, since some people might feel unable to provide one.
- Discussion was held on the continuing chatter during the playing of the prelude. It was decided that Pastor Rich will be in the pulpit every Sunday at 9:55 to make an announcement that when the prelude begins, we should all be silent to prepare ourselves for worship and show respect for the organist/pianist. Guest service leaders on the second Sunday of each month will be asked to make this announcement.
- Pastor Rich reported that five people stopped by to receive Ashes on the Go on Ash Wednesday. He also stood at the end of the driveway and made the sign of the cross to bless people in cars as they drove by. He suggested that we have another person with him next year to assist. He also suggested that next year we might have a Shrove Tuesday supper followed by an Ash Wednesday prelude that would be held in the sanctuary. Bobbi thanked Beth for creating the Ash Wednesday posters.
- March 10 will be UMCOR Sunday with a special offering being received.
- March 24 will be Palm Sunday. Bobbi reported that she has ordered an altar centerpiece, palm fronds, and African palm crosses.
- The Holy Week Ecumenical Noon services will be held on March 25 29. The schedule for speakers will be: Monday Holy Rosary Catholic Church

Tuesday – Pastor Sullivan, United Baptist Church

Wednesday – Isaias Lopez, Seventh Day Advent Church

Thursday – Pastor Sue Brown, Lidstone UMC

Friday – Pastor Rich Rego, Gray Memorial UMC

Luncheons will be provided on days that the various churches agree to provide for them. Bobbi asked for members of our committee to assist in serving and clean-up on days that luncheons are held.

• March 28 will be Maundy Thursday with a 6:00 p.m. service being held here.

- March 31 will be Easter Sunday. Bobbi will have forms for signing up for Easter plants in the bulletins prior to the 31st. She has asked Noyes Florist to put gold foil and white bows on all the plants that are ordered from them. Bobbi, Gwen, and Diane volunteered to meet at the church at 1:00 on Saturday, March 30, to arrange the plants for Sunday's service.
- No location or time has been determined for a Sunrise Service on Easter morning. We hope to have a breakfast provided following the service.
- There will be no coffee fellowship on Easter Sunday.
- Bobbi reported that new LED lighting has been installed in the small room off the kitchen. Plans are made to install the LED lights in the fellowship hall as well.

New Business:

- Bobbi suggested that we recognize Kitty Doar for the beautiful table runners that she is making for the food table in the fellowship hall. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to purchase a \$100.00 dollar gift certificate at Mardens for her since she buys most of her fabrics there.
- May 12 will be Mother's Day. We will discuss the purchase of small gifts at our next meeting.
- May 19 will be Heritage Sunday and Pentecost. Bobbi reported that Bethany Anderson and Daryla Simon are
 the only new fifty-year members this year. Invitations and questions about their remembrances of Gray
 Memorial will be sent to them.
- An Aldersgate Day Service will be held in Houlton at 6:30 p.m. on May 24 with light refreshments being served.
- May 26 will be Peace with Justice Sunday.
- Bobbi reported that Ryan Slocum, a gifted organist and pianist will be here to play for us on July 28 during our worship service. It is hoped that a he will perform a Saturday night concert as well in either Presque Isle or here at Gray Memorial.
- Pastor Rich announced that the New England Annual Conference will be held in Danvers, Massachusetts on June 20 22. This will be a hybrid conference via Zoom and in-person.
- Bishop's Day is being held at Faith UMC in Columbia on March 9.
- Margaret reported that she has her schedule of music arranged for the dates she will be playing from now until September. She will attend the SPRC meeting next week to discuss her plans. Bobbi asked Pastor Rich to please address what other avenues SPRC might take to fill the child care and organist/pianist positions, such as reaching out to local high schools for students who play.

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, April 5, at 9:30 a.m. Margaret volunteered to offer devotions. (Note – our next meeting is postponed until Friday, April 12th at 9:30am)

Diane Fitzpatrick, Secretary

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN APRIL 2024!!!

Tuesday Wednesday	02 03	1:00pm 10:00am 12:00pm 2:00pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting (note time change) NOW Team Meeting Pastor Rich Meets with CLM Members Senior Choir Practice
Sunday	07	10:00am	Worship; Second Sunday of Easter
Tuesday	09	5:30pm	Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Board Meeting at Pantry (time change)
Wednesday	10	12:00pm	Pastor Rich Meets with CLM Members
		2:00pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	11	1:00pm	SPRC Meeting
Friday	12	9:30am	Worship Committee Meeting (note date change)
Sunday	14	10:00am	Worship; Third Sunday of Easter; Preaching – Richard Clark; Native American Ministries Sunday (special offering)
Tuesday	16	1:00pm	Trustee Meeting
Wednesday	17	12:00pm	Pastor Rich Meets with CLM Members
Thursday	18	1:00pm	Church Council Meeting
C.mda.	21	10:00am	Wanshing Founds Condon of Footon
Sunday Tuesday	23	10:00am 10:00am	Worship; Fourth Sunday of Easter DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWSLETTER INPUT
Wednesday		10:00am 12:00pm	Pastor Rich Meets with CLM Members
Saturday	27	8:00am	UMM Breakfast & Meeting
Sunday	28	10:00am	Worship; Fifth Sunday of Easter