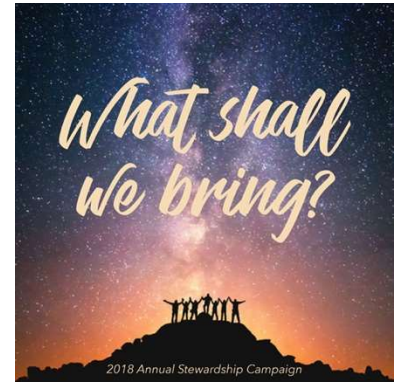


Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

October, 2024



Throughout our faith journey, we're extended several invitations. From the invitation to make our confession of faith, to the invitation to care for a sick neighbor, to the invitation to donate food to the Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry. The life in a community of faith is full of invitations. During this next season, Gray Memorial UMC is going to be intentional about how we respond to the variety of invitations we receive, and how those invitations spur us along in our faith development.

Jesus invites us to bring all that we are and all that we have when we become a follower and disciple of Christ. It's a journey meant to better form us into Christ's image. It's a walk that empowers us to be powerful agents for God - doing good in the world out of our love and gratitude for God's saving grace. John Wesley called this 'Practical Divinity'.

When we make an intentional decision about what we bring before Christ, we extend a blessing to all of creation in a world that is broken and hurting. God calls us to be a catalyst for wholeness among its many fractured pieces, by proclaiming that Christ still speaks healing words of grace, hope, and forgiveness. United Methodists strive to empower the local church for God's work by pledging support through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

We can be agents of grace, if we are generous in our response to the invitations that are presented to us. Our faithful financial stewardship is one way we are invited to respond to Christ's invitation. Your generosity not only provides for the church's operating budget, but it also provides for our landmark buildings' upkeep and maintenance. With God's help, Your giving fuels crucial missions and ministries. Together, all efforts are deployed as a sign that God's Kingdom is among us.

On October 1, 2024, we begin our "What Shall We Bring?" Fall stewardship campaign. It's a preparation for determining our investment in the operation, ministries and missions of Gray Memorial United Methodist Church. This time of stewardship study and reflection will conclude during our 10:00 AM worship on "**Commitment Sunday**", **November 17, 2024**.

We'll gather to celebrate (in-person and online), what remarkable things God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit has already done and will continue to do through this Body of Christ. I hope you'll be intentional about responding to this important invitation - not simply to offer your "estimate of giving" card, but also to invite people to come with you. Bring your family and friends so they can be immersed in the presence of God. It will bring them much needed Joy. And everyone is invited to a "potluck" luncheon afterwards!

Please take a moment to read Acts 2:42-47. It's about the fellowship of believers in the early church. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. They gave to everyone who was in need. Let's pray that Gray Memorial will experience such a spirit of community through this program.

Very soon, you'll receive a letter from Cheryl Martin, Finance/Stewardship Chairperson. She'll detail more of this program and the many opportunities for personal empowerment and growth that will extend well into the next year. I look forward to working with you in response to "What Shall We Bring?"

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Rich Rego
Gray Memorial United Methodist Church of 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

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

Greetings from the Church Office!

Sadly, our church congregation was affected by the COVID virus in August causing us to cancel or postpone many meetings and events. The Worship attendance was affected as well. However, in September, things improved and we have begun to get back to "normal" during our services and holding meetings.

In late August, I mailed a 2nd Membership Audit letter to all the people who did not respond to last August's letter, giving them another chance to respond. I also mailed "1st Letters" to a few people I overlooked last year. My hope is that we will receive more responses prior to this year's annual Church Conference so some names can come off the potential removal list. Our annual Church Conference is scheduled for Saturday, December 21st.

I am taking a few vacation days from October 2nd through October 8th. The Church office will not be open those days, so please plan accordingly. Pastor Rich is on vacation from October 10th through October 24th.

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, October 24th!!!!*

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier
Church Office Administrator



September Prayer Requests

Prayer Concerns: Dale, Lu & Debbie Sharp, Anna Roberts, Leland Frost, DeDe Nichols, Sylvia Akeley, James Stuart, Linda Cyr, Kristine Brantley, Jeff Franklin, Cathy Firth, Richard Carde, Ivan Shaw, Bob Locke, Karen Rego, All those with COVID, Robin Stuart, Stephanie Rivera, Keith Day, Betty Levesque, Isabel & Family, Erika Carlson, Gwen Ellinwood, Paula Belanger, Rosemary Piccolella, Brynne Hamilton, Allison Davidson, Aurora Barnum, Rodric Johnson, Marge Bell

Deaths: Family of Cathy Firth; Family of Andrea Bragdon (fostered 93 children!)

Other: Will Barnum (joy that he returned home safely from fighting wildfires in Oregon); Safe travels for Dean & Diana Rauch as they move to Florida; Ruth Ross - Happy 95th Birthday!; People of Birmingham Alabama (mass shooting); New England Conference

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>Greeter</u>	<u>Organist/Pianist</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Counter</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
Oct 06	David Belyea	Margaret Cyr	Richard Clark	Ruthann Weeks	Trustees
Oct 13	Shirley Bowman	Margaret Cyr	Cheryl Martin	Ruthann Weeks	NOW Team
Oct 20	Roy Alden	Mary Lou Brown	Kim Miller	Elsie Doody	Church Council
Oct 27	Rhonda Cyr	Judi Greenier	Deborah Nichols	Elsie Doody	Worship Committee

Usher Coordinator for October - Debbie Barnes
Communion Stewardess for October - Kathy Panaro
Communion Bread for October - Del Ramey

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

Boucher, Joelene: delete home phone number of 498-2498
Ferguson, Ralph; delete; passed away August 15, 2024
Frost, Dawn: phone number is (207) 493-1195; email - dawnfrost15@gmail.com
Kieffer-Till, Lydia: email address is lydiakieffer@gmail.com
Stallings, Debra: address is P. O. Box 98, Dover-Foxcroft ME 04426

* * October Birthdays & Anniversaries * *

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

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|----|----------------------------------|
| 2 | Jordan Franklin | 16 | Dale Sharp |
| 3 | Marjie Edgecomb, Amy Wischmann | 21 | Jay Bullard, Steven Doody |
| 4 | Betheny Anderson, Nancy Porter | 26 | Joelene Boucher, Denise Levesque |
| 5 | Vivian Bell, Millie Pangburn | 28 | Barb Brehm |
| 13 | Ivan Shaw, Mary Theriault | 30 | Dean Rauch, Ruthann Weeks |



- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|---------------------|
| 12 | Karen & Richard Rego | 26 | Pam & Paul Thompson |
| 28 | Lu & Dale Sharp | | |

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>
Aug 25	23	22	\$ 551.00
Sep 01	32	29	\$2,015.00
Sep 08	38	24	\$5,368.00
Sep 15	51	36	\$2,383.00
Sep 22	42	(will report next month)	\$1,952.00
Sep 29			

(will report next month)

+ 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: Balance reported in last month’s Newsletter was \$43,185.65. Since then, we received interest of \$2.40. We paid AWM Electric, LLC \$4,129.28 for insurance-forced electrical upgrades. Balance in the account as of September 27th is \$39,058.77 (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).



Our Senior Choir needs new members! There are no auditions. You do not need to read music and you do not have to have a solo voice. Our rehearsals are in the choir room (chapel) at 2:00pm on Wednesday afternoon. Please come and join a great group of people!

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 \$17.35 in September donations, so our proceeds are now \$1,140.95! 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 October Sunday Worship Services at 10:00am:

October 6 - <https://youtube.com/live/-wD5uCT4xBU>

October 13 - https://youtube.com/live/sTm_nZfE26I

October 20 - <https://youtube.com/live/-TNkNjuueT8>

October 27 - https://youtube.com/live/P-n_KpyyV7w

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 Now Team is hosting a "Spud Night" on Saturday, October 12th at 4:30pm! Cost is \$5 per person. Come and enjoy adding all the fixings to a baked potato and stay for a movie! The movie is "Faith Like Potatoes", based on a true and very inspirational story.



The NOW Team will sponsor their Cookie Booth at the annual Caribou Arts & Craft Fair at the Caribou High School on Sat/Sun, October 19/20 from 10am-4pm. We are looking for cookie bakers and volunteers to man the booth for 2-hour shifts each day. Sign-up poster available beginning Sunday, Sep 29th)

The Guest Services Team is sponsoring an “Angels Everywhere Sales Event” on Saturday, October 19th from 10am – 5pm. They will have many beautiful angels for sale! They will serve a Chicken Stew lunch from 11am – 2pm for \$5. Come and pick out a beautiful angel and join us for a meal!



Pastor Rich shared the following poem during his sermon on Sunday, September 1st:

“I would rather see a sermon than to hear one any day”

By Edgar Guest- written in 1917

“I would rather see a sermon than to hear one any day...
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way...

The best of all the preachers are the ones who live their creed...
For to see good put to action, is what everybody needs.

I soon can learn to do it, if you'll let me see it done...
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue, too fast may run.

And the lecture you deliver may be very wise and true...
But I'd rather get my lessons by observing what you do.

For I might misunderstand you, and the high advice you give...
But there's no misunderstanding how you act, and how you live.

When I see a deed of kindness, I am eager to be kind...
When a weaker brother stumbles and a strong man stays behind.

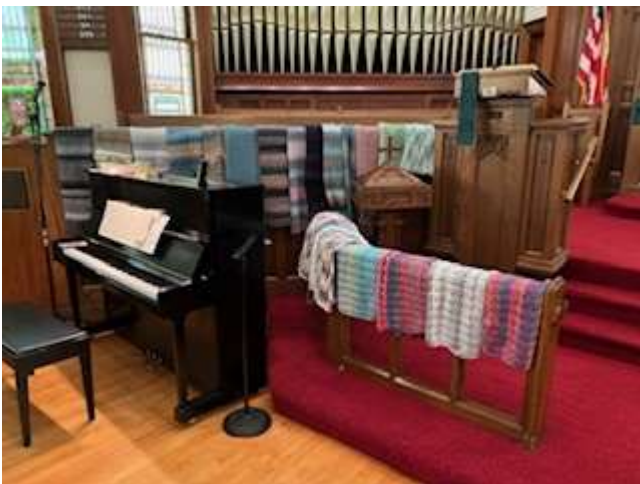
And all travelers can witness, that the best of guides today...
Is not the one who tells them, but the one who shows the way.

Who stands with men of honor, learns to hold his honor dear...
For right living speaks a language, which to everyone is clear.

Though an able speaker charms with his eloquence, I say...
I would rather see a sermon than to hear one, any day.”

Edgar Albert Guest (20 August 1881 – 5 August 1959) was a British-born American poet who became known as the People's Poet. His poems often had an inspirational and optimistic view of everyday life.

Special Moments During our Worship Services!
(pictures provided by Melonie Carlson)



September 15, 2024 – Pastor Rich dedicated many prayer shawls, baby blanket/hat sets and pocket prayer shawls during our Worship Service.



Pastor Rich talked with Gwen and Hazel Barnum during the children's time, explaining that once you say something that is unkind, it can't be taken back (demonstrated by putting toothpaste on a plate and then asking them to put it back into the tube).



September 15th - During our prayer time, Claire Hodgkins shared a few words in celebration and memory of her sister Cathy Firth who had lived with her and recently passed away.



September 22, 2024 – Ruth Ross brought in the Mystery Box, which contained pictures of her grandfather (Lee Smith) and her mother (Emily Smith Milton). She shared with us her grandfather’s involvement in the building of our current church and her mother’s devotion to our church.

OTHER KODAK MOMENTS!



Erika Carlson and her new puppy, Lilly!
Erika shared the joyful news with us during our service on September 15th!



Church Council Minutes
September 19, 2024

Members present: Pastor Rich Rego, Bobbi Pelletier, Jud Drake, Cheryl Martin, Melonie Carlson, Diane Fitzpatrick, Debbie Barnes, Shirley Bowman

In the absence of chair Roy Alden, the meeting was opened at 11:08 a.m. by Pastor Rich Rego with a prayer.

Trustees Report:

Jud reported on a mandated inspection by our insurance company. Since then, childproof outlets have been put in the nursery, the SP panel in the hallway off the fellowship room has been replaced with a large sub-panel, a brand - new panel with a disconnect has been placed outside the main entrance door, the one - year roof inspection and repair of two damaged shingles has been done at a cost of \$300.00. The Stairs Tree Company has removed the fallen tree from the back yard at a cost of \$700.00. The new air purifier has been put in the fellowship hall. It burns off bacteria and germs and adjusts to the number of people in the room at any given time. Plans are being made to purchase a smaller one to be placed in the choir room (chapel) for a cost of \$350.00. The new main doors that will be installed will have panic bars and will prevent people from breaking into the church building. The cost of the doors is \$3,000.00, not including labor or hardware for their installation. Eventually, all our doors will have panic bars in place. Pastor Rich mentioned that the parsonage needs to be inspected as an inspection hasn't been done for two years.

Pastor Rich shared a message from Roy Alden concerning questions about the financial campaign for 2025 and the need for the Nominations Committee to present a report on present and new committee members who will serve in the next year. Pastor Rich mentioned that he has received a Stewardship Campaign program free of charge from The Center for Faith and Giving. It is an all - inclusive program that he will peruse with Melonie Carlson and Cheryl Martin.

Bobbi's Report:

*After several attempts to research the money currently in the Memorials Committee checking account, Bobbi feels it is impossible to complete that project. She asked that all the money currently in that account be declared unencumbered so that it can be used as the Trustees and/or Church Council decide. There are some donations currently in the operating account checkbook that were given in memory of various people and Bobbi would like to reach out to the families to see if they have a preference as to how the money is used. If they do, the money would be retained in the operating account with information as to what it can be used for. If they don't, the money will be transferred to the Memorials checking account to be added to the existing unencumbered money. The Trustees could then take over the checking account. Pastor Rich stated that the Book of Discipline says that the Trustees are responsible for Memorials monies. We could still have a Memorials Committee who would be required to report to the Trustees.

* The Mission Shares need to be paid by the end of the year, which will total nearly \$22,000.00 unless a payment is made prior to the end of the year. Bobbi reported that our monthly bills are paid, but just barely. Pastor Rich offered to approach the topic of finances from the pulpit on Sunday, September 22. He will also announce the beginning of the financial campaign for 2025 that will begin in the next week or so.

*Bobbi addressed the issue of clutter in the church. Rev. Tim's old office off the library needs to be cleaned out first so that file cabinets from the room off the kitchen can be moved into that room.

Cheryl Martin reported that the VANCO paperwork has been done and we are now compliant!

Melonie Carlson reported that the Christmas Tree project for St. Appolonia will be held again this year. The Cluster theme is Faith and Family. It has been decided that Gray Memorial will provide a basket for a family dinner. Melonie also reported that the CLMs will all be certified this year. Cheryl Martin will be leading our service on October 13, and Melonie Carlson will provide leadership on October 20 while Pastor Rich is on vacation. Kim Miller will be their support person.

Sandy Pethick has begun offering her art class with eight people in attendance. At the end of the sessions, the artwork completed will be displayed in the library.

Debbie Barnes reported that our security team will now be called Guest Relations. We will be required to have a safer sanctuary plan in place and a report on what has been done when our charge conference is held this fall.

Bobbi reported that Dean and Diana Rauch have arrived safely at their new home in Florida!

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Diane Fitzpatrick, Secretary

Committee/Group Reports provided during September:

Aroostook Cluster of the United Methodist Churches Meeting Minutes for September 5, 2024

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

Victor welcomed everyone. Tracy shared devotions beginning with a reading from Theologian Richard Rohr – A Prayerful Exchange – the practice of “Centering Down” inviting us to settle and quiet ourselves and allow our spirits to be refreshed. Tracy shared additional readings around engaging in centering practices that can be profound in our inner relationship to ourselves and the Divine.

Secretary’s Report

The minutes of the May 2nd meeting were presented. Motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Sara and seconded by Mary. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report

The offering at the Aldersgate Day Service of \$451 was sent to World Central Kitchen. There has been no other action on our account, and our current checkbook balance is \$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

We shared thoughts on the Aldersgate Day Service held in Houlton. Thanks were offered to the host church (Houlton UMC) and Susan Laurence for directing and accompanying the pick-up choir.

2024 St. Apollonia Festival of Trees

Sue prepared a Google Drive doc and shared it with Council Members. Each church is asked to select or invent a “Basket” to prepare for the Festival. A motion was made by Charlene and seconded

by Paula to purchase a tree. Unanimous vote. Tracy will research small picture frames (and or lockets - Chris) to use as ornaments. She will let us know how we can help. Possibly place cross and flame logo and Cluster church names in frames.

Pulpit Exchange

Tabled until Spring 2025.

All Saints Day Service

November 1st Cluster Service will be held at Grant Memorial UMC in Presque Isle at 6:30pm. Tracy is willing to be coordinator for this service. Mary volunteered to help plan and Sue M. and Sue B. volunteered to help as needed. We discussed the offering to be received at this service, and it was suggested we consider Preachers' Aid Society. Motion was made by Sue B. and seconded by Mary. Unanimously approved. Mary will connect with Preachers' Aid about this.

Mission and Outreach Ideas

We have had no additional details regarding the "Mission Hub" request. We will continue to do what we are doing to be connectional and in service to our area.

New Business

Fall In-Person Cluster Council Gathering

After discussion, it was decided to meet on Wednesday, October 2nd at noon at Elm Tree Diner. Family are invited – not a business meeting.

Sara asked on behalf of Stetson Memorial UMC for help setting up media and designing a new website. Stetson has a license to broadcast livestream but is overwhelmed with filling out the paperwork. Victor will connect an expert with Sara.

Joys and concerns

We shared joys and concerns. Prayer was led by John

Next meeting: Thursday, October 3rd via Zoom at 9:00am

Devotions for next meeting: Chris

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 August:

Regular Offering	\$11,132.00
Loose Offering	226.00
<u>Subtotal-Regular Offering</u>	<u>\$11,358.00</u>

Other Sources Operating Fund:	.00
Total Operating Fund Income	\$11,358.00

Reimbursements:	2.00
-----------------	------

Special Funds for Church Use:	
Coffee Fellowship	75.62
Bottle Redemption	21.90
Security	21.00
Subtotal Funds for Church Use	\$118.52

Special Funds Not for Church Use:	.00
Grand Total:	\$11,478.52

From Treasurer:

Beginning Balance	\$13,482.47	
2024 Operating income	11,358.00	
Bottle Redemption	21.90	
Interest	1.58	
Less EFT fee	(59.50)	VANCO fees (EFT deposits)
<u>Less Expenses</u>	<u>(15,580.54)</u>	
Ending Balance	\$9,223.91	

* \$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 & \$3,000 in May 2023; as of August 30, 2024, on-line report shows ending value = \$26,372.82.

The Capital Account Money is as follows as of August 31st: Previous Balance - \$93,176.25; Deposits - \$40,002.40; Expenses - \$89,990.60; Current Balance - \$43,188.05. *(Includes funds earmarked for Furnace Fund - \$5,397.33; Emergency Fund Donations = \$74,270.97; Insurance Payments = \$40,543.5; paid off \$90,000 Foundation loan balance of \$89,581.00 and paid \$409.60 for electrical upgrades to parsonage and church basement).*

Expenditures for August 2024:

Programs:

Education	\$ 14.00
Worship	252.73
Office	1,441.30
NOW Team	48.00
Programs Sub-Total	\$1,756.03

Trustee Expenses:

Church Utilities	\$316.19
Parsonage Utilities	847.12
Telephone/Internet	184.96
Maintenance/Cleaning	211.23
Technology	16.95
Trustee Sub-Total	\$1,576.45

Staff-Parish Relations Expenses:

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

Treasurer	133.33
Church Office Administrator	833.33
Custodian	1,625.00
Total Other Salaries	\$2,591.66

Other Expenses:

Guest & Substitute Staff	\$200.00
FICA	20.76
Workman's Comp	71.24
Total Other Expenses	\$292.00
Sub-Total SPRC Expenses	\$8,897.00

New England Conference:

Ministerial Support	\$2,525.75 (one month of Mission Shares)
Pastor Pension Benefit	825.31
NEC Total	\$3,351.06
Grand Total Expenses	\$15,580.54

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

Mission Shares = \$2,525.75/mo. As of EOM August, five months behind - \$12,628.75; (paid Jan & Feb in Jan; Mar in August)

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

Balances as of August 31: Church = \$.00; Parsonage = (\$1,822.22)

2024 YTD REVIEW – August 2024

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

August:

Target = \$146,481.83; Beginning Operating Fund Balance (Jan only) - \$25,724.03; Operating Fund Income from F/S YTD - \$106,781.44; Special Funds Used for Operating Fund Expenses YTD = \$1,120.90; Total Expenses YTD - \$124,107.28; Unpaid Mission Shares = \$12,628.75.

An aggregate of in-person and virtual attendance shows monthly average of 67 and 78 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 - September 11, 2024

Nurture - Outreach - Witness

In attendance: Ruthann Weeks, Alaina Pethick, Sandy Pethick, Bobbi Pelletier, Melonie Carlson, Cheryl Martin, Kim Miller

Absent: Rich Rego, Karen Rego, Rhonda Cyr, Kathy Panaro

Meeting was called to order at 10:03 am.

Opening Prayer - Cheryl

(Kathy will provide the opening prayer next month.)

Treasurer's Report -

Cheryl provided the following report.

Treasurer's Report September 4, 2024

Beginning Balance	\$4232.08 actual
	\$2732.08 operating budget
6-29-24 Interest	\$0.76
7-31-24 Interest	\$0.73
8-19-24 Deposit	\$345.00

Deposit Details

8-19-24 \$50.00 for two church replicas

8-19-24 \$295.00 for Marilyn Langley Funeral

Balance 9-4-24	\$4578.57 actual balance
	\$3078.57 operating budget*
	*holding \$1500 for new chairs

Bobbi made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Ruthann seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ferguson Reception -

A list of those who volunteered and those bringing food has been sent out by Bobbi. Everyone was reminded that the setup will be on Friday, Sept. 20 at 1 pm and we will meet before the service on Saturday, Sept. 21 at 10:30 am to finish setting out food, etc.

Art Class Update -

Seven people have signed up for the class, most have paid already. The class starts this Monday, Sept. 16. Sandy would like to give the proceeds back to the NOW Team. Cheryl will deposit the money received so far.

Spud Night / Movie Night -

Bobbi has put in an order for potatoes and ordered the movies. "Field of Dreams" will be used for a later date. The movie for this event will be "Faith Like Potatoes". The trailer for the movie will be shown during an upcoming Sunday service.

Pastor Rich has purchased a used projector and a new screen for downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. He is requesting that the NOW Team reimburse him for the cost of the screen, which is roughly \$86. He also suggested we show the movie downstairs. Ruthann made a motion to reimburse Pastor Rich Rego for the cost of the screen.

Update: Pastor Rich has asked us not to reimburse him for the screen at this time. He would like to be sure this becomes a more permanent event. Cheryl seconded the motion. The motion passed. After some discussion the team decided it would be best to try showing the movie in the Fellowship Hall. *A test run of the projector/screen in both the Fellowship Hall and the sanctuary will take place on Sept. 26 at 10 am.*

The date and time for the event will be Saturday, Oct. 12 at 4:30 pm starting with the meal and followed by the movie. The cost will be \$5 per person. Bobbi will have the event shared through the County Calendar. Sandy is making a flyer and bulletin insert. And Alaina will create a Facebook event. A list of volunteers and the food items they are bringing has been sent out by Bobbi.

Cookie Booth

The cookie booth will take place during the craft fair on Oct. 19 and 20 this year. Sandy will make a sign-up poster for the Narthex. Volunteers will be needed for setup on Friday, Oct. 18 at 4:30 starting at the church; 2-hour time slots to work the booth (10-12, 12-2, and 2-4); take down on Sunday, Oct. 20 at 4 pm; and cookie bakers. Those making cookies should pre-package them 3 to a bag with a sticker listing the type of cookie and ingredients. If a container for all bags of your cookies is provided, you may put the name/ingredients label on just the container. Cookies can be delivered on Friday, Oct. 18 while Bobbi is in the office or Saturday morning at the craft fair after 9:30 am.

Food Pantry Update

Bobbi shared that we did not get the grant. There was a lot more competition than anticipated.

Various Quick Updates

- 200 pew cards have been ordered, but not yet arrived. *Update – they arrived!*
- Bobbi and Gwen Ellinwood will pick up the two sample chairs for the Fellowship Hall next week. We plan to discuss them at our next meeting. Bobbi is hoping that some additional funds for the purchase of all the chairs may come from the Memorials Committee.
- There are no updates from the Halfway Home Pet Rescue.
- The downstairs Prayer Box is almost ready to go. Pastor Rich will share it at an upcoming service before it is put out. The box for the Narthex is still in the works.

Advent Festival / Holiday Fling

Following some discussion about the types of offerings at an Advent Festival vs a Holiday Fling, the group decided to host an Advent Festival. There will be several craft tables where guests could participate in creating

something to take home. A few ideas were wreaths, pine cone bird feeders, birch candle holder advent centerpieces, and some children's crafts. We could also serve food. We thought it would be something different to offer the community since there are already many craft fair events during that season. The tentative date will be Dec. 7 with a time to be determined.

St. Apollonia Christmas Tree

The theme of the Christmas Tree Festival this year is Faith and Family. Our donation for the Aroostook Cluster tree will be a basket based on Family Dinner. We collect items related to a family dinner such as tableware, decor, Hannaford gift cards, etc. When we know the date, we will set a schedule for announcing and collecting the donations.

Penpal Status Update

Denise Hamlin is still confirming the list of penpals and getting addresses for those who went off to college. Melonie will find out from her whether the students or the church will write the first letters and when the start date will be.

Additional Business

- Melonie thanked everyone who supported her family while they were dealing with Covid.
- Aurora Barnum has been helping the committee at several of the recent events. The group would like to accept her as an unofficial member of the committee until after she has been confirmed.

Closing Prayer - Melonie

The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 am.
Our next meeting will be October 2 at 10 am.

Gray Memorial United Methodist Church

Board of Trustee Meeting
Tuesday, August 20, 2024
Kitchen
1:10 – 3:55 PM

Present: Judson Drake (Acting Chairman), Deb Nichols, Del Ramey, Richard Clark, Pastor Rich

Absent: Dave DeMerchant (Vice-Chair), Wendy Bossie (Secretary), Judi Greenier (Treasurer)

Secretary Report – None.

Treasurer's Report – None.

June 18th Minutes Read and Accepted.

Church Parking Lot. As things are, if the parsonage were sold, we would lose the parking lot next to the church. To avoid this, the lot boundary needs to be legally adjusted. Judson is seeing about this. This can be done because the Trustees, acting for the church, have the right to sell property to themselves.

OLD BUSINESS

Electrical Inspection and Certification. 80% Done. About \$1,000 more than expected, despite \$675 of donated labor. We have new and much better surge protectors. *Work completed; invoice for \$4,129.28 received and will be paid from the Capital Campaign Funds.*

Tree removal. Done - \$700.

Roofing certification. Done - \$300. Three shingles replaced

Parsonage. New dehumidifier - \$289. Lights in kitchen need replacing with LEDs.

NEW BUSINESS

Church bathrooms. Need to replace all faucets, supply lines and shut-offs. Put kits (valves) in toilets, and replace floor tiles. Judson will call Mark Wagner to get a price for this work. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to authorize Judson to do this.

Basement stairway. It is coming apart to the point where it poses a safety issue, but the Trustees can't at this moment afford to pay the \$4,000 - \$5,000 required to rebuild it.

Front Doors. They are falling apart and need to be replaced, at a cost of \$5,000. Trustees could pay for this through suppers and an angel sale.

Del stated that we do have the money for the stairs and the doors, but just barely enough. Taking on these projects might leave us with nothing.

Air compressor. Oil needs to be changed and a seal put on it - \$50. Motion to do this was moved, seconded, and approved.

Del observed that we need more Trustees.

New Sign for Church. \$13,600 – paid for out of Memorial Committee Funds. *Total cost is \$13,600; Memorial Account paid the 75% down - \$10,200 and there is a donation of \$2,500 already available to help pay the balance and the remainder of \$900 will come from Memorial account.*

Pastor Rich – Trustees are ultimately responsible for memorials.

Judson's Status. After some discussion, Judson agreed to continue the present arrangement, as both Custodian (now renamed "Sexton") and independent contractor, but entirely free of SPRC supervision.

Pastor Rich stated that Trustees need a chair, that we need to do fundraising for repair project, and that the need for these projects, especially in regard to safety, should be publicized. In view of the sparse attendance at today's meeting, he recommended that we have a full Trustees meeting immediately after church, together with two people who are not Trustees. We need new members! George Knorr recently resigned, but Deb Nichols hopes to find a replacement.

Pastor Rich closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Clark
Acting Secretary

+++++

Worship Committee Minutes
September 6, 2024

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

The meeting was opened by Bobbi at 9:30 a.m.
Devotions were offered by Claire Hodgkins. She shared a very touching remembrance of her sister, Cathy Firth, who had passed away two days ago. Though Claire and Cathy were very different, they shared a love and devoted bond that only sisters can share. Claire then shared a reading on diversity. To overcome our differences, we must pray for Christ's blessings and unity. Pastor Rich suggested that Claire share this offering on Sunday, September 15, during our prayer time as an honor and tribute to Cathy.

Old Business:

- Bobbi reported that one Prayer Box is ready to deploy as soon as the cover sheet has been prepared. Pastor Rich will explain how to use the Prayer Box during our service on September 15 and it will then be placed in the hallway by the downstairs bathrooms. There will be a second one to be placed in the Narthex once Judson puts it together for us and one to be placed outside sometime next year.
- Gwen has scheduled greeters for each Sunday through December. The greeter program will begin on September 15. Bobbi told everyone she'd seen a brochure about two books that she ordered - "The Greeter and Usher Handbook" and "The Art of Hospitality". Bobbi will share them with everyone when they arrive.
- Dan Schall will be here in concert this Sunday, September 8th. Pastor Rich will open the service with a welcome, share announcements, blessings, and a non-responsive Call to Worship. The choir will present a short anthem before turning the rest of the service over to Dan. The regular offering plates will be placed in the Narthex so folks can leave their offering as they enter the sanctuary or exit at the end of the service. A free-will offering for Dan will be taken during his concert.
- Pastor Rich will be revising the Mystery Box portion of the service to make it more of a children's moment. He mentioned that Ruth Ross has been wanting to share something special on our church history and will do so when she feels safe to return to church.
- A Blessing of the Animals will be held on a Thursday evening in October, with the date to be determined. Bobbi shared a "Blessing of the Animals Prayer Card" (50 for \$8.50) and a "Litany" (50 for \$9.50) that can be used and shared with the folks who attend and have their animals blessed at this event. The committee agreed that she should order a package of both.

New Business:

- Items have been collected for the Mission Boxes, including eighteen pairs of shoes that Bobbi and Gwen bought for a dollar a pair at Mardens! Bobbi will contact Denise Hamlin for pick-up soon.
- The pre-packaged communion elements that were ordered for last week's service arrived this week. They will be stored in the refrigerator for future use.
- Margaret reported that there are no new choir members. The choir begins singing this Sunday, September 8th. She also expressed a concern about the need for liturgists to enunciate more clearly and to step away from the microphone when singing. Pastor Rich suggested purchasing a Blue Tooth for everyone who has a speaking part during the service. He will also check with the tech team about controlling the volume.
- The Blessing of the Backpacks was not held previously due to the children in our congregation being ill. Pastor Rich will talk with the parents and set a date for having this blessing.
- Sunday, October 6th, will be World Communion Sunday. Margaret will be providing an altar arrangement where Bobbi will be away.
- Sunday, October 20th, will be Laity Sunday and Children's Sabbath. Bobbi suggested that the CLM members could provide leadership for the service and include Aurora to do a reading. The CLM members are Kim Miller, Melonie Carlson, and Cheryl Martin.
- Bobbi asked if members of our committee that were present would be will to continue serving through December 2025. All present agreed. Bobbi will speak with Diana Locke to see if she will continue serving. Two names were suggested for membership - Wendy Bossie and Danna Bouchard. Bobbi will check with them to see if they would be willing to serve on our committee.
- Pastor Rich shared about an encounter with a violin player at Dollar General recently. The young man is from Venezuela and is an orchestra trained musician along with his brother, who plays the cello. Pastor Rich talked with the young man and his mother about playing at Gray Memorial, and then COVID hit again! Pastor Rich will contact the mother to see if a time can be arranged.
- Margaret mentioned that she has music for men's quartets and ladies' trios that she would like to find a "home" for. It was suggested that the Aroostook Cluster or the high school music department could make use of them. Pastor Rich suggested storing them at the church for now.

Diane Fitzpatrick
Secretary

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OCTOBER 2024!!!

Tuesday	01	1:00pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry
		7:00pm	Caribou Choral Society practices begin at Caribou United Baptist Church
Wednesday	02	10:00am	NOW Team Meeting
		12:00pm	Fall In-Person Cluster Council Gathering, Elm Street Diner (family invited)
		2:00pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	03	9:00am	Aroostook Cluster Meeting via Zoom

Sunday	06	10:00am	Worship; Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost; World Communion Sunday
Monday	07	1:00pm	"Drawing: From Lines to Masterpiece" class led by Sandy Pethick
Wednesday	09	12:00pm	Pastor Rich Meets with CLM Members
		2:00pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	10	1:00pm	SPRC Meeting
Friday	11	9:30am	Worship Committee Meeting (postponed from October 4 th)
Saturday	12	4:30pm	"Spud Night" & Family Movie Night (hosted by NOW Team); Cost - \$5

Sunday	13	10:00am	Worship; Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost; <u>Melonie Carlson is preaching</u>
Monday	14	<u>FEDERAL HOLIDAY-COLUMBUS DAY/INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY-CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</u>	
Tuesday	15	11:30am	"Gray Gals" Pot-Luck Luncheon & Meeting (all women are welcome!)
		1:00pm	Trustees Meeting
		6:00pm	Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Board Meeting at Pantry
Wednesday	16	12:00pm	Pastor Rich Meets with CLM Members
Thursday	17	1:00pm	Church Council Meeting
Saturday	19	10am-4pm	NOW Team's Cookie Booth at Caribou Craft Fair at High School
		10am-5pm	"Angels Everywhere Sales Event" at GMUMC; Many beautiful angels for sale!; Chicken Stew Lunch from 11am - 2pm for \$5

Sunday	20	10:00am	Worship; Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost; Laity Sunday; Children's Sabbath; <u>Cheryl Martin is preaching</u>
		10am-4pm	NOW Team's Cookie Booth at Caribou Craft Fair at High School
Monday	21	1:00pm	"Drawing: From Lines to Masterpiece" class led by Sandy Pethick
Wednesday	23	12:00pm	Pastor Rich Meets with CLM Members
Thursday	24	10:00am	<u>DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWSLETTER INPUT</u>
Saturday	26	8:00am	UMM Breakfast & Meeting

Sunday	27	10:00am	Worship; Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost; Reformation Sunday
Monday	28	1:00pm	"Drawing: From Lines to Masterpiece" class led by Sandy Pethick (last)
Wednesday	30	2:00pm	Senior Choir Practice

Notes: Pastor Rich is on vacation from October 10th through October 24th.

Bobbi is on vacation from October 2nd through October 8th.