

A Time for Every Season:

Pastoral Transitions at Gray Memorial UMC- June 1, 2025

Since July of 2022, it has been my honor and joy to serve as pastor of Gray Memorial United Methodist Church in Caribou. As Karen and I (along with our dog Thurston) prepare to retire from this season of ministry, our hearts are filled with gratitude - for the warmth of your welcome, the sincerity of your faith, and the ways we have served and grown together in Christ. We give thanks to God for every prayer we shared together, every outreach offered, every meal we shared, every song we sang, and every time we had gathered in Christ's holy name.

As Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us, *"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven."* Our season here has been richly blessed, and now a new chapter is unfolding. Karen and I will be relocating to Bath, Maine, to be closer to our family. We carry with us cherished memories and deep appreciation for this church family that has walked beside us in faith and service.



We are also filled with hope and excitement as Gray Memorial prepares to welcome its new pastor, Ben Daggett, from New Hampshire. On July 1, Pastor Ben will bring with him a heart for ministry and music, and a strong connection to Aroostook County, where he has family in Presque Isle. We trust that God has called him *"for such a time as this"* (Esther 4:14). We're confident that Ben's leadership will be a blessing to this congregation and a conduit for God's grace and Christ's healing in and beyond this community.

Please keep both transitions in your prayers - ours as we step into retirement, and Pastor Ben's as he steps into his new call. This is an exciting time for both reflection and anticipation. We ask that you pray for all of our families and faith communities as we each embrace what God has next for us. Continue to encourage one another, support Pastor Ben, respect healthy boundaries as you get to know one another, and trust that the same Spirit who has led us this far will continue to guide Gray Memorial UMC into a faithful and fruitful future.

As Paul wrote to the Philippians, *"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel... being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 1:3–6).

Support your new pastor with open hearts, fervent prayers, and continued faith. And know that wherever we go, we give thanks to God for our time with you. - and will be praying for you, always. *"For surely I know the **plans** I have for **you**, says the Lord, **plans** for **your** welfare and not for harm, **to** give **you** a future with hope."* Jeremiah 29:11

With love and gratitude,
Pastor Rich & Karen Rego



The Caribou Clock

Publisher - Gray Memorial United Methodist Church
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Date: June 2025

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

Greetings from the Church Office!

We will celebrate the ministry of Pastor Rich and his wife Karen on Saturday, June 14th from 1:00pm to 3:00pm in our church's Fellowship Hall, as Pastor Rich is retiring and moving to southern Maine. We will definitely miss both of them very much.

If you would like to attend the Farewell Reception for Pastor Rich and Karen on Saturday, June 14th, please contact the church office by Monday, June 9th.

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 Tuesday, June 24th!!*

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier
Church Office Administrator



May Prayer Requests

Prayer Concerns: Jeanette Belyea, Dale, Lu & Debbie Sharp, Leland Frost, Ivan Shaw, Jeff Franklin, Sylvia Akeley, Dean & Diana Rauch, James Stuart, Rodney Nichols, Kristine Brantley, Robin Stuart, Richard Carde, Deb Pringnitz, Allison Davidson, Colleen Harmon, Ann - having surgery; Mark Miller, Rhonda Cyr's brothers (prayers they find peace after their mother's passing), Bill Thomas, George Ferland, Julia Sherman, William Autrey, Judson Drake, Ruth Ross, Mark Miller, Gabriel Ben-Tepherith, Peter Doody, Karen Partridge, Pastor Kevin & Archbishop Minor (Nairobi, Kenya) - various losses in their families; Reginald and Alan Hanson (loss of wife and mother), Karen Partridge, Tom Creeley, Masha Ben-Tepherith, Lois Barnes

Deaths: Family of Richard Belyea and his sister Ruth; Family of Allen Cook

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>
Jun 01	Judi Greenier	Mary Lou Brown	Kim Vandenburg	Mary Ouellette	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Jun 08	Roberta Walton	Judi Greenier	Deborah Nichols	Mary Ouellette	NOW Committee
Jun 15	Charlotte Willey	Judi Greenier	Mary Ouellette	Diane Fitzpatrick	Church Council
Jun 22	Dave Belyea	Mary Lou Brown	Bobbi Pelletier	Cheryl Martin	Worship Committee
Jun 29	Sally Carde	Mary Lou Brown	Deb Pringnitz	Cheryl Martin	Need volunteers!!!!

Usher Coordinator for June ~ Cheryl Martin
Communion Stewardess for June ~ Beth Alden
Communion Bread for June ~ Del Ramey

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

Keller, Bobby – please add! Here is his information: Address – 11 Vaughn Street, Caribou ME 04736; Cell phone number is (207) 762-0810 and email address is KellerBobby364@gmail.com

Jones, Steven – please add! Here is his information: Address – 166 Sweden Street, Apt. #12, Caribou ME 04736; Cell phone number is (207) 478-4035 and email address is s8w8j53@gmail.com

* * June Birthdays & Anniversaries * *

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

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



1 Wendy Bossie
2 Craig Staples
3 Dylan Bouchard
10 Corey Felix
13 Charlotte Hise

16 Kim (Miller) Vandenburg
19 Dale Dee
23 Andrew Keller
26 Dave Belyea
28 Carole Doody



10 Emily & Doug Hise
20 Diana & Dean Rauch
21 Diane & Bruce Fitzpatrick

25 Debbie & Bob Jordan
28 Carole & Steven Doody, Duska & Jeff Franklin
29 Kristi & Vince Bell

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

<u>Worship Attendance and General Fund Offerings:</u>			
<u>Date</u>	<u>In-Person Attendance</u>	<u>*On-Line Attendance</u>	<u>+ Operating Fund Offering</u>
Apr 27	51	35	\$2,217.00
May 04	56	11	\$5,811.00
May 11	51	25	\$1,564.00
May 18	46	30	\$1,914.58
May 25	57	(will report next month)	\$1,813.00

+ 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 \$33,160.94. Since then, we received interest of \$1.38 and paid no expenses. Our balance as of May 28, 2025 is \$33,162.32 (of that amount, the "furnace replacement donation funds" that remain are \$5,424.27).

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The Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry is in need of the following items:
Any type of pasta, jelly, 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 through Friday from 9am to 12pm. 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.

We received \$45.80 in donations for May, so our proceeds are now \$1,245.55! 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 June Sunday Worship Services at 10:00am:

June 1 - <https://youtube.com/live/Qx5fHOgL9Ao>

June 8 - <https://youtube.com/live/85zNCScyGh8>

June 15 - <https://youtube.com/live/IPU2trjqwYw>

June 22 - <https://youtube.com/live/-es6YjXF5MI>

June 29 - <https://youtube.com/live/Lf4bdk9aniA>

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).

UPCOMING EVENTS:



The Hospitality Team (part of the Transition Team) is hosting a "Farewell Celebration" for Pastor Rich and Karen Rego on Saturday, June 14th from 1pm to 3pm. We will hold this event in the church's Fellowship Hall and we invite everyone to come and enjoy the celebration of the Rego's ministry here at Gray Memorial UMC for the past 3 years!

The Prayer Shawl Ministry and the NOW Committee are sponsoring a Pie and Bake Sale on **Thursday, July 3rd from 10am to 2pm (or sold out!)** All proceeds will go towards these ministries! Both groups are looking for congregation members to make pies and other baked goods to help make this event a success! Please speak with Diane Fitzpatrick or Melonie Carlson.



PICTURES FROM OUR WORSHIP SERVICES (photos by Melonie Carlson):



Pastor Rich with the children during the "Children's Lesson" on Sunday, May 11th



Pastor Rich during the “Children’s Lesson” on May 11th.



Pastor Rich presented Peter and Marjie Edgecomb with 50-Year Member Certificates on Sunday, May 18th (Heritage Day).



May 18th - Erika Carlson joined Mary Lou Brown at the table during “Children’s Lesson”



Mary Lou Brown



Pastor Rich and Mary Lou Brown during Mary Lou's "Message" Time on May 18th



Pastor Rich presenting the "Discipleship Award" to Bobbi Pelletier on May 25th



Pastor Rich with the children during the Children's Lesson on Sunday, May 25th

OTHER KODAK MOMENTS! (Photos taken by Neal Genz)



Conrad Walton trying to stay warm during Yard Sale!



Pastor Rich near one of our building signs.



Pictures from the Aldersgate Service at Grant Memorial UMC on Saturday, May 14th
(pictures taken by Melonie Carlson)



Church Council Minutes May 22, 2025

Members Present: Roy Alden (chair), Pastor Rich Rego, Bobbi Pelletier, Diane Fitzpatrick, Cheryl Martin, Debbie Barnes, Judi Greenier, Shirley Bowman

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

Open Discussion Question: What can we do as Council members to help our new pastor before he arrives on July 1st? Roy suggested that we could write a report on our personal gifts that would be of help to Pastor Ben. He also suggested that we create a video of a gathering of chair persons of the various committees in the church. The people participating could wear their name badges so that Pastor Ben could put faces with names as we talk about our church and the important things we would like to have him know before arriving in Caribou. This would enable him to have contact people in place should he have questions. Roy asked Debbie to ask the Transition Team if this is something that we could do. Bobbi offered to call Pastor Ben to ask him what he would like to see from us that would help him as he begins his ministry with us.

Financial Statements:

- Shirley reported that the total amount of funds received in the month of April was \$17,542.88.

- Bobbi reported on where the church is financially. We are not receiving enough contributions each month to cover our expenses and may be nearly \$8,000.00 behind by the end of May. She suggested that she could use some of the \$15,225.35 that was paid ahead for the 2025 operating budget to meet expenses. Our ending balance in the checkbook in April was negative \$1,078.20. Bobbi will be talking with Dead River Oil Company next week to get us put on a contract for monthly fuel expenses. Only two months of our Mission Shares have been paid thus far this year, so we are two months behind. These issues will be approached from a stewardship perspective from the pulpit.

Security Team:

Pastor Rich mentioned that we have been asking for a monthly report from the Security Team for three months and have not received any information. He suggested that a representative report to the Church Council every month. Roy will ask Colleen Harmon to be at next month's meeting to report on the Safer Sanctuary and Red Cross trainings that need to be held, as the Security Team is responsible for scheduling the trainings. Roy suggested that the ushers be included in the training.

Transition Process:

Debbie Barnes will schedule a meeting of one member from each of the subcommittees to assess where we are in the transition process. The meeting will be held on May 28th with a time to be determined.

Other Business:

Bobbi reported that she has talked with a representative from the Andover Organ Company. The company does not recommend putting our organ "to sleep". It was suggested that someone come in about one hour a week to play the organ and make sure they "push the pedals" to keep the organ functioning. Judi suggested setting up a schedule for volunteers who would like to help out. Debbie suggested that we get from the company a list of things to do as well as not to do to the organ.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 19th, at 1:00pm.
Diane Fitzpatrick, Secretary

Committee/Group Reports provided during May:

Aroostook Cluster of the United Methodist Churches Meeting Minutes for May 8, 2025

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

Victor welcomed everyone. Paula led us in a time of devotions about kindness. She read from "God's Treasury of Virtues" - a devotion based on Colossians 3:12-13. Kindness refers to loving behavior that is meek and gentle – an attitude that stands firm without forcing others to their knees. Kindness is an act of steadfast love and the persistent effort of the Lord to reach all of God's people. A fruit of the spirit, kindness is ours to develop – be as merciful to others as the Lord has been to us. Paula closed with prayer.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the April 3rd meeting were presented. Motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Sue M. 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 Sue M. and seconded by Sara. Motion carried unanimously. Thank you, Paula.

2025 St. Apollonia Festival of Trees

Sue B. asked for a volunteer to coordinate decorations for the tree. Melonie will bring an idea to the next meeting for our perusal. Sue B. will order fabric for Marie Bagley to use to make a tree skirt.

Pulpit Exchange

Tabled until next January.

Aldersgate Day Service

Saturday, May 24th – 6:00pm Aldersgate Day Service at Grant Memorial UMC. Tracy has emailed the full service, bulletin, poster and bulletin inserts to us – thank you, Tracy! Reminder that the offering will go to the Good Shepherd Food Bank. Discipleship Recognition Certificates will be printed by Melissa at Grant Memorial. Susan Laurence will direct a pickup choir for all those who wish to sing (gather for practice at 5:30pm). The hymn will be “To God be the Glory.” There will also be a children’s pick-up handbell choir for any child who would like to participate (practicing at 5:30). Grant will provide beverages and others are asked to bring some light refreshments. Discussion about how to better identify James (John Wesley) and Chris (Charles Wesley) for the congregation.

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 farewell to Tracy and Rich on their respective retirements. Sue B. invited DS Rick McKinley as he will be at Lidstone that morning – his response was affirmative.

Sharing Mission and Outreach Ideas

Sara shared that Stetson prepares clothing each month to go to Threads of Hope in Monticello. Discussion around Homeless Services of Aroostook and the ongoing concerns about how to continue to fund this important work.

New Business

John will continue to prepare a draft letter and will share that with us that we can use to reach out to our representatives about our concerns that are ongoing in our nation/state. John will send Sue B. a signature page to print out and bring to the Aldersgate Day service for signatures (to use as a master).

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, September 4th via Zoom at 9:00am

Devotions for next meeting: Sue B.

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Brown

Secretary

Aroostook Cluster Council of United Methodist

Education Committee Minutes

April 11, 2025

The meeting came to order with the following members present: Cheryl Martin (chair), Diane Fitzpatrick, Melonie Carlson, Debbie Nichols, Alaina Pethick, and Mary Theriault. Colleen Harmon was in attendance to update us on the Safer Sanctuary training as well as the Red Cross training.

Cheryl opened the meeting with a prayer.

After a couple of name changes, Melonie made a motion to accept the minutes of the March meeting with Debbie seconding it.

New Business

❖ Easter Sunday Plans

- The Sunrise Service will be held at 6:00 followed by breakfast and an Easter egg hunt. A special thanks was given to Colleen for donating the eggs, Beth for cleaning them, and Erika's help (as well as others) in filling them. There are going to be over 200 eggs hidden throughout the church! A time was set for Saturday at 1:00 for those who would like to help hide them. What fun the children are going to have!

❖ Sunday School Program

- There is still a need for more volunteers to teach. The goal is to have two adults responsible each Sunday. We currently have four volunteers. (Diane F., Mary T., Roy A. and Alaina P.) We are in hopes that once things have been put into place we will have others come forward.

❖ Upcoming Trainings ~ Safer Sanctuary and Red Cross (CPR, AED, and Bloodborne Pathogens)

- The Safer Sanctuary training will be held Wednesday, April 30th from 5:00-8:00. Attendees will bring their own sandwiches.
- It was again voiced that others in the congregation should be invited to attend the training also.
- The cost of the Red Cross training that includes CPR, AED, and Bloodborne Pathogens is \$2,636.60 for 16 people with \$147.60 for each additional person.
- An online class will be taken individually with a test at the conclusion and then a hands-on training will be attended. The CPR and AED certification will be good for two years with the Bloodborne Pathogen portion good for one.
- Some tentative dates were decided upon for Colleen to check on with Carol at the Red Cross in regards to availability.

❖ Other

- Volunteers to do the Children's Moments are still needed. Cheryl volunteered to do April 27th.
- It was mentioned that at some point it might be nice to have a community gathering on either a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. It would consist of a non-denominational time of games and snacks. This is in hopes of bringing others into the church as well as fostering community connection.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Theriault

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:

From Financial Secretary:

The following is the total church offering for April:

Regular Offering	\$14,438.58
<u>Loose Offering</u>	<u>394.00</u>
Subtotal-Regular Offering	\$14,832.58

Other Sources Operating Fund:

<u>Birthday</u>	<u>87.00</u>
Total Regular Offerings	\$14,919.58

Reimbursements:

<u>Education - Discovery</u>	<u>5.00</u>
Subtotal-Reimbursements	\$5.00

Special Funds for Church Use:

Coffee Fellowship	47.00
Bottle Redemption	42.30
Community Support	570.00
Holub Print	350.00
Photography Class	30.00
Rego Moving Expenses	680.00
Holy Week Services	619.00
<u>Discernment Books</u>	<u>80.00</u>
Subtotal Funds for Church Use	\$2,418.30

Special Funds Not for Church Use:

Ecumenical Food Pantry	200.00
Grand Total:	\$17,542.88

From Treasurer:

Beginning Balance	\$2,032.98	
2025 Operating income	14,919.58	
Bottle Redemption	42.30	
Interest	1.45	
Less EFT fee	(35.05)	VANCO fees (EFT deposits)
<u>Less Expenses</u>	<u>(18,039.46)</u>	
Ending Balance	(\$1,078.20)	

Total "Special Funds for Church Use", which included many lines for various donations, total \$31,669.19. The "Special Funds NOT for Church Use" total \$245.08. 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 May 1, 2025, on-line report shows ending value = \$26,776.71.

The Capital Account Money is as follows as of April 30: Previous Balance - \$33,160.94; Deposits - \$1.38; No expenses; Current Balance - \$33,162.32. (Includes funds earmarked for Furnace Fund - \$5,397.33; Emergency Fund Donations = \$21,104.23).

Expenditures for April 2025:

Programs:

Education	95.87
Worship	300.00
Office	200.23
<u>NOW Team</u>	<u>50.00</u>
Programs Sub-Total	\$ 646.10

Trustee Expenses:

Church Utilities	\$2,559.04
Parsonage Utilities	1,073.59
Telephone/Internet	215.00
Property Insurance	1,707.43

Snow Removal/Mowing	720.00
Maintenance/Cleaning	249.19
Technology	16.95
Trustee Sub-Total	\$6,541.20

Staff-Parish Relations Expenses:

Pastor's Salary	\$4,420.00
Health Insurance	1,788.83
Pastor's Total Comp	\$6,208.83
Choir Director	400.00
Treasurer	166.67
Church Office Administrator	833.33
Custodian	1,625.00
Maine PFML Deductions	72.96
Total Other Salaries	\$3,097.96

Other Expenses:

Guest & Substitute Staff	\$250.00
Delegates to Annual Conf.	326.00
FICA	70.21
Workman's Comp	66.64
Total Other Expenses	\$712.85

Sub-Total SPRC Expenses \$10,019.64

New England Conference:

Pastor Pension Benefit	832.52
NEC Total	\$ 832.52
Grand Total Expenses	\$18,039.46

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

Mission Shares = \$2,387.33/mo. As of EOM April, 2 months behind - \$4,774.66. (2 months of Mission Shares paid in March)

Note: Dead River bills for church also include charges for propane deliveries. Balances as of April 30: Church = \$676.96; Parsonage = (\$572.70)

2025 YTD REVIEW – March 2025

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

April:

Target = \$74,232.10; Beginning Operating Fund Balance (Jan only) - \$924.51; Operating Fund Income from F/S YTD - \$63,646.74; Special Funds Used for Operating Fund Expenses YTD = \$9,561.04; Total Expenses YTD - \$75,194.74; Unpaid Mission Shares = \$4,774.66.

An aggregate of in-person and virtual attendance shows monthly average of 91 and 84 YTD.

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NOW Team Meeting - May 7, 2025
Nurture - Outreach - Witness

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

Absent: Rhonda Cyr, Pastor Rich Rego

Meeting was called to order at 10:03 am.

Opening Prayer - Ruthann

(Bobbi will do the opening prayer next month.)

Acceptance of Minutes - Bobbi moved to accept the minutes as updated via email. Ruthann seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report -

Cheryl provided the following report.

Treasurer's Report May 6, 2025

Beginning Balance		\$1508.46
3-31-25	Credit Interest	\$0.41
4-2-25	Rec Center Summer Youth Program (Check #544)	(\$500.00)
4-30-25	Credit Interest	\$0.26
Balance 5-6-25		\$1009.13

Gift Card Update 5-6-25

1 restaurant gift card \$50.00

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

Bobbi also shared that the Holy Week donations from the luncheons totaled \$629. \$100 was given to the musicians for the week. And another \$50 donation was given to the NOW Team on Sunday. So, we will have a \$579 deposit on next month's report.

Spring Fling / Citywide Yard Sale

There are no plants coming from the Memorial Garden this year since it was cleared out so thoroughly last year. Melonie has quite a few indoor and outdoor plants she plans to bring in. Several others from the church are also bringing some that we know of.

We discussed when plants and items should be dropped off. Non-plant items can go downstairs anytime next week. We will prep the fellowship hall after service on Sunday. Plants can go on the parsonage porch or under the portico on Thursday. After the sale, any remaining plants will be donated to the Caribou Library for their annual plant sale.

The bake table will be set up for both days. All donated items need to be packaged and labeled. Any cookies will be packaged in bags of 3 with our tags with Cookie Booth info. Regarding the lunch on Saturday, we revisited the list of who is bringing food in. Ruth Ross has also volunteered to bring in some rolls. Ruthann and Alaina will pick up the items for a salad also. For dessert, everyone on the NOW Team will bring in a cake.

Next we had a sign-up for who will be doing what duties on each day. Sandy will be doing the Robin's Eggs discount/freebies again. There will be 12 each day. There were several inaccuracies on one version of the flyer. Karen will talk with Pastor Rich and get them corrected. We will have an event set-up time on Thursday at 11 am.

Updates

- Pen Pals
 - Due to a handful of scheduling conflicts, there will not be a Penpal Gathering this spring. Melonie is going to check with Denise to see if any of the penpals are graduating this year. She is also going to meet with Grant UMC to discuss starting a penpal program there.
- Food Pantry
 - The Spaghetti Supper went very well. The proceeds were just under \$6000 and the event was well attended. The pantry also received \$3214 from the County Federal Credit Union. Next month the USDA delivery is supposed to be just dried plums, dried figs and canned corn, so there will be a greater need to purchase food items and receive donations.

- Photo Class
 - Sandy shared that the first class went well. There are 4 people in the class and it is off to a good start.
- Coffee Fellowship
 - The NOW Team will have coffee fellowship on May 11.

Additional Business

Bobbi received a request for the NOW Team to host a funeral reception for Roderic Johnson on Friday, May 30 at 5:00 pm. They would like a hot meal for 20-25 people. A sign-up was passed around for food items. Setup will be Friday May 30 at 3 pm, before the reception.

The Halfway Home Pet Rescue had requested the NOW Team host a board meeting in April/May, but our calendar was too full. They did not give any information regarding a later date.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has decided to have their Pie Sale on July 3 from 10-2. This item will be added to the agenda for next month.

Closing Prayer - Melonie

Our next regular meeting will be June 4 at 10 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am.

Alaina Pethick, Secretary

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

April 26, 2025 draft

1. Call to order and opening prayer:

- Members gathered at 0830 at kitchen/fellowship hall for scrambled eggs, ham, hash browns, toast, fruit, and coffee.
- Opening Prayer was led by Richard Clark.
- Meeting was called to order 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 Del Ramey. We also had three guests – Mary Lou Brown; and Bruce and Gail Hagelstein our guest speakers.

2. Program: Today's program was an excellent presentation by Bruce and Gail Hagelstein on their trip of a lifetime to Antarctica! In addition to many beautiful photos we learned of many special features of the continent not well known. The travel and clothing/safety provisions were extraordinary.

3. Prelate's message: Richard gave another exceptional message around scriptures from 1 Corinthians 13 - vs. 11,12; and John 3 – vs 30. He shared a very personal and spiritual life's journey. Richard also passed out a very comprehensive and thought provoking set of guidelines for writing a spiritual autobiography.

4. Old Business:

- **Secretary's Report:** copies of our last meeting minutes – March 22, 2025 draft were emailed and passed out. Accepted as presented.
- President Neal will ask Scott Walton for continued orthopedic program at our May meetings.
- Picnic table project – Judson has delivered the first table to the memorial garden. The club had voted to pay for the materials for both picnic tables but when asked for how much he did not want to be reimbursed.
- Discussed the City Wide Garage sale May 16 -17. Proceeds are earmarked for the Rego's moving expenses. Roy is lead on this project – 762-0405.

5. New Business:

Treasurer's Report: Checkbook balance as of March 31, 2025: \$ 1059.20.

- Voted to contribute \$250 to Judson and Coleen's community support ministry.
- Discussed contributing to the Rego's moving expenses. Tabled until garage sale and other fund sources are determined.

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: May 24, 2025

David Belyea
Secretary

Worship Committee Minutes

May 5, 2025

Members Present: Bobbi Pelletier (chair), Pastor Rich Rego, Gwen Ellinwood, Claire Hodgkins, Richard Clark, Cheryl Martin, Diane Fitzpatrick

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

Bobbi offered devotions with a lovely reading called “Serving With a Humble Heart”, a nice reminder that leadership requires each of us to serve with a humble heart.

The minutes from the April meeting were reviewed as published. Gwen moved to accept as published, Richard seconded the motion, and all present voted in favor.

Old Business:

- Though not well attended, the 6:00am Sunrise Service at the Nursing Home and the breakfast that followed on Easter Sunday were appreciated by those who attended. The Easter Egg Hunt was enjoyed by all who participated.
- The Holy Week services went well and the attendance varied every day. The receptions following each service were appreciated.
- Margaret Cyr’s last service on Easter Sunday was enjoyed by everyone. Margaret appreciated all the love that was showered upon her that day!
- May 11th is Mother’s Day. Gifts of tote bags will be given to all women attending at the close of the service. Bobbi and Diane volunteered to pass them out.
- Bobbi reported on the Yard Sale and NOW Committee event that will be held on May 16th and 17th. Roy Alden is accepting furniture and other items, except clothing, for the yard sale. The NOW Committee is accepting any garden-themed items, plants, and baked goods. Lunch on Saturday, May 17th, will be served from 11am to 1pm.
- May 18th will be Heritage Sunday. Letters of invitation were sent to the new fifty-year members, including Peter and Marjie Edgecomb, Catherine Brewer, and Julie Ordway. Mary Lou Brown will preach the sermon.

New Business:

- We are still waiting to hear from the SPRC on their attempts to find a full-time pianist and/or choir director. Bobbi reported that she has been in contact with Mari-Jo Hedman who has agreed to play part-time beginning in the fall. Bella Albert has agreed to play during the summer. Mary Lou Brown and Judi Greenier will continue to play on a rotating basis as well.
- June 15th will be Father’s Day. A gift basket will be placed in the Narthex from which the men attending may select a gift as they leave the service.
- Pastor Rich’s last Sunday service will be on June 22nd. A celebration of his ministry with us will be held on June 14th.
- The Memorial Scholarship Application Package is available for any graduating student or those already attending college. The deadline for applications is May 16th. This information will be published in the weekly emails and announced during worship services.
- Bobbi reported that the “Keyboard Edition” of the UMH is in very bad shape after being used for so many years. Elsie Doody has offered to donate her copy to the church. A label will be attached to the front cover that provides this information. Diane offered to send a thank you note to Elsie on behalf of our committee.
- There appears to still be a problem with people exiting the church through the front doors after coffee fellowship and leaving the doors unlocked. Pastor Rich will make an announcement on Sunday mornings asking people to exit by the back door near the church office after coffee fellowship.
- Communion in July will be held on the second Sunday.

Pastor’s Time:

Pastor Rich addressed the need for the Security Team to be more transparent in reporting to the congregation. He is going to recommend to the Trustees that a representative be appointed to report to the congregation on a monthly basis.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, June 6th, at 9:30am.

Diane Fitzpatrick will offer devotions.

Diane Fitzpatrick, Secretary

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JUNE 2025!!!

Sunday	01	10:00am	Worship; Seventh Sunday of Easter; Ascension Sunday
Monday	02	1:00pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting
		1:00pm	"Snap and Shoot: Photography Basics" Class led by Sandy Pethick (4 of 8)
Wednesday	04	10:00am	NOW Committee Meeting
Friday	06	9:30am	Worship Committee Meeting
		11:00am	Ministry Team Meeting (new day/time)

Sunday	08	10:00am	Worship; Pentecost
		2:00pm	Aroostook Cluster Gathering at Grant Memorial UMC
Monday	09	10:30am	"Hospitality Team" Meeting
		11:30am	"Gray Gals" Pot-Luck Luncheon
		1:00pm	"Snap and Shoot: Photography Basics" Class led by Sandy Pethick (5 of 8)
Thursday	12	1:00pm	SPRC Meeting
Friday	13	11:00am	Ministry Team Meeting
Saturday	14	9:00am	Set-up for Farewell Reception
		1:00pm	Pastor Rich & Karen Rego's Farewell Reception in Fellowship Hall

Sunday	15	10:00am	Worship; Father's Day; Trinity Sunday; Peace with Justice Sunday (special offering)
Monday	16	1:00pm	"Snap and Shoot: Photography Basics" Class led by Sandy Pethick (6 of 8)
Tuesday	17	1:00pm	Trustees Meeting
Thursday	19	<u>FEDERAL HOLIDAY - JUNETEENTH - CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED</u>	
		1:00pm	Church Council Meeting
Friday	20		<i>FIRST DAY OF SUMMER</i>
		11:00am	Ministry Team Meeting

Sunday	22	10:00am	Worship; Second Sunday after Pentecost; <i>Pastor Rich's Last Sunday!</i>
Monday	23	1:00pm	"Snap and Shoot: Photography Basics" Class led by Sandy Pethick (7 of 8)
Friday	27	12:00pm	Ministry Team Meeting
Saturday	28	8:00am	UMM Breakfast & Meeting

Sunday	29	10:00am	Worship; Third Sunday after Pentecost; Preaching: <u>Melonie Carlson</u>
Monday	30	1:00pm	"Snap and Shoot: Photography Basics" Class led by Sandy Pethick (Final)
