



May 1, 2024 - “Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary.”
That’s what Christ is doing in our midst, Saints.

A few days after the Solar Eclipse, a church friend posted this drone photo on Facebook. Funny thing about aerial drone photos - they show a different perspective than what we’re used to seeing. We begin to see where we are situated, who and what surrounds us, and our curiosity is peaked.

The original of this photograph was rather dark.

You couldn’t really see much detail beyond the church, so I used Photoshop to change its exposure settings. That shed a light beyond the church itself and onto the surrounding landscape. Almost immediately, a feeling of gratitude and clarity flooded over me. Two words came to mind: “Oasis” and “Sanctuary”.

Spiritually, an “Oasis” is wherever God is. A place where you can find the love, forgiveness, and grace of God, right in the middle of a desert or wilderness. It’s a flourishing place full of life. A “Sanctuary” is a holy place, set apart from the profane and the ordinary world. It’s a place where the divine and sacred are believed to be especially present. Even a natural outdoor setting can be a sanctuary, where one finds peace and safe harbor.

The challenges we face today lie in the disparity of our call to help “the least of these”, and our struggle to preserve Gray Memorial as a “Sanctuary Oasis”. A holy place where, anyone in our community can come to find peace, and Communion with God. Not only are we at our city’s physical crossroads; we’re at the spiritual crossroads of hurting communities, faith communities, and transformation.

We’re blessed to have spirited believers, a spectacular sanctuary, and a prime location. Let’s use those strengths to be a hub for connecting the hurting people of God with the love of Christ - the cornerstones of which are worship, prayer, and outreach.

Within this next month, you’ll find an intentional focus on prayer and anointing. Prayer boxes are going to be installed in the Memorial Garden, under our church’s new portico, in our fellowship hall downstairs, and on beautiful prayer tables as you enter the sanctuary. Prayer sheets will be in every pew and be included in our visitor packets. Please let Pastor Rich know if you want to be part of the “Prayer Team” who’ll pray over each confidential prayer. Starting Sunday, May 19, every third Sunday worship will offer an anointing with healing oil.

Pentecost is May 19. May the Holy Spirit fill you to overflowing! God bless you.

Pastor Rich



The Caribou Clock

Publisher - Gray Memorial United Methodist Church
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Date: May 2024

Church Office: (207) 498-2103

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

Greetings from the Church Office!

The 2024 Gray Memorial Scholarship Application Package is available now. 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. The deadline for submitting an application is Friday, May 10th.

The George W. and Beulah Barton Akeley Scholarship Application is also available in the church office. Deadline for applications is before June 30th.

The NOW Team is sponsoring a garden-themed "Spring Fling" on Friday/Saturday, May 17th/18th from 10am - 2pm during the City-Wide Yard Sale. There will be a "white elephant" table, along with home baked goods, plants and various garden items (tools, seeds, plants, etc.). On Saturday, we will have a soup/salad/bread lunch. Donations from the congregation for the various tables are encouraged.

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*

Thursday, May 23rd!!!!

You may want to see the May Calendar on page 19 - we are very busy!

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier
Church Office Administrator



April Prayer Requests

Prayer Concerns: Debbie & Lu Sharp, Sylvia Akeley, Anna Roberts, Richard Carde, Leland Frost, Ralph Ferguson, Gwen Ellinwood, Curtis Wright, Linda Cyr, James Stuart, Norma Thompson, Don DeMerchant, Colleen Harmon, Ivan Shaw, DeDe Nichols, Rhonda Cyr, Willis Sutherland, Cheryl Martin, Samuel Manages (Dr. Sam's father; in the hospital in Maryland), Brently Peterson (heart surgery), Ed Millett (car accident), Bob & Carol Norsworthy, Barb Aiken, Elsie Doody's non-biological great-granddaughter Amelia (open heart surgery), Patricia Graffam (in rehab), Michelle Carde, Nova Cry (recovering from broken leg), Peter Scovil, Claire Hodgkins & her sister Cathy Firth, Whitney Nichols and Vinnie Anderson, Rev. Marty Nason (previous pastor at Gray Memorial; stoke and broken hip on Friday), Judi Smith (battling deep depression)

Family Deaths: Family of Robert Norsworthy; Family of Joe Wilcox; Family of Erik Foote; Family of Russell Sutherland (Judi Greenier's brother, Florida)

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

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LITURGIST</u>	<u>Organist/Pianist</u>	<u>COUNTER</u>	<u>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP</u>
May 05	Claire Hodgkins	Margaret Cyr	Cheryl Martin	SPRC
May 12	Cheryl Martin	Margaret Cyr	Cheryl Martin	NOW Team
May 19	Deborah Nichols	Mary Lou Brown	Cheryl Martin	UMM
May 26	Diane Fitzpatrick	Judi Greenier	Mary Ouellette	Worship Committee

Usher Coordinator for May: Roy Alden
Communion Stewardess: Diane Fitzpatrick
Communion Bread: Diane Fitzpatrick

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

Kieffer, Lehrle – new email: lehrlekieffer@gmail.com

McBreairty, Sarah – current mailing address: 100 Ohio Street, Bangor ME 04401; email: sarmcbreairty@gmail.com

Norsworthy, Robert – delete; passed away April 19, 2024

* * May Birthdays & Anniversaries * *

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

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



2	Jeannette Belyea, Donald DeMerchant	16	Linda Pangburn
5	Erika Carlson	17	Lu Sharp
7	Richard Rego	20	Meagan Irving
8	Judson Drake	21	Debbie Nichols
9	Peggy Nichols	22	Gary Doody
13	Ralph Ferguson	28	Richard Clark
14	Gwen Barnum	29	Mary Lou Brown, Douglas Lombard



20	Mary & Ed Ouellette	24	Gail & Bruce Hagelstein
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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. This also includes some non-members who are no longer active in the life of our church.

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

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


 Finance &
 Stewardship
 Committee

Worship Attendance and General Fund Offerings:

<u>Date</u>	<u>In-Person Attendance</u>	<u>*On-Line Attendance</u>	<u>+ Operating Fund Offering</u>
Mar 24	0	53	Service canceled – video provided
Mar 31	73	35	\$3,332.00
Apr 07	53	32	\$6,477.00
Apr 14	38	23	\$2,581.00
Apr 21	46	31	\$2,512.00
Apr 28	48	(will report next month)	\$1,885.00

+ 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 \$35,573.38. Since then, we received interest of \$2.05 and donations for the “Emergency Fund” for \$19,515.97! We made our first payment of \$638.06 for the \$90,000 loan, which leaves us with a balance of \$54,453.34 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).

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 \$23.50 in April donations, so our proceeds are now \$1,032.35! 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 May Sunday Worship Services at 10:00am:

- May 5 - <https://youtube.com/live/x1ALt9fGqH8>
- May 12 - <https://youtube.com/live/gtRqYqk5gOo>
- May 19 - <https://youtube.com/live/pmtWJT4vn-U>
- May 26 - <https://youtube.com/live/JICOBZld0cI>

 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 2024 Gray Memorial Scholarship Information and Application package is available in the church office. Please let us know if you want the package emailed to you or you can stop into the office to get a copy. The deadline for applications is Friday, May 10th.

 The George W. and Beulah Barton Akeley Scholarship Application is also available in the church office. Deadline for applications is before June 30th.
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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!

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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

Menu includes salad, spaghetti, garlic bread, and dessert (take-outs available)

In praise of church musicians

Great leaders of congregational song attend to the new community formed every time a church gathers.

by Peter W. Marty

Much of the meaning we find in our personal lives stems from contributions by people we often neglect to thank. Individuals who impact us in untold ways inadvertently get overlooked. Some of the unsung heroes who've helped make me who I am are church musicians. Worship organizes my life and centers my soul in ways that you can only know by knowing me. But the music of worship is what has helped generate the particular kind of person I am.

Gifted church musicians know how to help people sing together. They're genius at helping a congregation get "lost in wonder, love, and praise," to borrow Charles Wesley's words, without simply getting lost. Week in and week out, these practitioners enlarge individual worlds, send chills up spines, and remind worshipers that singing is not an external option for our lives; it's an internal component of being fully human. This column is for all those who help congregations make music on a weekly basis but who might not often hear how much their work matters to those around them.

Every time a congregation gathers, a new community must form. Even if the assembly just met the previous week, its character has altered.



Peter W. Marty is the CENTURY's editor/publisher.

Various component parts have shifted. Bodies have aged, however slightly. New joys have walked in the door. Fresh sorrows have settled into a back pew. Two tenors from the choir are missing. An elder has died. A baby gets happily passed around. A funny bulletin typo has people whispering. One of the spotlights above the pulpit is flickering annoyingly.

It's the musicians who must pay attention to all of the nuances of this new community. They have the job of listening closely to everything that's going on. They must assume responsibility for helping the boundaries and distinctions of this diverse group of people relax enough to become fresh solidarity. This is hard work that requires no small degree of faith, skill, and humility. But if it's successful, a bonding of people will occur. A thickness of congregational spirit will emerge. A weight of mystery will fill up the interior dimensions of peoples' lives. Those who thought they couldn't sing, or who don't want to sing, suddenly find themselves enveloped in lovely ways by the resonant voice of the church singing together.

Excellent church musicians—whether they play piano, lean into an organ, lead a band, compose music, or direct a choir—are theologians in their own right. They're people convinced that the glory of God is central to honest worship and not just some Jesus-y feelings that can well up inside the bellies of hungry worshipers. They're busy fighting for the congregation to find its voice, yearning for each and every soul to discover that singing is sacred duty. Church musicians who have given the greatest shape to my life are those who appear to delight more in getting music into my soul than just out of theirs. Yes, the talent of their hands, feet, and vocal cords may be awesome, which is beautiful. But the way they deploy their abilities determines whether the rest of us feel bigger or smaller than when we arrived.

Eugene Peterson suggests that song is the result of excess energy. "When we are normal, we talk," says Peterson. "When we are dying, we whisper. But when there is more in us than we can contain, we sing." The next time you find yourself in worship experiencing more joy than you can hold inside yourself, sing like your life depends on it. And then, flag down your music leader on your way out the door to let them know of your gratitude. □



Church Council Minutes April 18, 2024

Members present: Roy Alden (chair), Debbie Barnes, Bobbi Pelletier, Shirley Bowman, Melonie Carlson, Judi Greenier, Diane Fitzpatrick (pretend secretary)

The meeting was opened at 1:00p.m. by Roy, who offered an opening prayer.

Open Discussion:

- Roy began by talking about a church in the Washington D.C. area that he and Beth visited recently. They were both very impressed with the open and friendly reception they received! They discovered that it was a Black church and everyone made them feel so welcomed. At this church, there is a coffee and donut time in the narthex before the service begins. They found the people very eager to include them and extended warm hospitality. Roy then posed two questions:
 1. Are we as open and welcoming?
 2. Could we do better?
- Pastor Rich was unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments. He asked Roy to present the following for discussion:
 1. Using Roy's example, we could possibly modify the library slightly to allow for a "refreshment bar" of sorts, so we could offer light sweets, coffee, and tea before worship and, on a specific schedule, offer coffee hour also. Most of the people who do not go downstairs for coffee after the service would more readily stay upstairs for fellowship. This would have to be a "program" with an intentional goal.
 2. The Trustees will host a Church Grounds Clean-Up and BBQ following the UMM breakfast and program on April 27, from 10am to 1:30pm. Everyone is invited to participate. A handout will be included in the bulletin this Sunday.
 3. On June 1, the Conference will host a Zoom Pre-Conference meeting. This is an important gathering when local church leaders and pastors will hear what went on at the late April General Conference. We will hear what info will be brought to Annual Conference to be voted on. Pastor Rich's plan is to have the Zoom meeting streaming to our sanctuary sound/video system for our members to come and go. Pastor Rich and Cheryl Martin, our Lay Member to Annual Conference, will be present with their laptops so we can be "present" with our DS, Rick McKinley. The same scenario will take place during our Annual Conference on June 21 to 23. Pastor Rich and Cheryl will have to vote via Zoom. YouTube will livestream the entire conference.
 4. Once the Memorial Garden and church area are cleaned, a locked prayer box with prayer sheets will be mounted at the garden edge of the parking lot, under the portico area of the church, in our sanctuary, and two in the fellowship hall. This will be followed by the development of a prayer team who will review the prayer requests with the pastor and help organize prayer meetings (worship).
- Bobbi mentioned re-energizing the greeter program. The NOW team is in hopes of getting this going once again. The team is also working on a visitor packet.

- Roy asked about Pastor Rich greeting people before the service begins. Bobbi explained that he will continue doing that but will be in the pulpit at 9:55 to ask that everyone be in the spirit of prayer before the prelude begins. Our organist/pianists put a lot of time into preparing a nice prelude and we can show our appreciation by being silent. It was suggested by Bobbi that perhaps Melonie might have people assigned to various sections of the church to greet people as they are seated. Roy mentioned that everything hinges on structure. Perhaps we might rethink the order or structure of “things”.

Financial Statements:

- Bobbi distributed copies of the financial statements which she and Shirley addressed. Bobbi reported that when memorial monies are received, she asks the families where they would like the money to be designated.
- Bobbi reported that the Security Team is looking at having to pay \$3,300.00 to purchase a new entry door into the narthex. She also mentioned the need for the Security Team to be more transparent in letting us know who they are, what they have done, and what they want to do. Roy suggested that Judi Greenier and Pastor Rich could obtain more information from Jud. Judi reported that Jud has resigned from the Board of Trustees but will continue as custodian. He will be encouraged to continue to report to the Trustees as to what the needs of the church are.

Review and Highlights of Committee Reports:

- Melonie reported that the NOW Team logo is now on the Wellness/Recreation Center brochures. Lots of new activities are being planned. The NOW Team will host a Spring Fling in May with a garden theme.
- Bobbi reported that the Worship committee has purchased new offering plates which are now in use. They are much lighter in weight than the old ones!
- Roy reported that the UMM will have a breakfast and meeting on April 27. Charles Thomas will be present to speak on maple syrup business. He also encouraged everyone to help out that day on the church yard clean-up. It would be nice to invite others to join us and stay to enjoy the BBQ.
- Debbie mentioned that the SPRC has not met so there is no report at this time.

New Business:

- Roy said that nothing new has been received except for the need for the Security Team to give us a clear picture of what they are doing so that the Church Council and the entire church congregation is aware of their purpose and plans. Roy asked that the Security Team submit a report to the Church Council as well as the Trustees so that it can be shared with the congregation.
- Bobbi asked if the nominating committee has met to get committees in place for the next year. It was mentioned that the church calendar may be changed to a January to December format instead of July to June.
- Bobbi expressed concern about going to a One Board program which would include Trustees, Finance, SPRC, and Church Council. What would become of other committees such as Worship, Education, NOW (evangelism/missions). How would we transition to a One Board?
- Melonie mentioned a Safer Sanctuary Training Session that is in the planning for clergy and laity. Pastor Rich may have more information on this.
- Bobbi recommended that the Church Council recognize Claire Hodgkins for her many years of service as their secretary with a certificate during a church service. All agreed.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 23rd, at 1:00pm.
Diane Fitzpatrick, Secretary

REPORTS OR MEETING MINUTES RECEIVED PRIOR TO CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:

Aroostook Cluster of the United Methodist Churches Meeting Minutes for April 4, 2024

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

Victor welcomed everyone. Joyce shared devotions sharing first from Matthew 18 remembering “where two or three are gathered together in My name.” She used the upcoming total eclipse as a metaphor (sun, moon, earth) with the Trinity and relationships with God, church, and others. As a Cluster we are in relationship with one another as we each continue in our triangle relationship with God and our fellow Cluster members. Joyce closed with prayer. Thank you, Joyce.

Secretary’s Report

The minutes of the March 7th meeting were presented. Motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Tracy and seconded by Carolyn. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report

Paula was unable to be present but reported that our current checkbook balance remains at \$525.25. Motion to approve the report as presented was made by Tracy and seconded by Melonie. Motion carried unanimously. Thank you, Paula.

Aldersgate Day Service

Friday, May 24th is Aldersgate Day. Cluster Service at Houlton UMC at 6:30pm. Service title “Songs of the Heart.” Please let Victor know what musical selections your church can provide as soon as possible. Fellowship time to follow – Houlton UMC will provide beverages and dishes while folks attending are asked to bring light refreshments. Lidstone has offered a choir selection. Houlton/Hodgdon/Mars Hill will provide a handbell choir, a combined choir, and a worship dance. Victor will have poster/bulletin ready for our May Cluster meeting.

2024 St. Apollonia Festival of Trees

This year’s theme is: “FAITH”. Family in Aroostook Incarnates The Holy. Sue Michaud, Paula Lilley, Melonie Carlson, Carolyn Kimball and Sue Brown will meet via Zoom on Friday, April 12th at 9:00am to discuss what is needed. This group will bring ideas back to this Cluster at our May 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 in Presque Isle. Details to be discussed at a later date.

Mission Opportunities

Tracy was not able to attend the Regional Mission Hub meeting. Melonie was able to attend the Zoom meeting and shared that there was a cross between urban and rural churches as they are placed in very differing contexts. This

campaign would put a lot of work on the DS for each District. (Rick McKinley was unable to attend.) Melonie felt that it is a huge (perhaps overwhelming) undertaking especially given how far apart (distance) our churches are in Aroostook County. Tracy will respond that Grant Memorial will not take on the role of Hub but that our Cluster will continue as in the past and is willing to share information about what we do together.

Spring In-Person Cluster Council Gathering

We have set Sunday, June 2nd at 2:00pm as our spring in-person gathering at Grant Memorial United Methodist Church. Potluck indoor picnic! All Cluster Council members and their families are invited. Please mark your calendars =>)

New Business

None at this time.

Joys and concerns

We shared joys and concerns. Prayer was led by Sue M.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 2nd at 9:00am via Zoom.

Devotions for next meeting: Sue

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 March:

Regular Offering	\$13,392.00
<u>Loose Offering</u>	<u>131.00</u>
Subtotal-Regular Offering	\$13,523.00

Other Sources Operating Fund:	27.00
Total Operating Fund Income	\$13,550.00

Reimbursements:	
Education/Discovery	\$382.96
Upper Room	5.00
<u>Office</u>	<u>196.20</u>
Total Reimbursements	\$584.16

Special Funds for Church Use	
Coffee Fellowship	\$60.00
Bottle Redemption	20.00
Security	10.00
Offering Plates	100.00
<u>Emergency Fund</u>	<u>11,275.00</u>
Subtotal Funds for Church Use	\$11,465.00

Special Funds Not for Church Use	
UMCOR	\$ 2.00
Holy Week Service	352.00
Total Special Funds Not for Church Use	\$354.00
Grand Total:	\$25,953.16

From Treasurer:

Beginning Balance	\$14,155.02	
2024 Operating income	13,550.00	
Bottle Redemption	20.00	
Interest	1.77	
Less EFT fee	(35.55)	VANCO fees (EFT deposits)
Less Expenses	(14,309.07)	
Ending Balance	\$13,382.17	

* \$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 28, 2024, on-line report shows ending value = \$25,153.93.

The Capital Account Money is as follows as of March 29th: Previous Balance - \$338,239.47; Deposits - \$101,277.09; Expenses - \$96,541.09; Current Balance - \$42,975.43.

Expenditures for March 2024:

Programs:

Education	(\$263.40)
Worship	139.98
Office	(99.68)
NOW Team	73.80
Programs Sub-Total	(\$149.30)

Trustee Expenses:

Church Utilities	\$258.76
Parsonage Utilities	367.88
Telephone/Internet	184.96
Property Insurance	1,433.85
Snow Removal	785.00
Maintenance/Cleaning	791.70
Trustee Sub-Total	\$3,822.15

Staff-Parish Relations Expenses:

Pastor's Salary	\$4,333.34
Social Security	500.00
Health Insurance	1,680.00
Pastor's Total Comp	\$6,013.34

Choir Director	\$300.00
Treasurer	133.33
Church Office Administrator	833.33
Custodian	1,625.00
Total Other Salaries	\$2,891.66

Other Expenses:

Guest & Substitute Staff	\$200.00
FICA	205.91
Total Other Expenses	\$405.91

Sub-Total SPRC Expenses \$9,810.91

New England Conference:

Pastor Pension Benefit	\$825.31
NEC Total	\$825.31
Grand Total Expenses	\$14,309.07

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

Mission Shares = \$2,525.75/mo. As of EOM March, one month behind \$2,525.75 (paid Jan & Feb in Jan)

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

Balances as of Mar: Church = (\$51.47); Parsonage = (\$1,770.08)

2024 YTD REVIEW

Annual Budget	\$219,722.75
Required Monthly	\$18,310.23
Required Weekly	\$4,225.44

March:
Target = \$54,930.69; Beginning Operating Fund Balance (Jan only) - \$25,724.03; Operating Fund Income from F/S YTD - \$40,119.00; Special Funds Used for Operating Fund Expenses YTD = \$41.15; Total Expenses YTD - \$52,428.49; Unpaid Mission Shares = \$2,525.75.

ATTENDANCE FOR MARCH:

An aggregate of in-person and virtual attendance shows monthly average of 87 and 81 YTD.

Note – Jan 14th not included in monthly & yearly averages (Building closed due to water issue on Jan 11th); March 24th not included (building closed due to inclement weather).

NOW Team Meeting - April 3, 2024

Nurture - Outreach - Witness

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

Also Present: Gail Langley

Absent: Rhonda Cyr, Kim Miller, Cheryl Martin

Meeting was called to order at 10:04 am.

Opening Prayer - Melonie

Review of March meeting minutes -

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

Halfway Home Pet Rescue -

Gail Langley spoke to the NOW Team about their upcoming spay/neuter clinic. We had previously decided to cater lunch for them on May 10 & 11. (*Update: Clinic dates now May 3-5. We will provide lunch May 3 & 4.*) All the details were discussed regarding the best options to bring. Bobbi will email a list of who signed up to bring what and when. Gail will pick up the items around 11 am from the church on *May 3 & 4*. She also said there are 3-4 clinics per season. She will be in contact with us if they would like us to cater again.

On April 20, the pet rescue will have a dinner for their volunteers at the church at 12:30 pm. There will be approximately 20-25 people. We will be setting up the room, serving and providing food. Another sign-up sheet went around. Bobbi will email the list to everyone. Please be there by 11 am for set up.

Food Pantry Spaghetti Supper -

The Food Pantry’s annual Spaghetti Supper is May 4 from 4:30-6 pm. Bobbi is asking for volunteers to set up, serve, and clean up. There will be people there from 8 am to the end of the clean up. Please let Bobbi know if you are able to volunteer and how you would like to help.

Funeral Reception -

Saturday, May 11 at 11 am will be the graveside service for Zelma Merritt with a reception at the church to follow. There is no menu yet, but we will be hosting this reception. More details to come.

City Wide Yard Sale -

During the City-Wide Yard Sale, we will have our Spring Fling event on May 17 & 18 from 10 am - 2 pm. There will be a lunch on Saturday as well. We discussed several ideas that had been previously shared including the menu (soup, salad and breads), bake table, garden related items, a white elephant table, craft tables, “robins eggs” with coupons, and a door prize. Gwen Ellinwood is likely to set up a table for Rada cutlery. The proceeds from that will go to UMW. We set a date for an additional separate meeting for further Spring Fling planning. This meeting will be April 22 at 10 am.

Logo and Garage Sign -

Following some tech needs, the garage sign has been delayed until after Easter. However, the order should be placed by this Friday. The NOW logo was sent off to the Rec. Center for their publications.

Status Updates -

Visitor Bags - Some progress has been made. The usb bracelets have arrived. Ruthann purchased all of the palm sized NT bibles from the dollar store. And the notepads have been updated to include Pastor Rich’s info. The magnets and brochures still need to be updated.

Parcel Post Box - The items for the Alaska church auction were brought and packaged into the shipping box. The largest box the post office had will cost \$24.95 to ship. The box was mailed April 5.

Additional Business -

Alaina shared that Aurora has been registered in her first choice camp at Camp Mechuwana. It is the creative arts camp at the end of June. Bobbi moved that the NOW Team reimburse Alaina for the cost of the camp. Ruthann seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Joyce brought an order form for Mother’s Day carnations from Maine Right to Life. Bobbi moved that we purchase 40 carnations to be handed out at the Mother’s Day service. Karen seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report -

Ruthann shared the most recent treasurer’s report.

Balance as of March 1, 2024	\$2,836.02
3-9-24 Ruthann Weeks (reim. Bibles)	(\$ 27.69)
3-9-24 posted February interest	\$.56
 Balance as of April 1, 2024	 \$2,808.89

More Additional Business -

- A misplaced thank you letter from Sarah’s House was read to the group.
- During the May 26 service, a special presentation will be made to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Closing Prayer - Joyce

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 am.

Our next meeting will be May 1 at 10 am.

** There is a special Spring Fling Planning Meeting on April 22 at 10am.

Gray Memorial United Methodist Church

Board of Trustees Meeting

Sunday, April 7, 2024

Choir Room

12:30 – 2:00

Present: Judson Drake (chairman), Dave DeMerchant (vice chairman), Wendy Bossie (secretary), Judi Greenier (treasurer), Debbie Nichols, Del Ramey, Pastor Rich

Absent: Richard Clark, George Knorr

Guest: Dean Rauch, SPRC

Judson opened the meeting with a prayer.

Secretary's report: No report.

Treasurer's report:

The Archie Belyea memorial account of \$6,165.97 was liquidated. A motion was made by Dave, seconded by Judson and passed that the money be put into the Emergency Fund as requested by a family member.

Scholarships. The scholarships (Brown, Budd, and Lancaster) will not be paid out for 2023 as George Ferland is no longer in school.

Income and payouts. Judi distributed a list of local accounts and check book additions and payouts. As of March 19, 2024, there is \$6,830.56 in the trustee checkbook. A motion was made by Dave, seconded by Debbie and passed that the treasurer's report be accepted.

OLD BUSINESS

Lighting in church basement. As voted by phone on February 28, 2024, all lights in the basement have been replaced by LED lighting through funding from Efficiency Maine Trust. The work was completed Friday, April 5th. Efficiency Maine paid \$7,280.99. The trustees paid \$1,820.99 for labor and a dimmer switch on lights in choir room. There are ten former lights with LED bulbs from the choir room available to the congregation. Suggested donation is \$20. The electric bill will be favorably affected by this project. A solar panel in the upper parking lot would eliminate the electric bill.

Safety Committee. This subcommittee of the trustees has met again and watched training videos. They have purchased traffic cones at a bargain price of \$5 each to be used outside. There was much discussion on the parking and a plan for handicapped parking, keeping in mind to leave a path for a fire lane. George Knorr had outside watch last Sunday. People have been searching the cars parked around the church. Cars, other than parishioners are not allowed to park in the upper parking lot during the week. Some have been towed. There was also much discussion about safety inside the church. It is the safety committee's job also to keep the church quiet during the service.

NEW BUSINESS

Lawn care for 2024. The lawn tractor needs \$140 worth of repairs. Judson will tune it up. Roy Alden took care of the lawns last summer as a volunteer. Judson also has been the

volunteer lawn caretaker. We cannot hire persons who are not members of the church as our insurance does not cover them. Professional landscapers do have their own insurance. We have paid \$1700 in the past. The issue was tabled.

Ceiling in sanctuary. There are creosote stains on the ceiling. Painting it requires staging, moving the pews and having church services in the basement for several weeks. If Judson uses his staging and helps Justin and the job is done before May, Beeline Painting will do this for \$7000. Wendy noted that the ceiling had just been painted after the last sprinkler problem in 2019. This project is tabled until we can find out how much insurance will pay in totality for the January 11th sprinkler waterfall. Fred C. Church Insurance has been very slow – a month until an adjuster arrived – and has asked again for thirty more days.

Front doors. Push bars were planned for the front doors (for safety's sake), but the present doors are not up to code. They need to be replaced and then the safety push bars attached.

Judson is resigning as trustee chairman. Dean attended our meeting as Judson's liaison from SPRC. Pastor Rich talked about the miscommunication between the two committees and the congregation. Suggested that Del talk about the trustees decisions during church on occasion. Suggested that liaisons attend meetings of their charges (as Dean was doing). There was much discussion of having a church maintenance person, combining the custodian work with the work that Judson has been doing overseeing the church maintenance on his own time (using his experience as a contractor and knowledge of fire safety code). Because of the age of the church – one hundred and eleven years (111) old, a maintenance person is needed.

Briefly Pastor Rich noted that a one-board system for the church is under discussion with district superintendent Rick McKinley.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Rich.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy L. Bossie, Secretary

**Worship Committee Minutes
April 12, 2024**

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

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

Margaret offered lovely devotions on a reading from Max Lucado's book, Grace for the Moment. A worshipful heart was the topic and she shared that though worship is different for everyone, we all should worship. The Psalms were highlighted for their different emotions that can touch people in their own personal need.

The minutes from the last meeting were accepted as published.

Old Business:

- Bobbi addressed the problem of people continuing to talk during the prelude. She asked that Pastor Rich, or whoever is leading worship on a given Sunday, to make an announcement just before the prelude that we should all be silent and in the spirit of prayer.
- The Holy Week services were well attended and the receptions afterward were appreciated by all who attended. Bobbi thanked Pastor Rich for incorporating Palm Sunday into the Easter service, since worship was cancelled on Palm Sunday due to a snow storm.
- Diana Locke expressed thanks for the Sunrise Service which was attended by five people. A suggestion was made that we have the service a little later next year so that more people would be able to attend. It was suggested that next year we could possibly adjust the worship hour so that those who would come to a later Sunrise Service and breakfast could attend worship following the breakfast. We will discuss this at another meeting.
- Bobbi reported that the new LED lighting has been installed in the chapel, fellowship hall, and kitchen.
- Bobbi also reported that Kitty Doar was very grateful for being given \$100.00 to help in paying for the supplies she needs to create the beautiful table runners for the food table in the fellowship hall. Kitty is presently working on a patriotic themed runner.
- The Father's Day gifts have arrived and Bobbi expects the Mother's Day gifts to arrive this week. Diana offered to present the gifts on Mother's Day. The NOW team will also be providing carnations to all the women on that day.
- May 19th will be Pentecost Sunday and Heritage Sunday. We have two new fifty-year members who will be recognized, Bethany Anderson and Daryla Simon. Bobbi will send invitations for them to attend and possibly speak briefly about their years of membership here at Gray Memorial. We have been loaned two flame lights that can be put on the altar to represent Pentecost.
- On May 24th, there will be an Aldersgate service at the Houlton UMC at 6:30 p.m. Our choir will not be participating due to the late hour and distance concerns. Those attending are asked to bring something to contribute to refreshments.
- May 26th will be Peace with Justice Sunday. A special offering will be taken. There will also be a dedication of prayer shawls and recognition of the Prayer Shawl Ministry's twentieth anniversary!

New Business:

- On May 10th, there will be a funeral service for Zelma Merritt. It is unclear at this time if it will be a graveside service, a service at Mockler's Funeral Home, or a service here at the church. Pastor Rich will be in contact with Mockler's and the family.
- On May 17th and 18th, the NOW team will be participating in the city-wide yard sale. There will be a white elephant table, baked goods table, craft table, and a door prize offered. Members of the church will be invited to contribute items for the various tables. This event will feature a garden theme and will be held in the fellowship hall.
- June 9th will be Graduation Sunday. We have no active seniors this year, but it was mentioned that Tyra Sterner and Nick Anderson may want to apply for scholarships and attend the service to be recognized.
- June 16th will be Father's Day and St. John's Sunday. Bobbi will be in touch with Neal Haines to see if the Mason's would like to participate in the service. Diane will pass out the gifts for Father's Day following the service.
- Pastor Rich mentioned that Richard Clark will be preaching on April 14th and gave a blessing to Richard and those involved with him in the service.
- April 21st will be Pulpit Exchange Sunday. Mary Miller will be here and Pastor Rich will be at the Houlton UMC.

Our next meeting will be on Friday, May 3rd, at 9:30 a.m. Gwen will offer devotions.

Diane Fitzpatrick, Secretary

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MAY 2024!!!

Wednesday	01	12:00pm	Pastor Rich Meets with CLM Members
		2:00pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	02	9:00am	Aroostook Cluster Meeting via Zoom
		1:00pm	NOW Team Meeting (rescheduled from May 1 st)
Friday	03	9:30am	Worship Committee Meeting
		10:30am	NOW Team Provides Food for Halfway Home Pet Rescue Clinic (Food will be picked-up at 11:00am)
Saturday	04	10:30am	NOW Team Provides Food for Halfway Home Pet Rescue Clinic (Food will be picked-up at 11:00am)
		4:30-6pm	Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Spaghetti Supper at Assembly of God Church Activity Center

Sunday	05	10:00am	Worship; Sixth Sunday of Easter
Wednesday	08	12:00pm	Pastor Rich Meets with CLM Members
		2:00pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	09	10:00am	Final Morning Session of Hamilton Book Study (no potluck)
		1:00pm	SPRC Meeting
		7:00pm	Final Evening Session of Hamilton Book Study (no potluck)
Friday	10	12:00-2:00pm	Robert Norsworthy-Visitation at Mockler Funeral Home
		2:00pm	Robert Norsworthy Service at Mocklers; Internment at Veterans C
Saturday	11	10:15am	Zelma Merritt's Memorial Service at Gray Memorial UMC
		11:00am	Zelma Merritt's Graveside Service at Cemetery; reception follows

Sunday	12	10:00am	Worship; Seventh Sunday of Easter; Ascension Sunday; Mother's Day
Tuesday	14	11:30am	"Gray Gals" Luncheon & Meeting in Fellowship Hall (all women invited)
		6:00pm	Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Board Meeting at Pantry
Wednesday	15	11:30am	Pastor Rich attending Clergy Appreciation Luncheon at Cary Med. Ctr.
		2:00pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	16	10:15-11:30am	Women's Short-Term (5-weeks) Bible Study led by Ellen Cleaves #1
Friday	17	10am-2pm	NOW Team participates in City-Wide Yard Sale
		7:00pm	Caribou Choral Society Spring Concert at Grant Memorial UMC, PI
Saturday	18	10am-2pm	NOW Team participates in City-Wide Yard Sale (lunch today only)
		7:00pm	Caribou Choral Society Spring Concert at CPAC (Caribou High School)

Sunday	19	10:00am	Worship; Pentecost; Heritage Sunday (new 50-year members)
Tuesday	21	1:00pm	Trustee Meeting
Wednesday	22	12:00pm	Pastor Rich Meets with CLM Members
Thursday	23	10:00am	<u>DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWSLETTER INPUT</u>
		10:15-11:30am	Women's Short-Term (5-weeks) Bible Study led by Ellen Cleaves #2
		1:00pm	Church Council Meeting
Friday	24	6:30pm	Aldersgate Day Service at Houlton UMC; we bring light refreshments
Saturday	25	8:00am	UMM Breakfast & Meeting

Sunday	26	10:00am	Worship; Trinity Sunday; Peace with Justice Sunday; Prayer Shawl Ministry's 20 th Anniversary Celebration! Wear your shawl to worship!
Monday	27	<u>FEDERAL HOLIDAY - MEMORIAL DAY - CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED</u>	
Wednesday	29	12:00pm	Pastor Rich Meets with CLM Members