

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus:

Gray Memorial's Annual Stewardship program “What Shall We Bring”, is well underway. It helps reinforce the fact that our Creator provides all we need for an abundant life. It also challenges us to give back to God's work in ways that guarantees that our church also has an abundant life. After all, everything we have, every spiritual gift we possess, our very life - It all belongs to God. In your alone time with the Lord, pick up your Bible and ponder the truth of Acts 17: 22 to 25:

²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and

looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals, life and breath and all things.

Brothers and Sisters, Stewardship is not only about money, but its many facets include the sharing of our faith. This is precisely what Paul is engaged in with the Athenians. Paul noted their many idols as he toured their great city. However, he calls attention to one particular worship space dedicated to an "unknown god". The Athenians are scrupulous in not wanting to offend their deities by leaving any divinity unacknowledged. Paul seizes the opportunity to introduce them to the God made known in Jesus Christ. The One True God. This God, once unknown, has now been revealed!

In 1 Corinthians, Paul writes that we are “stewards of the mysteries of God”.

As believers we strive to fully know the nature of our God and the love that God has for all of creation. It's a love that is more powerful even than death itself. We are called to share this story. We are stewards of the Gospel and as such we do not hoard this good news, but we offer it others. Paul was radically devoted to God and to his mission of telling the world of God's loving intentions toward creation. Paul's priority was to love and serve our One True God - who could not be contained in any idol of wood, stone, silver, or gold. When you know this to be true, it puts everything else in its proper place.

As we reflect on what it means to be a steward, we're invited to re-assess our priorities and to think about how well we've been able to share our own faith stories as they pertain to God's provision. Ponder what Jesus says in Luke 6:38- *"Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full - pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap"*. How are you practicing this kind of stewardship? To whom can you tell about your personal experiences of God's love and provision?

You'll soon be receiving a Pledge Card, Spiritual Gift Survey, and other aids to help you determine what you would like to give towards Gray's 2025 operating budget. You'll also have an opportunity to get caught up on your 2024 pledge. You can even make a gift to further support the balance of our 2024 budget.

We've designated Sunday, November 17 as “Commitment Sunday”. Please come to Gray Memorial's 10:00 am worship service and bring a friend. We'll present our pledge cards, prayers, gifts, and more. There's much to be thankful for as we support God's work in the world through Gray Memorial UMC. Afterwards, everyone is invited downstairs for a potluck luncheon in the fellowship hall.

In Christ's service, Pastor Rich Rego



The Caribou Clock

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Church Office: (207) 498-2103
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Greetings from the Church Office!

I thoroughly enjoyed spending some time with family in Nashville at the beginning of October, but there are way too many people there! Our Uber driver told us the only time its not busy is in the wintertime! 😊

The church's new video sign should be arriving soon and I am so looking forward to being able to program a number of messages from the convenience of the church office! I am have taken some time to watch several YouTube videos that help you learn how to manage the messages, proof the text and schedule when the messages will appear and for how long. This will greatly enhance our ability to advertise church events!

Please help me meet deadlines by submitting things for the Newsletter when due. *For our next Newsletter, all input must be submitted by 10am on Friday, November 22nd!!!!*

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier
Church Office Administrator



September 29th & October 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, Joeline Boucher, Colleen Harmon, Debbie Tardy, Steven Davis, Chisa (Gabriel's daughter), Robert Sprague, Keylin Hill, Duska Franklin, Roberta & Conrad Walton (death in the family), Rodney Nichols, Baby girl Alden-Swain (health concerns), David Fairweather (Karen Rego's brother; eye surgery on Wednesday, Oct 23rd, which was successful), Debbie Tardy, Steven Davis, Eddie Ouellette, Jessica (friend of Elsie Doody, Brynne Hamilton

Deaths: Family of Marge Bell; family of Danny Milton; Family of Bernard Ayotte

Other: People impacted by Hurricane Helene; Dean & Diana Rauch - made it safely through the hurricane in Florida!; Victims of Hurricane Milton; prayers of joy for Melonie Carlson leading the Oct 13th service;

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>
Nov 03	Mary Ouellette	Margaret Cyr	Mary Ouellette	Elsie Doody	SPRC
Nov 10	Neal Genz	Margaret Cyr	Bobbi Pelletier	Cheryl Martin	NOW Team
Nov 17	Duska Franklin	Mary Lou Brown	Deb Pringnitz	Cheryl Martin	UMM (<i>POT-LUCK</i>)
Nov 24	Conrad Walton	Judi Greenier	Del Ramey	Cheryl Martin	Worship Committee

Usher Coordinator for November - Dave Belyea
 Communion Stewardess for November - Mary Theriault
 Communion Bread for November - Will Barnum

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

Scott, Barbara: new email address – BarbScott128@gmail.com

I just want to let everyone know that I realize that our current Church Directory is very outdated. If you are concerned that you may not have the most current information for someone, just call the church office and I will gladly help you. I plan to create a new directory after our annual Church Conference in the fall of 2025 as there are a number of our members who are currently on the proposed list for removal after that conference because they have not responded to two membership audit letters sent in August 2023 and August 2024. If they fail to respond, they will be removed from our membership rolls, thereby changing a new directory dramatically. I appreciate your understanding.

Bobbi Pelletier
Membership Secretary

* * November Birthdays & Anniversaries * *

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

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



5 Deborah Pringnitz
10 Douglas Hise, Gary Langley
12 Karen Rego
15 Conrad Walton
16 Evelyn Irving
17 Locke Wischmann
23 David DeMerchant

24 Scott Albert
25 Lehrle Kieffer, Barbara Scott
26 Lisa Soderberg
27 Rhonda Cyr
28 Aurora Pethick
30 Penny Shaw



9 Danna & Rickey Bouchard
21 Ellen Cleaves & Malcolm Hare

23 Mary & Todd Theriault
29 Lehrle & Robert Kieffer

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:

Date	<u>In-Person Attendance</u>	<u>*On-Line Attendance</u>	<u>+ Operating Fund Offering</u>
Sep 22	42	23	\$1,952.00
Sep 29	51	26	\$1,767.00
Oct 06	45	35	\$5,867.00
Oct 13	46	33	\$2,368.00
Oct 20	42	38	\$4,690.00
Oct 27	49	(will report next month)	\$3,239.00

+ 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: Balance reported in last month's Newsletter was \$39,058.77. Since then, we received interest of \$1.77. We did not pay any expenses, so our balance as of October 28th is \$39,060.54 (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 for **Thanksgiving: stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, gravy, pumpkin pie filling, pie crust.** Donations may be brought to the Pantry on Tuesdays or Thursday from 7:30am to 11am or the church on Sunday and placed in the marked box in the Narthex

OR

Monday – Friday mornings from 9am to Noon. Thank you!
 Monetary donations are always welcome!

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.

There were no donations in October so our proceeds remain at \$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 November Sunday Worship Services at 10:00am:

- Nov. 3 - <https://youtube.com/live/IMwDaU1x5qk>
- Nov. 10 - <https://youtube.com/live/5EfPQLCKUOc>
- Nov. 17 - https://youtube.com/live/KJ_NOT2eMnM
- Nov. 24 - https://youtube.com/live/uhAyqla_IhQ

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).

Bobbi Pelletier is planning to meet with all our greeters on two different Sundays – November 10th & 24th – after Worship service at 11:30am. All greeters are asked to attend at least one of these meetings to give some feedback and discuss expectations. We appreciate your participation in this new ministry!



Art has the power to bring people together, and that's exactly what 'Drawing: From Lines to Masterpiece' is doing for the members of this class. Not only is the purpose of the class to explore and enhance personal drawing abilities, but at the times when individuals were struggling, they came together to support and encourage each other with positivity as we traveled through step-by-step instruction and hands-on practice. In addition, the students learned to observe and render objects accurately, develop their style, and gain confidence in their artistic abilities. The student's artwork from our drawing class will be showcased in the church this November. Join us in celebrating their creativity! It has been my great pleasure to offer this class, and I'm excited about the opportunity to introduce new classes in the future. Stay tuned for more creative adventures ahead!

Sandy Pethick



UPCOMING EVENTS:

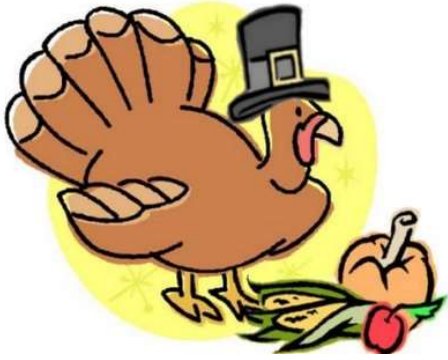


Harvest Supper on Saturday, Nov 9th from 4:30–6pm.

Tickets; \$15 for adults; \$8 for children 5-13;
children under 5 - free.

We have a sign-up poster for various food items and volunteers to help prepare/serve and clean-up.

All proceeds will go towards the church's operating budget.



On Thursday, November 28th, we will host a free-will offering Thanksgiving Dinner at 1pm. Reservations are needed. We will also offer a take-out option for those who are unable to come in-person. Please contact the church office by Thursday, November 21st to let us know how many in your party that will attend. All proceeds will go towards the operating budget.

Workers are also needed to prepare the room on Wednesday at 1pm and to work on Thursday beginning at 8am to cook the vegetables, prepare and serve the meal and clean-up. If you are willing to help prepare the meal or provide any of the food, just let Bobbi know as soon as possible.

The NOW Committee will host an “Advent Festival” on Saturday, December 7th (time to be determined). There will be many activities for children and adults – making wreaths & yule logs, pine cone bird feeders, coloring ornaments, making Santa Claus napkin rings, etc. We will also have baked goods for sale and a soup/bread luncheon (free will offering). Come and join us as we celebrate the Advent Season!



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



Sunday, October 27th – We celebrated “Pastor Appreciation Sunday”; Gwen, Aurora & Hazel Barnum and Charlotte Hise gave Pastor Rich their handmade cards! Neal Genz presented him a gift from the United Methodist Men.



Del Ramey presented Pastor Rich a gift from the Trustees; Pastor Rich was quite surprised!

OTHER KODAK MOMENTS! (photos provided by Melonie Carlson)



The Library Bulletin Board display for October; depicts various photos taken at Gray Memorial UMC over the years! Thanks to Wendy Bossie for putting this together!!!



Gray Memorial's Cookie Booth at the Caribou Arts & Craft Fair at the High School, October 18th & 19th; sponsored by the church's NOW Committee.

In the photos - (left) Erika Carlson, Cheryl Martin, Melonie Carlson & Aurora Barnum; (right) Erika Carlson, Ruthann Weeks & Cheryl Martin

The cookie booth raised \$781 - which will be donated to the church's operating budget!



Picture of Erika Carlson taken during the "Angels Everywhere" sale that occurred at the church on Saturday, October 18th! This sale, which included a chicken stew lunch, raised \$705 for the Guest Services Team to purchase security items for the church.



The Worship Committee provided the special cake for Coffee Fellowship and the altar floral arrangement in honor of Pastor Appreciation Sunday on October 27th!



Church Council Minutes October 16, 2024

Members present: Roy Alden (chair), Bobbi Pelletier, Diane Fitzpatrick, Cheryl Martin, Melonie Carlson, Debbie Barnes, David DeMerchant, Shirley Bowman

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

Discussion Question: Roy proposed the following question for group discussion: “The pastor’s recent sermons have emphasized that we establish more of a presence in our community, attempting to reach out to the unchurched and bring those people to God. As we move towards celebrating the birth of Christ, are there initiatives we can take as a church, not just as individuals, to invite people to God’s table?” The following suggestions were raised about past practices as well as new ideas.

- Radio Announcements
- Living Nativity Scene
- Christmas tree sales with information cards about Gray Memorial that can be given to anyone purchasing a tree.
- Craft Fair Cookie Booth with pocket prayer shawls being given to all who purchase cookies.
- Cheryl’s Stewardship Moment on October 20th will address the desire for people to come back to church.
- Bobbi suggested that we put something in the Food Pantry boxes to let clients know that several area churches helped to establish the pantry. Will include a note that as the food they receive will feed their bodies, attending church will feed their souls.
- Our new church sign could have messages inviting people to join us for worship.
- Melonie mentioned an Advent Festival that will be held here at Gray Memorial on December 7th. Plans are being made to have families participate in making decorations to take home and will provide activities for the children.
- The Harvest Supper will be held on November 9th.
- Roy mentioned The Aroostook Common that highlights events going on via Facebook. He stated the need for our church membership to get excited about promoting church events and volunteer to participate. Bobbi also pointed out that many people won’t volunteer, but if asked personally, they are often times willing to help with events.

Financial Reports:

- Shirley Bowman addressed her report that is provided later in the Newsletter.
- Bobbi reported that a person had gifted us with \$10,000.00 to be used towards paying four months of Mission Shares that are overdue. That will leave us just two months behind as of the end of September.
- There is still money sitting in special funds for church use – Bobbi will work with Trustees to give them funds donated for various projects they are managing.
- We are on track with expenses. All bills are paid with the exception of the Mission Shares that are still due.
- Bobbi distributed the budget sheet that has reports of the 2021 through 2024 budgets. She asked for committees to set their budgets for 2025 and have them in to her by November 20th.
- All committee chairs need to report who is on each committee and submit their lists to Bobbi, noting that the people serving on committees will serve through 2025. Bobbi will need to have this information so the

Nominations Committee can fill critical vacancies and create the Leadership Report before the Church Conference which will be held with other churches in our Cluster at Grant Memorial on December 21st.

Other reports:

- Dave Demerchant reported that the Trustees upgraded the switches in the Sanctuary to avoid going into the circuit box to turn on certain lights. The new church digital sign will soon be installed. The Trustees will also be paying for new faucets in the downstairs bathrooms.
- Cheryl reported on the status of the Stewardship Letter that will soon be sent to all church members. Once it is approved by Pastor Rich, the letter will be mailed out. Roy asked if a Time and Talents sheet will be included. There are no plans to include one this at this time, but Bobbi will research to see if we can adapt one we've used in the past.
- Roy mentioned that Pastor Rich has informed him that the mandatory retirement age for pastors is at the age of seventy-two. Pastor Rich will reach this milestone in May and doesn't know at this time if he will be allowed to stay on at Gray Memorial after his birthday. Roy suggested that a letter be sent to the Bishop requesting that Pastor Rich should be allowed to stay with us beyond May.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 21, at 1:00pm.

Diane Fitzpatrick, Secretary

Committee/Group Reports provided during October:

**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, Melonie Carlson, James Choi, Joyce Chang and Sue Brown.

Victor welcomed everyone. Chris shared devotions centering on the wedding feast where Jesus instructed where guests should sit at the table. He read a devotional about a self-proclaimed comic genius atheist having some "fun" ridiculing a telemarketer that unexpectedly turned around onto the caller when she realized the telemarketer was a warm and humble Christian who had his life changed by God. After the call, the caller realized that she had been changed by the care and story of this man who had been changed by God's love. Chris closed with prayer. Thank you, Chris for helping us focus on the transformation of our lives, and our call to lead others to transformation also.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the September 5th meeting were presented. Motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mary and seconded by Sara. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

There has been no action on our account, and our current checkbook balance remains \$525.25. Motion to approve the report as presented was made by Charlene and seconded by James. Motion carried unanimously. Thank you, Paula.

2024 St. Apollonia Festival of Trees – Family and Faith

Victor read the themes for their contributions to this mission project. All churches have now selected a theme. Tracy will provide decorations and provide a sign for each of our baskets. Thank you, Tracy. Items can be brought to Sue B., Sue M., or directly to NMCC on the day of setup (to be provided when we know for sure.) If you need to have someone pick up your basket, please let Sue (one of them know).

Pulpit Exchange

Tabled until Spring 2025

All Saints Day Service

Tracy has prepared a poster for all to share with their churches. November 1st Cluster Service will be held at Grant Memorial UMC in Presque Isle at 6:30pm. Tracy shared a draft of the worship service. After some discussion regarding possibly changing to UMCOR for the offering, it was decided to remain with our initial decision to provide the offering from this service to Preacher's Aid. Dan Ladner will be the accompanist for this service. There was discussion regarding a possible pickup choir and what hymn might be good for a closing hymn. Tracy will set up a meeting for the subcommittee to finalize details.

Mission and Outreach Ideas

Mary shared about global warming, climate change, violence in Middle East as potential areas of concern. After discussion, it was decided to recommend that each church focus on an area of mission and outreach that was near and dear to their hearts.

New Business

Melonie told us about a fund raiser Gray is hosting on October 12 called: Spud Night. They will be serving baked potatoes and watching the movie "Faith Like Potatoes"

Joys and concerns

Joyce led the sharing of joys and concerns.

Closing prayer was led by Pastor James

Next meeting: Thursday, November 7th via Zoom at 9:00am

Devotions for next meeting: Sue M.

Meeting adjourned at 9:58 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Brown

Sue Brown

Secretary (with much appreciated assistance from Sue M. – Thank you!)

Aroostook Cluster Council of United Methodist Churches

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:

From Financial Secretary:

The following is the total church offering for September:

Regular Offering	\$13,217.00
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<u>Loose Offering</u>	<u>268.00</u>
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Subtotal-Regular Offering	\$13,485.00
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Other Sources Operating Fund:	.00
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Total Operating Fund Income	\$13,485.00
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Reimbursements: Discovery Guides	9.00
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Special Funds for Church Use:		
Prayer Shawl Ministry	15.00	
Coffee Fellowship	43.00	
Bottle Redemption	17.35	
Security	15.00	
Marilyn Langley Memorial	1,150.00	(family asked this money be used to pay for new Fellowship Hall chairs)
Ralph Ferguson Memorial	1,490.00	(family asked this money goes towards the Trustees' Elevator Fund)
New chairs (individual donations)	1,700.00	
Mission Shares	10,000.00	
<u>Subtotal Funds for Church Use</u>	14,430.35	

Special Funds Not for Church Use:	.00
Grand Total:	\$27,924.35

From Treasurer:

Beginning Balance	\$9,223.91	
2024 Operating income	13,485.00	
Mission Shares Donation	10,000.00	
Bottle Redemption	17.35	
Interest	1.37	
Less EFT fee	(59.50)	VANCO fees (EFT deposits)
<u>Less Expenses</u>	<u>(29,608.89)</u>	
Ending Balance	\$3,059.24	

* \$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 September 30th: Previous Balance - \$43,188.05; Deposits - \$1.77; Expenses - \$4,129.28; Current Balance - \$39,060.54. *(Includes funds earmarked for Furnace Fund - \$5,397.33; Emergency Fund Donations = \$21,104.23; Paid \$4,129.28 for insurance forced electrical upgrades).*

Expenditures for September 2024:

Programs:

Education	\$ 179.00
Worship	102.67
Office	264.18
Stewardship	175.34
NOW Team	120.99
<u>Programs Sub-Total</u>	\$ 842.18

Trustee Expenses:

Church Utilities	\$311.72
Parsonage Utilities	875.85
Telephone/Internet	194.96
Property Insurance	3,414.87
Maintenance/Cleaning	446.39
Real Estate Taxes	2,993.86
Technology	33.90
<u>Trustee Sub-Total</u>	\$8,271.55

Staff-Parish Relations Expenses:

Pastor's Salary	\$4,333.34
Social Security	500.00
<u>Health Insurance</u>	<u>1,680.00</u>
Pastor's Total Comp	\$6,513.34

Choir Director	100.00
Treasurer	133.33
Church Office Administrator	833.33
<u>Custodian</u>	<u>1,625.00</u>
Total Other Salaries	\$2,691.66

Other Expenses:	
Guest & Substitute Staff	\$150.00
FICA	140.61
Workman's Comp	71.24
Total Other Expenses	\$361.85
Sub-Total SPRC Expenses	\$9,566.85

<u>New England Conference:</u>	
New England Missions	\$1,681.25
Ministerial Support	\$8,421.75
Pastor Pension Benefit	825.31
NEC Total	\$10,928.31
Grand Total Expenses	\$29,608.89

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

Mission Shares = \$2,525.75/mo. As of EOM September, two months behind - \$5,051.50; (paid Jan & Feb in Jan; Mar in August; Apr – Jul in September)

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

Balances as of September 30: Church = \$.00; Parsonage = (\$2,107.98)

2024 YTD REVIEW – August 2024

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

August:
 Target = \$164,792.06; Beginning Operating Fund Balance (Jan only) - \$25,724.03; Operating Fund Income from F/S YTD - \$120,266.44; Special Funds Used for Operating Fund Expenses YTD = \$11,138.25; Total Expenses YTD - \$153,716.17; Unpaid Mission Shares = \$5,051.50.

An aggregate of in-person and virtual attendance shows monthly average of 71 and 77 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 - October 2, 2024
Nurture - Outreach - Witness

In attendance: Melonie Carlson, Cheryl Martin, Ruthann Weeks, Kathy Panaro, Alaina Pethick, Sandy Pethick, Pastor Rich Rego

Absent: Karen Rego, Rhonda Cyr, Kim Miller, Bobbi Pelletier

Meeting was called to order at 10:02 am.

Opening Prayer - Kathy

(Cheryl will provide the opening prayer next month.)

Treasurer's Report -

Cheryl provided the following report.

Treasurer's Report October 1, 2024

Beginning Balance	\$4578.57 actual
	\$3078.57 operating budget
8-31-24 Interest	\$0.75
9-17-24 Deposit	\$80.00
9-23-24 Deposit	\$295.00

Deposit Details

9-17-24 \$80.00 Sandy Pethick's Art Class

9-23-24 \$295.00 for Ralph Ferguson's Funeral

Balance 10-1-24 \$4954.32 actual balance
 \$3454.32 operating budget*
 *holding \$1500 for new chairs

The new chairs for the fellowship hall have been purchased. The NOW Team funded \$1500 of the purchase. The remaining balance was funded through donations, in particular from the Langley Family.

It was decided that the proceeds from the upcoming Cookie Booth will go to the operating fund as has been done in previous years.

Art Class Update -

Sandy reported that the class is going well and everyone seems to be enjoying it. Because of personal schedules, attendance has been a little challenging. She said the artwork the participants are working on is turning out very nicely and she is looking forward to displaying their work when the class is done.

Spud Night / Movie Night -

Advertising for the event is already set up. It will appear on the County Calendar. There are flyers and bulletin inserts ready to be dispersed. And there is a Facebook event. Kathy noted she saw the wrong time listed on Facebook. Alaina will correct it. The potatoes (50) have been ordered. The list of who volunteered for the various food items was reviewed. Bobbi had previously emailed this list to everyone.

Pastor Rich mentioned there needs to be a review after the event to discuss what worked and what didn't so that we can better plan future events. He also brought up the need for a video license for copyright purposes. We currently have a CCLI license for music and would need the CVLI to show movies. He also suggested we create some tent cards or signs with a grace for each table.

A reminder that set up will be on Saturday at 1 pm.

Cookie Booth

Melonie shared the map of the event. We are in the same spot as usual. We will use the same setup as last year. The sign up poster for volunteers and bakers is now in the Narthex. There was some discussion about the need to label the pet treats because they should be stored in the refrigerator or freezer. Pastor Rich suggested Sandy might be able to make a metal cookie cutter of the church for sometime in the future.

(During the Treasurer's Report, the committee decided to give all proceeds from the Cookie Booth to the Operating Fund.)

Food Pantry Update

Ruthann shared that the food pantry is busier than ever and is struggling financially. All food pantries in the area are struggling. Right now, they are out of items for children. She asked for donations of marshmallow fluff, jam and children's cereal. An announcement and request for donations will be made on Sunday with examples of the needed items on display.

Advent Festival / Holiday Fling

We are planning on having this event on December 7 with various tables where people can create a craft to take home. There will also be food served. Bobbi picked up some materials for several crafts and will share more at the next meeting. Melonie asked if Will Barnum would be able to provide birch logs for the candle holders. Alaina

will ask him, but thinks he will be able to. There was some discussion about where to get tips and branches for wreaths and swags. Tom Hale was one suggestion. Ruthann said she would connect with him.

More discussion and planning will take place at the next meeting.

Penpal Status Update

We now have the address for the penpal away at college and have already received some donations. Denise Hamlin is away and the pen pal program will start up when she returns. The first letters should arrive either the week of the 18th or the 25th. Melonie and Denise are trying to come up with ways to reach the at risk students.

Additional Business

- When Bobbi is back, volunteers will be needed to help assemble the visitor bags which will be given out by the greeters.
- Pastor Rich read a really nice thank you card from the Ferguson family.

Closing Prayer - Melonie

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 am.
Our next meeting will be November 6 at 10 am.

Gray Memorial United Methodist Church
United Methodist Men's Club Meeting
Sept. 28, 2024

1. **Call to order and opening prayer:**

- Members gathered at 0800 at kitchen/fellowship hall.
- Meeting was called to order at 0830 by Pres. Neal Genz. Members present were: Neal Genz, Del Ramey, Richard Clark, Jay Bullard, Dave Belyea, Peter Edgecomb, Gary Langley, Will Barnum, Bruce Fitzpatrick, Andrew Keller, and Pastor Rich Rego.
- Opening Prayer was led by Richard Clark.
- Meeting was adjourned at 0835 for breakfast of pancakes, eggs, sausage, fruit, juice and coffee.

2. Program: Member Will Barnum gave an outstanding presentation on wildfires, how they are fought and how State of Maine foresters are deployed to fight fires in other parts of the country, primarily in the West. He related his own roles and experiences and how these deployments serve as training required for certification.

3. Prelate's message: Richard gave a very thought-provoking presentation based on readings from Genesis, Obadiah, and Luke – is mankind again getting so evil that God could be done with us and send us to extinction?

4. **Old Business:**

- **Secretary's Report:** copies of our last meeting minutes - May 25, 2024 draft were emailed and passed out. Accepted as presented.

5. **New Business:**

- **Treasurer's Report:** Checkbook balance as of August 30, 2024: \$ 1676.23.
- President Neal asked for help with procuring programs and ideas for future meetings.
- Voted to sponsor the tree of lights again this year. Del will supply the tree; set up after our Nov. 23rd meeting. New lights were purchased on our behalf last year.
- Discussed contributing some of our funds on hand to help with mission shares that are \$17k behind. Voted to contribute \$ 1,000 for that.

6. **Other Business:**

- Coffee fellowship dates for the rest of the year: Nov 17 – last one. President Neal will send a reminder to all on the Wednesday before each time.

Next meeting: Oct. 26, 2024

David Belyea
Secretary

Worship Committee Minutes
October 11, 2024

Members present: Bobbi Pelletier (chair), Diane Fitzpatrick, Diana Locke, Richard Clark, Claire Hodgkins, Margaret Cyr, Gwen Ellinwood, Cheryl Martin (prospective member)

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

Devotions were offered by Margaret Cyr with a reading called "The Unfinished Symphony of Praise". This reading reminded us that just as the exiles in Babylon were encouraged to sing songs of joy even in their desolate situation, we should be God's instrument of praise even in times of troubles that we are experiencing today.

The minutes from the September meeting were accepted as published.

Old Business:

- Bobbi reported that all current members of our committee have agreed to continue to serve until December 2025. She invited Cheryl Martin and Danna Bouchard to attend our meeting today so they could consider becoming members of our committee. We are thankful that Cheryl was able to attend.
- The new Prayer Box is now located on the cabinet outside the downstairs bathrooms. Pastor Rich and the church office have keys to the box. Bobbi has not heard of any prayer requests that have been placed in the box thus far.
- Two new books, "The Art of Hospitality" and "The Greeter and Usher Handbook" have arrived. Bobbi is asking that each greeter read the second book. A meeting will be held at some time soon with all greeters and ushers to discuss the responsibilities that are expected. It was suggested that visitor cards could be placed in the pew racks and in the visitor bags that are being updated.
- Pastor Rich has not yet scheduled the "Blessing of the Animals" that he suggested we hold in October. Bobbi has ordered the special prayer cards and "Litany" cards that we discussed last month for use in this service, and they should be arriving soon.
- Bobbi has not received an update on when/if the "Blessing of the Backpacks" will be held.
- Many contributions have been made to the Mission Project, so Bobbi will talk with Denise Hamlin about picking them up.
- Bobbi extended a special thank you to Margaret Cyr for the beautiful table she set up for World Communion Sunday. Thanks also to Richard Clark for the use of his globe!
- Pastor Rich will be on vacation for the next two weeks. Melonie Carlson will be preaching on October 13th and Cheryl Martin will preach on October 20th.
- November 3rd will be All Saints Sunday. We will be honoring the following members who have passed since the service last year: Michelle Theriault, Bertha Branscom, Zelma Merritt, Marilyn Langley, Gerry Willard, Gerald Drake and Ralph Ferguson. We will also honor the following who have had a connection with Gray Memorial: Russell Sutherland, Cathy Firth, and Marjorie Bell. Wendy Bossie will have a bulletin board display in the library with each person's obituary. During the service on November 3rd, the honorees' pictures will be shown on the screen in the sanctuary. Diane volunteered to hold a flower vase so that family or friends may come forward and place a white carnation in the vase as each name is read by Pastor Rich.

New Business:

- The Aroostook Cluster is hosting "A Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving" on Friday, November 1st at 6:30pm at the Grant Memorial UMC in Presque Isle. All are invited to attend. There will be an insert in the bulletin and people will be invited to participate in a "pick-up choir".
- The Stewardship Campaign has begun and each Sunday there will be a "Stewardship Moment" in place of The Mystery Box. Fliers will be placed in the bulletins throughout the campaign, which will culminate on November 17th, Commitment Sunday for the 2025 Operating Budget Pledges.
- Sunday, December 1st will be the first Sunday in Advent. We will need to decorate the sanctuary with purple being this year's color. Bobbi will check with the NOW Team about decorating with us on Saturday, November 30th, at 1:00pm. Plans will be further discussed at our next month's meeting.
- On Sunday, December 8th, the Senior Choir will present four selections from the "Night of the Father's Love" musical celebration that was offered by the choir several years ago.
- October is Pastor Appreciation Month. We will hold a special recognition of Pastor Rich on October 27th when he is back with us from his vacation. Several suggestions were made pertaining to this time of honoring Pastor Rich: a flower arrangement on the altar, a special reading, Aurora playing a selection on her flute, a special cake for coffee fellowship.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, November 1st, at 9:30 am.
Diana Locke will offer devotions.

Diane Fitzpatrick, Secretary

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NOVEMBER 2024!!!

Friday	01	9:30am	Worship Committee Meeting
Saturday	02	<u>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS - SET CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR!!!!</u>	

Sunday	03	10:00am	Worship; Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost; All Saints Sunday
Wednesday	06	10:00am	NOW Team Meeting
		12:00pm	Pastor Rich Meets with CLM Members
		2:00pm	Senior Choir Practice
Friday	08	12:00pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry Pizza Lunch & Meeting
Saturday	09	4:30-6pm	Harvest Supper; \$15 for adults; \$8 for children 5-13; children under 5 - free; all proceeds go to the church's operating budget

Sunday	10	10:00am	Worship; Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost; Organ & Tissue Donor Sunday
		11:30am	Bobbi Meets with Greeters in Sanctuary
Monday	11	<u>FEDERAL HOLIDAY - VETERANS DAY - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</u>	
Tuesday	12	11:30am	"Gray Gals" Pot-Luck Luncheon & Meeting (all women are welcome!)
		6:00pm	Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Board Meeting at Pantry
Wednesday	13	12:00pm	Pastor Rich Meets with CLM Members
		2:00pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	14	1:00pm	SPRC Meeting

Sunday	17	10:00am	Worship; Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost; Commitment Sunday
		11:30am	Potluck Luncheon following our Commitment Service
Tuesday	19	1:00pm	Trustees Meeting
Wednesday	20	10:00am	Deadline for Committee's 2025 Proposed Budget Figures
		12:00pm	Pastor Rich Meets with CLM Members
		2:00pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	21	10:00am	<u>Reservation Deadline for Thanksgiving Dinner on Novembert 28th</u>
		1:00pm	Church Council Meeting
Friday	22	10:00M	<u>DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWSLETTER INPUT</u>
Saturday	23	8:00am	UMM Breakfast & Meeting

Sunday	24	10:00am	Worship; Christ the King Sunday; Thanksgiving Sunday; United Methodist Student Day (special offering)
		11:30am	Bobbi Meets with Greeters in Sanctuary
Thursday	28	<u>FEDERAL HOLIDAY - THANKSGIVING DAY - CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED</u>	
		1:00pm	Thanksgiving Dinner (reservations needed; free will offering)
Saturday	30	1:00pm	Worship and NOW Committee Members Meet to Decorate Sanctuary for Advent Season

