

January 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As we step into the new year, it's natural to feel a mix of emotions. For many, the uncertainty of the world—be it political unrest, economic challenges, or personal struggles—can weigh heavily on the heart. But as followers of Christ, we are called to see beyond the shadows and hold tightly to the promises of God, who is unchanging, faithful, and present in every season of life.



Scripture reminds us that even in turbulent times, our Sovereign God's love remains steadfast. One of the most reassuring verses of scripture is found in Isaiah 41:10, where God says, *"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."* These words are a powerful reminder that no matter how uncertain the world around us may seem, we are never alone. God's presence is with us, offering strength and peace to carry us through.

As we reflect on the previous year, let's with resolve, give thanks for all of God's blessings. Likewise, as we go forward into a new year full of challenges and uncertainty, let's resolve to be the catalysts for hope and light in the world. Jesus said in Matthew 5:14-16, *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."* Even in times of darkness, and divisiveness, we are called to reflect God's love, justice, and mercy. Through acts of kindness, forgiveness, and generosity, we can demonstrate the hope of Christ to a weary world.

The Apostle Paul encourages us in Romans 12:12, *"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."* Paul provides a blueprint for how we can navigate the uncertainties of 2025. By cultivating joy in God's promises, enduring difficulties through faith, praying consistently, and testifying to the miracles the Lord has done for us in our life - we align our heart with God's purposes and invite God's peace to rule.

As you set your goals and intentions for the year ahead, I challenge you to consider how you might be a beacon of hope to those around you. Perhaps it's reaching out to a neighbor in need, volunteering your time to serve the community, or simply offering a listening ear to someone who is hurting. Small gestures, when done in love, have the power to ripple outward in ways we may never fully see.

Finally, let's ground our hope in the ultimate promise of God's eternal kingdom. As the Apostle Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, *"For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen."* Our hope is not tied to earthly circumstances but to the eternal assurance we have in Jesus Christ.

Let's live into 2025 with a new perspective instead of a new resolution. Too often we resolve to be better, work smarter, work harder, do better, lose a bad habit, lose more weight, etc. What would happen if instead, we strived to be more like Christ every day? What if we chose to find God and Christ in every encounter? How might our outlook change if the first things on our mind to ask as we meet is, "How can I help?" "What can we pray for?"

Believe me - Once the Holy Spirit sparks a conversation between two or more honest, genuinely prayerful people whose eyes are fixed on Christ - miracles can happen! Just open your heart and let the Lord lead. May the Lord wrap you in his blessings of peace, health, safety, and abundance all through this next year.

With faith and joy. Happy New Year!

**Pastor Rich Rego**

Gray Memorial United Methodist Church



# The Caribou Clock

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Date: January 2025

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

Greetings from the Church Office!

I sincerely hope that you each had a joyous Christmas and had the opportunity to spend time with family and friends. As we approach another new year, my thoughts mirror those of Pastor Rich as he outlined in his letter – look for ways to be more Christ-like each and every day and invite others to share in that joy! Consider spending your “extra” time volunteering to help others – whether it be at our local food pantry or by helping to make a meal for those at the Homeless Shelter. There will be plenty of opportunities for you to participate in these mission projects over the coming months and I pray you are willing to help! We will keep you posted on these projects throughout the coming year!

We also plan to have a monthly public meal here at the church and all proceeds will go towards the church’s operating expenses. This is another opportunity to become a “light” in the community. We hope you can join us in preparing these meals and inviting your family and friends to enjoy a meal with us!

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, January 24<sup>th</sup>!!!!*

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier  
Church Office Administrator



## December Prayer Requests

Prayer Concerns: Claire Hodgkins, Bob Wanderlich; Dale, Lu & Debbie Sharp; Anna Roberts, Rodney Nichols, Sylvia Akeley, Leland Frost, Jeff & Duska Franklin, Melonie Carlson, Jane Crowell, Karen Shaw, Mary Lou Brown, Linda Cyr, James Stuart, Richard Carde, Kristine Brantley, Robin Stuart, Kay Webb, Ivan Shaw, Rodric Johnson, Debbie Tardy, Paul Pelletier, Allison Davidson, Ruth Ross, Colleen Harmon, Deb Pringnitz, Pam Lynch, Jane Crowell, Jessica Lincoln, Pauline Davis, Chisha, Victoria Kinney & her Nana, Craig Richardson, Delores Begley, Kathy Panaro, Jeff & Kim Cyr, Tracy Reeves, David Fairweather, Dean Rauch, Michele Carde, Robert Higgins, Melonie & Erika Carlson, Rodric Johnson, Leon Boucher

Deaths: Family of Ann Boucher; Family of Elaine Haines

Other: For one of our pen-pals (Joseph) whose family lost their home and everything in a recent house fire; Roy & Beth Alden's granddaughter Spencer (doing better);

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PROVIDE A MAILING ADDRESS FOR PEOPLE OR FAMILIES YOU PUT ON THE PRAYER LIST SO WE CAN SEND THEM A NOTE FROM PASTOR RICH. WE OFTEN HEAR FROM RECIPIENTS ON HOW TOUCHED THEY ARE THAT WE OFFERED PRAYERS FOR THEM!

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### REMINDERS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Organist/Pianist</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Counter</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
Jan 05	Rhonda Cyr	Margaret Cyr	Deborah Nichols	Ruthann Weeks	Trustees
Jan 12	Sally Carde	Margaret Cyr	Mary Ouellette	Ruthann Weeks	NOW Committee
Jan 19	Deborah Pringnitz	Mary Lou Brown	Del Ramey	Ruthann Weeks	UMM
Jan 26	Janet Russo	Judi Greenier	Bobbi Pelletier	Elsie Doody	Worship Committee

Usher Coordinator for January ~ Bruce Fitzpatrick  
Communion Stewardess for January ~ Diane Fitzpatrick  
Communion Bread for January ~ Diane Fitzpatrick

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

Nichols, Debbie: delete phone number 834-3292 (disconnected)  
Bell, Kristi: new email address - [mamabell0913@gmail.com](mailto:mamabell0913@gmail.com)

# \* \* January Birthdays & Anniversaries \* \*

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

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



2	Colleen Harmon	16	Parker Stallings
3	Aaron Doody	18	Phil Brown
4	Betty Fowler	23	Jean Cashman, Carter Irving, Ken Peters
7	Pam Thompson	24	Jeffery Cyr
10	Aaron Greenier	26	Sheila Belyea
13	Sheila Pelletier, Bessie Thornton	27	Paul Pangburn
14	Michelle Nichols, Alan Pangburn	30	Michael Scot



1 Linda & Alan Pangburn

*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>
Nov 24	62	25	\$2,663.00
Dec 01	54	16	\$2,513.00
Dec 08	46	36	\$6,497.00
Dec 15	58	31	\$3,020.00
Dec 22	65	27	\$1,916.00
Dec 24	44	(will report next month)	(included with 12/29)
Dec 29	38	(will report next month)	\$2,030.00

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

\* On-line attendance shows the number of unique viewers, but may not capture accurate number of people if more than one person is viewing the service from one location.

“Growing in Faith” Capital Campaign Account: Balance reported in last month's Newsletter was \$39,062.22. Since then, we received interest of \$1.63. We paid \$1,577.30 to AVM Electric LLC for electrical work for the new digital sign and new switches for sanctuary lights. Our balance as of December 30<sup>th</sup> is \$37,486.55 (of that amount, the “furnace replacement donation funds” that remain are \$5,424.27).

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The Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry is in need of the following items:  
 Any type of pasta, 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!  
 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 donation for December, so proceeds remain at \$1,147.45! 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 January Sunday Worship Services at 10:00am:

- January 5 - <https://youtube.com/live/88MRsi5rS2E>
- January 12 - <https://youtube.com/live/IJJG0RLUut8>
- January 19 - <https://youtube.com/live/k11AzZtraUo>
- January 26 - <https://youtube.com/live/-AlxP4p8Y6E>

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

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# Christmas Plants In Loving Memory Of ~



† Philip & Vivian Brown; Arey & Mildred Fitzpatrick & Brian Fitzpatrick †

Given by: Bruce & Diane Fitzpatrick

† Emily Stuart †

Given by: the family

† Sharon Ramey †

Given by: Del Ramey

† Brewer Family †

Given by: Brewer Family

† Marcia L. DeMerchant; Doris & Charles Barnes; Ruth & Elray DeMerchant †

Given by: David W. DeMerchant

† Jean Gardner †

Given by: Sheila Pelletier (her daughter)

† Marjorie, Linda & Richard †

Given by: Bobbi Pelletier

† Louis Greenier, Hazel Greenier & Marie Sutherland †

Given by: Judi Greenier

† Toby & Millie Wakana; Elsie & Bob Locke †

Given by: Dave Wakana & Diana Locke

† Susan Clark, Harold & Katrina Clark † † Arthur Harmon & Duane Curtis †

Given by: Richard Clark

Given by: Colleen Harmon

## In Honor Of ~

† Patricia Ramsden †

Given by: Bobbi Pelletier

† Mr. & Mrs. Harrison Curtis †

Given by: Colleen Harmon



Tree of Lights 2024

Name	In Memory of	In Honor of
Deb Pringnitz	Doyce Pringnitz; Ruth Pringnitz-Michaud	
Gwen Ellinwood	Bob Ellinwood; Bob Locke	Bobbi Pelletier; Mary Lou Brown
Ivan & Penny Shaw	Ivan & Frieda Shaw; James & Marian Krafve; Emmanuel Bouchard	
Mary Anderson	John & Elsie Price; Kenneth & Joyce Price; Leonard & Betty Loveland	
Todd & Mary Theriault	Paul & Lindsey McLaughlan; Fred & Marjorie Bell; George Theriault	
Ed & Mary Ouellette	Marge & Bob Harrison; Priscilla & Vinnie Ouellette; Lane Ouelette; Evelyn Ouellette; Jean McLean; Vickijean Madore; Arlen Brown	
Cheryl Martin	Fred & Rachel Burden; Jamie, Joyce, and James Martin	
The family	Emily Stuart	
Bruce & Diane Fitzpatrick		Vivian Bell, Vincent Bell
The White Family	Bob White	

Richard Clark	Susan Clark; Harold & Katrina Clark	
Greg Doak (son)	Jackie Doak	Phil Doak
Debbie Barnes	Albert Akeley; Bud Smith; Joanne Smith	Sylvia Akeley
Ruthann Weeks		Jillian, Madison & Anna Jandreau
Phyllis Billing	Lela Tilley (mother)	Anabelle Billing (granddaughter)
Bobbi Pelletier	Robert & Irene McDowell; Marjorie Wright, Linda Haefke, Richard McDowell	Mark Brennan, Andrew Brennan, Saige Brennan; Annabella, Leokadia, Eli & Cierra
Bessie Thornton	Philip Thornton, Roberta Blackstone, Robert Thornton, Matthew Thornton	
Melonie Carlson	Deanna Griffin, Melvin Griffin, Wilma (Griffin) Hicks	Erika Carlson
Edwin (Jay) Bullard	Edwin M. Bullard Sr., Marjorie Bullard, Phillip Bullard, Roxanna Bullard	
	Debbie Smith, Steve Gauvin, Eleanor & Waldo Gellersay; Howard & Audrey McNeal	
Will & Alaina	Mabel Pethick Barnum	
David W. DeMerchant	Marcia DeMerchant; Doris & Charles Barnes; Ruth & Elray DeMerchant; Derald Curless, Pauline Curless	
Richard & Karen Rego	Our Parents	
Colleen Harmon	Arthur Harmon	Mr. & Mrs. Harrison Curtis
Laura Hoepstine	Arlan Hoepstine	David Dillow
Margaret Cyr	Doris Jeffery; Robert Cyr	
Blayne Hartley	Marvin Hartley	Amy Hartley
Charlotte Willey, Tiffany Vencile, Krystal Willey	Alan A. Willey	
Kitty Doar	Emmett Ross	
Del Ramey	Sharon Ramey	
Judi Greenier	Louis Greenier, Hazel Greenier, Marie Sutherland, Hayden Sutherland, Margaret Turner, Gretchen Gallant, Roland Sutherland, Stanley Sutherland, Marjorie Giggie, Esther Page, Jean Gardner, Betty Branscom, Russell Sutherland	
Wendy Lombard Bossie	Maynard & Valeska Lombard	
Claire Hodgkins	Cathy Firth, Peter Finkel	Norma Bondeson

## UPCOMING EVENT:



**Italian Supper - Saturday, January 18, 4:30 - 6:00pm**  
**Menu - Lasagna (Meat OR Vegetarian); Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Salad and a special Italian Dessert!**  
**Cost - \$15 for adults; \$8 for children 5-15**

**Free for children under 5**

**All proceeds go towards the church's operating expenses**  
**COME AND ENJOY A GREAT MEAL & FELLOWSHIP!**



Special Moments During our Worship Services!  
(photos submitted by Melonie Carlson)



Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> – Deb Pringnitz & Cheryl Martin read the “Litany for Commitment Sunday”



November 17<sup>th</sup> – Margaret Cyr on the piano, accompanied Aurora Barnum on the flute, playing “In the Garden”

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## OTHER KODAK MOMENTS!



Sandy Pethick's Library bulletin board display shows how the students in her "Drawing: From Lines to Masterpiece" class were taught how to create their drawings, using two of her own creations as examples!



Sandy's various "steps" to create her two drawings!



Above are the student's first assigned drawings of a leaf that were on display in the sanctuary! Each student picked the picture they wished to replicate and then shared why they picked that particular leaf and the techniques they used to create their final drawing!



Beth Alden

Then the students had to arrange various items and create a "still life" drawing (shown here):



Melonic Carlson



Judi Greenier



Cheryl Martin



Kim Miller



Bobbi Pelletier

The following pictures were taken during one of our Coffee Fellowship times in November:



The following pictures were taken during December 8<sup>th</sup>'s Coffee Fellowship!



LOTS OF WONDERFUL TREATS!!!!





**Church Council Minutes**  
**The group did not meet in December**

*Committee/Group Reports provided during December:*

**FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:**

**From Financial Secretary:**

The following is the total church offering for November:

Regular Offering	\$13,197.00
Loose Offering	307.00
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Subtotal-Regular Offering	\$13,504.00

Other Sources Operating Fund:	.00
Total Operating Fund Income	\$13,504.00

Reimbursements:

Upper Room	6.00
Office	7.99
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Subtotal-Reimbursements	\$13.99

Special Funds for Church Use:

Prayer Shawl	37.00
Coffee Fellowship	62.00
Bottle Redemption	6.50
Security	39.00
New Chairs	1,505.00
Mission Shares	350.00
Cookie Booth	781.00
Church Sign	900.00
Harvest Supper	1,589.00
Tree of Lights	10.00
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Subtotal Funds for Church Use	\$5,279.50
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Special Funds Not for Church Use:	.00
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Grand Total:	\$18,797.49
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**From Treasurer:**

Beginning Balance	\$5,051.55	
2024 Operating income	13,504.00	
<b>Cookie Booth Proceeds</b>	<b>781.00</b>	
<b>Bottle Redemption</b>	<b>6.50</b>	
<b>Mission Shares</b>	<b>3,350.00</b>	
<b>Harvest Supper Proceeds</b>	<b>1,589.00</b>	
Interest	2.38	
Less EFT fee	(35.45)	VANCO fees (EFT deposits)
Less Expenses	(21,988.02)	
<hr/>		
Ending Balance	\$2,240.96	

Total "Special Funds for Church Use", which included many lines for various donations, total \$38,891.13. The "Special Funds NOT for Church Use" total \$45.08. Details are available in complete report packages available at the church.

\* \$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 November 29, 2024, on-line report shows ending value = \$26,735.82.

The Capital Account Money is as follows as of November 30th: Previous Balance - \$39,062.22; Deposits - \$1.63; No Expenses; Current Balance - \$39,063.85. (Includes funds earmarked for Furnace Fund - \$5,397.33; Emergency Fund Donations = \$21,104.23).

Expenditures for November 2024:

Programs:

Education	\$ 46.00
Worship	124.73
Office	194.34
Stewardship	19.98
NOW Team	67.94
<u>Programs Sub-Total</u>	<u>\$ 452.99</u>

Trustee Expenses:

Church Utilities	\$762.13
Parsonage Utilities	849.16
Telephone/Internet	203.91
Property Insurance	1,707.43
Maintenance/Cleaning	303.09
Technology	16.95
<u>Trustee Sub-Total</u>	<u>\$3,842.67</u>

Staff-Parish Relations Expenses:

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

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

Other Expenses:

Guest & Substitute Staff	\$200.00
FICA	213.56
Workman's Comp	71.24
<u>Total Other Expenses</u>	<u>\$484.80</u>
<u>Sub-Total SPRC Expenses</u>	<u>\$9,289.80</u>

New England Conference:

World Missions (1)	\$ 2,175.50
New England Missions	5,401.75
Pastor Pension Benefit	825.31
<u>NEC Total</u>	<u>\$ 8,402.56</u>
<u>Grand Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$21,988.02</u>

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

Mission Shares = \$2,525.75/mo. As of EOM November, one month behind - \$2,525.75; (paid Jan & Feb in Jan; Mar in August; Apr – Jul in September; Aug – Oct in November). Only owe for November and December (\$5,051.50) by the end of 2024.

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

Balances as of November 30: Church = \$.00; Parsonage = (\$2,209.51)



2024 YTD REVIEW – November 2024

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

November:

Target = \$201,412.52; Beginning Operating Fund Balance (Jan only) - \$25,724.03; Operating Fund Income from F/S YTD - \$149,934.44; Special Funds Used for Operating Fund Expenses YTD = \$16,864.75; Total Expenses YTD - \$189,863.59; Unpaid Mission Shares = \$2,525.75 (November)

An aggregate of in-person and virtual attendance shows monthly average of 81 and 78 YTD.

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

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Gray Memorial United Methodist Church  
 United Methodist Men’s Club Meeting  
 Nov 23, 2024 draft

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

- o Members gathered at 0800 at kitchen/fellowship hall.
- o Meeting was called to order at 0830 by Pres. Neal Genz. Members present were: Neal Genz, Richard Clark, Jay Bullard, Dave Belyea, Dave DeMerchant, Andrew Keller, Bob Keller, Bruce Fitzpatrick and Ken Peters.
- o Opening Prayer was led by Richard Clark.
- o Meeting was adjourned at 0835 for breakfast of french toast, sausage, fruit, juice and coffee.

**2. Program:** The planned program – to set up the tree of lights - was postponed to Tuesday at 0800 due to wind today.

**3. Prelate’s message:** Richard gave another very personal presentation based on reading from Acts ch. 1 vs. 27; and Mathew ch. 10, vs. 16 - 20 concerning where God resides in all of us – do we have walls in our hearts like walls in our houses that keep God out? Do we let desire and fear limit us?

**4. Old Business:**

- o **Secretary’s Report:** copies of our last meeting minutes – Oct 26, 2024 draft were emailed and passed out. Accepted as presented.
- o President Neal asked again for help with procuring programs and ideas for future meetings. Ken Peters explained about a Greg Murchison Foundation that would be of interest and would contact Greg to ask him to make a presentation. Another suggestion was to have Ruthann Weeks back for an update on the Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry. Pres. Neal will contact her. Another suggestion was the new General Manager of the Caribou Utilities District. Dave B. will contact him.

**5. New Business:**

**Treasurer’s Report:** Checkbook balance as of October 31, 2024: \$ 536.38. Treasurer issued a check to Gray Memorial for \$ 1,000 for mission shares; and \$ 100 to Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry as voted at our Oct. 26 meeting.

**6. Other Business:**

- o Voted to not meet in December 2024.

Next meeting: Jan. 25, 2025

David Belyea  
Secretary

Trustee Meeting  
November 5, 2024  
1:00 – 3:15 P. M.

Present: Judi Greenier, Deb Nichols, Richard Clark, Del Ramey, Dave DeMerchant, Colleen Harmon,  
Pastor Rich, Judson Drake

The meeting was opened with prayer.

The September 24<sup>th</sup> secretary's report was moved, seconded and approved.

The Security Team report was approved. In mid-December a new entrance door will be installed in the narthex; it will be fire-rated and equipped with a panic bar.

Judi Greenier presented the November 5<sup>th</sup> treasurer's report. It was moved, seconded and approved. Since September 17<sup>th</sup> total additions to the Board of Trustees checking account have amounted to \$2,702.68 and total payouts \$836.90 for a November 5<sup>th</sup> balance of \$8,269.88. Of this sum \$200 is reserved for payment of a 2024 scholarship and \$2,624.25 is earmarked for Church Security projects leaving available trustee funds of \$5,545.62. *(see additional information at end of this report)*

#### OLD BUSINESS

- Sprinkler system. Work is being scheduled over the next three weeks for the 3 year test of the air compressor and automated notification system.
- Sweden St. sign. The wiring problem have been solved and all work is completed.
- Electrical. All sanctuary lights are now on wall switches and the electrical box is closed to the public.
- AMBI portable air purifiers were placed in the choir room at no cost to us.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Bathroom fixtures. Bathroom fixtures have been put in the men's room. New fixtures for the women's room are on their way (at no cost to us because of shipping damage on the first order). Mark Warner will be doing the work.
- Steam boiler. The Honeywell control box went down. Dead River Oil Company will be doing the work and annual tune-up.
- Church budget, 2025. Trustees' share of the budget was allotted as follows:

Church utilities	\$9,200
Parsonage utilities	9,500
Telephone/internet/cell phone	2,400
Property insurance	15,000
Snow removal/mowing	4,300
Maintenance/cleaning	6,000
Technology	500
Real estate taxes	3,500
Total	\$50,400

- Snow removal 2024-2025. Moved, seconded and approved that James Michaud do snow removal for \$3,600. He will also do the sanding.
- Church clock. It was checked and serviced for a sum of \$85. During this week it was discovered that new planks were needed for safety reasons. Four aluminum planks would cost approximately \$920. This project was tabled.

Round table.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Submitted by Richard Clark  
Trustee secretary

Additional information regarding Trustees' "Local Account" balances as of November 5, 2024:

Organ Fund	\$2,296.46
Clock Account	536.14
Steeple Maintenance	1,022.43
Pastor's Moving Account	100.67
Checking Account	8,369.88
Trustees' CD	11,561.62
Hazel Greenier Family Accessibility Fund (est. August 2023)	- \$8,173.34

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## Worship Committee Minutes December 6, 2024

Members Present: Bobbi Pelletier (chair), Pastor Rich Rego, Diane Fitzpatrick, Richard Clark

The meeting was opened at 9:30 am by chair Bobbi.

Diane offered devotions, a reading on HOPE.

Minutes from the November meeting were accepted as published.

### Old Business:

- Bobbi shared that she was happy that so many people stepped up to recognize Pastor Rich on October 27<sup>th</sup> for Pastor Appreciation Sunday!
- There was a good response from families of loved ones that we have lost in this past year on our honoring of them on All Saint's Sunday on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The Advent Devotionals and Calendars were passed out on November 24<sup>th</sup> with only two left over. One per household was given.
- Bobbi thanked those who came in to help decorate the sanctuary for Advent on November 30<sup>th</sup>. The NOW Committee prepared the Angel Tree and put up the new wreaths with purple ribbons. Next year the ribbons will be changed to blue.
- Bobbi reported that she has ordered Advent themed bulletin covers for the four Sundays of Advent.
- The Advent Festival held on December 1<sup>st</sup> from 11:30 – 4:00 was not well attended, which was a disappointment for all who had worked so hard to prepare for this celebration. It will not be held on a Sunday again!

- An insert for Christmas plants will be placed in the bulletins starting on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. The plants should be brought to the church by Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Diane volunteered to help Bobbi arrange them at 1:00 on that day. Anyone else willing to help can let Bobbi know.
- The Annual Church Conference will be held on Saturday morning at Grant Memorial in Presque Isle at 10:00am with three other churches in attendance for a combined conference.
- Bobbi expressed thanks to Cheryl Martin for joining our committee. We are hoping that Danna Bouchard will join us as well.
- Bobbi has held two meetings with the greeters to discuss procedures for this ministry. She will distribute a short paper to each one that will outline their specific duties. Gwen has the schedule completed through January 19<sup>th</sup> and will be calling each person to remind them of the Sunday they will be serving.
- Since there are so many Advent events happening this month, it was decided that the Mission Project will begin again in January.
- The Christmas Eve Family Service will be held at 4:00 pm on December 24<sup>th</sup>. It will be advertised on our new church sign.

#### **New Business:**

- Bobbi asked those of us in attendance today to stay after the meeting to check the batteries for the candles we will be using on Christmas Eve.
- Bobbi reported that a funeral service for Bob Locke will be held on either Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> or Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. The NOW Committee will host a reception following the service, if asked.
- The upcoming special Sundays were presented by Bobbi:
  - \*January 5 – Epiphany Sunday (all Advent decorations will still be in place).
  - \*January 12 – Baptism of the Lord Sunday
  - \*January 19 – Human Relations Day with a special offering being taken. Pastor Rich will be remembering Martin Luther King, Jr. in his sermon.
  - \*January 26 – Ecumenical Sunday
  - \*February 9 – Scouting Sunday (Bobbi will invite Dave Belyea and scouts to attend)
- Bobbi reported that there has been a lot of positive response to our new video display sign! It will be a good avenue for advertising upcoming events for both our church and other organizations. Any suggestions for messages on the sign will be welcomed. The plexiglass cover will be left in place to protect the sign.

The next meeting will be held on January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 am. Richard will offer devotions.

Diane Fitzpatrick, Secretary

## LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JANUARY 2025!!!

Wednesday	01		<u>FEDERAL HOLIDAY - NEW YEAR'S DAY - CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED</u>
Friday	03	9:30am	Worship Committee Meeting
		1:00pm	NOW Committee Meeting (rescheduled from Jan 8 <sup>th</sup> )
Saturday	04	1:00pm	Memorial Service for Robert Locke
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Sunday	05	10:00am	Worship; Epiphany Sunday
Wednesday	08	12:00pm	Pastor Rich Meets with Ministry Team
		2:00pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	09	1:00pm	SPRC Meeting
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Sunday	12	10:00am	Worship; Baptism of the Lord
Tuesday	14	11:30am	"Gray Gals" Pot-Luck Luncheon (all women are welcome!)
		6:00pm	Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Board Meeting at Pantry
Wednesday	15	12:00pm	Pastor Rich Meets with Ministry Team
Saturday	18	4:30-6pm	Italian Supper; All proceeds will go towards church's operating expenses
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Sunday	19	10:00am	Worship; Second Sunday after the Epiphany; Human Relations Day (special offering)
Monday	20		<u>FEDERAL HOLIDAY - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY - CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED</u>
Tuesday	21	1:00pm	Trustees Meeting
Wednesday	22	12:00pm	Pastor Rich Meets with Ministry Team
Thursday	23	1:00pm	Church Council Meeting
Friday	24	10:00am	<u>DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWSLETTER INPUT</u>
Saturday	25	8:00am	UMM Breakfast & Meeting
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Sunday	26	10:00am	Worship; Third Sunday after the Epiphany; Ecumenical Sunday
Wednesday	29	12:00pm	Pastor Rich Meets with Ministry Team
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**HAPPY ★ NEW YEAR**