

## Greetings to the Bessie Gray Memorial United Methodist Church!

July 2025

Grace and peace to you!

As the newly appointed pastor of BGMUMC, I am humbled and blessed to be called to serve with you in Caribou! Even as new beginnings are filled with anticipation and hope, they also come with endings. In the mix of emotions, the melancholy of goodbyes here in New Hampshire, and the promise of a chapter yet to be written with you, I find myself consistently in awe of God's kindness and grace, the Spirit's attention to the smallest details. The Lord's hand is clearly in this transition! From what I have learned of you in my conversations with Pastor Rich and others, I'm inspired to hear of your openness to the Holy Spirit, your desire to lean into the love of Jesus, your passion to learn and grow from him and with one another, and readiness to share that expanse of love with your neighbors. God is already at work in you so powerfully, and it's a gift and honor to be called to walk with you for "such a time as this"!



In short, I very much look forward to learning and growing in Christ, together with you.

In the time since we received news of this reappointment, Pastor Rich has conveyed such love and grace to me, and guidance for the road ahead. I'm humbled to take up this service as he steps into retirement, and he and Karen move to Bath. I have big shoes to fill. Amidst the transitions that ever come our way in this realm, God's steadfast love endures forever. And thank God for that!

It is an added gift that with this move I will be much closer to my family, who live in Presque Isle. Life is ever full of surprises!

I plan to arrive on July 1<sup>st</sup>. In the meantime, I get to pack boxes, dance a bit, and tie up the few remaining loose ends. This weekend I'll be taking part in Beantown Camp, where I'll be learning some new dance steps with Hop to the Beat. I will keep you in prayer and welcome your thoughtful prayers as we prepare to do God's work together.

*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. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you, Jeremiah 29:11-12.*

God's blessing and grace be upon you!

With Gratitude and Love,  
Pastor Benjamin Daggett



# The Caribou Clock

Publisher - Gray Memorial United Methodist Church  
2 Prospect Street, P. O. Box 69  
Caribou ME 04736  
E-mail: [bessiegraymemorial@outlook.com](mailto:bessiegraymemorial@outlook.com)

Date: July 2025

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

Greetings from the Church Office!

We celebrated Pastor Rich and Karen's 3-year ministry here at Gray Memorial UMC on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> and it was a wonderful event! There are quite a few pictures from that afternoon later in this Newsletter. Pastor Rich shared his last Worship Service on Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> and they officially left Caribou the next morning, beginning their retirement in Bath Maine. We pray they enjoy their retirement!

Pastor Ben will arrive in Caribou on Tuesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> and move into the parsonage. He will join us on Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup> for our Worship service and officiate the Communion segment of that service. Our ministry team (Melonie Carlson, Cheryl Martin and Kim Vandenburg) will lead us during Pastor Ben's first service. We look forward to meeting Pastor Ben and encourage everyone to attend and welcome him to Gray Memorial UMC!

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, July 22nd!!*

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier  
Church Office Administrator



## June Prayer Requests

Prayer Concerns: Dale, Lu & Debbie Sharp; Anna Roberts, Leland Frost, Ivan Shaw, Sylvia Akeley, Jeff Franklin, Richard Carde, Whittier Jones, Margaret Cyr, Mark Jones, William Autrey, James Stuart, Rodney Nichols, Kristine Brantley, Robin Stuart, Gary Aiken, Peter Doody, Gabriel Ben-Tepherith, Tom Creeley, Sheila Belyea, Arlene Hathaway, Amelia Baker, Gwen Barnum, Katherine Noyes, Dean & Diana Rauch, Rhonda Cyr's Aunt Jean (lost husband recently) , Loise Mangechi (blood clot in leg), Whittier Jones (breathing problem), Bishop Nolaing (still needs to raise funds so that he can bury his daughter), Joy - Pastor Rich & Karen are safely in Bath ME, our military

Deaths: Family of Tom Olson (passed on Memorial Day); family of Debbie Fontaine (Ruthann Week's cousin); Family of Carmen Marquis; Family of Paul Thompson

Other: Prayers of joy for Kristine Brantley - now cancer free! Steve Jones' daughter Loise, whose husband has turned to dark side; Prayers for Roy Alden who is traveling to be with his son who is doing an adventure canoe race in Texas; prayers of joy for Gwen Ellinwood who is cancer free! Prayers of joy for the birth of Kathy Panaro' new great-granddaughter! Please pray for all veterans. Safe travels for Pastor Ben!

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

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## REMINDERS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Pianist</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Counter</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
Jul 06	Deb Pringnitz	Mary Lou Brown	Del Ramey	Cheryl Martin	Trustees
Jul 13	Conrad Walton	Mary Lou Brown	Kim Vandenburg	Diane Fitzpatrick	NOW Committee
Jul 20	Dave DeMerchant	Judi Greenier	Melonie Carlson	Diane Fitzpatrick	UMM
Jul 27	Gwen Ellinwood	Mary Lou Brown	Aurora Barnum	Mary Ouellette	Worship Committee

Usher Coordinator for July ~ Cheryl Martin  
Communion Stewardess for July ~ Debbie Barnes  
Communion Bread for July ~ Ruth Ross

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

Clyburn, Vicki & Bryant – please add: Here is their information: Address – 108 Erickson Road, Perham ME 04766; Phone number is (207) 768-0660 and email address is [vickiclyburn@gmail.com](mailto:vickiclyburn@gmail.com)

# \* \* July Birthdays & Anniversaries \* \*

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

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



1 Christopher Dare  
3 Tracey Nichols  
5 Anna Roberts (108!), Skip Walters  
13 Bruce Fitzpatrick  
14 Will Barnum, Robbie Irving, Norma Milton  
15 Sue White  
17 Neal Genz, Deanna Whitmore

19 Ginger Buck, Sarah McBreairty  
22 Rhonda Dare  
26 Mary Anderson  
27 Phil McDonough  
29 Gwen Ellinwood  
30 Cindy Morrow



5 Cathy & Skip Walters  
10 Marjie & Peter Edgecomb  
30

23 Betheny & Greg Anderson, Barb & Dale Dee  
29 April & Chad Stallings  
Kathie & Kent Forbes

*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	In-Person Attendance	*On-Line Attendance	+ Operating Fund Offering
May 25	57	20	\$1,813.00
Jun 01	55	25	\$5,139.00
Jun 08	49	20	\$4,037.00
Jun 15	53	28	\$1,360.58
Jun 22	68	34	\$1,936.00 (revised 6/29)
Jun 29	38	(will report next month)	\$1,329.00

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+ 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.

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**"Growing in Faith" Capital Campaign Account:** Balance reported in last month's Newsletter was \$33,162.32. Since then, we received interest of \$1.43 and paid no expenses. Our balance as of June 30<sup>th</sup> is \$33,163.75 (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 \$45.75 in donations for June, so our proceeds are now \$1,291.30! 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 July Sunday Worship Services at 10:00am:

July 6 - [https://youtube.com/live/Tp3C2aSpN\\_g](https://youtube.com/live/Tp3C2aSpN_g)  
July 13 - <https://youtube.com/live/2G8Y8ALyU1c>  
July 20 - <https://youtube.com/live/ghnPCnMbqAg>  
July 27 - <https://youtube.com/live/PPdvWedfs>

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

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Anna Roberts is turning 108 on July 5, 2025! In honor of this milestone, I thought it would be nice for all of you to read the following piece:

Anna Roberts (interview by Margaret Kimball, maybe done in 2015):

A pleasant smile on Anna's face greeted me upon entering the room where she sat. Dressed for the day, she was ready to meet it with enthusiasm. One might think that is impossible at 103, but Anna is not an ordinary woman. As I take a chair near-by, Anna checks her e-mail for messages on her Kindle. When this technology came on the market, she stated, "I didn't want to be left behind. It is a great way to keep in touch with people who live away or in surrounding areas. Comparing it to the manual typewriter in my high school classes, this is exciting to use."

Anna grew up on the family farm with her brother, five years her senior, on the East Presque Isle Road and parents Silas and Mercy Spooner. When it was time to attend school, she rode the school wagon drawn by horses, to the one room schoolhouse in Greenridge, a small hamlet about one mile from the farm. This trek continued for seven grades of her learning. The eighth grade and high school years she came into the town of Caribou and stayed with her Uncle Jerry and Aunt Mabel Smith who lived on High Street and had a daughter named Barbara. Though Barbara was three years younger, they became fast friends in the company of each other.

Compared to the country farm, the Smith house was luxury living with indoor plumbing, electricity, central heating, and a baby grand piano that sat in the parlor. Though the piano added status to the room's appearance, Barbara and Anna were the only two who tinkled the ivories.

Entering the eighth grade found Anna struggling in her studies; they were so different, so advanced in the school system, with changing rooms and teachers with every subject, and not knowing any students. Though it was a challenge Anna was determined to learn and she did.

In 1993, at the age of fifteen, Anna received her diploma. What an accomplishment!

Her first job was working for an attorney, Mr. Hall in Caribou. But this position lasted only a brief time. An opening at an agricultural office in Presque Isle found her traveling the distance of thirteen miles with Floris Gee, who was employed in that town.

A short time later, she received a phone call from Nora Raymond, an acquaintance, asking if she would be interested in a job at the Caribou Town Office?

Anna applied and was hired. She was employed for the next forty-five years as Caribou's bookkeeper and deputy tax collector.

Because the other employees seemed much more experienced, perhaps because he was much younger, Anna felt she would have to prove herself to be capable of her position in being dependable, efficient, with a pleasing personality.

In the ensuing weeks and months, Anna learned to fit in with her co-workers and the job ran smoothly.

The decade of the thirties were depression years at its worst.

At the office Anna saw farmers, business owners and homeowners struggling to pay their property taxes. Many were losing their homes and farms because of no jobs, and no money. It was a time of hardship when the head of households put aside pride, came to town offices and asked for a town order with a money value to purchase food at a local grocery store to feed their families. Other times it would be for wood from the town's stockpile.

Anna continued to live with her Uncle Jerry and Aunt Mabel during the workweek, but returned to the family farm by way of horse and buggy on the weekends.

When cousin Barbara entered high school, Barbara's friends became Anna's friends and together their lives were filled with activities and young men's requests for dates.

Ginn's Pavilion and Paul's Arena were two popular dance clubs frequented by young couples and were located between Fort Fairfield and Presque Isle. On Saturday night, the dance floor would be crowded with couple dancing to the latest hits played by local bands. At Ginn's Pavilion, the large colored light dome about the dance floor circled the swaying couples to the music and gave a romantic touch to the evening.

Picnics on Sunday with friends at near-by lakes were favorite outings. And when the annual county fair came to Presque Isle in early autumn, it was a special event for folks to attend. Anna and Barbara were among the young folks having a grand time riding the Ferris wheel, the bullet and swings. The amusement area was full of laughter and noise, memories being made to recall in later years.

The movie theater was another venue of entertainment for couples. Caribou had two, the Powers Theater and the Rudy Theater which had a balcony. For twenty-five cents, a person could enter the world of drama, comedy, or romance. At the Powers Theater, burgundy velvet drapes opened up to a large screen, and from the projection room above the seated audience, the screen came alive with sound and pictures. For many in attendance, it was a way to forget the worries and the troubles they would encounter upon leaving the theater.

In the mid-thirties, with President Roosevelt's New Deal passed by Congress, funds were allotted to states towns, and cities for infrastructure. Caribou was a recipient of the project, called WPA. It put men to work building bridges, roads, updating utility facilities, installing street lights and laying sidewalks, giving the town some state of prominence. Folks were encouraged that the economy was on an upswing. They had money to spend, and cash registers of businesses were ringing again.

The town office, once located on Sweden Street in the early years of Anna's employment, was moved to High Street, a short distance from where Anna lived, which made going home for lunch convenient. Each work day rain, shine, or snow, she walked the tree-lined street, passing attractive clapboard houses and thinking she would one day have her own house.



In the fall of 1936, Barbara went off to college in Massachusetts. Anna missed her as she had been the catalyst in bringing Anna to bloom to enjoy life at its best.

It was at this time that Anna and eight or ten other young single girls formed a group known as "The Gala Gang". Their night on the town was to be together, to enjoy the evening of dancing, dining out, attending parties and local events. The girls were out for fun and laughter, a fling before becoming serious of what the future held, marriage, home, children; memories they would recall in later years.

From the circle of friends Anna had made, a young man named Prescott Roberts began to date her. She found him kind in nature, polite, and witty; qualities Anna liked. They were friends in the beginning of their dating, just friends before becoming a steady couple.

With the early forties rumblings of war in Europe came to the forefront and the question on everyone's mind was, "Would the US become involved?"

On December 7, 1941 an attack on Pearl Harbor by Japan nearly crippled the entire US navy fleet that was docked there. The attack was broadcast over the airways and the American people were stunned by such a bold strike. Within hours Congress convened and President Roosevelt announced to the nation that we were at war with Japan.

Meanwhile, Germany had invaded and conquered Poland, France, Czechoslovakia and was determined to conquer Europe. An urgent plead came from Winston Churchill to President Roosevelt for help, a plead Roosevelt realized had to be met. The United State would now find itself at war on two battle fronts, one in the South Pacific and the other in Europe.

For the next four years the American people would become united on the home front. All across the US, factories converted to the war effort and operated around the clock supplying planes, tanks, guns, and ammunition needed by the military.

To be continued next month ..... 😊

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

The Prayer Shawl Ministry and the NOW Committee  
are sponsoring a Pie and Bake Sale on

**Thursday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



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Saturday – July 26<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 4pm: "Step-Up to School Penny Sale with a Head-Start for the Holidays" Event Sponsored by the Trustees Guest Services Team;  
Lunch 10am-1pm: Italian Sweet Sausage with fixings.

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



June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Pastor Rich gave novelty sunglasses to three special people – Ruth Ross, Penny Shaw and Steven Jones – during the “Children’s Lesson!”



The children surprised Pastor Rich and Karen, playing “God Be with You till We Meet Again” on handbells, assisted by Alaina Pethick, Melonie Carlson and Debbie Nichols.

Pastor Rich’s Last Sunday at Gray Memorial UMC! The congregation wished he and wife Karen well on their retirement and move to Bath Maine!





OTHER KODAK MOMENTS! (Photos taken by Melonie Carlson and Beth Alden)  
PICTURES TAKEN BEFORE AND DURING THE FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR PASTOR RICH &  
KAREN REGO ON SATURDAY, JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>







This special cake reads:  
"Thank you for the good times and sweet memories that we shared together. Farewell!  
Pastor Rich & Karen"

Various pictures taken during the Rego's Farewell Reception:











Head Table: Karen Rego, Pastor Rich Rego, Pastor Chris Dare, Rhonda Dare



Del Ramey was our Master of Ceremonies  
for the Farewell Reception!





On behalf of the entire congregation, Bobbi Pelletier presented the Regos with a framed John Holub print of the church.



Beth Alden presented a stained-glass quilt that she made, on behalf of the Worship Committee



Melonie Carlson presented a hand drawn picture of the parsonage created by Sandy Pethick, on behalf of the NOW Committee. Thurston appeared in one of the downstairs windows!





Diane Fitzpatrick presented gifts to both Karen and Pastor Rich, on behalf of the Prayer Shawl Ministry.



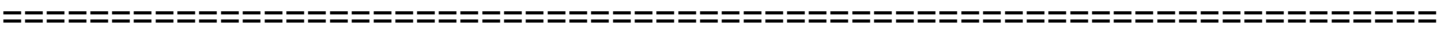
Neal Genz presented a plaque to Pastor Rich on behalf of the United Methodist Men (UMM).



Judi Greenier and Dave DeMerchant presented the Rego's with a beautiful carved rooster, on behalf of the Trustees.



Erika Carlson gave Karen a beautifully colored picture of flowers!







## **Church Council Minutes**

### **June 19, 2025**

**Members Present:** Roy Alden (chair), Bobbi Pelletier, Pastor Rich Rego, Debbie Barnes, Mary Lou Brown, Diane Fitzpatrick, Shirley Bowman, Melonie Carlson, Judi Greenier

The meeting was opened at 1:00pm with a prayer offered by Pastor Rich Rego.

**Open Discussion Question:** How do we recognize God's role in our lives when we face times of changes in our lives that cause stress and anxiety? Many members present indicated that they pray to ask God for guidance, peace, and comfort.

#### **Financial Statements:**

- Shirley reported that the total amount received during the month of May in offerings was \$11,102.58. With the addition of special funds received, the ending total was \$11,878.38.
- Bobbi reported on expenses versus donations. We began the month of May with a negative balance of \$1,078.20 and ended the month with a negative balance of \$6,007.85. Two months of Mission Shares were paid in March, but we will hold off on paying any more until our bills have been paid. Mission Shares amount to \$2,387.33 a month.
- Roy expressed concern that we will come to the point where we will have to cut our budget or expect more giving from the membership.
- Pastor Rich proposed that with the cost of oil and propane going up, the Trustees may consider supplementing oil with solar panels. Another suggestion was that we coordinate the meeting times of the various committees so that the church would be open fewer days of the week, thus reducing the need for heat and lights during the week. Pastor Rich also suggested that Pastor Ben may be agreeable to holding some meetings at the parsonage.
- Bobbi stated that she will be meeting with Spectrum to see about lowering our bill.

#### **Other Business:**

- Pastor Rich complimented the Transition Team on a lovely reception held on June 14<sup>th</sup> for Karen and him.
- Melonie reported that the Cluster is proposing a one-day Vacation Bible School on Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. Time and place are yet to be determined.
- Bobbi suggested that perhaps we could hold our own VBS next summer.
- Gwen and Aurora Barnum will be attending Camp Mechuwana during separate weeks this summer.
- Judi reported on the sound booth demonstration that Will and Alaina held following the worship service on June 15<sup>th</sup>. She said that Jud did a good job constructing the sound booth and that Will and Alaina are doing a fantastic job with the sound system and work so well together! She also thanked Roy for his technical abilities in filling in at the booth. Judi mentioned that Dave Belyea may be

willing to be trained on the workings of the system! Pastor Rich then mentioned that Jeremy may be interested in helping out.

- Judi reported that she and Mary Lou have been “exercising” the organ to keep it in good working condition. They hope that others in the congregation may be willing to help as well.
- Bobbi has the pianist schedules completed for this month and is still working with Bella Albert on playing occasionally during the summer months. Mari-Jo Hedman is willing to help out beginning in the fall.
- Melonie displayed a print of the parsonage that is a copy of the one Sandy Pethick made for Pastor Rich and Karen as a going away gift from the NOW Team. She said that the print is also on a disk so that other copies can be made. Mary Lou offered to have this one matted and framed so that it can be displayed in the church library.
- Mary Lou displayed a laminated placemat of our church’s timeline from 1913 until 2013 and asked if there is a need for copies to be made. Everyone agreed that it would be nice to have more copies. The original timeline will be updated.

**Pastor Rich reported on the following:**

- The Security Team needs to be reporting to the Trustees so that we can receive a report on a monthly basis.
- There is a need for signage on how to deal with emergencies. Multiple signs should be posted throughout the church, both upstairs and downstairs.
- An issue on who is to close the swinging doors into the sanctuary when the service begins is ongoing. Communication is needed from the Security Team.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00. Roy suggested that we have some refreshments available to share as we hold a more informal meeting to welcome Pastor Ben.

Diane Fitzpatrick, Secretary

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***Committee/Group Reports provided during June:***

**FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:**

**From Financial Secretary:**

The following is the total church offering for May:

Regular Offering	\$10,986.58
Loose Offering	116.00
Subtotal-Regular Offering	\$11,102.58

Other Sources Operating Fund:	.00
Total Regular Offerings	\$11,102.58

Reimbursements:

Upper Room	1.00
Subtotal-Reimbursements	\$1.00

Special Funds for Church Use:

Coffee Fellowship	63.00
Bottle Redemption	45.80
Community Support	220.00
Holub Print	350.00
Photography Class	10.00

Rego Moving Expenses	40.00
Holy Week Services	10.00
NOW Committee	60.00
Subtotal Funds for Church Use	\$448.80

Special Funds Not for Church Use:

Ecumenical Food Pantry	300.00
Native American Sunday	26.00
Sub-Total Funds Not for Church Use	326.00
Grand Total:	\$11,878.38

**From Treasurer:**

Beginning Balance	(\$1,078.20)	
2025 Operating income	11,102.58	
<b>Bottle Redemption</b>	<b>45.80</b>	
Interest	1.31	
Less EFT fee	(39.46)	VANCO fees (EFT deposits)
Less Expenses	(16,039.88)	
Ending Balance	(\$6,007.85)	

*Total "Special Funds for Church Use", which included many lines for various donations, total \$30,328.05. 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 30, 2025, on-line report shows ending value = \$27,097.15.

The Capital Account Money is as follows as of May 30: Previous Balance - \$33,162.32; Deposits - \$1.43; No expenses; Current Balance - \$33,163.75. (Includes funds earmarked for Furnace Fund - \$5,397.33; Emergency Fund Donations = \$21,104.23).

Expenditures for May 2025:

Programs:

Education	14.00
Worship	275.31
Office	228.21
NOW Team	77.80
Programs Sub-Total	\$ 595.32

Trustee Expenses:

Church Utilities	\$2,866.31
Parsonage Utilities	532.85
Telephone/Internet	215.00
Property Insurance	1,707.43
Technology	16.95
Trustee Sub-Total	\$5,338.54

Staff-Parish Relations Expenses:

Pastor's Salary	\$4,420.00
Health Insurance	1,788.83
Pastor's Total Comp	\$6,208.83
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	\$50.00
FICA	362.01
Workman's Comp	66.64
Total Other Expenses	\$478.65

Sub-Total SPRC Expenses \$9,273.50

<u>New England Conference:</u>	
Pastor Pension Benefit	832.52
NEC Total	\$ 832.52
Grand Total Expenses	\$16,039.88

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

Mission Shares = \$2,387.33/mo. As of EOM May, 3 months behind - \$7,161.99. (2 months of Mission Shares paid in March)

Note: Dead River bills for church also include charges for propane deliveries. Balances as of May 30: Church = \$1,606.40; Parsonage = (\$275.93)

#### 2025 YTD REVIEW – May 2025

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

May:

Target = \$92,790.12; Beginning Operating Fund Balance (Jan only) - \$924.51; Operating Fund Income from F/S YTD - \$74,836.74; Special Funds Used for Operating Fund Expenses YTD = \$9,606.84; Total Expenses YTD - \$91,234.62; Unpaid Mission Shares = \$7,161.99.

An aggregate of in-person and virtual attendance shows monthly average of 74 and 82 YTD.

### **NOW Team Meeting - June 4, 2025**

#### **Nurture - Outreach - Witness**

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

Absent: Rhonda Cyr, Pastor Rich Rego, Karen Rego, Aurora Pethick Barnum

Meeting was called to order at 10:02 am.

#### Opening Prayer - Bobbi

(Cheryl will do the opening prayer next month.)

#### Acceptance of Minutes -

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

#### Treasurer's Report -

Cheryl provided the following report.

#### Treasurer's Report June 3, 2025

Beginning Balance	\$1009.13
5-8-25 Yard Sale Seed Money	(\$200.00)
5-19-25 Deposit	\$200.00

5-19-25	Deposit	\$1637.00
6-3-25	Deposit	\$33.00
6-3-25	Deposit	\$400.00

#### Deposit Details:

5-19-25	\$200.00	Returned Seed Money
	\$1637.00	Proceeds from City Wide Yard Sale Includes plants, bake sale, and free will lunch offering
6-3-25	\$33.00	Additional money for yard sale items
	\$400.00	dinner following Johnson funeral
Balance 6-3-25		\$3079.13

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl Martin

#### Gift Card Update 6-3-25

1 restaurant gift card \$50.00

One small typo was corrected. Bobbi made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as corrected. Ruthann seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### Rego Farewell Dinner

The Church Council has asked each committee to consider donating some funds for the dinner. Bobbi had some information about flowers that Wendy Bossie will arrange for us. There was also some more discussion about the event. Bobbi made a motion that the NOW Team will provide the funds for the flowers and another contribution related to the NOW Team. Kathy seconded the motion. The motion passed. The figures for these contributions will be reported in July.

#### Spring Fling/Yard Sale Follow-Up

We discussed some pros and cons of the event. The weather had an impact on attendance on Saturday. And there were not enough volunteers on Saturday. There was a lack of cross-promotion and communication of the Spring Fling and Yard Sale activities. We thought a larger sign outside would be helpful to direct people to the event downstairs next time. The leftover books were donated to Catholic Charities. The leftover plants were supposed to be given to the Caribou Library, but they disappeared before Melonie could pick them up. The food was well received, but there were not a lot of free will donations received. In the future, we think a minimum \$5 per person donation for 1 trip through the line would be reasonable. The NOW Team will send thank you notes to Randy Martin and Del Ramey for their help and the plants they brought in.

#### Funeral Reception Follow-Up

The family was very grateful and the food was very well received. There was plenty of food and the leftovers were all taken home.

#### Prayer Shawl Pie Sale

This event will take place on July 3 from 10-2 with setup at 8:30 am. The proceeds from the pies will go to the Prayer Shawl Ministries. The pies will be priced at \$10 and \$12. And the proceeds from the bake sale will go to the

NOW Team. Diane and Melonie will make an announcement for donations on Sunday. Sandy will work on the flyer. The event will be advertised locally and on Facebook.

Coffee Fellowship

The NOW Team has Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, June 8.

Updates

- Pen Pals
  - Four of the penpals are graduating this year - 2 at the Life Skills Program Graduation on Friday and 2 at the Graduation ceremony on Sunday. Melonie will send cards to the graduates from the church/NOW Team. She is hoping to have some church members attend the ceremony on Friday. Letters are due this Friday. It will be the last time to send letters before school is out.
- Food Pantry
  - The Food Pantry needs more volunteers, especially for June. Gray Memorial’s month to volunteer is August, but you can volunteer anytime. Ruthann will make an announcement during the next Sunday service.
- Photo Class

Sandy asked to speak with the members of the photography class after the meeting.

Additional Business

The Caribou Cares About Kids events will be the week of July 21. We don’t know the exact date or route of the parade, but expect it to be on Friday of that week. Last year the route was shortened, so it never came by the church.

Bobbi proposed the NOW Team purchase some anti-fatigue mats for the kitchen. They would be placed in front of the sinks and around the table. The chairs would be removed and the table would become a workstation. They are relatively inexpensive at around \$40 each. We chose the color gray. Ruthann made a motion to allocate funds to purchase the anti-fatigue mats. Cheryl seconded the motion. The motion passed. The figures for this purchase will be reported in July.

The remaining restaurant gift card that the NOW Team has will be donated to Roy and Jud for their use during the moving trips for the Regos.

Agenda Items for July Meeting

- Caribou Cares About Kids
- Fundraiser? Perhaps like the auction from the Willow AK church?

Closing Prayer - Melonie

Our next regular meeting will be July 8 at 1 pm. Please note the change in meeting day/time this month.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alaina Pethick  
NOW Team Secretary

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Gray Memorial United Methodist Church  
United Methodist Men's Club Meeting  
May 24, 2025 draft

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

- Members gathered at 0830 at kitchen/fellowship hall for breakfast casseroles and blueberry muffins by Del; fruit, juice, 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, Dave Belyea, Bruce Fitzpatrick, Ivan Shaw, Pastor Rich Rego, and Del Ramey.

**2. Program:** Today's program was an excellent presentation by Pastor Rich Rego about today, May 24, 1738 Aldersgate Day, aka John Wesley day when John Wesley's heart was strangely warmed and he was inspired to continue his ministry that was to become the Methodist Church.

**3. Prelate's message:** Richard gave another exceptional message around verses from the 1939 United Methodist Hymnal. He suggested our spiritual machinery is in need of repair and that we need to spread the word of God's love and of hope.

**4. Old Business:**

- **Secretary's Report:** copies of our last meeting minutes – April 26, 2025 draft were emailed and passed out. Accepted as presented.

**5. New Business:**

Treasurer's Report: Checkbook balance as of April 30, 2025: \$ 1059.38. The garage sale netted 2,322.50 yielding a current balance of 3,200.23.

- Treasurer made a \$150 check for community support ministry. The additional \$ 100 voted on will be made at an appropriate future date.
- Discussed contributing to the Rego's moving expenses. Voted to contribute \$2,500 to the pastor's moving fund.

**6. Other Business:**

- Our next meeting will be our annual meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup> with election of officers. The members present nominated the current slate of officers for the coming year – all agreed to continue. This meeting will be held at Collins Pond Park
- President Neal thanked the members for their continued support of the coffee fellowship and noted our dates for the coming year are: Jul 20; Sept 21 and Nov 16.

Next meeting: June 28, 2025

David Belyea  
Secretary

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**Worship Committee Minutes  
June 6, 2025**

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

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

Devotions were offered by Diane with a reading based on Ecclesiastes 3:7, a time to speak and a time to keep silence.

Minutes from the May meeting were reviewed. Gwen moved and Richard seconded to approve the minutes as published. Minutes were unanimously approved.

### **Old Business:**

- Bobbi thanked those who passed out the Mother's Day tote bags. Many compliments were received on them!
- Bobbi reported that the Yard Sale and Spring Fling were both successful. Money raised went to the Pastor's moving expenses and the NOW Committee's future projects.
- It was a pleasure to honor Peter and Marjie Edgecomb on Heritage Sunday for their fifty years of membership at Gray Memorial. Catherine Brewer and Julie Ordway were not present to receive their certificates. Catherine did respond, however, with an email to Bobbi highlighting memories of her growing up years in the church. Pastor Rich may share this with the congregation sometime soon.
- Bobbi reported that she has created a calendar/list for our pianists to sign-up for playing from July through December. It was sent out through email to Mary Lou Brown, Judi Greenier, and Mari-Jo Hedman. Bobbi also reported that Bella Albert, a student at Caribou Middle School, may play the piano occasionally. Mari-Jo has volunteered to play beginning in the Fall. Since she is the pianist for Lidstone UMC in Washburn, she will need to coordinate her schedule with Sarah Diette for Sundays at Lidstone. Mari-Jo has also offered to play for our choir and has extended an invitation for our choir members to join the Lidstone choir members for practice on Saturday mornings at 10:00am in Washburn.
- Bobbi expressed concern over people still talking during the playing of the prelude on Sunday mornings. It was suggested that Alaina could be asked to flash something on the overhead screen to signal that it is time for silent preparation for worship just before the prelude begins.
- Bobbi hasn't heard otherwise, so she assumes that the announcements about using the back door by the office to leave the church on Sundays is working.
- Father's Day is on June 15<sup>th</sup>. We will place a basket of our gift inventory for men to pick from on a table in the Narthex following the service.
- Judi Greenier has reported for the Trustees on who the recipients of the Turner Memorial Scholarship were at the Caribou High School this year. There have been no requests for Memorial Scholarship packages.
- Bobbi mentioned that on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, Diane will make an announcement about the upcoming pie sale on July 3<sup>rd</sup> being sponsored by the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Melonie will announce that the NOW Committee will hold a bake sale on July 3<sup>rd</sup> as well.

### **New Business:**

- The new Liturgist schedule for July through December 2025 has been published. Dave Belyea, Bobby Keller, and Aurora Barnum have been added to the list.
- People have begun wearing their name badges for Sunday worship services. New badges will be made for anyone adding their name to the list that is placed on the table where the badges should be left following the service. Badges should be left in the basket provided and not taken home.
- There is still an issue with the closing of the swinging Narthex doors once the service begins. Bobbi requested that a representative from the Trustees or Guest Services explain why it is necessary to have these doors closed so that this issue can be resolved.

### **Pastor's Time:**

- Will and Alaina are interested in explaining the sound system and service streaming, to anyone who would be interested in learning how to run them so that there will be coverage on Sundays when Will and Alaina cannot be in church. They will offer an opportunity to witness what they do following the service on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

- Pastor Ben will be arriving on July first.
- With permission from the SPRC, Pastor Rich has talked with Pastor Ben about issues that he should be made aware of.
- Pastor Ben is accustomed to working with the Worship Committee to help in planning services.
- Pastor Ben's first service will be on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Communion will be served at this service rather than on July 6<sup>th</sup>. ***UPDATE: Pastor Ben will be present to offer Communion on July 6<sup>th</sup>. He asked that he not preach on that day.***

The first Friday of July is on the 4<sup>th</sup>, so our next meeting will be held on July 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. Cheryl Martin will reschedule the Education Committee meeting that was scheduled at the same time. ***UPDATE: Worship Committee will meet on Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. Education Committee will meet on Friday, July 11<sup>th</sup> and 9:30am.***

Cheryl volunteered to offer devotions at the July meeting.

Diane Fitzpatrick, Secretary



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

Thursday	03	10am-2pm	Pie & Bake Sale sponsored by Prayer Shawl Ministry & NOW Committee
Friday	04		<u>FEDERAL HOLIDAY - US INDEPENDENCE DAY - CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED</u>



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Sunday	06	10:00am	Worship; Fourth Sunday after Pentecost; <i>First Sunday with Pastor Ben!</i>
Monday	07	11:30am	"Gray Gals" Pot-Luck Luncheon (note date change)
		1:00pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting
Tuesday	08	1:00pm	NOW Committee Meeting (note day/time change!)
Thursday	10	1:00pm	SPRC Meeting
Friday	11	9:30am	Education Committee Meeting (Note - date/time change)
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Sunday	13	10:00am	Worship; Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Tuesday	15	1:00pm	Trustees Meeting
Thursday	17	1:00pm	Church Council Meeting
Friday	18	9:30am	Worship Committee Meeting (Note - date change)
		11:00am	Ministry Team Meeting (may change)
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Sunday	20	10:00am	Worship; Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Tuesday	22	10:00am	<u>DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWSLETTER INPUT</u>
Friday	25	11:00am	Ministry Team Meeting (may change)
Saturday	26	10am-4pm	"Step-Up to School Penny Sale with a Head-Start for the Holidays" Event Sponsored by the Trustees Guest Services Team
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Sunday	27	10:00am	Worship; Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
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