

Always Trust God's Plans in Times of Transition

Hello, Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus!

Well, we all made it through 2024. May this year bring each of us prosperity, health, clarity and hope. Let's resolve that 2025 will be the year that finds us steeped in the Spirit, with hearts willing to step out in faith, doing the work of God!

This year, our congregation, our communities, and our nation find themselves on the cusp of significant changes. Our country welcomes a newly elected president who brings with him the hope of a nation. 2025 is also the year I must retire. On May 7, I would have reached the mandatory retirement age of 72. Unfortunately, Licensed Local Pastors cannot stay appointed at their local church once retired. Karen and I would expect to leave Gray Memorial UMC before July 1. God willing, we'll be moving closer to family. We will miss you all!



In times of such transitions, it is natural for uncertainty to weigh heavily on people's hearts. Yet, the Word of God assures us, particularly in Jeremiah 29:11, that God's plan for us is to prosper us and not to harm us, to give us hope and a future. Now more than ever is the time to have patience and to pray unceasingly as we navigate through these times of change.

Bishop Bickerton and his Cabinet are about to start the grueling work of 2025 appointment changes, made even more challenging because of last Spring's General Conference. Even with the leading of the Holy Spirit, this year's appointment process will be especially difficult and time consuming. For example, conference-wide, every current church's appointment will be prayed over; every D.S. will have to meet personally with every church's pastor, and a rep from Trustees and SPRC so they can perform an onsite parsonage inspection. Rick expects it could take months before local churches get a new pastor. Rev. McKinley will be in touch with us on a regular basis to keep us informed.

We must remember God's faithfulness to His people. From leading the Israelites out of Egypt to His steadfast love in the exile - God demonstrates His unwavering commitment to His promises. Despite the challenging circumstances, God reminds His people of God's good intentions and long-term plans for them. As a church, we must reflect on past experiences where God has shown His faithfulness. **Has the Lord every made a "way out of no way" for you? Write it down! Others need to know there's hope!** I'd like our congregation and their loved ones to gather testimonials and stories of gratitude. Imagine the healing and hope that will bring to our church. By doing so, we build a foundation of growing faith!

I invite you to check out our new "Wesley Covenant Group". It's every 12 Noon on Wednesdays, starting January 22. It will run for 60 to 90 minutes. You can come and go as you need to- even bring a bag lunch. It includes praying for each other, sharing where we've seen God that week, sharing our faith stories and concerns, reading scripture, and just getting to know each other. Such groups have proven to give people a powerful, spiritual boost between Sundays. Just bring your Bible and a note pad.

May this period of change be one of growth for Gray Memorial UMC. Please support the new pastor with the same love you've extended to me and my family. Likewise, let's pray that our nation's new president and other political leaders seek God's divine guidance in making decisions.

Lord, with patience and prayer, we entrust our church, our country, and our new president, into your capable hands, confident that you plan to prosper us and give us hope. Amen.

Yours in Christ's Service - **Pastor Rich, Karen, and Thurston**



The Caribou Clock

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

Greetings from the Church Office!

Can you believe it's tax season again? Where does the time go? Starting Monday, February 3rd, the church's office hours will change to 9am - 2pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. I am volunteering with my AARP Tax-Aide team to prepare free personal tax returns at the Caribou VFW on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9am to 2pm. Please see the poster later in this newsletter about the AARP Tax-Aide schedule.

The "Gray Gals" Potluck lunch will happen on the 2nd Mondays of each month beginning in February. We had 10 ladies at our January 14th lunch, and we really enjoyed ourselves! I encourage others to join us!

This month's public supper is scheduled for Friday, February 14th and it is a Valentine's Day-themed meal with a very special menu and other special touches. We hope you'll consider coming to that meal and allow us to treat you special on this special day! A reservation form is included in this Newsletter. The reservation deadline is 10:00am on Friday, February 7th! Either complete the form and get it to the church office or call the office while I am working!

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, Feb 21st!!!

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier
Church Office Administrator



January Prayer Requests

Prayer Concerns: Dale, Lu & Debbie Sharp; Leland Frost, Ivan Shaw, Jeff Franklin, Sylvia Akeley, Richard Carde, Robin Stuart, Todd Theriault, Allison Davidson, Debbie Tardy, Paul Pelletier, Joe Christianson, Anna Roberts, James Stuart, Linda Cyr, Rodney Nichols, Kristine Brantley, Kay Webb, Maynard Doody, Melonie & Erika Carlson, Deb Nichols, Mary Lou Brown, Janet Russo, All those going through the appointment process, Rodric Johnson & all those afflicted with dementia; Dean & Diana Rauch, Debbie Nichols, Jessica Lincoln, Chris McEwan, Del Ramey (hip surgery), Erika & Melonie Carlson as they return to Mass Eye & Ear in Boston for check-up

Deaths: Family of Marilyn Jennings (passed on January 13th)

Other: Prayers of joy for the birth of Meridith Lee McLauchlan (granddaughter of Mary Theriault); Safe travel for Ruth Ross's niece Vanessa and her husband Pierre and their dog Willow on travels to Live Oak California (Vanessa got job as a traveling physical therapist); Stefanie Damron - New Sweden teen missing since September 23, 2024; all the California fire victims who have died or have been displaced; Prayers for New England Conference during this appointment period

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>
Feb 02	Duska Franklin	Margaret Cyr	Karen Rego	Elsie Doody	SPRC
Feb 09	Judi Greenier	Margaret Cyr	Melonie Carlson	Elsie Doody	NOW Committee
Feb 16	Charlotte Willey	Mary Lou Brown	Richard Clark	Diane Fitzpatrick	Church Council
Feb 23	David DeMerchant	Judi Greenier	Margaret Cyr	Diane Fitzpatrick	Worship Committee

Usher Coordinator for February ~ Conrad Walton
 Communion Stewardess for February ~ Beth Alden
 Communion Bread for February ~ Gwen Ellinwood

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

Alden, Roy: new email address - royalden561@gmail.com

* * February Birthdays & Anniversaries * *

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

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



1 Vince Bell, Judi Greenier,
Carl Soderberg
13 Kathy Snow

18 Barb Dee
19 Kelly Wardwell
22 Jeff Franklin



6 Ginger & Caleb Buck

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>
Dec 24	44	24	(included with 12/29)
Dec 29	38	0 (Service not streamed)	\$2,030.00
Jan 05	62	29	\$8,173.00
Jan 12	67	34	\$5,054.00
Jan 19	48	37	\$1,823.00
Jan 26	44	(will report next month)	\$2,055.00

+ Needed weekly to meet 2025 Budget: \$4,282.62

* 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 \$37,486.55. Since then, we received interest of \$1.63. We did not have any expenses, so our balance as of January 28th is \$37,488.18 (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, peanut butter, 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 \$10.00 in donations for January, so proceeds are \$1,157.45! 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 February Sunday Worship Services at 10:00am:

Feb. 2 - <https://youtube.com/live/xXm2eDSvHoQ>

Feb. 9 - <https://youtube.com/live/aYb-1f9MEGg>

Feb. 16 - https://youtube.com/live/f_hBirNgOJA

Feb. 23 - <https://youtube.com/live/12G-FdgpKac>

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).



January 25, 2025

Reflections on the past week

*I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty, and you gave me drink,
I was homeless and you gave me a room,
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
I was sick and you stopped to visit,
I was in prison, and you came to me.
(Matthew 25:35-36, The Message)*

In 1738, after a long practice of preaching *TO* people from a high steeple Anglican Church, John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, took a radical step to preach *WITH* people who had gathered in a field near Bristol, England. On that day, John Wesley wrote these words in his journal:

“At four in the afternoon, I submitted to become more vile and proclaimed in the highways the glad tidings of salvation ...”

For Wesley, to become more vile meant that he had to move beyond his comfort zone and enter the world of the poor, the oppressed, the imprisoned, and, in fact, anyone who was in need. The struggle to take the words of faith we embrace and literally use them as the foundation for courageous acts of faithfulness, forged what we know today as our United Methodist theology. It is what we believe, and it is what we do.

Today I write in the midst of massive change and transition. In less than a week, the United States has become a place where the poor, the oppressed, the marginalized, the immigrant, the LGBTQAI+ community, and so many others are experiencing great fear and anxiety as a result of executive orders and campaign promises being lived out by the new administration.

Those clear tensions and anxieties present significant challenges to a church that is tempted toward complacency and the avoidance of conflict. However, in what is yet another seminal moment for the church, we are being presented with an opportunity to become more “vile” by getting out of our comfort zone to enter the heartaches and fears of others. This is the moment, the opportunity, to take the gospel *TO* the people.

Today, I call upon all United Methodists in New England and New York to embrace a posture of radical welcome and hospitality. I call upon all churches to provide a safe space of welcome to immigrants and the marginalized who are afraid, intimidated, and threatened. I call upon all leaders, both lay and clergy, to take bold steps to lead our people into the gospel and into the very communities where our churches reside. As Romans 15:7 says so clearly, “Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” This is our time and our moment to become more “vile.”

To those of you who have already taken bold steps to minister to the urgent needs of the immigrant and the marginalized, I applaud your efforts and want you to know that we stand with you and alongside you as you do all you can to live into your baptismal vow to “resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.” We will do whatever is needed to support and encourage your ongoing work. Thank you for being “vile.”

To those of you who are afraid of words like resistance, advocacy, intervention, and conflict, I urge you to examine how Christianity is defined not secularly, but biblically. As 1 Peter 3:13-15 states, “Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord.”

I want you to know that we stand ready to support you as you struggle, as John Wesley himself did, to move from the safe and predictable to the fearful and uncertain world that has emerged around us. I pray that you can become more “vile.”

To those of you who are immigrants, refugees, and ones who are seeking safety and peace, I want you to know that we stand with you and alongside you. Our prayers are with you, and we pray that our actions may remind you of how deeply you are loved and valued.

And to all of us, may we be reminded that together we are the body of Christ, siblings created by the same God, called to see one another as colleagues, friends, and neighbors and reminded always that when one of us suffers, we all suffer together (I Corinthians 12:26).

This is a day when the struggle for human rights has reached a new level of importance. It is a day when we must find ways to minister to those around us for if we do not, there is no guarantee that anyone will. This is the time for the church to live out its faith in acts of compassion, grace, justice, joy and love.

In the midst of all that we have experienced in the last few days, there is still much that we do not know. While we are being briefed by state government officials, they acknowledge there's much they do not know. It's important to remember that specific strategies used today may rapidly change tomorrow as policies and actions emerge. We pledge to all of you that we will keep you informed about actions and directions that are recommended to us.

Most of all today, let us reaffirm who we are and what we are called to be as the church: a place of welcome, belonging, safety, and peace. Let us support one another as a people who, by faith, are called to take bold steps to live out our faith, not just talk about it.

*Then those 'sheep' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about?
When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and gave you a drink?
And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?'*
*Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth:
Whenever you did one of those things to someone overlooked or ignored,
that was me – you did it to me.'*
(Matthew 25: 37-40, The Message)

Sounds like we need to become more "vile."

May it be so. Amen.



Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton
Resident Bishop



Sunday, January 26th - Ellen Cleaves talking
with the youth about how to use a scroll!!
(picture from Judi Greenier)

UPCOMING EVENT:



February's Public Dinner will be on Friday, February 14th - Valentine's Day! Come and join us for a very special menu and dining experience for all ages. **Reservations are required**, so notify the church office by 10AM on Friday, February 7th if you plan to attend.

Cost: \$30 per couple or \$15 per adult;

Children 8-15: \$8; Free for children under 5.

All proceeds go towards the church's operating expenses. (Anything over \$1,000 will be set aside to help refurbish our barbeque grill trailer.)

LET US TREAT YOU SPECIAL ON THIS DAY!

Here is the form to fill out for the Valentine's Day Dinner:

VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER – FEBRUARY 14, 2025 – RESERVATION FORM

Name(s): _____ Phone Number: _____

Date Ordered: _____

Choose entrée (put a number if reservation is for more than one person):

____ Roast Beef (served with Roasted Potatoes & Carrots)

____ Black Forest Ham (served with Mashed Potatoes & Baby Peas)

Choose Salad Dressing (put a number if reservation is for more than one person):

French ____ Italian ____ Ranch ____ Vinaigrette ____

Dessert: Red Velvet Cake w/shaved chocolate and French Vanilla Ice Cream

Cost ~ Adults: \$15; Children 5 -15: \$8; Children under 5: Free

RESERVATION DEADLINE IS 10:00 AM ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH!

AARP FOUNDATION TAX-AIDE

Get your taxes done for free.

**CARIBOU VFW, 253 Van Buren Rd, Caribou
TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, AND SATURDAYS**

9:00 – 3:00 (Last return taken at 2PM)

FEBRUARY 4, 2024 – APRIL 15, 2024

WALK INS ONLY, NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED



**Working for
You**

Whether in person or virtually, we'll help you get every tax credit and deduction you've earned.



**Welcoming
and Free**

The program is open to taxpayers of all ages. AARP membership is not required.



IRS-Certified

Our volunteers are trained and IRS-certified every year.

To find a site near you, or to get information about virtual services, visit aarpfoundation.org/taxaide or call us toll-free at 1-888-227-7669.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) sponsors the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Programs. The mission of these programs is to provide free basic tax return preparation for low-to-moderate income and elderly taxpayers. This also includes taxpayers with disabilities, limited English proficiency and the Military. Volunteers participating in these programs must sign a Form 13615, Volunteer Standards of Conduct Agreement - VITA/TCE Programs. These agreements require them to provide high quality service and uphold the highest ethical standards.

In accordance with federal law and the Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service policy, discrimination against taxpayers on the basis of race, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), disability, sex (in education programs or activities), age or reprisal is prohibited in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Taxpayers with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation and taxpayers with limited English proficiency may request language assistance to access services. To report unethical behavior to IRS, e-mail us at volunteer@irs.gov.

If a taxpayer believes he or she has been discriminated against, a written complaint should be sent to: Operations Director, Civil Rights Division, Internal Revenue Service, Room 2413, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20224. For all other inquiries concerning taxpayer civil rights, contact us at the mailing address or email us at pdf.civilrights.division@irs.gov. Do not send tax returns or other tax-related information to the Civil Rights Division office or email address.

While the IRS is responsible for providing oversight requirements in Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs, these sites are operated by IRS-sponsored partners who manage IRS-required site operations and volunteer ethical standards. In addition, the locations of these sites may not be in or on federal property.

AARP Foundation
For a future without senior poverty.

(9/21)



Church Council Minutes

The Church Council met on Thursday, January 23rd. Minutes from that meeting will be included in next month's Newsletter.

Committee/Group Reports provided during January:

Aroostook Cluster of the United Methodist Churches Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2024

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

Victor welcomed everyone and Carolyn led us in a time of devotions using the theme of prayer. She shared that winter does not always provide a positive feeling and so she prays about it. She shared a reading about finding God in the winter/snow/frost and how God uses all things to God's glory. Victor led us in prayer.

Secretary's Report

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

Treasurer's Report

A check for \$300.00 was sent to Preacher's Aid as discussed at our November meeting. We spent \$41.15. Our current checkbook balance is \$453.10. Motion to approve the report was made by Carolyn and seconded by Charlene. Motion carried unanimously. Thank you, Paula.

2024 St. Apollonia Festival of Trees

The Festival of Trees event was a success for the dental clinic. It was discussed if we should continue in this mission or take on something else. If we continue with St. Apollonia, Sue will retain leadership if others will help with planning, coordination, and delivery.

Pulpit Exchange

We discussed time for pulpit exchange for this year and decided on March 30th. Suggestion possibly use Certified Lay Servants to team with clergy for the pulpit exchange.

Aldersgate Day Service

Saturday, May 24th is Aldersgate Day. Tracy is willing to host this service and will put together a draft then ask for help as needed. As discussed at our November meeting, we decided to add back the Discipleship Recognition Award this year at the Aldersgate Day Service. Pastors/SPRC are asked to decide on one person (one couple) who will be recognized for their discipleship and have that name ready to submit by our April meeting.

Mission and Outreach Ideas

Churches lifted outreach they are doing with homeless services (especially providing food), the warming shelter (Meal Train, warm clothing, and personal care items), etc.

New Business

Spring Gathering

We need to be thinking about a date for a spring gathering.

Joys and concerns

After sharing joys and concerns, Sue B. led us in prayer.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 6th via Zoom at 9:00am

Devotions for next meeting: Sue M.

Meeting adjourned at 10:27 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Brown

Sue Brown

Secretary

Aroostook Cluster Council of United Methodist Churches

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FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:

From Financial Secretary:

The following is the total church offering for December:

Regular Offering	\$15,057.00
Loose Offering	334.00
Subtotal-Regular Offering	\$15,391.00

Other Sources Operating Fund:

Christmas Eve	585.00
Total Operating Fund Income	\$15,976.00

Reimbursements:

Education - Discovery	9.00
Subtotal-Reimbursements	\$9.00

Special Funds for Church Use:	
Coffee Fellowship	65.60
Security	10.00
Ralph Ferguson Memorial	300.00
Mission Shares	3,200.00
Robert Locke Memorial	200.00
Church Sign	900.00
Thanksgiving Dinner	432.00
Tree of Lights	640.00

Subtotal Funds for Church Use \$4,847.60

Special Funds Not for Church Use: .00

Grand Total: \$20,832.60

From Treasurer:

Beginning Balance	\$2,240.96	
2024 Operating income	15,976.00	
Thanksgiving Dinner Donations	432.00	
Mission Shares	3,200.00	
Interest	1.99	
Less EFT fee	(34.04)	VANCO fees (EFT deposits)
<u>Less Expenses</u>	<u>(20,892.40)</u>	
Ending Balance	\$924.51	

Total "Special Funds for Church Use", which included many lines for various donations, total \$39,456.73. 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 December 31, 2024, on-line report shows ending value = \$26,343.67.

The Capital Account Money is as follows as of November 30th: Previous Balance - \$39,063.85; Deposits - \$1.63; Expenses - \$1,577.30 (Electrical work on new sign & sanctuary switches; Current Balance - \$37,488.18. (Includes funds earmarked for Furnace Fund - \$5,397.33; Emergency Fund Donations = \$21,104.23).

Expenditures for December 2024:

Programs:

Education	\$ 5.00
Worship	19.99
Office	44.28
NOW Team	78.80
<u>Programs Sub-Total</u>	<u>\$ 148.07</u>

Trustee Expenses:

Church Utilities	\$645.68
Parsonage Utilities	755.71
Telephone/Internet	194.96
Property Insurance	1,707.43
Snow Removal	720.00
Maintenance/Cleaning	429.51
<u>Technology</u>	<u>16.95</u>
Trustee Sub-Total	\$4,470.24

Staff-Parish Relations Expenses:

Pastor's Salary	\$4,333.26
Social Security	500.00
<u>Health Insurance</u>	<u>1,680.00</u>
Pastor's Total Comp	\$6,513.26

Choir Director	400.00
Treasurer	133.37
Church Office Administrator	833.37
Custodian	<u>1,625.00</u>
Total Other Salaries	\$2,991.74

Other Expenses:

Guest & Substitute Staff	\$350.00
Pastor Reimbursements	22.78
FICA	198.26
SPRC Miscellaneous	250.00
Workman's Comp	<u>71.24</u>
Total Other Expenses	\$892.28
Sub-Total SPRC Expenses	\$10,397.28

New England Conference:

World Missions (1)	\$ 5,051.50
Pastor Pension Benefit	<u>825.31</u>
NEC Total	\$ 5,876.81
Grand Total Expenses	<u>\$20,892.40</u>

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

Mission Shares = \$2,525.75/mo. As of EOM December, all Missions Shares were paid! (paid 2 months in January; 1 month in August; 4 months in September; 3 months in November; 2 months in December.

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

Balances as of December 30: Church = \$3,225.30; Parsonage = (\$1,610.20)

2024 YTD REVIEW – December 2024

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

November:

Target = \$219,722.75; Beginning Operating Fund Balance (Jan only) - \$25,724.03; Operating Fund Income from F/S YTD - \$165,910.44; Special Funds Used for Operating Fund Expenses YTD = \$20,496.75; Total Expenses YTD - \$210,755.99; Unpaid Mission Shares = \$0.00.

An aggregate of in-person and virtual attendance shows monthly average of 74 and 76 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). No live streaming for December 29th service.

NOW Team Meeting - January 8, 2025

Nurture - Outreach - Witness

In attendance: Melonie Carlson, Bobbi Pelletier, Sandy Pethick, Karen Rego, Kathy Panaro, Alaina Pethick, Cheryl

Martin, Kim Miller, Ruthann Weeks

Absent: Rhonda Cyr, Pastor Rich Rego

Meeting was called to order.

Opening Prayer - Karen

(Cheryl will do the opening prayer next month.)

Treasurer's Report -

Cheryl provided the following report.

Treasurer's Report December 16, 2024

Beginning Balance	\$3691.10
10-31-24 Interest	\$.92
11-8-24 payment to Kitty Doar. Thank you for sewn/knit items(Check # 535)	(\$100.00)
11-8-24 Thistle Shop/Advent Wreaths. (Check #536)	(\$125.00)
11-15-24 Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry / Thanksgiving turkeys. (Check #537)	(\$157.59)
11-30-24 Interest.	\$.64
12-2-24 Deposit.	\$379.00
12-16-24 Deposit.	\$ 19.00

Deposit Details

12-2-24 Proceeds from Advent Festival
12-16-24 Proceeds from Advent Festival

Balance 12-16-24. \$3708.07

Bobbi started the discussion by asking for an accounting of the gift card usage and wanted the unused amounts left on each card. She made a motion to include the usage and amounts to be added to the Treasurer's Report and it was second by Ruthann. The motion passed. Cheryl worked to sort it all out. Also discussed outstanding expenses for the Boston Trips that needed to be reimbursed to Beth and Roy Alden as well as for Will Barnum and Alaina Pethick. Bobbi made a motion for all outstanding expenses to be paid before the next meeting. It was seconded by Kathy. The motion passed.

Review of 2024 Committee Activities

Listed the activities: Spring Fling, Advent Festival, Pie Sale, Cookie Booth, Alaskan Food Box, Spud Night, Pen Pal, Christmas Angel Tree, Sponsored Rec Center Summer Camp, Halfway House Rescue. Discussed the events successes and where changes needed to be made.

There was some discussion about how best to use the proceeds from the Advent Festival. We decided to hold the funds for now and wait for a couple of updates on some needs the Pastor has heard about and then possibly replenish the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Another topic that was discussed was the possibility of collaborating with other groups/committees for future events. One possible way for this to work would be for one group to handle the meal and another to handle the event sales or activities. We will need to approach other groups first to gauge interest and also be sure to determine where the proceeds will go before the event.

Bobbi has several plastic storage totes. After the meeting, some of the NOW Team will stay to sort and put away the remaining items from the Advent Festival.

Public Suppers

The first of the monthly public suppers at the church will be the Italian Supper on Saturday, Jan. 18th.

Bobbi shared the sign-up sheet (with reminder cards) for volunteers to provide food and help work the Italian Supper. The poster will also be up in the Narthex. The donated items need to be dropped off at the church by 10 am on Friday, Jan. 17.

Meals at Homeless Shelter

In addition, the church has also committed to partnering with Judson and Colleen to provide a meal to the homeless shelter two nights a month. Bobbi asked if the NOW Team would be willing to help with the meals for the homeless shelter by providing the dessert. She was unsure of the exact dates in upcoming months, but did say to plan on up to 50 people. This first meal is this Friday, but everything is already planned and taken care of. The next meal will be on Friday, Jan. 24. She was unsure of the meal plans, but we brainstormed preparing a simple cake. We should prepare the desserts in disposable pans. The NOW Team agreed to provide the dessert for the Jan. 24 meal, but no further dates were discussed.

Updates

The odd month half of our group has coffee fellowship this Sunday, Jan. 12.

Ruthann gave an update on the Food Pantry. The freezers are full! Word got out about the need and the community responded. There was a large order from Catholic Charities and many other donations.

Penpal letters will be coming this Friday. We also discussed sending a Valentine's care package to Brooke. Denise told Melonie the penpals were very grateful for their Christmas packages. We are also grateful to Denise for the helpful suggestions about what to get them. Melonie said she will be working with Denise to plan a Spring Penpal Gathering.

Regarding the visitor bags, a draft of the brochure has been sent to Pastor Rich. Pending his approval, Bobbi would like to get 20 bags assembled and ready to go. She asked for volunteers to help her do that. Alaina volunteered.

The Greeter Program has been reinstated. Gwen Ellinwood has arranged the volunteers and there have been two meetings of the group. A set of guidelines was created for each of the greeters and one week reminder calls will be going out.

Additional Business

Bobbi shared that next month's public supper will be on Valentine's Day. They are planning a more formal event which will be by reservation only, with wait staff and a special meal.

A short list of topics for our next meeting included:

- Please bring any items for Brooke's Valentine's care package with you to the next meeting.
- Discussion of the possibility of doing our own auction event like the one from Alaska we participated in last year.

Closing Prayer - Melonie

Our next regular meeting will be February 5 at 10 am. *(NOTE: MEETING WILL BE ON FEB 12TH)*

Alaina Pethick, Secretary

Worship Committee Minutes

January 3, 2025

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

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

Devotions were presented by Richard Clark with his most meaningful message about letting God into our lives and honestly letting God transform us.

Minutes from the December 2024 meeting were approved as published.

Old Business:

- Bobbi reported on receiving positive feedback on the Advent bulletin covers as well as on the Advent devotional booklet and calendar.
- Bobbi thanked Diana, Diane, and Vivian Bell for helping her in arranging the Christmas plants in front of the altar and Communion rails. Bobbi was pleased with the response from congregants in supplying the plants, and encouraged everyone to take their plants home at the December 29th service.
- The Christmas Eve service was not as well attended as in recent years, which was disappointing. However, the service was a beautiful and very meaningful service for all who attended.
- Judson took the batteries and bulbs out of the candles used on Christmas Eve so they can be stored for next year.
- Bobbi reported that she has prepared a short Greeter guidelines document to distribute this Sunday. She will remind the usher coordinators that the greeters will remain at their station by the sanctuary door for five to ten minutes after the service begins so that latecomers will be greeted. She also stressed the importance of getting the names of first-time visitors.
- With all that is going on this month, the Mission Project will begin again in February.
- Bob Locke's funeral service will be held here at the church on Saturday, January 4th. There will be no reception following the service and the interment will be a private one to be held on Monday, January 6th.
- January/February Sundays:
 - Jan. 5 – Epiphany Sunday
 - Jan. 12 – Baptism of the Lord
 - Jan. 19 – Human Relations Day (special offering); Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. with the sermon revolving around him.
 - Feb. 9 – Scouting Sunday (Dave Belyea and scouts will be invited to attend)
- Bobbi reported getting some positive feedback on our new electronic sign. She has talked to Jud about keeping the corner clear of snow so that the sign will be visible during the winter months. She also asked that anyone having suggestions for information to be posted on the sign should contact her directly.

New Business:

- Bobbi thanked Diane for helping her in putting the Advent decorations away last Sunday. Ruthann and Cheryl did put the Christmas tree and new wreaths away. Judson had taken most of the decorations down so that Bobbi and Diane could put them away.

- Bobbi announced that monthly public suppers will be held to help with the operating expenses of the church. The first one will be held on Saturday, January 18th, from 4:30pm to 6:00pm. Bobbi and Jud will hold a meeting following coffee fellowship on Sunday, January 5th, to talk with volunteers on getting ready for the supper. She encouraged all of us to attend!
- A very special supper will be held on February 14th to celebrate Valentine's Day. We were informed that this one will be a very special one!! 😊
- Starting the week of February 2nd, Bobbi's working hours will change to Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9am – 2pm to accommodate her working for the AARP Tax-Aide until April. This change will not affect our meeting dates during those months.
- Margaret Cyr shared her concerns pertaining to the upkeep of our pipe organ. The organ needs to be tuned by a professional and suggested that a committee be formed to coordinate the maintaining of our organ properly. She also reminded us that Richard and Susan Clark had purchased the chimes that have not been used since Susan played the organ. Work needs to be done to make the use of the chimes easier to access. Margaret told us that she planned on giving a letter of resignation to SPRC soon. Bobbi suggested that Margaret notify the SPRC about the expected date of her leaving so that the committee can begin actively looking for a new organist, choir director, and handbell choir director. Pastor Rich invited Margaret to attend the SPRC meeting next week so that she can share her concerns with them. Margaret plans to play the organ on the 1st & 2nd Sundays of January, February and March but not in April.
- Margaret has been our very dedicated organist and choir director since 1986 and will be difficult to replace. We are most grateful for her dedication, expertise, and love that she has devoted to us at Gray Memorial all these years. She will be sorely missed!
- Pastor Rich shared that he will have Confirmation classes later in January – Aurora Barnum will be confirmed at the conclusion of that class. Others from the congregation, members and non-members would be invited to attend the class. He feels that the material covered in this class would suit those wishing to becoming members of the church.

The next meeting will be held on February 7th at 9:30am.

Diana Locke volunteered to offer devotions.

Diane Fitzpatrick, Secretary

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY 2025!!!

Sunday	02	10:00am	Worship; Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany; Groundhog Day!
Tuesday	04	1:00pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting
Wednesday	05	12:00pm	Wesley Covenant Group
		2:00pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	06	9:00am	Aroostook Cluster Meeting via Zoom
Friday	07	10:00am	<u>RESERVATION DEADLINE FOR VALENTINE'S DAY PUBLIC DINNER</u>
Saturday	08	11:00am	Confirmation Class

Sunday	09	10:00am	Worship; Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany; Scouting Sunday
Monday	10	11:30am	"Gray Gals" Pot-Luck Luncheon (all women are welcome!); date change!!!!
Tuesday	11	6:00pm	Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Board Meeting at Pantry
Wednesday	12	10:00am	NOW Committee Meeting
		12:00pm	Wesley Covenant Group
		2:00pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	13	1:00pm	SPRC Meeting
Friday	14	4:30-6pm	Valentine's Day Public Dinner (RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!)



Saturday	15	11:00am	Confirmation Class
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Sunday	16	10:00am	Worship; Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
Monday	17	<u>FEDERAL HOLIDAY - PRESIDENTS' DAY - CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED</u>	
Tuesday	18	1:00pm	Trustees Meeting
Wednesday	19	12:00pm	Wesley Covenant Group
Thursday	20	1:00pm	Church Council Meeting
Friday	21	10:00am	<u>DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWSLETTER INPUT</u>
Saturday	22	8:00am	UMM Breakfast & Meeting
		11:00am	Confirmation Class

Sunday	23	10:00am	Worship; Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
Wednesday	26	12:00pm	Wesley Covenant Group

Please note: Church office hours beginning Monday, February 3rd, are 9am-2pm Monday/Wednesday/Friday. These hours will continue until Wednesday, April 16th.

Always Trust God's Plans in Times of Transition

Hello, Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus!

Well, we all made it through 2024. May this year bring each of us prosperity, health, clarity and hope. Let's resolve that 2025 will be the year that finds us steeped in the Spirit, with hearts willing to step out in faith, doing the work of God!

This year, our congregation, our communities, and our nation find themselves on the cusp of significant changes. Our country welcomes a newly elected president who brings with him the hope of a nation. 2025 is also the year I must retire. On May 7, I would have reached the mandatory retirement age of 72. Unfortunately, Licensed Local Pastors cannot stay appointed at their local church once retired. Karen and I would expect to leave Gray Memorial UMC before July 1. God willing, we'll be moving closer to family. We will miss you all!



In times of such transitions, it is natural for uncertainty to weigh heavily on people's hearts. Yet, the Word of God assures us, particularly in Jeremiah 29:11, that God's plan for us is to prosper us and not to harm us, to give us hope and a future. Now more than ever is the time to have patience and to pray unceasingly as we navigate through these times of change.

Bishop Bickerton and his Cabinet are about to start the grueling work of 2025 appointment changes, made even more challenging because of last Spring's General Conference. Even with the leading of the Holy Spirit, this year's appointment process will be especially difficult and time consuming. For example, conference-wide, every current church's appointment will be prayed over; every D.S. will have to meet personally with every church's pastor, and a rep from Trustees and SPRC so they can perform an onsite parsonage inspection. Rick expects it could take months before local churches get a new pastor. Rev. McKinley will be in touch with us on a regular basis to keep us informed.

We must remember God's faithfulness to His people. From leading the Israelites out of Egypt to His steadfast love in the exile - God demonstrates His unwavering commitment to His promises. Despite the challenging circumstances, God reminds His people of God's good intentions and long-term plans for them. As a church, we must reflect on past experiences where God has shown His faithfulness. **Has the Lord every made a "way out of no way" for you? Write it down! Others need to know there's hope!** I'd like our congregation and their loved ones to gather testimonials and stories of gratitude. Imagine the healing and hope that will bring to our church. By doing so, we build a foundation of growing faith!

I invite you to check out our new "Wesley Covenant Group". It's every 12 Noon on Wednesdays, starting January 22. It will run for 60 to 90 minutes. You can come and go as you need to- even bring a bag lunch. It includes praying for each other, sharing where we've seen God that week, sharing our faith stories and concerns, reading scripture, and just getting to know each other. Such groups have proven to give people a powerful, spiritual boost between Sundays. Just bring your Bible and a note pad.

May this period of change be one of growth for Gray Memorial UMC. Please support the new pastor with the same love you've extended to me and my family. Likewise, let's pray that our nation's new president and other political leaders seek God's divine guidance in making decisions.

Lord, with patience and prayer, we entrust our church, our country, and our new president, into your capable hands, confident that you plan to prosper us and give us hope. Amen.

Yours in Christ's Service - **Pastor Rich, Karen, and Thurston**



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: February 2025

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

Greetings from the Church Office!

Can you believe it's tax season again? Where does the time go? Starting Monday, February 3rd, the church's office hours will change to 9am - 2pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. I am volunteering with my AARP Tax-Aide team to prepare free personal tax returns at the Caribou VFW on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9am to 2pm. Please see the poster later in this newsletter about the AARP Tax-Aide schedule.

The "Gray Gals" Potluck lunch will happen on the 2nd Mondays of each month beginning in February. We had 10 ladies at our January 14th lunch, and we really enjoyed ourselves! I encourage others to join us!

This month's public supper is scheduled for Friday, February 14th and it is a Valentine's Day-themed meal with a very special menu and other special touches. We hope you'll consider coming to that meal and allow us to treat you special on this special day! A reservation form is included in this Newsletter. The reservation deadline is 10:00am on Friday, February 7th! Either complete the form and get it to the church office or call the office while I am working!

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, Feb 21st!!!

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier
Church Office Administrator



January Prayer Requests

Prayer Concerns: Dale, Lu & Debbie Sharp; Leland Frost, Ivan Shaw, Jeff Franklin, Sylvia Akeley, Richard Carde, Robin Stuart, Todd Theriault, Allison Davidson, Debbie Tardy, Paul Pelletier, Joe Christianson, Anna Roberts, James Stuart, Linda Cyr, Rodney Nichols, Kristine Brantley, Kay Webb, Maynard Doody, Melonie & Erika Carlson, Deb Nichols, Mary Lou Brown, Janet Russo, All those going through the appointment process, Rodric Johnson & all those afflicted with dementia; Dean & Diana Rauch, Debbie Nichols, Jessica Lincoln, Chris McEwan, Del Ramey (hip surgery), Erika & Melonie Carlson as they return to Mass Eye & Ear in Boston for check-up

Deaths: Family of Marilyn Jennings (passed on January 13th)

Other: Prayers of joy for the birth of Meridith Lee McLauchlan (granddaughter of Mary Theriault); Safe travel for Ruth Ross's niece Vanessa and her husband Pierre and their dog Willow on travels to Live Oak California (Vanessa got job as a traveling physical therapist); Stefanie Damron - New Sweden teen missing since September 23, 2024; all the California fire victims who have died or have been displaced; Prayers for New England Conference during this appointment period

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>
Feb 02	Duska Franklin	Margaret Cyr	Karen Rego	Elsie Doody	SPRC
Feb 09	Judi Greenier	Margaret Cyr	Melonie Carlson	Elsie Doody	NOW Committee
Feb 16	Charlotte Willey	Mary Lou Brown	Richard Clark	Diane Fitzpatrick	Church Council
Feb 23	David DeMerchant	Judi Greenier	Margaret Cyr	Diane Fitzpatrick	Worship Committee

Usher Coordinator for February ~ Conrad Walton
 Communion Stewardess for February ~ Beth Alden
 Communion Bread for February ~ Gwen Ellinwood

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

Alden, Roy: new email address - royalden561@gmail.com

* * February Birthdays & Anniversaries * *

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

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



1 Vince Bell, Judi Greenier,
Carl Soderberg
13 Kathy Snow

18 Barb Dee
19 Kelly Wardwell
22 Jeff Franklin



6 Ginger & Caleb Buck

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>
Dec 24	44	24	(included with 12/29)
Dec 29	38	0 (Service not streamed)	\$2,030.00
Jan 05	62	29	\$8,173.00
Jan 12	67	34	\$5,054.00
Jan 19	48	37	\$1,823.00
Jan 26	44	(will report next month)	\$2,055.00

+ Needed weekly to meet 2025 Budget: \$4,282.62

* 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 \$37,486.55. Since then, we received interest of \$1.63. We did not have any expenses, so our balance as of January 28th is \$37,488.18 (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, peanut butter, 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 \$10.00 in donations for January, so proceeds are \$1,157.45! 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 February Sunday Worship Services at 10:00am:

Feb. 2 - <https://youtube.com/live/xXm2eDSvHoQ>

Feb. 9 - <https://youtube.com/live/aYb-1f9MEGg>

Feb. 16 - https://youtube.com/live/f_hBirNgOJA

Feb. 23 - <https://youtube.com/live/12G-FdgpKac>

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).



January 25, 2025

Reflections on the past week

*I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty, and you gave me drink,
I was homeless and you gave me a room,
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
I was sick and you stopped to visit,
I was in prison, and you came to me.
(Matthew 25:35-36, The Message)*

In 1738, after a long practice of preaching *TO* people from a high steeple Anglican Church, John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, took a radical step to preach *WITH* people who had gathered in a field near Bristol, England. On that day, John Wesley wrote these words in his journal:

“At four in the afternoon, I submitted to become more vile and proclaimed in the highways the glad tidings of salvation ...”

For Wesley, to become more vile meant that he had to move beyond his comfort zone and enter the world of the poor, the oppressed, the imprisoned, and, in fact, anyone who was in need. The struggle to take the words of faith we embrace and literally use them as the foundation for courageous acts of faithfulness, forged what we know today as our United Methodist theology. It is what we believe, and it is what we do.

Today I write in the midst of massive change and transition. In less than a week, the United States has become a place where the poor, the oppressed, the marginalized, the immigrant, the LGBTQAI+ community, and so many others are experiencing great fear and anxiety as a result of executive orders and campaign promises being lived out by the new administration.

Those clear tensions and anxieties present significant challenges to a church that is tempted toward complacency and the avoidance of conflict. However, in what is yet another seminal moment for the church, we are being presented with an opportunity to become more “vile” by getting out of our comfort zone to enter the heartaches and fears of others. This is the moment, the opportunity, to take the gospel *TO* the people.

Today, I call upon all United Methodists in New England and New York to embrace a posture of radical welcome and hospitality. I call upon all churches to provide a safe space of welcome to immigrants and the marginalized who are afraid, intimidated, and threatened. I call upon all leaders, both lay and clergy, to take bold steps to lead our people into the gospel and into the very communities where our churches reside. As Romans 15:7 says so clearly, “Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” This is our time and our moment to become more “vile.”

To those of you who have already taken bold steps to minister to the urgent needs of the immigrant and the marginalized, I applaud your efforts and want you to know that we stand with you and alongside you as you do all you can to live into your baptismal vow to “resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.” We will do whatever is needed to support and encourage your ongoing work. Thank you for being “vile.”

To those of you who are afraid of words like resistance, advocacy, intervention, and conflict, I urge you to examine how Christianity is defined not secularly, but biblically. As 1 Peter 3:13-15 states, “Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord.”

I want you to know that we stand ready to support you as you struggle, as John Wesley himself did, to move from the safe and predictable to the fearful and uncertain world that has emerged around us. I pray that you can become more “vile.”

To those of you who are immigrants, refugees, and ones who are seeking safety and peace, I want you to know that we stand with you and alongside you. Our prayers are with you, and we pray that our actions may remind you of how deeply you are loved and valued.

And to all of us, may we be reminded that together we are the body of Christ, siblings created by the same God, called to see one another as colleagues, friends, and neighbors and reminded always that when one of us suffers, we all suffer together (I Corinthians 12:26).

This is a day when the struggle for human rights has reached a new level of importance. It is a day when we must find ways to minister to those around us for if we do not, there is no guarantee that anyone will. This is the time for the church to live out its faith in acts of compassion, grace, justice, joy and love.

In the midst of all that we have experienced in the last few days, there is still much that we do not know. While we are being briefed by state government officials, they acknowledge there's much they do not know. It's important to remember that specific strategies used today may rapidly change tomorrow as policies and actions emerge. We pledge to all of you that we will keep you informed about actions and directions that are recommended to us.

Most of all today, let us reaffirm who we are and what we are called to be as the church: a place of welcome, belonging, safety, and peace. Let us support one another as a people who, by faith, are called to take bold steps to live out our faith, not just talk about it.

*Then those 'sheep' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about?
When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and gave you a drink?
And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?'*
*Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth:
Whenever you did one of those things to someone overlooked or ignored,
that was me – you did it to me.'*
(Matthew 25: 37-40, The Message)

Sounds like we need to become more "vile."

May it be so. Amen.



Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton
Resident Bishop



Sunday, January 26th - Ellen Cleaves talking
with the youth about how to use a scroll!
(picture from Judi Greenier)

UPCOMING EVENT:



February's Public Dinner will be on Friday, February 14th - Valentine's Day! Come and join us for a very special menu and dining experience for all ages. **Reservations are required**, so notify the church office by 10AM on Friday, February 7th if you plan to attend.

Cost: \$30 per couple or \$15 per adult;

Children 8-15: \$8; Free for children under 5.

All proceeds go towards the church's operating expenses. (Anything over \$1,000 will be set aside to help refurbish our barbeque grill trailer.)

LET US TREAT YOU SPECIAL ON THIS DAY!

Here is the form to fill out for the Valentine's Day Dinner:

VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER – FEBRUARY 14, 2025 – RESERVATION FORM

Name(s): _____ Phone Number: _____

Date Ordered: _____

Choose entrée (put a number if reservation is for more than one person):

____ Roast Beef (served with Roasted Potatoes & Carrots)

____ Black Forest Ham (served with Mashed Potatoes & Baby Peas)

Choose Salad Dressing (put a number if reservation is for more than one person):

French ____ Italian ____ Ranch ____ Vinaigrette ____

Dessert: Red Velvet Cake w/shaved chocolate and French Vanilla Ice Cream

Cost ~ Adults: \$15; Children 5 -15: \$8; Children under 5: Free

RESERVATION DEADLINE IS 10:00 AM ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH!

AARP FOUNDATION TAX-AIDE

Get your taxes done for free.

**CARIBOU VFW, 253 Van Buren Rd, Caribou
TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, AND SATURDAYS**

9:00 – 3:00 (Last return taken at 2PM)

FEBRUARY 4, 2024 – APRIL 15, 2024

WALK INS ONLY, NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED



Working for You

Whether in person or virtually, we'll help you get every tax credit and deduction you've earned.



Welcoming and Free

The program is open to taxpayers of all ages. AARP membership is not required.



IRS-Certified

Our volunteers are trained and IRS-certified every year.

To find a site near you, or to get information about virtual services, visit aarpfoundation.org/taxaide or call us toll-free at 1-888-227-7669.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) sponsors the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Programs. The mission of these programs is to provide free basic tax return preparation for low-to-moderate income and elderly taxpayers. This also includes taxpayers with disabilities, limited English proficiency and the Military. Volunteers participating in these programs must sign a Form 13615, Volunteer Standards of Conduct Agreement - VITA/TCE Programs. These agreements require them to provide high quality service and uphold the highest ethical standards.

In accordance with federal law and the Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service policy, discrimination against taxpayers on the basis of race, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), disability, sex (in education programs or activities), age or reprisal is prohibited in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Taxpayers with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation and taxpayers with limited English proficiency may request language assistance to access services. To report unethical behavior to IRS, e-mail us at volunteer@irs.gov.

If a taxpayer believes he or she has been discriminated against, a written complaint should be sent to: Operations Director, Civil Rights Division, Internal Revenue Service, Room 2413, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20224. For all other inquiries concerning taxpayer civil rights, contact us at the mailing address or email us at pdf.civil.rights.division@irs.gov. Do not send tax returns or other tax-related information to the Civil Rights Division office or email address.

While the IRS is responsible for providing oversight requirements in Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs, these sites are operated by IRS-sponsored partners who manage IRS-required site operations and volunteer ethical standards. In addition, the locations of these sites may not be in or on federal property.

AARP Foundation
For a future without senior poverty.

(9/21)



Church Council Minutes

The Church Council met on Thursday, January 23rd. Minutes from that meeting will be included in next month's Newsletter.

Committee/Group Reports provided during January:

Aroostook Cluster of the United Methodist Churches Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2024

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

Victor welcomed everyone and Carolyn led us in a time of devotions using the theme of prayer. She shared that winter does not always provide a positive feeling and so she prays about it. She shared a reading about finding God in the winter/snow/frost and how God uses all things to God's glory. Victor led us in prayer.

Secretary's Report

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

Treasurer's Report

A check for \$300.00 was sent to Preacher's Aid as discussed at our November meeting. We spent \$41.15. Our current checkbook balance is \$453.10. Motion to approve the report was made by Carolyn and seconded by Charlene. Motion carried unanimously. Thank you, Paula.

2024 St. Apollonia Festival of Trees

The Festival of Trees event was a success for the dental clinic. It was discussed if we should continue in this mission or take on something else. If we continue with St. Apollonia, Sue will retain leadership if others will help with planning, coordination, and delivery.

Pulpit Exchange

We discussed time for pulpit exchange for this year and decided on March 30th. Suggestion possibly use Certified Lay Servants to team with clergy for the pulpit exchange.

Aldersgate Day Service

Saturday, May 24th is Aldersgate Day. Tracy is willing to host this service and will put together a draft then ask for help as needed. As discussed at our November meeting, we decided to add back the Discipleship Recognition Award this year at the Aldersgate Day Service. Pastors/SPRC are asked to decide on one person (one couple) who will be recognized for their discipleship and have that name ready to submit by our April meeting.

Mission and Outreach Ideas

Churches lifted outreach they are doing with homeless services (especially providing food), the warming shelter (Meal Train, warm clothing, and personal care items), etc.

New Business

Spring Gathering

We need to be thinking about a date for a spring gathering.

Joys and concerns

After sharing joys and concerns, Sue B. led us in prayer.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 6th via Zoom at 9:00am

Devotions for next meeting: Sue M.

Meeting adjourned at 10:27 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Brown

Sue Brown

Secretary

Aroostook Cluster Council of United Methodist Churches

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FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:

From Financial Secretary:

The following is the total church offering for December:

Regular Offering	\$15,057.00
Loose Offering	334.00
Subtotal-Regular Offering	\$15,391.00

Other Sources Operating Fund:

Christmas Eve	585.00
Total Operating Fund Income	\$15,976.00

Reimbursements:

Education - Discovery	9.00
Subtotal-Reimbursements	\$9.00

Special Funds for Church Use:	
Coffee Fellowship	65.60
Security	10.00
Ralph Ferguson Memorial	300.00
Mission Shares	3,200.00
Robert Locke Memorial	200.00
Church Sign	900.00
Thanksgiving Dinner	432.00
Tree of Lights	640.00

Subtotal Funds for Church Use \$4,847.60

Special Funds Not for Church Use: .00

Grand Total: \$20,832.60

From Treasurer:

Beginning Balance	\$2,240.96	
2024 Operating income	15,976.00	
Thanksgiving Dinner Donations	432.00	
Mission Shares	3,200.00	
Interest	1.99	
Less EFT fee	(34.04)	VANCO fees (EFT deposits)
<u>Less Expenses</u>	<u>(20,892.40)</u>	
Ending Balance	\$924.51	

Total "Special Funds for Church Use", which included many lines for various donations, total \$39,456.73. 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 December 31, 2024, on-line report shows ending value = \$26,343.67.

The Capital Account Money is as follows as of November 30th: Previous Balance - \$39,063.85; Deposits - \$1.63; Expenses - \$1,577.30 (Electrical work on new sign & sanctuary switches; Current Balance - \$37,488.18. (Includes funds earmarked for Furnace Fund - \$5,397.33; Emergency Fund Donations = \$21,104.23).

Expenditures for December 2024:

Programs:

Education	\$ 5.00
Worship	19.99
Office	44.28
NOW Team	78.80
<u>Programs Sub-Total</u>	<u>\$ 148.07</u>

Trustee Expenses:

Church Utilities	\$645.68
Parsonage Utilities	755.71
Telephone/Internet	194.96
Property Insurance	1,707.43
Snow Removal	720.00
Maintenance/Cleaning	429.51
<u>Technology</u>	<u>16.95</u>
Trustee Sub-Total	\$4,470.24

Staff-Parish Relations Expenses:

Pastor's Salary	\$4,333.26
Social Security	500.00
<u>Health Insurance</u>	<u>1,680.00</u>
Pastor's Total Comp	\$6,513.26

Choir Director	400.00
Treasurer	133.37
Church Office Administrator	833.37
<u>Custodian</u>	<u>1,625.00</u>
Total Other Salaries	\$2,991.74

Other Expenses:

Guest & Substitute Staff	\$350.00
Pastor Reimbursements	22.78
FICA	198.26
SPRC Miscellaneous	250.00
<u>Workman's Comp</u>	<u>71.24</u>
Total Other Expenses	\$892.28
Sub-Total SPRC Expenses	\$10,397.28

New England Conference:

World Missions (1)	\$ 5,051.50
<u>Pastor Pension Benefit</u>	<u>825.31</u>
NEC Total	\$ 5,876.81
<u>Grand Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$20,892.40</u>

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

Mission Shares = \$2,525.75/mo. As of EOM December, all Missions Shares were paid! (paid 2 months in January; 1 month in August; 4 months in September; 3 months in November; 2 months in December.

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

Balances as of December 30: Church = \$3,225.30; Parsonage = (\$1,610.20)

2024 YTD REVIEW – December 2024

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

November:

Target = \$219,722.75; Beginning Operating Fund Balance (Jan only) - \$25,724.03; Operating Fund Income from F/S YTD - \$165,910.44; Special Funds Used for Operating Fund Expenses YTD = \$20,496.75; Total Expenses YTD - \$210,755.99; Unpaid Mission Shares = \$0.00.

An aggregate of in-person and virtual attendance shows monthly average of 74 and 76 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). No live streaming for December 29th service.

NOW Team Meeting - January 8, 2025

Nurture - Outreach - Witness

In attendance: Melonie Carlson, Bobbi Pelletier, Sandy Pethick, Karen Rego, Kathy Panaro, Alaina Pethick, Cheryl

Martin, Kim Miller, Ruthann Weeks

Absent: Rhonda Cyr, Pastor Rich Rego

Meeting was called to order.

Opening Prayer - Karen

(Cheryl will do the opening prayer next month.)

Treasurer's Report -

Cheryl provided the following report.

Treasurer's Report December 16, 2024

Beginning Balance	\$3691.10
10-31-24 Interest	\$.92
11-8-24 payment to Kitty Doar. Thank you for sewn/knit items(Check # 535)	(\$100.00)
11-8-24 Thistle Shop/Advent Wreaths. (Check #536)	(\$125.00)
11-15-24 Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry / Thanksgiving turkeys. (Check #537)	(\$157.59)
11-30-24 Interest.	\$.64
12-2-24 Deposit.	\$379.00
12-16-24 Deposit.	\$ 19.00

Deposit Details

12-2-24 Proceeds from Advent Festival
12-16-24 Proceeds from Advent Festival

Balance 12-16-24. \$3708.07

Bobbi started the discussion by asking for an accounting of the gift card usage and wanted the unused amounts left on each card. She made a motion to include the usage and amounts to be added to the Treasurer's Report and it was second by Ruthann. The motion passed. Cheryl worked to sort it all out. Also discussed outstanding expenses for the Boston Trips that needed to be reimbursed to Beth and Roy Alden as well as for Will Barnum and Alaina Pethick. Bobbi made a motion for all outstanding expenses to be paid before the next meeting. It was seconded by Kathy. The motion passed.

Review of 2024 Committee Activities

Listed the activities: Spring Fling, Advent Festival, Pie Sale, Cookie Booth, Alaskan Food Box, Spud Night, Pen Pal, Christmas Angel Tree, Sponsored Rec Center Summer Camp, Halfway House Rescue. Discussed the events successes and where changes needed to be made.

There was some discussion about how best to use the proceeds from the Advent Festival. We decided to hold the funds for now and wait for a couple of updates on some needs the Pastor has heard about and then possibly replenish the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Another topic that was discussed was the possibility of collaborating with other groups/committees for future events. One possible way for this to work would be for one group to handle the meal and another to handle the event sales or activities. We will need to approach other groups first to gauge interest and also be sure to determine where the proceeds will go before the event.

Bobbi has several plastic storage totes. After the meeting, some of the NOW Team will stay to sort and put away the remaining items from the Advent Festival.

Public Suppers

The first of the monthly public suppers at the church will be the Italian Supper on Saturday, Jan. 18th.

Bobbi shared the sign-up sheet (with reminder cards) for volunteers to provide food and help work the Italian Supper. The poster will also be up in the Narthex. The donated items need to be dropped off at the church by 10 am on Friday, Jan. 17.

Meals at Homeless Shelter

In addition, the church has also committed to partnering with Judson and Colleen to provide a meal to the homeless shelter two nights a month. Bobbi asked if the NOW Team would be willing to help with the meals for the homeless shelter by providing the dessert. She was unsure of the exact dates in upcoming months, but did say to plan on up to 50 people. This first meal is this Friday, but everything is already planned and taken care of. The next meal will be on Friday, Jan. 24. She was unsure of the meal plans, but we brainstormed preparing a simple cake. We should prepare the desserts in disposable pans. The NOW Team agreed to provide the dessert for the Jan. 24 meal, but no further dates were discussed.

Updates

The odd month half of our group has coffee fellowship this Sunday, Jan. 12.

Ruthann gave an update on the Food Pantry. The freezers are full! Word got out about the need and the community responded. There was a large order from Catholic Charities and many other donations.

Penpal letters will be coming this Friday. We also discussed sending a Valentine's care package to Brooke. Denise told Melonie the penpals were very grateful for their Christmas packages. We are also grateful to Denise for the helpful suggestions about what to get them. Melonie said she will be working with Denise to plan a Spring Penpal Gathering.

Regarding the visitor bags, a draft of the brochure has been sent to Pastor Rich. Pending his approval, Bobbi would like to get 20 bags assembled and ready to go. She asked for volunteers to help her do that. Alaina volunteered.

The Greeter Program has been reinstated. Gwen Ellinwood has arranged the volunteers and there have been two meetings of the group. A set of guidelines was created for each of the greeters and one week reminder calls will be going out.

Additional Business

Bobbi shared that next month's public supper will be on Valentine's Day. They are planning a more formal event which will be by reservation only, with wait staff and a special meal.

A short list of topics for our next meeting included:

- Please bring any items for Brooke's Valentine's care package with you to the next meeting.
- Discussion of the possibility of doing our own auction event like the one from Alaska we participated in last year.

Closing Prayer - Melonie

Our next regular meeting will be February 5 at 10 am. *(NOTE: MEETING WILL BE ON FEB 12TH)*

Alaina Pethick, Secretary

Worship Committee Minutes

January 3, 2025

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

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

Devotions were presented by Richard Clark with his most meaningful message about letting God into our lives and honestly letting God transform us.

Minutes from the December 2024 meeting were approved as published.

Old Business:

- Bobbi reported on receiving positive feedback on the Advent bulletin covers as well as on the Advent devotional booklet and calendar.
- Bobbi thanked Diana, Diane, and Vivian Bell for helping her in arranging the Christmas plants in front of the altar and Communion rails. Bobbi was pleased with the response from congregants in supplying the plants, and encouraged everyone to take their plants home at the December 29th service.
- The Christmas Eve service was not as well attended as in recent years, which was disappointing. However, the service was a beautiful and very meaningful service for all who attended.
- Judson took the batteries and bulbs out of the candles used on Christmas Eve so they can be stored for next year.
- Bobbi reported that she has prepared a short Greeter guidelines document to distribute this Sunday. She will remind the usher coordinators that the greeters will remain at their station by the sanctuary door for five to ten minutes after the service begins so that latecomers will be greeted. She also stressed the importance of getting the names of first-time visitors.
- With all that is going on this month, the Mission Project will begin again in February.
- Bob Locke's funeral service will be held here at the church on Saturday, January 4th. There will be no reception following the service and the interment will be a private one to be held on Monday, January 6th.
- January/February Sundays:
 - Jan. 5 – Epiphany Sunday
 - Jan. 12 – Baptism of the Lord
 - Jan. 19 – Human Relations Day (special offering); Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. with the sermon revolving around him.
 - Feb. 9 – Scouting Sunday (Dave Belyea and scouts will be invited to attend)
- Bobbi reported getting some positive feedback on our new electronic sign. She has talked to Jud about keeping the corner clear of snow so that the sign will be visible during the winter months. She also asked that anyone having suggestions for information to be posted on the sign should contact her directly.

New Business:

- Bobbi thanked Diane for helping her in putting the Advent decorations away last Sunday. Ruthann and Cheryl did put the Christmas tree and new wreaths away. Judson had taken most of the decorations down so that Bobbi and Diane could put them away.

- Bobbi announced that monthly public suppers will be held to help with the operating expenses of the church. The first one will be held on Saturday, January 18th, from 4:30pm to 6:00pm. Bobbi and Jud will hold a meeting following coffee fellowship on Sunday, January 5th, to talk with volunteers on getting ready for the supper. She encouraged all of us to attend!
- A very special supper will be held on February 14th to celebrate Valentine's Day. We were informed that this one will be a very special one!! 😊
- Starting the week of February 2nd, Bobbi's working hours will change to Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9am – 2pm to accommodate her working for the AARP Tax-Aide until April. This change will not affect our meeting dates during those months.
- Margaret Cyr shared her concerns pertaining to the upkeep of our pipe organ. The organ needs to be tuned by a professional and suggested that a committee be formed to coordinate the maintaining of our organ properly. She also reminded us that Richard and Susan Clark had purchased the chimes that have not been used since Susan played the organ. Work needs to be done to make the use of the chimes easier to access. Margaret told us that she planned on giving a letter of resignation to SPRC soon. Bobbi suggested that Margaret notify the SPRC about the expected date of her leaving so that the committee can begin actively looking for a new organist, choir director, and handbell choir director. Pastor Rich invited Margaret to attend the SPRC meeting next week so that she can share her concerns with them. Margaret plans to play the organ on the 1st & 2nd Sundays of January, February and March but not in April.
- Margaret has been our very dedicated organist and choir director since 1986 and will be difficult to replace. We are most grateful for her dedication, expertise, and love that she has devoted to us at Gray Memorial all these years. She will be sorely missed!
- Pastor Rich shared that he will have Confirmation classes later in January – Aurora Barnum will be confirmed at the conclusion of that class. Others from the congregation, members and non-members would be invited to attend the class. He feels that the material covered in this class would suit those wishing to becoming members of the church.

The next meeting will be held on February 7th at 9:30am.

Diana Locke volunteered to offer devotions.

Diane Fitzpatrick, Secretary

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY 2025!!!

Sunday	02	10:00am	Worship; Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany; Groundhog Day!
Tuesday	04	1:00pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting
Wednesday	05	12:00pm	Wesley Covenant Group
		2:00pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	06	9:00am	Aroostook Cluster Meeting via Zoom
Friday	07	10:00am	<u>RESERVATION DEADLINE FOR VALENTINE'S DAY PUBLIC DINNER</u>
Saturday	08	11:00am	Confirmation Class

Sunday	09	10:00am	Worship; Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany; Scouting Sunday
Monday	10	11:30am	"Gray Gals" Pot-Luck Luncheon (all women are welcome!); date change!!!!
Tuesday	11	6:00pm	Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Board Meeting at Pantry
Wednesday	12	10:00am	NOW Committee Meeting
		12:00pm	Wesley Covenant Group
		2:00pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	13	1:00pm	SPRC Meeting
Friday	14	4:30-6pm	Valentine's Day Public Dinner (RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!)



Saturday	15	11:00am	Confirmation Class
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Sunday	16	10:00am	Worship; Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
Monday	17	<u>FEDERAL HOLIDAY - PRESIDENTS' DAY - CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED</u>	
Tuesday	18	1:00pm	Trustees Meeting
Wednesday	19	12:00pm	Wesley Covenant Group
Thursday	20	1:00pm	Church Council Meeting
Friday	21	10:00am	<u>DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWSLETTER INPUT</u>
Saturday	22	8:00am	UMM Breakfast & Meeting
		11:00am	Confirmation Class

Sunday	23	10:00am	Worship; Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
Wednesday	26	12:00pm	Wesley Covenant Group

Please note: Church office hours beginning Monday, February 3rd, are 9am-2pm Monday/Wednesday/Friday. These hours will continue until Wednesday, April 16th.