Being Easter People All Year Long - May 1, 2025

Happy Easter! I pray each of you have had an opportunity to enjoy Resurrection Sunday in a profound way! We've now begun the Season of "Eastertide" which spans fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. This season represents the creation of the early Christian Church - When God the Father, brought His Son Jesus Christ back to life, and then sent us an Advocate, the Holy Spirit. John 3:16 sums it up: "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, so whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

The challenge now for all believers, is to strive boldly to live out and to witness to our faith in the Resurrection story - to live like we are the "Easter People" God made us to be. Yes indeed, as the famous hymn says, "We've a message to give to the nations, that the Lord who reigneth above, has sent us his Son to save us, and show us that God is love (UMH 569).



In his recent Easter message, our New England Conference's Bishop, Thomas Bickerton referenced an article by Lauren Jackson in The New York Times titled "Religion's Role, Revisited," which points to something deeply resonant in today's culture: people are longing to believe in something—even when that something feels distant or elusive. This longing is not new. But in an age marked by division, distrust, and disillusionment, the need for a living, breathing faith has perhaps never been more urgent. Read the entire letter at "www.neumc.org."

As Christians, we are called to be Easter People—not just on Easter Sunday, but every day. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is not just a seasonal celebration. It's the core of our identity, the fuel of our faith, and the anchor of our hope. To be Easter People means to live out the truth of the empty tomb each day—with love, grace, humility, and courage. Romans 6:4 reminds us, "Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." This newness is not momentary. It's a call to renewal every morning.

Being Easter People in a world full of brokenness means embodying Christ's presence wherever we go. It means stepping into hard conversations with kindness, meeting despair with compassion, and confronting injustice with the love of Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:20 says, "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us." We are God's representatives, offering hope in a world that often can't see it.

As Lauren Jackson's article highlights, people are searching. Some of the questions we must ask ourselves in these chaotic times are, "How am I doing? - "Am I or someone I love still searching for something?" - "How can I discover what my hurting neighbors are searching for?" People you know and love may not always walk through church doors, but many are walking through life with questions only the gospel can answer. At the end of the day Saints, especially if the Lord has touched your life; if you've got a story to tell - you've got to pass that on to someone who needs to hear it. As Easter People we are people of action, people of witness, people who carry Resurrection Light into every corner of darkness. The Lord has empowered us to be living testimonies of the Gospel, bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to everybody.

Let's not confine the power of the Resurrection to a single Sunday. Let it shape our lives, our churches, our world, our communities, and our families. Today's culture skews towards being chaotic and divisive. There's never been a better time for you to be the bridge that helps bring people together. Every day is a new opportunity to show the world that hope lives—because Jesus lives.

Yours Anew in Christ's Service, **Pastor Rich Rego** - Gray Memorial UMC, Caribou, Maine



The Caribou Clock

Publisher - Gray Memorial United Methodist Church 2 Prospect Street, P. O. Box 69 Caribou ME 04736

E-mail: bessiegraymemorial@outlook.com

Date: May 2025

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

Greetings from the Church Office!

April was an extremely busy month as we celebrated the Confirmation of Aurora Barnum on Sunday, April 13th (Palm Sunday) and then hosted daily noon-time services during Holy Week. We thoroughly enjoyed the guest preachers (Father Tony Korir, Isaias Lopez, Pastor Mark Kalata and Ellen Cleaves). Our NOW Committee provided refreshments after each service, which gave everyone an opportunity to enjoy some fellowship. On Easter Sunday, we had a wonderful Sunrise Service, breakfast and then an Easter Egg hunt before our regular 10:00am service. We celebrated the music ministry of Margaret Cyr, who has retired and will soon move down state to be closer to family. We will all miss her!

May will also be a busy month for us as we prepare to celebrate the ministry of Pastor Rich and his wife Karen as they get ready to retire and move away in June. We will share information on those events as time gets closer.

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

(Intil next month....

Bobbi Pelletier Church Office Administrator



Mar 30th & April Prayer Requests

<u>Prayer Concerns</u>: Dale, Lu & Debbie Sharp, Leland Frost, Ivan Shaw, Jeff Franklin, Sylvia Akeley, Dean & Diana Rauch, Del Ramey, Paul Pelletier, Debbie Tardy, Jean Hodgkins, James Stuart, Linda Cyr, Rodney Nichols, Kristine Brantley, Robin Stuart, Richard Carde, Bruce Fitzpatrick, Diane Fitzpatrick, David DeMerchant, Debbie Pringnitz, those in the Armed Forces, Angela Bellamy, Allison Davidson, Barnum Family, Eddie Ouellette, Peter Doody, Katherine Noyes, Betty Spencer, Annette Pelletier, Jamison Page, Michelle Adams, Deb Pringnitz, Vicki Clyburn

<u>Deaths</u>: Family of Vernon Thompson; Family of Linda Cyr

<u>Other</u>: Photography class and their teacher Sandy Pethick; Kathy Panaro's new great-grandson Logan Daniel; pastors and their families who are moving this year; praise for Steve's daughter's church in Kenya-two babies were dedicated during Easter service

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

REMINDERS

DATE	<u>Greeter</u>	Organist/Pianist	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Counter</u>	Coffee Fellowship
May 04	Debbie Nichols	Hymnal CDs	Richard Clark	Ruthann Weeks	SPRC
May 11	Richard Clark	Mary Lou Bown	Cheryl Martin	Elsie Doody	NOW Committee
May 18	Gwen Ellinwood	Mary Lou Brown	Diane Fitzpatrick	Elsie Doody	UMM
May 25	Duska Franklin	Judi Greenier	Cheryl Martin	Elsie Doody	Worship Committee

Usher Coordinator for May ~ Roy Alden Communion Stewardess for May ~ Diane Fitzpatrick Communion Bread for May ~ Ruthann Weeks

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

Sherman, Grace – Please add! Here is her information: Address – 102 Dyer St., Presque Isle ME 04769; Phone: (207) 762-0868; email – gsherman3220@gmail.com

* * May Birthdays & Anniversaries * *

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

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



- 2 Jeannette Belyea
- 5 Danna Bouchard, Erika Carlson
- 6 Brenda Curtis
- 7 Rich Rego
- 8 Judson Drake
- 9 Peggy Nichols
- 14 Gwen Barnum
- 16 Linda Pangburn

- 17 Vincent Bell, Lu Sharp
- 19 Annette Staples
- 20 Meagan Irving
- 21 Debbie Nichols, Glen Warner
- 22 Gary Doody
- 28 Richard Clark
- 29 Mary Lou Brown, Douglas Lombard



20 Mary & Ed Ouellette

24 Gail & Bruce Hagelstein

27 Annette & Craig Staples

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.



Worship Attendance and General Fund Offerings:

<u>Date</u>	In-Person Attendance	*On-Line Attendance	+ Operating Fund Offering
Mar 23	48	27	\$2,079.00
Mar 30	53	34	\$6,488.00
Apr 06	31	29	\$5,763.00
Apr 13	60	21	\$4,811.60
Apr 20	98	38	\$2,523.58
Apr 27	51	(will report next month)	\$2,217.00

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

"Growing in Faith" Capital Campaign Account: Balance reported in last month's Newsletter was \$33,159.48. Since then, we received interest of \$1.46 and paid no expenses. Our balance as of April 29,2025 is \$33,160.94 (of that amount, the "furnace replacement donation funds" that remain are \$5,424.27).



The Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry is in need of the following items: Any type of pasta, peanut butter, jelly, marshmallow fluff and breakfast cereals. Donations may be brought to the church on Sunday and placed in the marked box in the Narthex OR

Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 9am to 2pm. 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.

^{*} 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.



Gray Memorial UMC has an account at the Bennett Drive Redemption Center. When you bring your bottles/cans to the center, you may designate the proceeds to go the church's account! If you are not comfortable bringing them yourselves, you may bring them to the church and we will take them to the Redemption Center.

We received \$42.30 in donations for April, so our proceeds are now \$1,199.75! Thank you for your support of this project! Just a reminder that these monies are used to cover operating expenses.

Give Us a Hand

Giving continues to be important for our ministries that are continuing and adapting. Your ongoing tithes and offerings will make it both possible to maintain our ministries.

There are currently three ways to make your contributions to GMUMC:

- Send checks by mail to Gray Memorial United Methodist Church, PO Box 69, Caribou, ME 04736. Include your offering envelope if you have one.
- By EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) via VANCO--several people have already chosen this method for recurring gifts. If you are interested in this method, please contact Shirley Bowman (493-1039), to set up an EFT.
- By Vanco Mobile, an app provided by VANCO. You can download on an Apple or android phone. This method supports both recurring and one-time gifts. For more information, contact Shirley Bowman.

All VANCO methods include a nominal service fee for the church. Many people choose the options provided by VANCO for convenience and, for the electronic options, to ensure their gifts are always regularly given. Because of regular giving, research shows churches receive more funds overall using these methods. Contact Shirley Bowman for more information on giving options.

Here are the links for our May Sunday Worship Services at 10:00am:

May 4 - https://youtube.com/live/seSz22XBJB4

May 11 - https://youtube.com/live/osjIV7qt-mw

May 18 - https://youtube.com/live/8Q6zmJ6Saz4

May 25 https://youtube.com/live/Os2PRZgi2MQ

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

The following insert was included with the Easter Sunday bulletin:



Easter Plants

~ <u>In Loving Memory Of</u> ~



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

By: Bruce & Diane Fitzpatrick

† Emily Stuart † By: The family † Susan Clark; Harold & Katrina Clark †

By: Richard Clark

† Marjorie Wright, Linda Haefke, Richard McDowell †

By: Bobbi Pelletier

† Warden Muller †

† Sharon Ramey †

By: Pastor Rich & Karen Rego

By: Del Ramey

† Paul & Lindsey McLauchlan, Fred & Marjorie Bell, George Theriault †

By: Mary & Todd Theriault

† McGary & Green Families †

† Pat Dobson; Arthur Harmon †

By: Deb Nichols

By: Colleen Harmon

† Doris & James Jeffery; Robert Cyr †

By: Margaret Cyr



Easter Plants

~ <u>In Loving Honor Of</u> ~



† My Son, Grandchilden and Great-Grandchilden †

By: Bobbi Pelletier

UPCOMING EVENTS:



Gray Memorial UMC is participating in Caribou's City-Wide Yard Sale on Friday and Saturday, May 16th and 17th (not Sunday)! The hours are 8am to 5pm on both days. We will accept donations in the following categories: Antiques, ATV/snowmobile, Bicycles, Books, Building Materials, CD's/Records/Tapes, Exercise Equipment, Furniture, Miscellaneous and Sporting Goods. ABSOLUTELY NO CLOTHING! All donated items must be in good shape and clean. If your donations do not sell, we hope you will come to retrieve them. There will also be food available......

Please contact Roy Alden if you require pick-up of your donations. His phone number is 762-0905. There will be announcements made during the Sunday Worship services that will give additional information regarding this event.

All proceeds will go towards Pastor Rich and Karen's move.

The NOW Committee will sponsor this year's "Spring Fling" on Friday and Saturday, May 16th and 17th during the Caribou City-Wide Yard Sale. We will accept donations of new or "gently used" garden items such as tools, pottery, statues, etc. We will also accept donations of plants and seedlings and hope to have a number of plants from our own Memorial Garden to sell! We plan to serve a soup lunch on Saturday from 11am to 1pm.

All proceeds will go towards special NOW Committee projects.



PICTURES FROM OUR WORSHIP SERVICES:





Sunday, March 23rd – Pastor Rich showed the children a "growing tree" during the Children's Lesson"!



Pastor Rich sat down during his message time on Sunday, March 23rd!





Sunday, March 30th – Aroostook Cluster "Pulpit Exchange" Sunday! Pastor Joyce Kang from the Mars Hill and Hodgdon UMCs share a story during the "Children's Lesson" time and then led the children in playing "Jesus Loves Me" on handbells!



Sunday, March 30th: Pulpit Exchange Sunday – Pastor Joyce Kang from the Mars Hill and Hodgdon UMCs led our service. We took this group picture of those who attended this service. (picture taken by Melonie Carlson from the balcony)





Sunday, April 6 – Diane Fitzpatrick had the children sit on the steps for the "Children's Lesson" and she showed them a variety of different hats. First – Erika's hat from "Angel Flight" and then Gwen wore a party hat!



Hazel is wearing a floppy hat that could be worn while gardening!



Diane is holding a crown of thorns.



Diane explained that Jesus wore a crown of thorns similar to this one.





Sunday, April 13 - Margaret Cyr accompanied Aurora Barnum as she played "Here I Am, Lord" on her flute.



Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday and Confirmation of Aurora Barnum Aurora offered the Opening Prayer

The following pictures were taken during the Confirmation Segment of the Service.

The members of Aurora's confirmation class participated.





Roy Alden

Aurora's parents: Alaina Pethick & Will Barnum



Cheryl Martin



Mary Theriault

Dahhia Nighala

Debbie Nichols



Jay Bullard



Pastor Rich





Diane Fitzpatrick presented Aurora with a lovely purple prayer shawl that had a cross knitted into it, in honor of her Confirmation.

Pictures from Easter Sunday:



Sunrise Service Attendees!



The sun did peak through the trees during the service!

Photos taken during the 10:00am Worship Service:





The altar adorned with Easter Plants!

CELEBRATING THE MUSIC MINISTRY OF MARGARET CYR:



Margaret Cyr & Senior Choir



Diane Fitzpatrick presenting a prayer shawl to Margaret



Roy Alden presenting a framed Holub print of the church to Margaret



Cheryl Martin presenting a gift from the Senior Choir to Margaret



Judi Greenier plays "May You Always Have a Song" as the choir sings it to Margaret

Special Cake and Refreshments after Worship Service honoring Margaret Cyr!





MARGARET WAS OUR ORGANIST AND CHOIR DIRECTOR SINCE 1986!!! WE WILL MISS HER!



April Church Council Minutes April 17, 2025

Members Present: Roy Alden (chair), Diane Fitzpatrick, Pastor Rich Rego, Melonie Carlson, Cheryl Martin, Shirley Bowman, Bobbi Pelletier, Mary Lou Brown, Debbie Barnes, David DeMerchant

The meeting was opened at 2:00pm by Roy Alden. An opening prayer was offered by Pastor Rich Rego.

Roy's opening discussion question was on our spiritual and personal gifts and how we use them to make a difference in the life of the church. Many members shared how others in the group have special gifts that they share to enhance the worship experience and personal relationships within the church family. Pastor Rich suggested that we develop a list of people in our church who have these and other gifts to offer in service to our church. This list could then be shared with Pastor Ben Dagget, our incoming pastor, to help him become acquainted with members and the gifts they can share.

Review of Financial Statements:

- Shirley reported that the total offerings received for the month of March was \$22,293.83.
- Bobbi reported that after beginning the month of March with a negative balance, we were able to recoup and have an ending balance of \$2,032.98. She also reported that two months of Mission Shares had been paid, so we are only one month behind. Bobbi also reported that the Memorial Funds account has undesignated monies still in it. The Trustees manage this account as well as the use of the Capital Campaign Funds, which are to be used for the structure and safety of the church. The church's checking account balance for the year thus far is \$32,041.74.

Committee Reports:

- Dave DeMerchant reported for the Trustees that Roy and Jud will be moving Pastor Rich and Karen on a tentative date of June 1st.
- Melonie reported that Aurora Barnum, our newly Confirmed church member, will become a member of the NOW Team! The NOW Team and the Education Committee (using the "Youth Account" special funds) will be sponsoring Aurora and Gwen to enable them to attend Camp Mechuwana this summer. The team is also continuing their sponsorship for summer programs at the Caribou Recreation and Wellness Center. The NOW Committee will participate in the City-Wide Yard Sale on May 16th and 17th from 9:00am to 3:00pm with their garden-themed "Spring Fling". Donations may be brought in the mornings that week. All plants obtained from our Memorial Garden or donated will be sold outside. We will serve a lunch on Saturday from 11:00am to 1:00pm.
- Cheryl reported for the Education Committee that an Easter Egg Hunt for adults and children will be held following the Easter Sunrise Breakfast. The group will meet at 1:00pm on Saturday, April 19th, to hide the eggs. She also highlighted the Safer Sanctuary Workshop that will be held on April 30th, from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. There will be a few people from Grant Memorial joining us for the workshop. The Red Cross training has been tabled until August.
- Debbie Barnes reported for the SPRC that the Transition Team training session will be held via Zoom on April 26th, from 9:00am until 12:00 noon. An additional workshop will be held on May 7th.

Other Business:

- Bobbi presented copies of the new Building Use Form that she has developed for inhouse use. Debbie moved to accept the form, Mary Lou seconded, and all voted to accept.
- Roy mentioned the yard sale to be held on May 16th and 17th from 8:00am to 5:00pm. The UMM will be helping with this sale that will be held outside the church. Items for the sale may be dropped off on Thursday, May 15th, or on Friday morning, May 16th. This sale will NOT include clothing. Any leftovers will be donated to Catholic Charities or taken to the dump. All proceed from this sale will be designated towards the Pastor's Moving Fund.

Pastor's Time:

- Pastor Rich addressed the problem of doors being left open and unlocked after some committee meetings at the church. There is a need for transparency between the Security Team and the congregation in order to prevent mishaps.
- He also expressed the need for signage around the church to prevent people from begging for
 money when meetings or events are happening. There have been several instances when
 people have been approached and asked for money. Pastor Rich stressed that money should
 not be given to these people, as giving them money encourages them to come back and ask for
 more.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 22, at 1:00pm.

Diane Fitzpatrick Secretary

Committee/Group Reports provided during April:

Aroostook Cluster of the United Methodist Churches Meeting Minutes for April 3, 2025

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

Victor welcomed everyone and led us in a time of devotions sharing from a book "Make Your Bed". The author gave the commencement speech in Texas and shared the ten lessons he sealed in Navy Seal Training. "Start off each day by making your bed." Victor paralleled this with Jesus call to "be faithful in the small things" and shared his early morning ritual of beginning with prayer. Victor led us in prayer.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the March 6th meeting were presented. Motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Carolyn and seconded by Paula. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Paula reported that there has been no activity on our account this month. Our current checkbook balance remains at \$453.10. Motion to approve the report was made by Sara and seconded by Sue B. Motion carried unanimously. Thank you, Paula.

2025 St. Apollonia Festival of Trees

Victor asked if anyone had additional ideas or updates for our tree theme "Fruits of the Spirit." Marie Bagley (Mapleton UMC) has offered to sew whatever is needed.

Pulpit Exchange

Victor asked that we each mention our experiences of Pulpit Exchange Sunday. All shared their experiences of being welcomed by the respective congregations. Victor asked if there were ideas for next year.

Aldersgate Day Service

Saturday, May 24th – 6:00pm Aldersgate Day Service at Grant Memorial UMC. Tracy had sent the service outline to everyone and filled in some of the parts during our meeting. Bishop Bickerton is not available to be a part of the service on May 24th. After some discussion, it was decided that the offering should honor John Wesley's work in some manner. After discussion, it was decided that given the cuts to so many food programs that we would support Good Shepherd Food Distribution. Sue B. obtained the template from Marge Yeager and Melissa at Grant Memorial has graciously agreed to print the Discipleship Recognition Certificates. If Susan Laurence is available to direct a pickup choir, all those who wish to sing could gather at 5:30. Mary will play if Susan is not available. Grant will provide beverages and others are asked to bring some light refreshments.

Spring Gathering

The Cluster members and their families are invited to meet at Grant Memorial UMC at 2:00pm on June 8th. We will share a potluck meal as we bid Godspeed to Tracy and Rich on their respective retirements. Sue B. will issue an invitation to DS Rick McKinley as he will be at Lidstone that morning.

Sharing Mission and Outreach Ideas

Discussion around our churches serving Homeless Services of Aroostook (Homeless Shelter and Meal Train). Victor shared how his churches are sharing their faith stories (Faithbook) – life review interview. Victor will share the blog so others can see how this works.

New Business

Victor shared his concern responding to the Council of Bishops letter and wondered if we should send a similar letter of concern to our state representatives as we continue to pray for our country.

Melonie voiced concern that any letter should be as upbeat as possible and acknowledge how difficult this time is for all. Several shared their concerns on this. John will work on a letter that can be used going forward – one that can be sent from multiple persons to representatives. He will email a draft to us for feedback.

Welcoming new pastors

We will discuss a possible breakfast (or other) meeting sometime in September to welcome any new clergy, Nicholas Perez (Grant Memorial UMC), Benjamin Daggett (Gray Memorial UMC) and Joyce Kang (new appointee to Stetson Memorial UMC in Patten).

Joys and concerns

After sharing joys and concerns, Mary led us in prayer.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 8th via Zoom at 9:00am (Please note NOT May 1st)

Devotions for next meeting: Paula

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.
Respectfully submitted,
Sue Brown
Sue Brown
Secretary
Aroostook Cluster Council of United Methodist Churches

Education Committee Minutes March 14, 2025

The meeting came to order with the following members present: Cheryl Martin (chair), Pastor Rich, Diane Fitzpatrick, Melonie Carlson, Roy Alden, Mary Theriault, and Alaina Pethick.

Colleen Harmon was in attendance to share Safer Sanctuary information with us.

Cheryl opened the meeting with a prayer.

Roy made a motion to accept the minutes of the February meeting with Melonie seconding it.

New Business

Sunday School Program

- There is still a need for more volunteers to teach. Pastor Rich will address this during Sunday's service and some committee members have offered to approach some members of the congregation to see if they might be interested. The goal is to have two adults responsible each Sunday. We currently have four volunteers. (Diane F., Mary T., Roy A. and Alaina P.)
- Once we have volunteers lined up there will be a schedule created similar to those used for the liturgists and counters.
- The Sunday school curriculum will be set up with 30 minute lessons. An effort will be made to connect
 these lessons with the church services. Cheryl and Melonie volunteered to be a sub committee to
 explore materials that we have available, research the lectionary for guidance, and check with
 Lidstone for extra resources that they might share.

Safer Sanctuary Training

- Colleen has ordered the materials for this training.
- Colleen shared the article: Why Safe Sanctuaries Education with us. (information attached)
- The training will be held Wednesday, April 30th from 5:00-8:00. Attendees will bring their own sandwiches.
- It was recommended that others in the congregation should be invited to attend the training also.

❖ Church Insurance Requirements

- Colleen informed us that Sunday school volunteers will need to receive First Aid training offered by the Red Cross as well as CPR and AED training offered by Cary Medical Center.
- Colleen will check available dates when these trainings can take place. They will be split into two day sessions.

◆ Other

- It was asked if anyone was willing to do a Children's Moment and Diane volunteered to do April 6th.
- Diane shared the children's bulletins that were provided by the Worship Committee. They are filled with activities that the children are enjoying at the beginning of the church service.

Our next meeting will be held on April 11th at 9:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Theriault

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:

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From Financial Secretary:	
The following is the total church offering	for March:
Regular Offering	\$19,889.58
Loose Offering	145.00
Subtotal-Regular Offering	\$20,034.58
Reimbursements:	
Education - Discovery	6.00
Subtotal-Reimbursements	\$6.00
Special Funds for Church Use:	
Prayer Shawl	113.00
Coffee Fellowship	82.25
Valentine's Dinner	50.00
Community Support	205.00
BBQ Repair	1,000.00
St. Patrick's Day Dinner	752.00
Church Depiction	25.00
Security	10.00
Subtotal Funds for Church Use	\$2,237.25
Special Funds Not for Church Use:	
UMCOR Sunday	16.00
Grand Total:	\$22,293.83

From Treasurer:

Beginning Balance	(\$1,749.31)
2025 Operating income	20,034.58
Valentine' Day Dinner	50.00
St. Patrick's Day Dinner	752.00
Church Replica	25.00

2025 Operating Budget in SF	4,774.66	
Interest	1.58	
Less EFT fee	(35.05)	VANCO fees (EFT deposits)
Less Expenses	(21,820.48)	
Ending Balance	\$2,032.98	

Total "Special Funds for Church Use", which included many lines for various donations, total \$30,071.05. The "Special Funds NOT for Church Use" total \$45.08. Details are available in complete report packages available at the church.

The Capital Account Money is as follows as of March 31st: Previous Balance - \$34,076.14; Deposits - \$1.46; Expenses of \$916.66 (AVM Electric – electrical upgrades); Current Balance - \$33,160.94. (Includes funds earmarked for Furnace Fund - \$5,397.33; Emergency Fund Donations = \$21,104.23).

Expenditures for March 2025: Programs:

Worship	120.05
Office	260.84
NOW Team	50.00
Programs Sub-Total	\$ 438.89
Trustee Expenses:	
Church Utilities	\$2,034.09
Parsonage Utilities	502.67
Telephone/Internet	223.95
Property Insurance	1,707.43
Snow Removal	980.00
Maintenance/Cleaning	237.78
Technology	16.9 <u>5</u>
Trustee Sub-Total	\$5,702.87

Staff-Parish Relations Expenses:

Pastor's Salary	\$4,420.00
Social Security	500.00
Health Insurance	1,788.83
Pastor's Total Comp	\$6,708.83
Treasurer	166.67
Church Office Administrator	833.33
Custodian	1,625.00
Maine PFML Deductions	(38.98)
Total Other Salaries	\$2,586.02

Other Expenses:

Guest & Substitute Staff	\$250.00
Pastor Reimbursements	112.00
FICA	281.41
Workman's Comp	133.28
Total Other Expenses	\$776.69

Sub-Total SPRC Expenses \$10,071.54

New England Conference:

Ministerial Support (MS)	\$4,774.66
Pastor Pension Benefit	832.52
NEC Total	\$ 5,607.18
Grand Total Expenses	\$21,820.48

Weekly Average Needed for 2025: \$4,282.62 (52 Sundays)

Mission Shares = \$2,387.33/mo. As of EOM March, 1 months behind - \$2,387.33. (2 months of Mission Shares paid in March)

^{* \$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 March 31, 2025, on-line report shows ending value = \$26,715.36.

Note: Dead River bills for church also include charges for propane deliveries. Balances as of March 31: Church = \$1,418.57; Parsonage = (\$668.26)

2025 YTD REVIEW - March 2025

Annual Budget \$222,696.29 Required Monthly \$18,558.02 Required Weekly \$4,282.62

March:

Target = \$55,674.07; Beginning Operating Fund Balance (Jan only) - \$924.51; Operating Fund Income from F/S YTD - \$48,814.16; Special Funds Used for Operating Fund Expenses YTD = \$9,518.74; Total Expenses YTD - \$57,155.28; Unpaid Mission Shares = \$2,387.33.

An aggregate of in-person and virtual attendance shows monthly average of 80 and 82 YTD.

NOW Team Meeting - April 2, 2025 Nurture - Outreach - Witness

In attendance: Kathy Panaro, Karen Rego, Melonie Carlson, Sandy Pethick, Alaina Pethick, Bobbi Pelletier, Cheryl Martin Absent: Rhonda Cyr, Pastor Rich Rego, Ruthann Weeks

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

Opening Prayer – Sandy (Ruthann will do the opening prayer next month.)

Acceptance of Minutes - Sandy moved to accept the minutes as written. Karen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report -

Cheryl provided the following report.

Treasurer's Report April 1, 2025

Beginning Balance	\$2640.24
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3-12-25 Bobbi Pelletier / tablecloths for (\$151.78)

Fellowship Hall (Check #541)

3-20-25 Pastor's Discretionary Fund (\$300.00)

(Check #542)

3-30-25 William Barnum for Camp (\$500.00)

Mechuwana (Check #543)

Balance 4-1-25 \$1508.46

Gift Card Update 4-11-25

1 restaurant gift card \$50.00

Bobbi made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as written. Kathy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Church Calendar

1) Spring Fling / Citywide Yard Sale

Roy Alden told Melonie that Judd and the men's club are willing to assist with the yard sale. The registration deadline is April 26. We will have the event on May 16 & 17 (Friday & Saturday). The NOW Team will be responsible for the garden/plant sale and the lunch on Saturday. We will ask the men's club to sell hot dogs for lunch on Friday. Several people have already mentioned they had items/plants to bring in. We had a sign-up for volunteers to bring in food for the lunch:

Chicken Corn Chowder - Karen

Lentil and Ham Soup - Melonie

Chili - Sandy

Everyone will bring a dessert

There will also be the popcorn machine and bottles of water

We will check with Pastor Rich and Sandy to see who made the flyer last year so that they can update it. Update: Sandy does not have it. Pastor Rich was checking. It will need to include the yard sale and hours of 9-3, with lunch on Saturday from 11-1. The flyer will go into the Sunday bulletins on April 27.

The proceeds from the garden sale and lunch will go to the NOW Team. We need to find out what the plan is for the proceeds from the yard sale, perhaps to help with the Rego's moving expenses. Update: It has been confirmed the proceeds will go towards moving expenses.

Items can be dropped off the week of May 12 from 9am-noon. We will not be accepting clothing donations. The plants can be stored on the parsonage porch. We will need to coordinate with Roy about where yard sale items will be stored. Karen said that later in the week there will be some space in the parsonage garage. Cheryl's garage is also available.

2) Photography Class

Sandy showed us the registration flyer she created. It will be going in the bulletins starting April 6. The sign up deadline is April 20 (Easter Sunday).

3) Holy Week

Bobbi shared a copy of the sign up for volunteers to work and bring food during Holy Week. There will be a free will offering, which will go toward the musicians throughout the week and refreshments.

4) Food Pantry Spaghetti Supper

The annual Spaghetti Supper is April 26. Bobbi is seeking volunteers to help setup at noon. She was also looking for NOW Team members to volunteer to work during the meal.

5) Caribou Rec Center Youth Program

Melonie had confirmed with the Rec. Center that we can continue to use our logo with a \$500 donation. Bobbi made a motion to donate \$500 to the Caribou Rec. Center for the youth program sponsorship. Karen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Other

There is no update on the Prayer Shawl Pie Sale. It is still quite early.

Updates

- Food Pantry
 - o This month is our church's month to volunteer at the Food Pantry. See Ruthann if interested in helping.
- Pen Pals
 - Denise is looking at dates for a Spring Pen Pal Gathering. One of our pen pals is the Student of the Month this month!
 Denise is also looking into including 8th graders next year since they will also be in the high school and possibly extending the program to lower graders as well.

Additional Business

Bobbi asked about the information from the Willow AK UMC about their state themed silent auction. Melonie was told there was information on their facebook page. They used the nationwide UMC directory and sent a letter to a couple churches from each state. If a church responded, they chose a new church the following year. We are interested in doing our event like this in the fall. Further discussion was tabled until after the Spring Fling.

There are a few other small projects that need to be addressed soon. One is cleaning out the old tablecloths and linens (before the yard sale). The name badges also need to be updated before our new pastor arrives. Bobbi is seeking volunteers from the church to help update these. There is also the Rada Cutlery inventory in the church office. Bobbi is looking for someone to manage that. The proceeds from those sales go to the UMW. Cheryl said she would consider it. Kathy was also willing to help.

The NOW Team has coffee fellowship on April 13 (Palm Sunday).

Closing Prayer - Melonie

Our next regular meeting will be May 7 at 10 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Gray Memorial United Methodist Church United Methodist Men's Club Meeting

March 22, 2025 draft

1. Call to order and opening prayer:

- o Members gathered at 0830 at kitchen/fellowship hall for coffee and donuts.
- Opening Prayer was led by Richard Clark.
- Meeting was called to order in the Choir Room at 0900 by Pres. Neal Genz. Members present were: Neal Genz, Richard Clark, Jay Bullard, Dave Belyea, Dave DeMerchant, Bruce Fitzpatrick, Roy Alden, Conrad Walton, and Pastor Richard Rego. We also had one guest – Scott Walton our guest speaker.
- **2. Program**: Today's program was an excellent and timely presentation by Cary Medical Center Orthopedics Dept. PA Scott Walton. He gave us a good review of the different types and causes of arthritis as well as self-care activities to help deal with the symptoms; and medical interventions/treatments that may be used for advanced progression. The group all expressed an interest in a follow-up presentation by Scott!
- **3. Prelate's message:** Richard gave another very timely presentation based on readings from Isiah, Lamentations, and Matthew. We have a tendency to keep God at arms' length rather than accepting his call meditate and wait for the answer!

4. Old Business:

- Secretary's Report: copies of our last meeting minutes Jan. 20, 2025 draft were emailed and passed out. Accepted as presented. (Note the February meeting was cancelled due to bad weather)
- President Neal asked again for help with procuring programs and ideas for future meetings.
- Picnic table project no update.

5. New Business:

Treasurer's Report: Checkbook balance as of Feb 28, 2025: \$ 1059.02.

o Roy proposed we participate in the City-Wide Garage sale scheduled for May 16 – 17 to supplement the plant sale planned by the NOW team. Voted to do. Roy will head it up.

6. Other Business:

 President Neal thanked the members for their continued support of the coffee fellowship and noted our dates for the coming year are: May 18; Jul 20; Sept 21 and Nov 16.
 Next meeting: Apr. 26, 2025

David Belyea Secretary

Worship Committee Minutes April 4, 2025

Members present: Bobbi Pelletier (chair), Pastor Rich Rego, Cheryl Martin, Gwen Ellinwood, Diane Fitzpatrick, Richard Clark, Diana Locke

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

Devotions were offered by Gwen with two lovely readings from her book called <u>Know God's Plans for Your Life</u>. These readings stressed that our requests to God should be made with thanksgiving and then leave it to Him and His will.

The minutes from the March meeting were accepted as published.

Old Business:

- Bobbi reported that she has received positive comments on Joyce Kang's service on March 30, which was Pulpit Exchange Sunday. It was such a joy to see and hear the children playing handbells. Bobbi asked if we might consider purchasing children's handbells for our church. She will put a classified ad on the conference newsletter to see if any churches have a set available for us to make use of.
- The palm crosses for Palm Sunday have arrived. The palm fronds and altar arrangement have been ordered and will be picked up on Saturday afternoon, April 12th. Diana and Diane offered to pass out the palm crosses to folks as the arrive for the service on April 13th.
- Palm Sunday will also be Aurora Barnum's Confirmation Day. Bobbi displayed the necklace and token that were purchased for Aurora, and Cheryl volunteered to present them to Aurora during the service. Pastor Rich outlined the flow of the Confirmation service.
- Holy Week noontime services will be held on April 14 through 18. All speakers have been scheduled as follows:

Monday: Father Tony Korir, Parish of the Precious Blood, Caribou

Tuesday: Pastor Mark Kalata, High Street Baptist Church, Caribou

Wednesday: Isaias Lopez, 7th Day Adventist Church, Caribou

Thursday: Pastor Ellen Cleaves (retired), Gray Memorial UMC, Caribou

Friday: Pastor Rich Rego, Gray Memorial UMC, Caribou

The NOW Committee will be providing refreshments for each day of the week.

- Good Friday services will be held at noon and at 6:00pm on April 18th. Pastor Rich will arrange for people to strip the altar during each service and also reset between services.
- Easter Sunday, April 20th: A Sunrise Service will be held at the Caribou Nursing Home at 6:00am followed by a breakfast at the church at 7:00am. Cheryl reported that the Education Committee will provide an Easter Egg Hunt for children and adults following the breakfast (over 200 eggs throughout the church!)
- The regular Easter Service will be held at 10:00am. This will also be Margaret Cyr's last Sunday with us as Organist and Choir Director. Plans to honor her were outlined. There will be video clips, testimonies, presentation of gifts, and a special song to Margaret from the choir. There will be a special cake, coffee, and punch served in the church library following the service.
- The totes that Bobbi ordered to be given to the women on Mother's Day have arrived. On Father's Day, the men will be invited to select a gift from a large inventory that we have on hand.

New Business:

- Mary Lou asked Bobbi if the choir members could sing once in a while on Sundays after Margaret leaves.
- Judi Greenier has agreed to play the piano one Sunday each month. Mary Lou has also agreed to play and we will use the CDs to fill in when needed.
- Bobbi reported that Lukas Lagasse has been approached by both Roy Alden and her to inquire about the possibility of him becoming our pianist and choir director. He has not given an answer to the proposal yet, as he is currently the pianist at the Gustav Adolf Lutheran Church in New Sweden. The information was given to Debbie Barnes to introduce at the next SPRC meeting.
- On Friday and Saturday, May 16 and 17, our church will be participating in the City-Wide Yard Sale. Roy Alden will organize the yard sale project and the NOW Committee will hold a garden themed sale. Announcements will be forthcoming on what the congregation can donate for either event.
- May 18th will be Heritage Sunday when we will honor our new 50-year members. They are Catherine Brewer, Peter and Marjie Edgecomb, and Julie Ordway.
- An Aldersgate Service will be held at Grant Memorial UMC on May 24th at 6:00pm.

Pastor's Time:

- Pastor Rich mentioned the need for extra security both inside and outside the church during special events. He also mentioned that panhandlers have been approaching folks as they leave the church after services or during events. He stressed that we should not be giving them money and will address this from the pulpit.
- Pastor Rich mentioned that the conference has a proposal to form District Ministry Teams.
- Pastor Rich plans to leave in early June and hopes to be able to talk with our incoming pastor about our church before he leaves. This will happen if the SPRC gives him permission to do so.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 5th, at 9:30am. Diana Locke volunteered to offer devotions.

Diane Fitzpatrick, Secretary

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MAY 2025!!!

Friday	02	7:00pm	Caribou Choral Society's Spring Concert at CPAC
Saturday	03	7:00pm	Caribou Choral Society's Spring Concert at Grant Memorial UMC, PI
Sunday	04	10:00am	Worship; Third Sunday of Easter; Native American Ministries Sunday (special offering)
Monday	05	9:30am	Worship Committee Meeting (note date change)
		1:00pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting
		1;00pm	"Snap and Shoot: Photography Basics" Class led by Sandy Pethick (1 of 8)
Wednesday	07	12:00pm	Wesley Covenant Group
		6:00pm	Transition Training via Zoom (registration required on conference website)
Thursday	08	9:00am	Aroostook Cluster Meeting via Zoom (note date change)
		1:00pm	SPRC Meeting
Friday	09	9:30am	Education Committee Meeting
Sunday	 11	10:00am	Worship; Fourth Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day; Prayer Shawl Dedication
, Monday	12	11:30am	"Gray Gals" Pot-Luck Luncheon
•		1:00pm	"Snap and Shoot: Photography Basics" Class led by Sandy Pethick (2 of 8)
Tuesday	13	6:00pm	Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Board Meeting at Pantry
Wednesday	14	12:00pm	Wesley Covenant Group
Friday	16	8am-5pm	Yard Sale (proceeds go towards Pastor Rego's moving fund)
		9am-3pm	NOW Committee's "Spring Fling" Event
Saturday	17	8am-5pm	Yard Sale (proceeds go towards Pastor Rego's moving fund)
		9am-3pm	NOW Committee's "Spring Fling" Event (lunch served 11am-1pm)
Sunday	18	10:00am	Worship; Fifth Sunday of Easter; Heritage Sunday
Monday	19	1:00pm	"Snap and Shoot: Photography Basics" Class led by Sandy Pethick (3 of 8)
Tuesday	20	1:00pm	Trustees Meeting
Wednesday	21	12:00pm	Wesley Covenant Group
Thursday	22	10:00am	DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWSLETTER INPUT
		1:00pm	Church Council Meeting
Saturday	24	8:00am	UMM Breakfast & Meeting
		6:00pm	Aroostook Cluster's Aldersgate Service at Grant Memorial UMC
Sunday	25	10:00am	Worship; Sixth Sunday of Easter
Monday	26	FEDERAL HOL	IDAY - MEMORIAL DAY - CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED
Wednesday	28	12:00pm	Wesley Covenant Group
Friday	30	5:00pm	Reception following Graveside Service for Rodric Johnson