August 2025

A Letter to Gray Memorial UMC

August 2025

Grace and Peace to you!

Upon this writing, three weeks have passed since my arrival in Caribou. And what a warm welcome I have received! While a move is unsettling even amid the best of conditions, God is faithful with every step. It's such a gift to know



you have been holding me in your prayers, and to receive your patience and kindness while I find my bearings. Thank you. Your gift of the prayer shawl to me on that first Sunday is a tangible and beautiful reminder of how this is a shared journey of grace we are on, and that the steadfast love of God has gone before us, embraces us, envelopes us, and calls us on to new depths of trust, together. God's story in our lives is a far greater story than any one of us on our own, and yet we each still get to have a unique part in it. We are prayerfully knit together and woven into a mystery that is of God's making.

I joyfully anticipate what lies ahead on this shared journey of faith.

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

- Ephesians 3:16-17

We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us!

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Ben



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: August 2025

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

Greetings from the Church Office!

We welcomed our new Pastor, Pastor Benjamin Daggett, when he arrived on July 2nd and many of us helped unload his U-Haul truck. We met his brother and niece who also came to help unload and move much of his furniture and belongings into the parsonage.

Our first few Sundays with Pastor Ben have been very enjoyable, as he has played the guitar and sang to and with us and we look forward to hearing him often.

I encourage all who receive this Newsletter to watch the Sunday Worship services since his arrival to get to know him and see how he loves to engage with the children! We look forward to his ministry with us!

Please help me meet deadlines by submitting things for the Newsletter when due. For our next Newsletter, all input must be submitted by 10am on Thursday, August 21st!!

(Intil next month....

Bobbi Pelletier Church Office Administrator



<u>Prayer Concerns</u>: Dale, Lu & Debbie Sharp; Leland Frost, Ivan Shaw, Sylvia Akeley, Jeff Franklin, Richard Carde, Anna Roberts, James Stuart, Rodney Nichols, Peter Doody, Sheila Belyea, Gary Aiken, Bill Autrey, Katherine Noyes, Patrica Wood, Amelia Baker, Relatives of Jeanne Daggett - Souzy family (whooping cough); Allison & Sandra Davidson, Colleen Harmon, Katherine Noyes, William Autrey, victims and survivors of Texas floods, Roy Alden (back surgery of July 28th), Amelia Baker (surgery August 22nd), Kristi Bell & family (house fire), Crystal Tilley (funding taken away for job), Pat Ramsden (healing)

<u>Deaths</u>: Family of Anna Roberts; Family of Jimmy Doyle; Family of Willis Sutherland; Family of Ina Doody; Family of Gordon Buzza

Other: Our new Pastor!; Grace Impact Ministries in Kenya - 4-year Birthday!; the families affected by the Texas floods; prayers for Erika Carlson as she & her mom travel to Mass General; Grace Impact Ministries - prayers for "Healing Pool" project

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 BEN. WE OFTEN HEAR FROM RECIPIENTS ON HOW TOUCHED THEY ARE THAT WE OFFERED PRAYERS FOR THEM!

REMINDERS

DATE	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Counter</u>	Coffee Fellowship
Aug 03	Penny Shaw	Richard Daggett	Richard Clark	Ruthann Weeks	SPRC
Aug 10	Gwen Ellinwood	Judi Greenier	Diane Fitzpatrick	Ruthann Weeks	NOW Committee
Aug 17 *	Diane Fitzpatrick	Mary Lou Brown	Bobby Keller	Ruthann Weeks	Church Council
Aug 24	+ Debbie Nichols	Hymnal CDs	Cheryl Martin	Elsie Doody	Worship Committee
Aug 31	Duska Franklin	Mary Lou Brown	Mary Ouellette	Elsie Doody	NEED VOLUNTEERS!!!

^{*}August 17 - We will have a "Blessing of the Backpacks" during our Worship Service!

+August 24 - We will have an "Outdoor Service" by the Memorial Garden, weather permitting. Bring your chair! We will also have a "Blessing of the Animals" segment, so bring a pet with you (on leash or in carrier). If rain is predicted, the service will move to the sanctuary and we will reschedule the "Outdoor Service" and the "Blessing of the Animals" on August 31st.

Usher Coordinator for August ~ Bobbi Pelletier Communion Stewardess for August ~ Mary Theriault Communion Bread for August ~ Will Barnum

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

Daggett, Benjamin – add with address 8 Prospect Street; phone number 492-0371; cell phone (508) 713-7142 Greenier, Judi – delete cell 768-0085; add cell 484-8673

Rego, Richard & Karen – new address: 12 Fairview Lane, Bath, ME 04530; Cell phone for both: 774-444-5850 Roberts, Anna – delete; passed away July 7, 2025

* * August Birthdays & Anniversaries * *

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

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



1	Matthew Doody, John Weeks	20	Lori Mazursky
3	Sylvia Akeley, Samuella Manages	22	Cathy Walters
4	Hillary Irving, Karen White	24	Samella Haley, Diana Rauch
5	Pastor Ben Daggett, Diana Locke, Willie Miller	25	Cheryl Martin
8	Steven Jones	26	Phyllis Billing, Bobby Keller
11	Patricia Lombard	28	Jack Doody
12	Alex Bouchard, Emily Hise	29	Kathy Panaro
15	Grace Sherman	31	Melonie Carlson, Ivan Shaw
17	Bob Jordan		



5	Beth & Roy Alden	18	Lisa & Carl Soderberg
14	Kim Vandenburgh & Willie Miller	28	Roberta & Conrad Walton
15	Debbie & Jason Barnes	30	Linda & Gary Doody
16	Kelly & Joel Wardwell		

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
Jun 29	38	27	\$1,329.00
Jul 06	63	55	\$5,831.00
Jul 13	50	46	\$2,956.00
Jul 20	45	0	\$2,936.00
Jul 27	53	(will report next month)	\$1,711.00
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⁺ Needed weekly to meet 2025 Budget: \$4,282.62

"Growing in Faith" Capital Campaign Account: Balance reported in last month's Newsletter was \$33,163.75. Since then, we received interest of \$1.38 and paid no expenses. Our balance as of July 28^{th} is \$33,165.13 (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, 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.

^{*} 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 \$12.00 in donations for July, so our proceeds are now \$1,303.30! 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.

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

August 3 - https://youtube.com/live/lpH-MDJnwy4

August 10 - https://youtube.com/live/63F18xwSQSU

August 17 - https://youtube.com/live/MVK fYaPfLg

August 24 - https://youtube.com/live/Kis_6Iu_jsM

August 31 - https://youtube.com/live/E1U-4rv3MwU

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

Part 1 of this interview ended with the time during World War II when the United States was at war on two fronts - in the South Pacific and in Europe:

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.

Here is Part 2 (conclusion):

Civilians too felt the effect personally by the scarcity of food products such as meat, sugar, coffee, and butter. Gasoline was rationed along with tires, cigarettes and footwear. Ration books were distributed to every person in order to buy these items.

Hospitals and church guilds rolled bandages, filled cartons of treats to mail out, and wrote letters to the service men to encourage and uplift their spirits.

Anna saw young men, some she had dated, line up at the recruiting office week after week to be sent off to training camps, many who would not return from the war zones.

War Bond Rallies were held and folks were happy to purchase them. For \$18.75 a bond would yield \$25.00 in seven years. It was a means of helping the war effort and a way of saving for the future.

When air raid warnings blasted at night, neighborhood wardens patrolled their districts for any sings of light showing from the houses. If so, a knock on the door would remind the resident to shed the beam.

At the local airport, folks volunteered and were assigned a nightly schedule to watch for enemy planes.

In December 1943, the courtship between Prescott and Anna brought them into a marriage ceremony performed by the Universalist minister at the home of her Uncle Jerry and Aunt Mabel with family members and close friends in attendance. Because of gas rationing, the honeymoon weekend was spent in Canada across the near-by border.

An apartment on High Stret became their residence for the next three years until a new house was built on the corner of Coolidge Avenue and Collins Street, a location that would become a lovely tree-lined section of Caribou. The plans for the cape style house was purchased from an ad in a magazine. The Roberts would add an enclosed glassed-in porch and a garage in later years.

Several years into the marriage Prescott, who worked in local grocery stores, decided he would like to operate his own store. Discussing the venture with Anna, she agreed to it. Shortly thereafter a building was constructed on the property of his parents. It was some years later that Prescott's parents sold their property which ran all the way back to Hammond Street and it would also include the grocery store. At this stage in his life, Prescott was content to have had his venture as a store owner and looked forward to retirement.

In the late '40's Birds Eye Snyder, a manufacturing firm that processed frozen foods, came to Caribou and had a factory constructed on a tract of land off South Main Street. The factory ran three shifts encompassing round the clock employment for the packaging of frozen peas and french fries.

Though men were employed to operate the machinery, women worked the assembly lines. For many women who had never worked outside the home, it was an opportunity to earn their own money a paycheck to spend on items of their choosing such as home furnishings, cars, and appliances. Could it get any better than this?

Married folks who were both working, could now afford a home, and soon Hardison and Donnelly's development off South Main Street and Burgess Village became streets and avenues with cape style and ranch style houses.

During the cold war of the '50's between the US and Russia, Loring Air Force Base was constructed in Limestone, a near neighbor of Caribou. It became the home of the giant B-52 bombers. The huge base was a city within itself, yet its personnel and families flocked to neighboring towns and Caribou was by far the favorite to ship, to reside in, to dine and on weekends to find entertainment.

One of the outstanding restaurants during that time was the Starlite Dining Room in the Prestile Terrace Motel that set on a hill overlooking Caribou. At night when the lights of the town were turn on, what a spectacular view! A special place to take your date or wife to dine.

With the base population near-by, Anna saw the town's growth by way of new businesses, while others expanded. Two new schools were built, one called Teague Park and the other Hilltop. Housing developments in other sections of the town sprang up too, with names such as Garden Circle, Collins Field, and Tibbets Terrace. Anna's bookkeeping columns told the story of the incoming revenue.

In the decade of the '60's, Caribou was introduced to an urban renewal plan that would change downtown Sweden Street by as of a mall and to re-route traffic to one way around the town. The plan by the out of state architects sounded great to the town officials. But when the proposal was presented to a public meeting at the high school, folks voiced their opinions against the change. Nevertheless, the town went ahead and brick buildings that had been built as early as the late '40's were hit with the booming ball.

The mall was not an enclosed structure, but more like a cluster of stores. And though the spaces were occupied in the beginning, the structure never reached its potential as a mall. One by one the stores closed and were turned into offices except for the Maine Dance Academy and Brambleberry Market that remain today.

Several reasons could be given why businesses closed while others moved to Presque Isle. In 1995 Loring Air Force Base closed its gates as a military installation and the Aroostook Center Mall along with Walmart opened in Presque Isle.

On February 23, 1967 Caribou became a city and claimed to be the most northern most city in the United States with a population just above 7,000.

Meanwhile, Birds Eye Snyder sold out to American Kitchen in the '70's and this firm processed just french fries. This company folded along with others in the county, except for one in Easton operated by the McCain family in Canada.

Anna was saddened to see Caribou's decline to becoming a drive-through avenue to the neighboring town of Presque Isle.

In 1979 Anna retired from her position. At the dinner celebration held at the VFW, Terry St. Peter, Caribou's city manager, acknowledged Anna's 45 years of dedicated and committed service.

Anna closed her career years at the age of 62, and a new chapter of life began for her and Prescott.

They bought a lakeside cottage at Madawaska Lake and spend the summers there, where near-by campers exchanged conversation, enjoyed evening card games and became long time friends.

Though Prescott was not an angler per se, he liked tying flies for his friends' fishing rods. His artistic talent was as an illustrator of characters he imagined, especially hobos. They were portrayed in the most detail of the character's smile, the frown, the oversize shoes, the gait of the walk, the patch on the pants. Anna has an album of these unique illustrations. Prescott's other interest was in carpentry, and Anna has a number of the fine furniture pieces he made for her. He would spend hours cutting, sanding, staining, and varnishing to make it to his satisfaction.

Anna joined a woman's bowling league who met at the local bowling alley once a week in the afternoon. With her retirement gift of cross country skis, poles and boots, she took up the sport and spent time with other enthusiasts on the Madawaska Lake Trail.

There were vacations taken to see Prescott's brother Duane and his family in New Hampshire.

Anna and Prescott had no children. They became fond of Boston Terriers and other dogs and had one throughout their marriage years.

In the early '90's, Prescott's health began to fail. He suffered a heart attack that was followed by the dreadful big "C". In February of 1994, the love of Anna's life passed away. They have been married fifty years.

Another chapter in her life was to unfold. Her friends of many years - Clayton and Ruth Noyes, Ron and Brenda Curtis, Alan and Paulette Landeen rallied around her. Jerry and her niece Mary, from New Hampshire visited her during the summer. Her cousin Wayne and his wife Patty, who lived in the area, were constant callers too.

Anna became involved in the Caribou Day Extension group and active in the United Methodist Church. She made three trips to Disney World in Orlando, Florida with Ron and Brenda Curtis.

The years passed, and at the age of 98, Anna, still in good health, driving and active, but decided to sell her house and move into an apartment at Caribou Gardens.

In the 2015 the transition was made. It took awhile to get settled, but over the weeks and with the help of friends, Anna adjusted well in her new surroundings and with the residents of the complex.

One of Anna's new friends was Connie Ennis, who came into her life at a church service, and is a gift Anna treasures.

Connie's daily visits in person are much welcomed. Their times together are spent in conversation, playing cards, Rummikub, sitting outside, and sharing tasty baked goods Connie makes. It's the camaraderie that touches Anna's heart of this much younger lady who takes the time out of her day to spend time with her. Thank you, Connie.

As Anna reflects on the years of her life, she ponders "I worked 45 years at one job; I was married for 50 years; I lived in my home for 62 years, and I look forward to what the future holds still for Anna Roberts."

ANNA LIVED	TO BE 108 ON	JULY 5, 2025	AND PASSED	AWAY ON JULY 7	⁷ , 2025.

UPCOMING EVENTS:



The Aroostook Cluster is sponsoring a Vacation Bible School on Thursday, August 14th from 10am - 4pm at 159 Deering Lake Road in Orient Maine. Please see Melonie Carlson or Cheryl Martin if you wish to volunteer or register to attend.

During our August 17th Worship Service, we will have a "Blessing of the Backpacks" for all children attending the service that morning!

Bring your backpack and all the supplies you have in them so they can be blessed before you start the new school season!





The Worship Committee has scheduled an Outdoor Worship Service on Sunday, August 24th at 10:00am by our Memorial Garden. We will also invite congregation to bring their pets to participate in a "Blessing of the Animals" segment during this service. Please remember to bring your own chair and have your pet on a leash or in a carrier. If rain is predicted, the service will be held in the sanctuary and we will try again on Sunday, August 31st.

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





July 6th - Melonie Carlson invited the children and "young at heart" to join her on her picnic blanket during the Children's Lesson.





July 13th – During the Children's Lesson, Pastor Ben taught everyone the song "Tell the People I Love Them" and we all sang it together as he played the guitar!

OTHER KODAK MOMENTS!







Thursday, July 3rd – the NOW Committee held a Bake Sale; the Prayer Shawl Ministry also had a Pie Sale that day!









These are picture of various church choirs that are currently on the "choir room" walls.



Church Council MinutesJuly 16, 2025

Members Present: Roy Alden (chair), Pastor Ben Daggett, Bobbi Pelletier, Diane Fitzpatrick, Melonie Carlson, Cheryl Martin

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Ben Daggett.

Financial Statements (specific information regarding reports is provided elsewhere in the Newsletter):

• Shirley's report reflected \$14,335.24 received in the month of June.

- Bobbi reported that she used \$7,803.02 from the "SF: 2025 Operating Budget" donation to cover the deficit for operating expenses. The ending balance is \$.00. We entered into a contract with Dead River for the church and we will now pay \$415.00 a month to help cover expenses and accrue a balance.
- Cheryl mentioned that VANCO needs to be updated before September 13th.

Other Business:

- Roy reported that it was a difficult job getting Pastor Rich Rego moved. He praised Jud for organizing the move so efficiently. Pastor Ben added that he was pleased with the help he received in moving him into the parsonage.
- The continuing issue of the swinging doors to the sanctuary was discussed. Pastor Ben reported that the Trustees will vote on a policy concerning the closing of the doors during worship at their next month's meeting. The Trustees do not wish to make an announcement from the pulpit concerning this issue because they feel it will cause alarm among some members of the congregation. Roy offered to talk with Jud and Dave DeMerchant once the policy has been voted on to see if he will be able to inform the congregation as to what the policy states.
- Bobbi suggested that we obtain a written policy from the Trustees that pertains to all safety issues.
- Bobbi will obtain clarity on what the insurance company requires regarding first aid training so that we can get Sunday School up and running for the children in the fall. Since Colleen is not well at the present time, the question was raised about the possibility of someone else showing the Safer Sanctuary videos. Roy will speak with the Trustees concerning the policy.
- Roy offered a prayer for guidance and patience.

Open Discussion Time:

• Prior to our meeting, Roy suggested that we spend some time during the meeting to get to know Pastor Ben a little better and for him to get to know us as a committee. Roy suggested that we all come to the meeting prepared to share some "statistics" about ourselves, much like the information printed on the back of baseball cards! We were all able to share our professional background, personal strengths, recreational activities or hobbies, favorite movie, singer, and food, lifetime accomplishments, and church background. Pastor Ben shared his as well! This was great fun and very enlightening!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, August 21st, at 1:00.

Diane	Fitz	patrick,	Secretary	V
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Committee/Group Reports provided during July:

Education Committee Minutes May 9, 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.

Cheryl opened the meeting with a prayer.

Diane made a motion to accept the minutes of the April meeting with Melonie seconding it.

New Business

- Sunday School Program

- O Debbie, Melonie and Cheryl said they would be able to help teach which now gives us a total of seven. (Alaina, Diane, Roy and Mary) Hopefully others will come forward once programs are put into place.
- o It was agreed upon that the Sunday School program should be consistent, all receiving the same lesson just at the appropriate level.
- o Diane said that she would check with Bobbi about a resource catalog to see what's offered for programs and the prices.

- CPR, AED, and Bloodborne Pathogens Certification

- Diana Locke offered to train us in these programs along with Trina Coffin, a school nurse.
 These certifications would be through the American Heart Association. The cost would be substantially less than through the Red Cross. Mary will check with Colleen to see if this would be acceptable with our insurance company.
- o This training along with the Safer Sanctuary training would take place in later summer.

Our next meeting will be held on June 13th at 9:30. This meeting will be spent looking throughout the church to see what Sunday School materials may be available.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Theriault

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:

From Financial Secretary:

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The following is the total church offering	
Regular Offering	\$13,563.58
Loose Offering	238.00
Subtotal-Regular Offering	\$13,801.58
Other Sources Operating Fund:	.00
Total Regular Offerings	\$13,801.58
Total Regular Offerings	φ13,001.30
Reimbursements:	
Educaton-Discover	11.00
Subtotal-Reimbursements	\$11.00
Custotal Hollingardollionid	Ψ11.00
Special Funds for Church Use:	
Prayer Shawl	100.00
Coffee Fellowship	70.91
Bottle Redemption	45.75
Community Support	25.00
Security	20.00
Rego Moving Expenses	70.00
Suncatcher	15.00
NOW Committee	50.00
Subtotal Funds for Church Use	\$396.66
Captotal Fallacion Officion Coo	ψ550.00

Ecumenical Food Pantry	100.00
Peace with Justice Sunday	26.00
Sub-Total Funds Not for Church Use	126.00
Grand Total:	\$14,335.24
From Treasurer:	
Beginning Balance	(\$6,007.85)
2025 Operating income	13,801.58
SF: 2025 Operating Budget	7,803.02
Bottle Redemption	45.75
Interest	1.16

(15,611.56)

Total "Special Funds for Church Use", which included many lines for various donations, total \$21,727.49. The "Special Funds NOT for Church Use" total \$97.08. 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 June 30, 2025, on-line report shows ending value = \$27,907.21. The Capital Account Money is as follows as of June 30: Previous Balance - \$33,163.75; Deposits - \$1.38; No expenses; Current Balance - \$33,165.13. (Includes funds earmarked for Furnace Fund - \$5,397.33; Emergency Fund Donations = \$21,104.23).

(32.10) VANCO fees (EFT deposits)

Expenditures for June 2025:

Less EFT fee

Programs:

FICA

Workman's Comp

Total Other Expenses

Sub-Total SPRC Expenses

Less Expenses

Ending Balance

Special Funds Not for Church Use:

F. C.	07.00
Education	87.00
Worship	19.99
Office	395.71
Stewardship	259.78
NOW Team	78.80
Programs Sub-Total	\$ 841.28
Trustee Expenses:	
Church Utilities	\$2,223.22
Parsonage Utilities	894.06
Telephone/Internet	215.00
Snow Removal/Mowing	450.00
Maintenance/Cleaning	275.17
Technology	18.01
Trustee Sub-Total	\$4,075.46
Staff-Parish Relations Expen	ses:
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	\$300.00

200.82

66.64

\$567.45

\$9,862.30

New England Conference:

Pastor Pension Benefit 832.52 **NEC Total** 832.52 Grand Total Expenses \$15,611.56

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

Mission Shares = \$2,387.33/mo. As of EOM June, r months behind - \$9,549.32. (2 months of Mission Shares paid in March)

Note: Dead River bills for church also include charges for propane deliveries. Balances as of June30: Church = \$0.00; Parsonage = (\$597.43)

2025 YTD RE<u>VIEW - June 2025</u>

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

June:

Target = \$111,348.15; Beginning Operating Fund Balance (Jan only) - \$924.51; Operating Fund Income from F/S YTD -\$88,638.32; Special Funds Used for Operating Fund Expenses YTD = \$17,455.61; Total Expenses YTD - \$106,846.18; Unpaid Mission Shares = \$9,549.32.

An aggregate of in-person and virtual attendance shows monthly average of 79 and 82 YTD.

NOW Team Meeting - July 8, 2025 **Nurture - Outreach - Witness**

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

Martin, Ruthann Weeks, Pastor Ben Daggett, Aurora Pethick Barnum

Absent: Rhonda Cyr

Meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm.

Opening Prayer - Cheryl

(Aurora will do the opening prayer next month.)

Acceptance of Minutes -

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

Treasurer's Report -

Cheryl provided the following report.

Treasurer's Report July 7, 2025

Beginning	Balance	\$3079.13
5-31-25	Credit Interest	\$0.33
6-4-25	Deposit	\$679.00

6-12-25	Sandy Pethick (Check# 545) Reimbursement Framing of Print of Parsonage And flash drive	(\$169.26)
6-30-25	Credit Interest	\$0.66
7-2-25	Pie, Bake Sale seed money	(\$100.00)
7-7-25	Deposit	\$100.00
7-7-25	Melonie Carlson (Check #546) Reimbursement Pizzas for transition team cleaning Parsonage	(\$69.92)

Deposit Details:

7-7-25

6-4-25	\$679.00	Proceeds from Holy Week \$529.00, Photo Class \$40.00,
		Misc. Donations \$110.00

Returned Pie/Bake Sale seed money

Balance 7-7-25 \$3519.94

\$100.00

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Martin

Gift Card Update 7-7-25

Used 1 restaurant gift card \$50.00

Given to team driving the moving van to Bath for Pastor Rego

*The proceeds for the joint Pie/Bake Sale on July 3, 2025 were deposited to the church account. The monies raised by the NOW committee will be reimbursed to us later this month. Our total intake for the event at the time this report was written (7-7-25), is \$257.00, including sales and donations.

Cheryl also reported that the restaurant gift card was not used by the moving team and they donated it back to us. Later this summer, Judson will be transporting some remaining items for the Regos and we chose to give him the card for that trip.

Ruthann made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Kathy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Pie and Bake Sale Follow-Up

Sandy had made some notes of feedback about the event. Some people were confused about the pricing, it may be better to mark the price on each pie in the future. There were requests for bread and rolls and banana bread. It seemed like whole batches of bars/brownies sold better than the individually packaged

ones. Raspberry, Strawberry Rhubarb and Apple seemed to be the most popular flavors. We need to remember to remind people not to make any fall flavors like pumpkin or squash.

Overall, we felt the event was successful. The bake sale is a new addition to this traditional event, so we are learning something new each year.

Caribou Cares about Kids

The parade this year will be Saturday, July 26 at 5:30 pm and will be returning to the route that goes by the church. The NOW Team will pass out bags of cookies again this year. There will be an announcement asking for cookie bakers during the Sunday service. We are looking for simple cookies, 3 to a bag. Melonie had some positive message cards that she shared with the group. We all liked the idea of including a card like this with each bag of cookies, but we were unable to find a set with just one message. We want a card that says "You're amazing" on the front and has our NOW Team logo on the back. Alaina will create a design for these and order some from VistaPrint. *Update: The design was shared via email. The cards have already arrived.

Coffee Fellowship

The NOW Team has Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, July 13.

<u>Updates</u>

- Food Pantry
 - Ruthann reported they are buying food all the time. Most recently, they served 29 families or 70 people. She said that financially the pantry is in good shape and they have been doing ok with food deliveries.
- Photo Class
 - Sandy would like to start the class over sometime around September to take advantage of the fall colors.
- Pen Pals
 - There is no pen pal activity over the summer. Melonie would like to meet with Denise soon to talk about including the 8th graders now that they will be attending the high school also and a possible gathering in the fall.
- Church Print
 - Mary Lou Brown would like to cover the cost of having a print of the church matted and framed. The Trustees would decide where it should hang in the church. Melonie will coordinate the framing with Mary Lou.
- Fatigue Mats
 - These have not been ordered yet, but are still a planned purchase.
- Thank You Cards
 - The thank you cards for the spring garden event have been sent out.

Chicken BBQ

There have been many questions and requests regarding the Chicken BBQ. Bobbi asked if the NOW Team would be interested in sponsoring this event and recruiting volunteers from other committees to help. The NOW Team is willing to do this. We would like to have a different committee responsible for each

element (coleslaw, beans, dessert, etc.). The NOW Team would fund the purchase of the chicken. There are several people who have helped in the past that could be reached to help again. There are also many planning materials from years past that would be helpful. We are thinking of August 23 for the date. Before any plans proceed, we need to know the status of the grill. Melonie has reached out to Judson to find out this information.

Parcel Post Auction

Melonie had some materials regarding the parcel post auction from the church in Willow, AK. She wanted to know if the NOW Team is interested in putting on a similar event. We decided we would do a dinner and auction with the proceeds from the dinner going to the church and the proceeds from the auction going to the food pantry.

Bobbi said she would begin a church search, starting with one from each state. We will need 6-8 months of planning time for an event in April/May. A mailing should go out in February. After some discussion, we realized that next year is the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. That would make a great tie in for an event around July 4.

Additional Business

Bobbi asked if the NOW Team would consider making a donation to the Operating Budget. We have a surplus in our account and no pressing needs in the future. Ruthann made a motion to donate \$1500 to the Operating Budget. Sandy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The UMM expressed an interest in sponsoring a child to attend Camp Mechuwana next year.

In regards to the Nurturing part of N.O.W., Melonie shared a need for respite care with a couple in our congregation. Bobbi will personally ask that individual what their needs are. As we discussed this, we realized there are several people in or connected to the church that are homebound or in need of assistance. Pastor Ben asked for a list of these individuals. It would be good to restart the home communion team, but volunteers are needed. We could also make a list of volunteers who would be willing to help, visit, or reach out with being asked (such as bring a meal, etc.).

Agenda Items for August Meeting

No new items at this time

Closing Prayer - Melonie

Our next regular meeting will be August 6 at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted, Alaina Pethick NOW Team Secretary

Trustee Meeting June 17, 2025

Present: Pastor Rich, Judson Drake, Judi Greenier, Del Ramey, Colleen Harmon, Debbie Nichols, Richard Clark, and David DeMerchant.

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m.

Opening prayer was given by Pastor Rich.

No Secretary's report was given.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Judi. Scholarships were discussed - the question being "Can a recipient use the scholarship for the next year if their tuition is paid in full and they plan to take another year at the same institution?" The answer is "Yes".

Discussion was had about the Pastors' Moving account. A motion was made and second to take \$8000 from a CD and put it in the moving account, if it were needed. Approved.

Mary Lou Brown reported she would like to buy the electric piano in the fellowship hall for her apartment in Rose Acres. After discussion a motion was made and second to sell the piano to Mary Lou for \$1, if and when she occupies the apartment. To replace it, Judson recommended we purchase a mobile keyboard.

Status of work to be done at the parsonage. Work to be done by the time the new pastor arrives, but we will need more help for cleaning on June 29th and 30th.

Sanctuary ceiling: the seams are rusting from water damage that was not fixed last year. The panels will fail if not fixed and needs to be fixed ASAP. Cost is unknown at this time. Funds to come from the Capital Campaign.

Front door replacement will be here on June 24th.

The carbonite panels are to be replaced from pieces of salvaged carbonite today.

The heat pumps repairs are still waiting for the parts. The cost of repair is covered by warrantee.

Painting: The church trim needs touch-up Beeline Painting will do the work between jobs and that will save us some money.

CLOCK & TOWER: Mr. Yoder of the County Time Co. came and repaired the tower clock. The hand shafts and Spider gears were fixed and put back in service. Costs of \$225.00; the bill was given to Judi for payment with an apology.

Lawn Care: The liability is ours if we do the work; if we contract someone to do the work then the liability is theirs for any damage done by flying rocks and debris. We need to set a mowing schedule, weed whacking and blowing grass clippings from the driveway, walkway after mowing. Cost estimate if \$1700. Motion made to have Judson enter into a contract.

Del knows of a possibility of a 16 y/o boy who plays the organ. Judson will notify SPRC.

Since it will only cost about \$850 to move the new pastor, we will not have to cash in the CD.

ASSIGNMENT OF DUTIES These are things that Judson always did that are no longer his responsibility.

SIM SYSTEM: they notify us of pipe bursts and furnace outages during cold weather. Person responsible must live in Caribou.

ELEVATOR SYSTEM: Colleen will do this one.

HEATING SYSTEM: Person responsible will need to come in at 5AM each Sunday in the winter to turn the thermostat up. NO Volunteers

SPRINKLER SYSTEM: Colleen will do this one LIGHT SYSTEM: Dave DeMerchant will do this one.

Team members to work on Trustee Projects: Colleen, Del, Dave, Richard

There was much discussion on Solar Panels. This was seen as the only way to reduce the church budget. Judson will contact an expert and have them come to the Trustee Meeting with information and costs.

Meeting adjourned at 3:08 pm Minutes copied from Richard Clark's notes. David DeMerchant

Gray Memorial United Methodist Church United Methodist Men's Club Meeting June 28, 2025 draft

1. Call to order and opening prayer:

- o Members gathered at 0830 at kitchen/fellowship hall for breakfast of pancakes by Del; eggs, sausage fruit, juice, and coffee.
- o Opening Prayer was led by Richard Clark.
- o Meeting was called to order at 0900 by Pres. Neal Genz. Members present were: Neal Genz, Richard Clark, Dave Belyea, Bruce Fitzpatrick, Ivan Shaw, Jay Bullard, Dave DeMerchant, and Del Ramey.
- **2. Program**: Today's program was to brainstorm ideas for future meeting programs and projects. Two ideas were presentations on Camp Mechuwana, and Scouting. Dave B will ask the District Exec. to give a presentation and ask the Barnums what it costs to send their children this summer' possibly offer assistance. Other suggestions were: Roy Alden on the Texas canoe race he attended this summer; Utility District G M Jon Helstrom. Projects suggested were Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and Tree of Lights in December.
- **3. Prelate's message**: Richard gave another exceptional message on life's challenges and joys based somewhat on Genesis Ch.2, vs. 18.

4. Old Business:

o Secretary's Report: copies of our last meeting minutes – May 24, 2025 draft were emailed and passed out. Accepted as presented.

5. New Business:

<u>Treasurer's Report</u>: Checkbook balance as of June 28, 2025: \$ 636.98. Treasurer made a \$2,500 check for the pastor's moving fund; and one to pres. Genz for \$63.25 for a floral arrgt. For the Regos.

6. Other Business:

o This meeting was be our annual meeting. The members present voted in the current slate of officers for the coming year – all agreed to continue in their current positions.

- o Our attendance has dropped off dramatically secretary will review the membership list and report back.
- o 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: September 27, 2025

David Belyea Secretary

Worship Committee Minutes July 16, 2025

Members Present: Bobbi Pelletier (chair), Pastor Ben Daggett, Gwen Ellinwood, Claire Hodgkins, Cheryl Martin, Diana Locke, Diane Fitzpatrick

The meeting was opened at 10:00am with a prayer offered by Cheryl Martin. Minutes from the June meeting were presented. Cheryl moved and Claire seconded to accept the minutes as published. All were in favor.

Old Business:

- Bobbi reminded us that all should be wearing their name badges at worship for at least the next few weeks or until Pastor Ben feels he is getting to know everyone. Anyone going to coffee fellowship after the service should leave the badges on and then leave them in a basket that is provided in the fellowship hall. Those leaving the church after worship should place their badges in the basket beside the badge holder.
- The issue of the swinging doors to the sanctuary being closed during worship is ongoing. The Trustees do not wish to make an announcement during the worship service as to the reason why the doors are closed. Bobbi has asked for a written document so that she can pass it on to Neal (head usher) and the usher coordinators so they will understand the policy. Bobbi stated that it is the ushers' responsibility to close the doors at the beginning of the service. Several members of our committee feel that an announcement from the Trustees during worship is necessary for the purpose of transparency. Bobbi will check with the Church Council this same day as they meet in the afternoon.

New Business:

- Mari-Jo Hedman is interested in revitalizing our choir and is willing to meet with them following the worship service on July 20th. She is willing to come here to practice with the choir and is interested in beginning in September. Mari-Jo will also play the piano for us on an alternating basis with our other pianists.
- Bobbi has given Mari-Jo, Judi, and Mary Lou a calendar list for playing for Sunday services. Mary-Jo's schedule will take priority as she has to alternate her schedule with another pianist at the Lidstone UMC. Mary Lou is hoping to take some time away to visit family, so we will have to see when she feels she will be available. We may have to use the CDs during some services. Pastor Ben mentioned that his Dad is an organist and may be willing to play our organ from time to time if he can schedule it around his responsibilities with the Grant Memorial choir. Bella Albair will not be able to

- play for us this summer. She needs more training time with Mari-Jo on the playing of hymns. We are hoping that she will be available next summer.
- Our annual outdoor service at the church garden has been scheduled for August 24th with no rain date scheduled. A Blessing of the Animals will be held during this service.
- Pastor Ben will be away on August 17th, so Pastor Ellen Cleaves will be leading our worship. There will also be a Blessing of the Backpacks on that day.
- Bobbi asked Pastor Ben if he would like to make any changes in the order of worship. For now, he would like to begin having Confession and Pardon during each Sunday service. He would also like to include the Gloria Patri after the Call to Worship and before the Opening Prayer each week. In addition, he would like to move the request for prayer time to follow the opening hymn. Pastor Ben spoke of another possibility called Pray Ground for the children that he may consider at a future time so that any changes can be made gradually.
- Bobbi asked Cheryl if there is anything the Worship Committee can do to support the Education Committee as they progress in making plan to reinstitute a Sunday School program. Cheryl said that she will let us know once more plans for Safer Sanctuary and First Aid training have been done.
- Colleen Harmon has compiled a list of supply items that the Community School will need for students as they begin a new school year in August. Bobbi suggested that copies of the list should be distributed to the congregation this Sunday, where Colleen is planning on holding her Back to School event on July 26th.
- Bobbi reported that the Safer Sanctuary training will be discussed at the Church Council meeting this afternoon.
- We will be changing our monthly meeting date to the first Thursday of every month at 9:30am.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 7th, at 9:30am. Diana Locke volunteered to offer devotions.

Diane Fitzpatrick, Secretary

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AUGUST 2025!!!

Sunday	03	10:00am	Worship; Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Monday	04	1:00pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting
Tuesday	06	10:00am	NOW Committee Meeting
Thursday	07	9:30am	Worship Committee Meeting (Note – new day)
		1:00pm	SPRC Meeting
Sunday	10	10:00am	Worship; Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Monday	11	11:30am	"Gray Gals" Pot-Luck Luncheon
Wednesday	13	9:30am	Education Committee Meeting (Note - new day)
Thursday	14	10am-4pm	2025 Aroostook Cluster VBS; 159 Deering Lake Rd., Orient ME
			(See Melonie Carlson or Cheryl Martin if you wish to volunteer or attend)
Sunday	17	10:00am	Worship; Tenth Sunday after Pentecost; "Blessing of the Backpacks"; <u>Pastor Ellen Cleaves is preaching</u>
Tuesday	19	1:00pm	Trustees Meeting
Thursday	21	10:00am	DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWSLETTER INPUT
		1:00pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday	24	10:00am	Worship; Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost; "Blessing of the Animals"; Outdoor Worship Service in the Garden (rain-date is August 31st)
Sunday	31	10:00am	Worship; Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Ben is taking vacation time August 11 – 17. Please contact Pastor Ellen Cleaves for pastoral needs during this time. You may reach her at (207) 325-1282 or email: ellmac1999@gmail.com