

September 2025



*He leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.*
Psalm 23:2

Grace & Peace, Gray Memorial UMC!

As you'll see on the calendar here in this newsletter, September has brought with it a full schedule of gatherings and special events as a church, especially in the first week! It is a great blessing to welcome my friend Anderson De Freitas Soares, a visiting missionary from Brazil. Anderson and I served together with Master's Commission

Brasil from 2011-2012, and he now leads a team in carrying out street ministry among the homeless of his city. Anderson himself lived on the streets as a child, until missionaries befriended him and earned his trust in the early 1990s. He moved into a shelter for kids in his situation those years ago, and, in time, God opened his heart to place his trust in Jesus. In his teenage years, he embraced his call to be a missionary to the nations, and he now leads a team much like the one that first met him when he was on the streets. Anderson's is a powerful testimony of God's steadfast love and grace in the face of great adversity. I hope you'll come and hear his message of gospel transformation over the days that he is here, and invite others to come as well!

On the same Saturday as one of the events we're planning with Anderson, Gray Memorial also gets to share our Church Conference with several of our neighbor Methodist churches here in the County. At 10:00am on September 6th at Grant Memorial UMC in Presque Isle, please come for the Church Conference, hear Anderson speak at 12:30pm, and enjoy a delicious meal of pulled pork to follow. Alternatively, you can also share breakfast there with the Grant Memorial Men's Group at 7:30am and stay for the 10am conference. Perhaps you'd like to experience all three gatherings! Why not invite a friend or neighbor?

You'll see all the other activities on the calendar, and what awaits us with this month. What a gift to know that amidst all that comes our way, the still waters of God's grace are closer than breath, and God's restoring presence is always with us.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Ben



The Caribou Clock

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Greetings from the Church Office!

Our annual Church Conference is scheduled for Saturday, September 6th at 10am at Grant Memorial UMC. This will be a combined church conference for five churches in our district - Gray, Grant, Lidstone, Limestone, Mapleton.

September 4 - 7th, we will host a missionary friend of Pastor Ben - Anderson Soares - who will share his experiences in Brazil. There will be several events at our church and at Grant Memorial where Anderson will be featured. Please check out the calendar at the end of this Newsletter!

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, September 23rd!!*

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier
Church Office Administrator



August Prayer Requests

Prayer Concerns: Dale, Lu & Debbie Sharp; Leland Frost, Ivan Shaw, Sylvia Akeley, Jeff Franklin, Richard Carde, Anna Roberts, James Stuart, Rodney Nichols, Peter Doody, Sheila Belyea, Amelia Baker, Elida Frederick, Cheryl Martin, Sandra & Allison Davidson, Andrew Barbieri, William Autrey, Ruth Ross, Katherine Noyes, Kara Thayer, Bob Wunderlich, Angela Bellamy, Don DeMerchant, Scott McGary, Shirley Bowman

Deaths: Family of Carrie Smith-Gagne and Pierre Gagne; Family of Ivan Shaw; Family of Misty Marquis

Other: Prayers of gratitude for all the prayers and kindnesses extended to Vince and Kristi Bell and family following their house fire; praises - my son's wedding went well (Steven Jones)

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

<u>DATE</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Counter</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
Sep 07	Richard Clark	Mary Lou Brown	Deborah Nichols	Elsie Doody	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Sep 14	Ruthann Weeks	Mari-Jo Hedman	Bobbi Pelletier	Cheryl Martin	NOW Committee
Sep 21	Gwen Ellinwood	Judi Greenier	Del Ramey	Cheryl Martin	UMM
Sep 28	Judi Greenier	Mari-Jo Hedman	Melonie Carlson	Cheryl Martin	Worship Committee

Usher Coordinator for September ~ Neal Genz
Communion Stewardess for September ~ Beth Alden
Communion Bread for September ~ Dave Belyea

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

Hodgkins, Claire – change email address to clarisse.hodgkins85@gmail.com
Shaw, Ivan – remove; died August 22nd

* * September Birthdays & Anniversaries * *

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

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



1	Kristi Bell	22	Justin McLauchlan
4	Angie Harbert	23	Lisa Wilcox
5	Gail Hagelstein	25	Dave Wakana
14	Kim Barnes, Jeffrey Mazursky	26	Ian McLauchlan
16	Peter Campbell	27	Ruth Ross
19	Del Ramey	28	Charlotte Willey



3	Lori & Jeffrey Mazursky	10	Casey & Corey Felix
5	Sheila & Dave Belyea	20	Joelene & Mark Boucher
6	Vicki & Bryant Clyburn		

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
Jul 27	53	29	\$1,711.00
Aug 03	52	31	\$5,118.00
Aug 10	43	44	\$3,009.00
Aug 17	48	56	\$7,479.00
Aug 24	55	(will report next month)	\$1,890.00
Aug 31		(will report next month)	

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

* On-line attendance shows the number of unique viewers, but may not capture accurate number of people if more than one person is viewing the service from one location.

"Growing in Faith" Capital Campaign Account: Balance reported in last month's Newsletter was \$33,165.13. Since then, we received interest of \$1.43 and paid \$177.57 to AWM Electric, LLC for fan motors in the outside electronic sign. Our balance as of August 26th is \$32,988.99 (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 jam or jelly, marshmallow fluff and adult 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).

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The Worship Committee is resuming their Mission Project to provide supplies to the schools. These are the items needed: shampoo, soap, deodorants, toothpaste, notebooks, bookbags, folders, colored pencils. They also have a “snack closet” the kids come to quite often for items like gummies, cheez nips, trail mix; any single serve items, water, juice boxes. Marked boxes will be in the library beginning Sunday, September 7th.
Please consider donating to this project!

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 \$1.65 in donations for August, so our proceeds are now \$1,304.95! 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 September Sunday Worship Services at 10:00am:

Sept 7 - <https://youtube.com/live/6rmD8BvY4A0>

Sept 14 - <https://youtube.com/live/Ktx58dWh6Io>

Sept 21 - <https://youtube.com/live/VX8P1xSRkMk>

Sept 28 - <https://youtube.com/live/nnTfRTODmow>

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Gray Memorial's Annual Church Conference is scheduled for 10am-12pm at Grant Memorial UMC on Saturday, September 6th. Several other Katahdin District churches are included. Please plan on attending!



The Transition Team will conduct a "History Presentation" during coffee fellowship on Sunday, September 14th. This is a requirement of the transition process for Pastor Ben.

Gray Memorial UMC is joining in the "Back to Church Sunday" nationwide event on Sunday, September 21st. This is an opportunity for each of us to invite a friend, family member or a current member of the church who we have not seen for a while to come back and join us for Worship! Please consider reaching out and inviting someone to come with you that Sunday!





Come Join Our Photography Class!

Presenter: Sandra Pethick **Class Limit:** Min: 6 – Max: 12

Snap and Shoot: Photography Basics is a fun and interactive photography class designed to help you master a better understanding of the basics of photography, including composition, lighting, and the camera settings. Perfect for beginners and enthusiasts looking to boost your confidence behind the lens, develop your creative eye, and discover a photographic style. No prior experience is required – just a willingness to learn and explore your artistic side. So, pack up your camera or bring your phone and come join us for some fun!

When: On Monday: Sep 22, 29, Oct 6, 13, 20, 27, Nov 3 **Time:** 1:00 -2:30 p.m.

Where: Gray Memorial United Methodist Church

Donation: \$10.00

Needed for Class:

Your Camera or Phone (Which ever your have) and Crayola 10 count Classic Color Markers

YES! I am interested in taking this class:

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Note: If you paid for the last class, you do not have to pay again.

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Our Senior Choir, under the leadership of Mari-Jo Hedman, will begin practices on select Saturday mornings at 11:30am beginning September 13th. If you wish to join the choir, please come! We would love to have more voices! 😊

PICTURE FROM OUR WORSHIP SERVICE ON SUNDAY AUGUST 17TH
(taken by Neal Genz)



August 17th - Pastor Ellen Cleaves, along with Diane Fitzpatrick, blessed the children's backpacks during our "Blessing of the Backpacks" segment of the service.

OTHER KODAK MOMENTS!

THE FOLLOWING PICTURES WERE TAKEN DURING THE CLUSTER'S VBS ON AUGUST 14TH:
(provided by Melonie Carlson)





Announcements from our Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC):

Gray Memorial has an immediate opening for a Financial Secretary. Shirley Bowman has expressed her desire to step down from this position and move on to other plans. Shirley has done a wonderful job over the last three plus years as well as during a previous tenure. She will be greatly missed in this position.

The Financial Secretary position oversees the tracking and reporting of financial gifts to Gray Memorial. It requires weekly deposit reports, a monthly report to the Church Council, two reports annually to donors, and tracking the results of the annual stewardship campaign, all using a computerized software program. Training assistance would be provided. The position also requires a general knowledge of bookkeeping, a detail-oriented work standard as well as an ability to maintain very strict privacy about individual donors and their accounts. The Financial Secretary is expected to attend the monthly Church Council meetings to address any issues brought up relative to the monthly reports.

If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in this position a formal job description and/or a job application can be requested from the church office or from any SPRC member (Melonie Carlson, Cheryl Martin, Kathy Panaro, Dave Belyea, Mary Lou Brown, or Debbie Barnes).

When you have a chance, please express your thanks to Shirley for the great job she has done for our church and wish her many blessings in her future.

Pastor Ben wants to meet with YOU!

Pastor Ben would like to meet in small groups with church members to help him get to know the membership better as well as to help membership get to know him better. He would like to do these meet and greets around the end of September or early October. There will be a sign-up poster available soon with a variety of meeting dates and times to choose from so hopefully everyone will be able to fit a meeting into their schedules. He looks forward to successful meetings and hopes church members and affiliates will sign up for a meet and greet session with him, so please watch for the sign-up poster soon.

Debbie Barnes, SPRC Chair



Church Council Minutes
August 21, 2025

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

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

- Open Discussion Question:** How do we put God front and center in the information we communicate and the way we receive it? Several suggestions were offered.
- Deal with the issue and take personality out if it, as egos get in the way of good communication.
 - We need to be more transparent in the happenings of the church for people who are attending our church but not serving on committees where they would be informed.
 - Some people don't want to listen to some of the issues.
 - In order to shorten the announcement portion of our service each week, we could begin having the announcements projected on the overhead screen while the prelude is being played.
 - Make whatever we say and do be God centered!

Financial Reports:

- Shirley's report listed the total monthly offering received for July was \$13,434.00. The total with special funds received was \$14,792.00.
- The memorial money received for Anna Roberts (\$150.00), will go to the elevator fund.
- Bobbi's report showed that the income for July was pretty close to what we needed to cover the July expenses. We are five months behind in paying our Mission Shares, but Bobbi will pay one month's amount this month. The BBQ trailer will not be repaired, but Jud has said he will build a smoker/grill for future events. The estimated cost will be \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00.
- The property insurance bill has not yet been received but we will need to pay 20% of the annual bill in September, along with the parsonage's real estate bill.

Committee Highlights:

- **SPRC:** Debbie reported that we will begin advertising for a financial secretary. Shirley will be getting done in December. Pastor Ben wishes to do some "meet and greets" with our Gray Memorial membership. More information will follow in the next newsletter.
- **Worship Committee:** Bobbi reported that Mary-Jo Hedman will begin as our new choir director in September. She will receive \$100.00 for each week that the choir sings. As of the current schedule, the choir will sing and Mary-Jo will play the piano twice a month. Other Sundays will be covered by Judi Greenier or Mary Lou Brown and Rich Daggett will play occasionally when his schedule with Grant Memorial can be worked out. Bobbi also reported that the Servant Keeper software that she uses was purchased in 2012. The current version 7 will no longer be available after September 30th, so we have to decide on what to do – use a no cost option that could leave us vulnerable if anything happens and we'd have no support OR purchase an upgraded version that will cost a monthly fee. Three options at different price levels are available. Bobbi is planning to attend a webinar on August 28th to obtain more information, but she currently recommends that we purchase the Servant Keeper "Good" plan for \$70.00 a month. A suggestion was made to back up our information on a hard drive and store it in another place.
- **Education Committee:** Cheryl reported that dates have been set for the Safer Sanctuary training. People participating will be polled on whether September 10th or the 11th would be best for them. Cheryl will contact Colleen Harmon with the date decided on. The Red Cross training will hopefully be done the following week. Cheryl has a target date for October to begin our Sunday School program. Roy added that he has learned that Colleen will be charging \$100.00 per hour to facilitate the Safer Sanctuary training and that each person participating will be responsible for obtaining their own background check.
- **Trustees Committee:** no report.

New Business:

- The Committee on Nominations will make a request from the pulpit for people willing to serve on committees. The new people will begin in January.
- Our Lay Servants need to be nominated. Debbie Barnes moved and Dave DeMerchant seconded that the Lay Servants be approved. These individuals are – Melonie Carlson, Cheryl Martin, Kim Vandenburg, Richard Clark and Mary Lou Brown. Pastor Ben recommended their endorsement and all voted in favor.
- The Annual Charge Conference will be held on September 6th at Grant Memorial in conjunction with other churches in our cluster. Bobbi is still awaiting guidance from the District Superintendent as to the forms that will need to be provided at the conference.
- The Pastor's compensation package needs to be set and approved by the Church Council before the Charge Conference is held. The SPRC will be meeting to set a salary package and it will be voted on at a special meeting of the Church Council following our worship service on August 31st.

Pastor Ben's Time:

- Pastor Solomon Teye Alipoh from Ghana will be speaking this Sunday, August 24th during our worship service.

- Anderson De Freitas Soares from Brazil, an international missionary serving in Brazil, will be here the first week of September to speak on his hope filled Street Ministry. A “Question and Answer” program will be held at Gray Memorial on September 4th with a meal of chili and cornbread to follow provided by the NOW Committee.
- The Grant Memorial UMM has invited our UMM group to a breakfast at 7:30am on September 6th where Anderson will also speak. A pulled pork meal will be served at Grant Memorial following the Church Conference that will be held from 10:00am until noon on that day.
- Pastor Ben is interested in holding a Book/Bible study on the book, **Redeeming Conflict**, by Ann Garrido. More information on a date and time will be forthcoming.
- Pastor Ben reported on something new he will be doing; “a new meditation practice that beats sitting around and doing nothing”!! 😊

Our next regular meeting will be held on September 18th at 1:00pm.

Diane Fitzpatrick, Secretary

Committee/Group Reports provided during August:

Education Committee Minutes July 11, 2025

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

Cheryl opened the meeting with a prayer.

Melonie made a motion to accept the minutes of the May meeting with Diane seconding it.
(Our June meeting was not held because most members were unable to attend.)

New Business

❖ Sunday School Program

- Diane checked with Bobbi and found out that most companies no longer mail out catalogs and have their information online. Committee members were asked to research Sunday School programs online and bring information to share at our next meeting.

❖ CPR, AED, and Bloodborne Pathogens Certification

- Colleen was unavailable to meet with us today to update us on training information and will hopefully be able to attend our next meeting.
- An email will be sent to Judd asking for clarification/documentation of our church insurance requirements in regards to who is able to certify us. We are in hopes that it can be the American Red Cross because it will be much less costly for us.

Other

- ❖ There will be a Step Up to School Penny Sale on July 26 and it was decided that instead of participating as a committee on this, individuals can reach out to Colleen if they would like to help in any way.

- ❖ Vacation Bible School is being held in conjunction with the Aroostook Cluster. It will be held in the Houlton area on August 14th from 10-4 with an August 15th rain date. The theme is Celebration of Faith which will have a focus on where we see God in nature. People are being asked to reach out if they would like to participate. Melonie and Cheryl shared a game called Ouisi which was purchased for the program. It was mentioned that we might want to purchase one for our Sunday School program after we see how the children enjoy it at VBS.
- ❖ After discussion, we decided we would change our meetings to the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 9:30 to accommodate Pastor Ben's schedule.

Our next meeting will be held on August 13th at 9:30 where we will decide on a Sunday School start date, finalize the teacher's schedule, and make curriculum plans.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Theriault

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:

From Financial Secretary:

The following is the total church offering for July:

Regular Offering	\$13,189.00
<u>Loose Offering</u>	<u>245.00</u>
Subtotal-Regular Offering	\$13,434.00

<u>Other Sources Operating Fund:</u>	<u>.00</u>
Total Regular Offerings	\$13,434.00

Reimbursements: .00

Special Funds for Church Use:

Prayer Shawl	522.00
Coffee Fellowship	107.00
Bottle Redemption	12.00
Community Support	110.00
Security	50.00
Anna Roberts Memorial	150.00
<u>NOW Committee</u>	<u>207.00</u>
Subtotal Funds for Church Use	\$1,158.00

Special Funds Not for Church Use:

<u>Ecumenical Food Pantry</u>	<u>200.00</u>
Sub-Total Funds Not for Church Use	200.00
Grand Total:	\$14,792.00

From Treasurer:

Beginning Balance	.00	
2025 Operating income	13,434.00	
Bottle Redemption	12.00	
Interest	1.13	
Less EFT fee	(32.10)	VANCO fees (EFT deposits)
<u>Less Expenses</u>	<u>(13,437.15)</u>	
Ending Balance	(22.12)	

Total "Special Funds for Church Use", which included many lines for various donations, total \$22,203.19. 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 = \$27,968.94.

The Capital Account Money is as follows as of July 31: Previous Balance - \$33,165.13; Deposits - \$1.43; No expenses; Current Balance - \$33,166.56. (Includes funds earmarked for Furnace Fund - \$5,397.33; Emergency Fund Donations = \$21,104.23).

Expenditures for July 2025:

Programs:

Office	116.08
NOW Team	50.00
Programs Sub-Total	\$ 166.08

Trustee Expenses:

Church Utilities	\$1,395.41
Parsonage Utilities	991.74
Telephone/Internet	215.00
Snow Removal/Mowing	450.00
Maintenance/Cleaning	218.94
Trustee Sub-Total	\$3,271.09

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	82.46
Total Other Salaries	\$2,707.46

Other Expenses:

Guest & Substitute Staff	\$200.00
FICA	(15.19)
Workman's Comp	66.64
Total Other Expenses	\$251.45

Sub-Total SPRC Expenses \$9,167.74

New England Conference:

Pastor Pension Benefit	832.24
NEC Total	\$ 832.24
Grand Total Expenses	\$13,437.15

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

Mission Shares = \$2,387.33/mo. As of EOM June, 5 months behind - \$11,936.65. (2 months of Mission Shares paid in March)

Note: Dead River bills for church also include charges for propane deliveries. Balances as of July 31: Church = \$345.00; Parsonage = (\$919.20)

2025 YTD REVIEW – July 2025

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

July:

Target = \$129,906.17; Beginning Operating Fund Balance (Jan only) - \$924.51; Operating Fund Income from F/S YTD - \$102,072.32; Special Funds Used for Operating Fund Expenses YTD = \$17,467.61; Total Expenses YTD - \$120,284.33; Unpaid Mission Shares = \$11,936.65.

An aggregate of in-person and virtual attendance shows monthly average of 85 and 82 YTD.

NOW Team Meeting - August 6, 2025
Nurture - Outreach - Witness

In attendance: Kathy Panaro, Melonie Carlson, Sandy Pethick, Alaina Pethick, Bobbi Pelletier, Ruthann Weeks,
Pastor Ben Daggett, Aurora Pethick Barnum
Absent: Rhonda Cyr, Cheryl Martin

Meeting was called to order at 10:02 am.

Opening Prayer - Aurora
(Kathy will do the opening prayer next month.)

Acceptance of Minutes -
Kathy moved to accept the minutes as received via email. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report -

There was no formal Treasurer's Report as Cheryl was absent. She reported through Melonie that the funds allocated to the operating budget and the reimbursement of the affirmation cards had been paid and our ending balance is \$2248.05.

Upcoming Ministry/Mission Opportunity
Pastor Ben shared with us that a friend, Anderson, from his mission time in Brazil will be visiting Sept. 3-8. They would like to host several events over this time to allow Anderson to share his testimony and information about his mission work. There was extensive discussion of options for the events, venues, advertisement, and potential collaboration with other groups and churches. The main event will be a pig roast on Saturday, Sept. 7 at 1 pm. There will be no charge for this event. It will take place at our church. The NOW Team proposed providing the funds for the pig and asking other committees to help by purchasing other food items. We also discussed a Q&A event on Thursday, Sept. 4 in the afternoon, possibly with a meal to follow. The thought is that this event would be for the Gray congregation and some key members from the community. Since there is still extensive planning to do, another meeting just for the purposes of planning these events was scheduled for Aug. 18 at 10 am.

Caribou Cares about Kids Parade Follow-Up

We thought the parade was fairly short this year and there were other competing events that evening. But the cookies were well received. The extra cookies were given to the homeless shelter. We will plan on continuing this again next year, pending information about the parade.

Parcel Post Auction

This topic was tabled until our next monthly meeting.

Homeless Shelter Dinners

Bobbi shared that the donations to support the meals Colleen and Judson are preparing for the homeless shelter are quickly being depleted. She suggested finding volunteers to make a dessert for each meal and for the NOW Team to donate \$300 to help support their work. Sandy made a motion to donate \$300 to support Colleen and Judson preparing meals for the homeless shelter. Ruthann seconded the motion. The motion passed. Four volunteers signed up to make a dessert for the next meal on August 15.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

With the transition of pastors, our previous discussion of replenishing the Pastor's Discretionary Fund had not been acted on yet. Bobbi suggested the NOW Team provide \$300 to that account for now and add more later, if needed. Ruthann made a motion to give \$300 to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Sandy seconded. The motion passed.

Updates

- Photo Class
 - Sandy shared the flyer for her photography class. It will restart in September. The sign up fee will be waived for any one who participated in the original class.
- Food Pantry
 - Ruthann shared that the pantry just purchased a new refrigerator. She said they have been fortunate with donations of food and funds recently. August is Gray UMC's month for volunteers.
- Fatigue Mats
 - The mats have been purchased and have arrived. Bobbi asked for any feedback we have as we start to use them.
 -

Coffee Fellowship

The NOW Team has Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, August 10.

Additional Business

Cheryl is taking over managing the UMW Rada Fundraiser. More catalogs were just ordered.

Guest Services is having their holiday event on Dec. 6. We might want to think about collaborating with them to possibly combine our events. We will invite Colleen to our next meeting.

Bobbi is looking into the payment options for the Upper Room. Currently, it is every 2 months but she just received paperwork from them suggesting we pay the bill annually with a discount, which would reduce the overall cost. However, they are asking for online payments and she doesn't want to have to remember that if/when she does decide to retire as the church's treasurer and would have to train someone else. The NOW Team pays for the Upper Room subscription. Bobbi is exploring ways to keep the cost to a minimum.

Closing Prayer - Melonie

Our next regular meeting will be September 3 at 10 am.

Special Planning Meeting - August 18 at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Alaina Pethick
NOW Team Secretary

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Trustee Meeting
July 15, 2025

Present: Pastor Ben, Judson Drake, Judi Greenier, Del Ramey, and David DeMerchant.

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

Opening prayer was given by Pastor Ben.

Secretary's report was presented. Motion by Del and second by Judson to accept the report as printed. Report approved.

The Treasurer’s report was presented by Judi. Discussion was had about the Pastors’ Moving account. The balance of the “Pastor’s Moving Away Account” will be transferred to the “Pastor’s Moving Account”. Motion made by Del and second by Judson to accept the report as presented. Motion approved.

BGUMC Local Accounts	
Organ Fund	2,486.40
Clock Account	536.85
Steeple Maintenance	1,023.82
Pastors Moving Account	100.83
BOT Checking	4,306.93
Trustees’ CD	11,884.71
Hazel Greenier Family Fund	14,616.13

Front door replacement has been installed today. S.W. Collins Company bill given to Judi for payment \$3460.00;

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

Lawn Care: The contract has been signed.

ASSIGNMENT OF DUTIES

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

ELEVATOR SYSTEM: Colleen Harmon.

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

SPRINKLER SYSTEM: Colleen Harmon

LIGHT SYSTEM: Dave DeMerchant

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

THE CHURCH SANCTUARY DOOR 2025 WAS DISCUSSED AND PRINTED ON THE NEXT PAGE.
Meeting adjourned at 3:08 pm

David DeMerchant

Church sanctuary door policy 2025

1. Church Service or Gatherings

- The main doors to the Sanctuary must stay closed during the service.
 - The doors will be closed by the ushers ten (10) minutes after the service begins.
 - Parishioners arriving late may enter through the side doors by the library or the elevator.
 - The doors will remain closed until the last hymn is being sung.
 - The doors will be opened by the ushers at that time.
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Worship Committee Minutes August 7, 2025

Members Present: Bobbi Pelletier (chair), Pastor Ben Daggett, Diane Fitzpatrick, Richard Clark, Claire Hodgkins, Beth Alden, Gwen Ellinwood, Diana Locke

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

Devotions were offered by Diana Locke, who shared a very touching essay by Norman Vincent Peale. It was called “Life After Death” and was very moving.

The minutes from the July 6th meeting were accepted as published. It was noted that one change was made after the meeting: we will have a rain date of August 31st for the Blessing of the Animals.

Old Business:

- Many comments were made on how delightful the music on Sunday, August 3rd was! It was wonderful to have Pastor Ben’s father, Rich, on the piano and Pastor Ben on the guitar playing together. It was mentioned that we should continue having the congregation be seated during the postlude. Pastor Ben will announce this following the benediction on Sundays and Bobbi will put a note in the bulletin as well.
- The pianist schedule for July through December still has services without a volunteer, but will be worked on as the time draws near. Rich Daggett has offered to play once in a while. Bobbi will ask him if he can fill in on Sundays that will not interfere with his obligations at Grant Memorial. Bobbi will also ask Aurora Barnum if she would be willing to play her flute from time to time.
- Mari-Jo Hedman will begin practicing with the Senior Choir on Saturdays in September. She will be playing the piano two Sundays every month and the choir will sing on those Sundays. Tentative dates for rehearsal are September 6th and 13th. *Update – We have canceled the September 6th practice.*
- Ellen Cleaves will be preaching on August 17th. She plans to do a “Blessing of the Backpacks” during the Children’s Lesson.
- A friend of Pastor Ben’s will be here from Ghana on August 24th. Pastor Solomon Teye Alipoh will speak on his ministry there. Rich and Jeanne Daggett will also share of their experiences there as well.
- The Outdoor Service will be held on August 31st and will include a “Blessing of the Animals”. The litany insert and prayer cards will be used. There will be no rain date.
- The Trustees plan to issue a policy on closing the swinging doors during our worship services. Questions were raised on the need for those doors to be closed now that our new outside doors have been installed and will be locked during our services. It was suggested that a few representatives from our committee ask to be put on the Trustee’s agenda for their August 19th meeting to discuss this along with two other concerns; the scheduling of the Safer Sanctuary and Red Cross training, and a written protocol for dealing with emergencies that may arise during our worship services, meetings and events that are held at the church. Beth, Diana, Bobbi, Diane, and Pastor Ben will meet at Beth’s home on Monday, August 18th at 11:00am to have lunch and formulate a plan for our presentation to the Board of Trustees.

New Business:

- Bobbi reported that a few subtle changes have been made to the Order of Worship. If and when Pastor Ben wishes to make other changes, we will certainly enable that to happen.
- September 21st is “Back to Church Sunday”. Bobbi distributed a planning guide that can be used to help us get ready for this special event. Notices of this service will be advertised in weekly email Newsletters, posted on our website and on Facebook, as well as signs that can be posted outside. We are encouraged to personally invite family, friends, and former members to join us on that day.
- Since we have changed our meeting time to the first Thursday of the month at 9:30am, there will be a conflict with the time that the Aroostook Cluster meets on that same day, starting in September. They meet by Zoom at 9:00am, so we will be meeting at 10:30am on Thursday, September 4th. The first Thursday of the month at 10:30am will be our new meeting time as we go forward. *Note: Gwen Ellinwood agreed to do devotions at our next meeting on September 4th.*

Upcoming Sundays:

- October 5th will be World Communion Sunday. Beth and Diane volunteered to decorate the altar.
- October 19th will be Laity Sunday and Children's Sabbath. Bobbi will work with Pastor Ben on how to incorporate the children in the service other than just at the Children's Lesson.
- Bobbi will speak with Denise Hamlin to see if she would like to have us begin our School Project again this fall.

Diane Fitzpatrick, Secretary

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LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SEPTEMBER 2025!!!

Monday 01 FEDERAL HOLIDAY - LABOR DAY - CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED



Thursday	04	9:00am	Aroostook Cluster Meeting via Zoom
		10:30am	Worship Committee Meeting (Note - new day)
		5:00pm	Question & Answer Period with Anderson Soares; Chili dinner to follow
Saturday	06	7:30am	Grant Memorial's UMM Breakfast; Guest Speaker - Anderson Soares
		10am-12pm	Annual Church Conference at Grant Memorial UMC (Gray, Grant, Lidstone, Limestone, & Mapleton churches)
		12:30am	Presentation by Our Guest, Anderson Soares, at Grant Memorial UMC
		1:00pm	Special Pulled-Pork BBQ in honor of Anderson Soares at Grant Memorial

Sunday	07	10:00am	Worship; Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost; Grandparents' Day
Monday	08	11:30am	"Gray Gals" Pot-Luck Luncheon
		1:00pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting (note date change)
Tuesday	09	10:00am	NOW Committee Meeting (note date change)
Wednesday	10	9:30am	Education Committee Meeting (Note - new day)
Thursday	11	1:00pm	SPRC Meeting
Saturday	13	11:30am	Senior Choir Practice with Mari-Jo Hedman (first practice of the season!)

Sunday	14	10:00am	Worship; Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Senior Choir sings); Transition Team's History Presentation during Coffee Fellowship
Tuesday	16	1:00pm	Trustees Meeting
		6:00pm	Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Board Meeting (note date change)
Thursday	18	1:00pm	Church Council Meeting

Sunday	21	10:00am	Worship; Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost; Prayer Shawl Dedication "Back to Church Sunday" (Bring a friend!)
Monday	22	<u>FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN</u>	
		1:00pm	"Snap and Shoot: Photography Basics" Class led by Sandy Pethick (1 of 7)
Tuesday	23	10:00am	<u>DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWSLETTER INPUT</u>
Saturday	27	8:00am	UMM Breakfast & Meeting
		11:30am	Senior Choir Practice with Mari-Jo Hedman (second practice)

Sunday	28	10:00am	Worship; Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Senior Choir sings)
Monday	29	1:00pm	"Snap and Shoot: Photography Basics" Class led by Sandy Pethick (2 of 7)
