

For by hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

~ Romans 8:24-25

Hope. Something about hope bids us to trust in what we cannot see. As the Apostle Paul puts it in Romans, if we hope for what we see, then it isn't hope at all but something else altogether. Many people of Jesus' day hoped that he would be the king to expulse the hated Romans and establish God's righteous reign on earth. Instead, their hoped-for Messiah ended up dead on a cross, just as he had said would happen. And Jesus went up to Jerusalem anyway, knowing fully well what awaited him there. Could he fully see the hope that inspired his steps? And still he went on. Author Sandra Cronk calls the cross of Christ a broken symbol. It's a sign and a reminder that our hope is found not in the things of this world, in that which can be seen (i.e., in a king who will fight our battles for us), but only in that which lies just beyond, or beneath, or above, behind, our grasp. That yearning, that longing for the ineffable has the effect of coaxing us ever beyond the limits we've placed around our lives, if we allow it to do so. Like the mother bird that gently shoves her nestlings to the waiting wind she knows will lift their wings, the Holy One knows the hidden strengths and capabilities we haven't yet discovered in ourselves. Just imagine what God sees in us, we who have been created in the very image and likeness of God! Can we turn to God in hope, wait, and so "lose our lives" to welcome the strength of Christ-in-us? To set our hopes on our own strength is not hope, since that's something we (think) we can see. To set our hopes on God's strength, which is unseen, is nonetheless infinitely greater than all we can ask for or imagine. Hoping for what we don't and cannot see woos us and stretches us to go outside our comfort zone, even sends us into places of risk and struggle, both within ourselves and in relation to others in the world. Maybe it's a willingness to pause and listen, truly listen, in the midst of a disagreement, to hear another's point of view. Maybe as we do so we'll even pause enough to hear our own voice as we never had before. Or perhaps, our move toward unseen hope is taking our prayers to God for a more just and peace-filled land to a public place. How do we bear witness to our gospel hope, our hopes in things unseen? Time and again, God has proven faithful to deliver the responses to our questions, and perhaps to those questions we haven't even thought to ask, and it's always in God's good time. God comes through in our willingness to hope, to trust, and to wait for that which we have not (yet) seen.

But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. ~ Isaiah 40:31

May our Lenten reflections lead us to the open spaces of hope in the LORD, and patience in the waiting.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Ben



The Caribou Clock

Publisher - Gray Memorial United Methodist Church
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! : bessiegraymemorial@outlook.com

Date: March 2026

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

Greetings from the Church Office!

Please remember that the church has an account at the Bennett Drive Redemption Center. These donations help offset our monthly operating expenses. Call me if you are unable to bring in your own bottles and I will make arrangements to get them picked up!

As we enter the Lenten season, we need to keep our church family in prayer. If you notice someone hasn't been to church for a while, reach out to them. This winter season has been very cold and icy, so many people seem to stay home more than usual. We all need to help each other get through this time of year.

We will host our noon-time Ecumenical Services during Holy Week, which is Monday, March 30th through Friday, April 3rd. Please plan to join us as we celebrate with other church's members each day.

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 Wednesday, March 25th!!!*

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier
Church Office Administrator



February Prayer Requests

Prayer Concerns: Dale, Lu & Debbie Sharp; Leland Frost, Sylvia Akeley, Jeff Franklin, Richard Carde, Shirley Bowman, James Stuart, Peter Doody, William Autrey, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Higgins, Gabriel Ben Tepherrith, Ruby Philbrook (diagnosed with leukemia), Ed Ouellette, Sandy Pethick, Rick Hallowell, Gloria Autrey, Seth Hodgkins, Hope Walton, Janet Schofield, Cameron Doody, Michelle Carde (expecting first child), Bonnie Lavway, Jonah Raymond

Deaths: Family of Josh Smart; Family of Eva Cyr; Family of Betty Spencer (Beth Alden's mother) and Family of Beth's cousin Vickie; Family of Jeff Cote; Family of Ken Ward

Others: Safe travel for Anna Jandreau; Prayers of joy for birth of Samuel Gene Perkins (Mother - Michelle Carde) - 9lbs. 10 oz.!

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>Pianist/Music</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Counter</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
Mar 01	David DeMerchant	Hymnal CDs	Dave Belyea	Elsie Doody	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Mar 08	Gwen Ellinwood	Mari-Jo Hedman	Melonie Carlson	Elsie Doody	NOW Committee
Mar 15	Ruthann Weeks	Hymnal CDs	Richard Clark	Diane Fitzpatrick	Church Council
Mar 22	Deb Pringnitz	Mari-Jo Hedman	Diane Fitzpatrick	Cheryl Martin	Worship Committee
Mar 29	Penny Shaw	Judi Greenier	Cheryl Martin	Diane Fitzpatrick	NEED VOLUNTEERS!!!

Usher Coordinator for March ~ Cheryl Martin
 Communion Stewardess for March ~ Diane Fitzpatrick
 Communion Bread for March ~ Dave Belyea

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

Langley, Gary – new address: 19 Marshall Avenue, Apt. 24, Caribou ME 04736
 Wakana: David, Diana Locke - new address: 107 Hughes Blvd., Hampden ME 04444

* * March Birthdays & Anniversaries * *

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

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



1	Mary Kirkpatrick, Adam Lombard	15	George Cushman
2	Marilla Cushman, Bobbi Pelletier	16	Beth Alden
4	Kent Forbes	19	Debbie Stallings
5	Rob Kieffer	25	Casey Felix
6	Duska Franklin, Jase Stallings, Roberta Walton	26	Roy Alden
10	Ryan Genz, Jeanette Peters, Debbie Sharp	30	Rickey Bouchard
12	Lawana McKenzie	31	Todd Theriault



10 Barbara & Steven Scott

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:

<u>Date</u>	<u>In-Person Attendance</u>	<u>*On-Line Attendance</u>	<u>+ Operating Fund Offering</u>
Jan 30	N/A	N/A	\$2,934.63
Feb 01	43	44	\$3,502.00
Feb 08	47	29	\$7,334.00
Feb 15	37	34	\$1,231.63
Feb 22	45	(will report next month)	\$2,377.00

+ Needed weekly to meet 2026 Budget: \$4,429.75

* 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 \$31,195.73. Since then, we received interest of \$1.34 and did not have any payments. Our balance as of February 23rd is \$31,197.07 (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, adult cereals and canned vegetables. 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).



The Worship Committee has resumed 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 are in the library. Please consider donating to this project! Thank you!

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 \$9.85 in February, so proceeds increase to \$1,348.40! Please remember that these donations help offset our operating budget expenses each month!



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 the church office (498-2103), 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.

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.

Here are the links for our March services on Sundays at 10:00am:

- March 1 - <https://youtube.com/live/-PBxsTI--NE>
- March 8 - <https://youtube.com/live/3FixmyKGzy4>
- March 15 - <https://youtube.com/live/z2B8QSFOkZY>
- March 22 - <https://youtube.com/live/xD8lNOglXQY>
- March 29 - <https://youtube.com/live/EJwNe4DNq4o>

The Caribou Assembly of God Church offers “Friday Nite Meals” and 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).

PHOTOS FROM OUR WORSHIP SERVICES

(photos provided by Melonie Carlson unless otherwise noted):



(this photo taken by Neal Genz)

January 18th – Pastor Ben with the children during the “Children’s Moment”. He first nearly filled the jar with water and then asked the children to drop pennies into the jar to look what happened the water rises up above the lip of the jar! This demonstrated that God’s love fills us and can overflow!



(photo taken by Neal Genz)

January 18 – Lawana McKenzie and Pam Thompson became members of Gray Memorial UMC.

January 18th - Judson Drake constructed this “waterfall” from the altar for our Baptism of the Lord Sunday Worship service.



February 1st – During the Children’s Moment, Pastor Ben showed the children that he’d placed a hand-held mirror inside a bible to show that each time he opens the Bible he sees himself!

OTHER KODAK MOMENTS!



January 17th – The NOW Committee “Souper Supper with Salads and Sweets” was held. Pastor Ben, Melonie Carlson and Ruthann Weeks served soup for those who attended. We had several different delicious soups! The dessert table also had a number of very delectable options!

Sandy Pethick’s photography class photos are on display on the doors at the back of the sanctuary:



All the pictures!



Pastor Ben’s pictures!



Melonie Carlson's photos!



Sandy Pethick's photos!



Ruthann Week's photos!



Jeannie Daggett's photos!



FLOWERS FOR EASTER – April 5, 2026

The Worship Committee invites you to order or purchase your own plants/flowers and bring/deliver them to the church for display on Easter Sunday.

Flowers are to be brought in or delivered on Friday, April 3rd from 9am-noon or at 1:00pm on Saturday, April 4th when Worship Committee members are here to arrange them for the Easter Sunday Service the next day.

If the following information is provided by Wednesday, April 1st, it will be listed in the Easter Sunday Bulletin.

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____



**Church Council Minutes
February 19, 2026**

Present: Roy Alden (chair), Pastor Ben Daggett, Ellen Cleaves, Bobbi Pelletier, Cheryl Martin, Debbie Barnes, Diane Fitzpatrick, David DeMerchant, Mary Lou Brown

Roy opened the meeting and asked Pastor Ben to lead us in prayer. Pastor Ben read Paul’s prayer, a letter to the Ephesians from Ephesians chapter 3.

Opening Discussion: Roy briefly reviewed the goals we have discussed at the last couple of meetings on growing our church spiritually. Pastor Ben spoke on Gateways to God, a program he is participating in that gives ministerial and spiritual direction. He would like to put the practices he is learning to use in our church, which will encompass one-on-one deep listening and companioning in prayer. He will invite those interested to go with him through the book, **Rediscovering the Sacred Center**, as a beginning. A retreat will be offered for a smaller group on April 17th and 18th to discuss how to carry out the practices of the book.

Financial Statements:

Debbie Barnes and Bobbi Pelletier presented their reports for the month of January, which will be included in the next newsletter. Copies of these reports are in the Narthex for anyone to review.

Committee Reports:

- Bobbi reported for the Worship Committee. Discussion has been held in the last several meetings about the state of our pipe organ and the possibility of holding a celebration of the organ. She would like to have the Trustees involved in making decisions pertaining to the organ and the possibilities we have in going forward with it. It will cost approximately \$250,000.00 to restore the organ. Mari-Jo Hedman suggested holding a Summer Musicale this summer as we have in the past with vocalists and other instrumentalists participating, along with some limited playing of the organ. The church body will have to determine when and how to raise the money needed to restore the organ. Once the organ is restored, perhaps we can have a large celebration by inviting other organists to offer selections on it.
- Ellen Cleaves reported for the SPRC. Their meeting in February was opened with devotions shared by Ellen. This was followed by naming at least three congregational joys that the committee members have observed recently. They will be watching to continue naming joys each month at their meetings. In order to highlight the “P” in SPRC (which stands for Parish), the committee will be putting together a simple Shepherding program for this congregation to better help people stay in touch with one another. Each committee member will have a few names of people who comprise our congregation. Each Sunday, a quick look around will determine if the “sheep” are present or not. When an absence is noted for two or three consecutive Sundays, the Shepherd will try to check in via mail, email, text, or phone call to let him or her know that he/she has been missed at worship.
- Roy reported for the Trustees on the projector project. A new one is being purchased at a cost of approximately \$4,000.00. This will be paid for with money that was in the Local Memorial Account and will be deposited into the Trustees’ account. Bobbi requested that the Trustees include a report on local accounts in their monthly meeting minutes.

Other Business:

- Roy asked for an update on the Stewardship Campaign. Cheryl reported that a letter with pledge cards included is being prepared. Debbie will send Bobbi something to include in the bulletins and newsletter about adjusting people’s giving. Pastor Ben added that the Stewardship letter will include not only financials, but would provide a place to note people’s needs and gifts. Then, those who have gifts that match a person’s needs, will be matched up with him/her.
- Roy mentioned his concern about the small attendance at recent church events. He wonders if we need a publicity committee. Bobbi said that she takes care of publicity as long as the committees complete her Church Event Form in a timely fashion.
- Roy reported that the Trustees wish to have a church “clean-up” event to clean up the interior of the church and dispose of some of the clutter that has been building. The Trustees will determine a date and let the congregation know when it will be held.
- Roy also encouraged us to be mindful of all the people who offer their time and talents in doing various things/tasks for our church. He would like us to let that person(s) know that they are appreciated for all that they are doing.
- Dave DeMerchant expressed his concern over the upcoming protest in front of the office of Senator Susan Collins. Pastor Ben explained that this event is not a protest, but will be a Community Prayer Vigil to pray for wisdom, hope, and justice in these troubled times.

Pastor Ben’s Time:

Pastor Ben offered a word of gratitude to God and to this committee for being willing to delve into the work that needs to be done. He also encouraged us to let him know if we would like to participate in the **Rediscovering the Sacred Center** book study. Pastor Ben informed us of an invitation he received from the Bishop to join him in touring Wesleyan sites in England from March 15th through the 24th. He will join other clergy who will be ordained at the next Annual Conference in June 2026.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 25th, at 1:00pm.

Diane Fitzpatrick, Secretary

Committee/Group Reports provided to the Church Council during February:

Aroostook Cluster Council of United Methodist Churches Meeting Minutes for February 5, 2026

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

Victor welcomed everyone and Sue B. led us in devotions beginning with a reading from Isaiah 58:6-7, 9a and a call to care for those around us, even when it is hard or scary. Sue closed with prayer.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the January 8th meeting were presented. Motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Paula. and seconded by Sara. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Paula reported that our current checkbook balance is \$477.36. There has been no activity on the account since our last meeting. Motion to approve the report was made by Nicholas. and seconded by Mary. Motion carried unanimously. Thank you, Paula.

2025 St. Apollonia Festival of Trees

Sue M. has agreed to provide leadership for this year's festival offering. A theme will be needed and discussed at our next meeting. Please come with ideas.

Service with Bishop Bickerton

We have been notified that Bishop Bickerton is available on April 12th for a morning service only. After discussion, it was decided to hold the service at Grant Memorial UMC at 10:30am with other cluster churches attending (or livestreaming if that is not an option for folks). Nicholas will talk with his congregation about a luncheon after the service and get back to us on how each church can help. The plan will be for all of our Cluster churches to participate in some way in the service. It was decided to bring items for babies (baby shower) that can be delivered to the Hope and Justice office. Sue M. will reach out to Hope and Justice for a "needs list" that can be shared with all of our churches. We will also accept monetary gifts for Hope and Justice as well. Joyce is working on a worship dance for this service. Joyce will send a link to anyone who wishes to participate. It was suggested that each church pass out envelopes to receive their regular Sunday offering.

Conference Board of Church and Society

Nicholas is chairing this advocacy group in our state (with other groups throughout our New England States) that will discuss policy change based on our Social Principles and Christian traditions. If anyone wishes to participate in this justice work, please join by Zoom Thursday, February 12th at noon or at 7:00pm. Nicholas will send an email to our Cluster to be sure everyone has access. (The link is also in the Clergy and Laity newsletters.)

Pulpit Exchange

Pulpit exchange is scheduled for May 17th. There are nine churches in our Cluster. Victor will make tentative assignments at our next meeting, and we can make adjustments as needed.

Sharing Mission and Outreach Ideas

There will be an Ecumenical Prayer Service to be held at the Houlton UMC tomorrow (Feb. 6th) for victims of ICE, those who are in danger and all who are living with the trauma that it has caused.

Ben shared that he and Nicholas met and have planned for a gathering of prayerful presence at Susan Collins office in Caribou on Feb. 25th at 11:00am. This will potentially be a monthly event at other political offices (i.e. Angus King, Jared Golden)

Sara shared that Camp Mechuwana has put out a plea for buttons. They will sort through looking for buttons of value.

New Business

Spring Gathering

Please come to the March meeting prepared to discuss a gathering and date.

Joys and concerns

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

Next meeting: Thursday, March 5th via Zoom at 9:00am

Devotions for next meeting: Mary.

Meeting adjourned at 10:04 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Brown

Sue Brown

Secretary

Aroostook Cluster Council of United Methodist Churches

Education Committee Minutes

February 11, 2026

The meeting came to order with the following members present: Cheryl Martin (chair), Melonie Carlson, Pastor Ben Daggett, Alaina Pethick, Diane Fitzpatrick.

Diane opened the meeting with a prayer.

We revisited the minutes from last month that had already been circulated and approved via email. No new notes were made.

- **Pray Ground / Children's Moment**

- Mary Theriault found a felt board set on Amazon and shared it with the group prior to the meeting. They look like a great resource to use during Children's Moments and at the Pray Ground. The total to order both the

Advent and Bible styles was \$63.28. Diane made a motion to order the felt boards. Alaina seconded. The motion passed. Melonie will order them.

- Cheryl will make an announcement during the Sunday service to ask for volunteers to help with coverage for the Pray Ground and to provide a Children’s Moment. She will also share the collection of books with children’s lessons that are now in the library as well as the purchase of the new felt boards.
 - There was some discussion about welcome bags for children visiting our church. Mary is looking into some items to put in them. Melonie has some colorful bags that we can use.
 - Diane shared that she found a set of Easter eggs with symbols of Lent/Easter that would be fitting to give as a gift to the children during the season.
 - At the next SPRC meeting (Melonie and Pastor Ben will also be in attendance) they will work to set up coverage for an Infant to Age 4 group as needed.
- **Stewardship Program**
 - A letter and pledge sheet for the stewardship program is in development. We brainstormed ways to approach stewardship with the children including sharing a bible story and personal anecdote about generosity, connecting the children in our congregation to the children at the homeless shelter via a letter or drawing, and a program of collecting and pairing up non-monetary gifts/talents with the needs of our congregation and community. (Potentially the NOW Team and/or Church Council could help facilitate this?)
 - **Additional Items**
 - Pastor Ben shared information on a book study he would like to do during the Lenten season. The book is Recovering the Sacred Center by Howard Friend, Jr.

Melonie gave the closing prayer.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 11 at 9:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Alaina Pethick

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:

From Financial Secretary:

The following is the total church offering for January:

Regular Offering	\$20,345.26
<u>Loose Offering</u>	<u>101.00</u>
Subtotal-Regular Offering	\$20,446.26

<u>Other Sources Operating Fund:</u>	<u>.00</u>
Total Regular Offerings	\$20,446.26

Reimbursements:

Upper Room	\$ 5.00
<u>Office</u>	<u>105.49</u>
Subtotal-Reimbursements	\$110.49

Special Funds for Church Use:

Prayer Shawl	\$ 20.00
Coffee Fellowship	16.00
Bottle Redemption	.75
Mission Shares	21,486.00
Community Support	50.00
<u>Trustees</u>	<u>1,187.39</u>
Subtotal Funds for Church Use	\$ 22,760.14

Special Funds Not for Church Use:	
Human Relations Day	\$ 46.00
Ecumenical Food Pantry	215.00
Sub-Total Funds Not for Church Use	\$261.00
Grand Total:	\$43,577.89

From Treasurer:

Beginning Balance	1,961.71	
2025 Operating income	20,446.26	
Bottle Redemption	.75	
Interest	1.27	
Less EFT fee	(32.55)	VANCO fees (EFT deposits)
Less Expenses	(13,492.40)	
Ending Balance	8,885.04	

Total "Special Funds for Church Use", which includes many lines for various donations, total \$20,333.63. The "Special Funds NOT for Church Use" total \$91.08. 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 & \$3,000 in Aug 2025; as of January 30, 2026, on-line report shows ending value = \$26,789.31.

The Capital Account Money is as follows as of January 31st: Previous Balance - \$31,195.73; Deposits - \$1.34; Expenses = 0.00; Current Balance - \$31,197.07 (Includes funds earmarked for Furnace Fund - \$5,397.33; Emergency Fund Donations = \$21,104.23).

Expenditures for January 2026:

Programs:

Office	\$ 271.88
NOW Committee	45.00
Programs Sub-Total	\$ 316.88

Trustee Expenses:

Church Utilities	\$2,062.13
Parsonage Utilities	901.94
Telephone/Internet	215.28
Property Insurance	1,394.87
Snow Removal (Sanding)	1,085.00
Maintenance/Cleaning	27.05
Trustee Sub-Total	\$5,686.27

Staff-Parish Relations Expenses:

Pastor's Salary	\$4,416.66
Health Insurance	.00
Pastor's Total Comp	\$4,416.66

(Did not receive information from NEC until February)

Treasurer	250.00
Church Office Administrator	833.33
Custodian	1,625.00
Maine PFML Deductions	77.56
Total Other Salaries	\$2,785.89

Other Expenses:

Guest & Substitute Staff	\$ 50.00
FICA	184.73
Workman's Comp	51.97
Total Other Expenses	\$286.70

Sub-Total SPRC Expenses \$ 7,489.25

New England Conference:

No payments to NEC in January

Grand Total Expenses \$13,492.40

Note: Dead River bills for church also include charges for propane deliveries. Balances as of Jan 31: Church = \$404.44; Parsonage = (\$2,096.03)

Weekly Average Needed for 2026: \$4,429.75 (52 Sundays)

Mission Shares = \$2,264.25/mo. As of EOM January, Owe one month of Mission Shares

2026 YTD REVIEW – January 2026

Annual Budget	\$230,347.29
Required Monthly	\$19,195.61
Required Weekly	\$4,429.76

:
Target = \$19,195.61; Beginning Operating Fund Balance (Jan only) - \$1,961.71; Operating Fund Income from F/S YTD - \$17,105.00; Special Funds Used for Operating Fund Expenses YTD = \$.75; Total Expenses YTD - \$13,492.40; Unpaid Mission Shares = \$2,264.25.

An aggregate of in-person and virtual attendance shows monthly average of 71 and 71 YTD. (No services on Jan 11th and 25th)

Trustee Meeting
January 20, 2026

Present: Del Ramey, Pastor Ben, David DeMerchant, Judi Greenier, Will Barnum, and Neal Genz.
The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m.

Opening prayer was given by Pastor Ben.

Secretary's report for December 2025 was presented. Motion was made and approved to accept the report

Treasurer's report was given by Judi Greenier. Treasurers report was accepted.

OLD BUSINESS

PLOW CONTRACT: Approved and signed. Bobbi has a copy. 2025-2026 will be done by Jennifer Michaud.

PAVING OF PARKING LOT: DJ Paving will do the job. The work has been done.

VIDEO EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT: Still working on it. Will Barnum will have information for the Board next meeting.

SOLAR PROJECT: After some discussion the Board elected to form an exploratory committee to gather information as to the viability of the project. Pastor Ben volunteered to be on the committee. Dave will check with the members absent from the meeting to see if anyone is interested.

FOLDING DOORS AT SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM/DINING HALL: The folding door locking mechanism needs repair. This item was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

Handrail from the office down to the landing by the rear door has been raised by Judson. The handrail from the landing down to the fellowship hall will be done later.

Mission shares have been a topic of discussion for some time. Pastor Ben passed out information on how mission shares are calculated.

BOT voted to rename the Organ Fund Account to the Piano & Organ Fund Account. This will remove any doubt where the funds will come from for piano tuning in the future.

HEATING PROBLEMS: The church ran out of #2 fuel again. Apparently no one was watching the tank. Why are we not on Watch-dog Delivery?

Any discussion from the floor.

Closing prayer given by Pastor Ben
Meeting adjourned at 3:14 PM
by David W. DeMerchant

Worship Committee Minutes

February 11, 2026

Members Present: Pastor Ben Daggett, Bobbi Pelletier (chair), Diane Fitzpatrick, Cheryl Martin, Richard Clark, Gwen Ellinwood

The meeting was opened by Bobbi at 11:00am.

Devotions were offered by Diane with a reading from Mornings With Jesus about letting the love of Jesus shine through us with everyone we meet.

Old Business:

- Mari-Jo Hedman joined us by telephone to assist us as we discussed the celebration of the pipe organ that Mary Lou Brown has previously requested. After much discussion on the status of the organ and what it's needs may be in returning it to full capacity, it was decided that we should involve the Board of Trustees for their input. Bobbi will request that the Trustees put this item on the agenda for their next meeting. Mari-Jo did suggest that we might hold a summer musicale with local talent performing various kinds of musical presentations.
- February is Black History Month. Bobbi prepared a lovely set of pictures and short biographies of the historical people we are honoring and remembering this month. She expressed thanks to Wendy and Diane for arranging the display on the bulletin in the library. She also mentioned the little game of Who's Who that we are playing each week during our worship services. Bobbi is putting two quotes in the bulletin each Sunday and we are to guess who made the quotes. This was received well during the service on February 8th! We will offer this game for the next two Sundays, on the 15th and on the 22nd.
- Scouting Sunday was recognized on February 8th. It was nice to see how many people in our congregation had been involved in scouting!
- Ash Wednesday will be on February 18th. There are still early slots to be filled for the Prayer Vigil. Diane offered to help Bobbi set up the chapel for the vigil. Mari-Jo will be playing at the noon-time service. Pastor Ben will burn the palms that were left over from last year for this year's service. Bobbi will order the palm fronds, African palms, and an altar arrangement.
- February 22nd will be the first Sunday in Lent.
- Bobbi will order a Lenten Devotional called Mercy, Passion, and Joy, with copies being given out, one per family.
- Holy Week noon-time services will be held on March 30th through April 3rd. Bobbi will schedule the clergy who will be leading the services each day that week. Pastor Ben will lead the service on Friday, April 3rd. A soup luncheon will be provided by our church. It is hoped that various churches will provide the luncheon each of the other days. However, we will fill in if there are days that will not be provided for.
- Pastor Ben has decided not to do the Lenten Series on Casas de Paz.
- Bobbi mentioned that the new Communion service used during the February 1st service was a little easier to follow.

New Business:

- Pastor Ben will be away from March 15th through the 24th. Richard Clark will preach on the 15th and Melonie Carlson will preach on the 22nd.
- Pastor Ben will also be in New Hampshire for a wedding on March 6th and 7th. Ellen Cleaves will cover emergencies.
- Bobbi reported that she has renewed the subscription for the Children's Worship Bulletins.

Pastor's Time:

- Pastor Ben proposed holding a Lenten study from the book, Recovering the Sacred Center, Church Renewal from the Inside Out, by Howard E. Friend, Jr.
- Pastor Ben explained a special project that we will be doing each Sunday during Lent.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 11th, at 11:00am. Cheryl Martin agreed to do devotions.

Diane Fitzpatrick, Secretary

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARCH 2026!!!

Sunday	01	10:00am	Worship; Second Sunday in Lent
Monday	02	10:00am	"Redeeming Conflict" Book Study (final session for this group)
Wednesday	04	10:00am	NOW Committee Meeting
		1:00pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting
Thursday	05	9:00am	Aroostook Cluster Meeting via Zoom
		3:00pm	Weekly Prayer Service with Communion (all are welcome!)
		6:30pm	"Redeeming Conflict" Book Study
Saturday	07	11:30am	Senior Choir Practice

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS - TURN CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR BEFORE YOU GO TO BED

Sunday	08	10:00am	Worship; Third Sunday in Lent
Tuesday	10	5:30pm	Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Board Meeting at Pantry
Wednesday	11	9:30am	Education Committee Meeting
		11:00am	Worship Committee Meeting (new day & time for Feb/Mar/Apr)
Thursday	12	1:00pm	SPRC Meeting
		3:00pm	Weekly Prayer Service with Communion (all are welcome!)
		6:30pm	"Redeeming Conflict" Book Study
Saturday	14	11:30am	Senior Choir Practice

Sunday	15	10:00am	Worship; Fourth Sunday in Lent; UMCOR Sunday (special offering); <u>Richard Clark is preaching</u>
Tuesday	17	1:00pm	Trustees Meeting
Thursday	19	3:00pm	Weekly Prayer Service with Communion (all are welcome!)
		6:30pm	"Redeeming Conflict" Book Study
Friday	20	<u>FIRST DAY OF SPRING</u>	
Saturday	21	11:30am	Senior Choir Practice

Sunday	22	10:00am	Worship; Fifth Sunday in Lent; <u>Melonie Carlson is preaching</u>
Wednesday	25	10:00am	<u>DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWSLETTER INPUT (NO EXCEPTIONS)</u>
Thursday	26	1:00pm	Church Council Meeting (note date change)
		3:00pm	Weekly Prayer Service with Communion (all are welcome!)
		6:30pm	"Redeeming Conflict" Book Study
Saturday	28	11:30am	Senior Choir Practice

Sunday	29	10:00am	Worship; Palm/Passion Sunday
Monday	30	12:00pm	Ecumenical Holy Week Service
Tuesday	31	12:00pm	Ecumenical Holy Week Service

Pastor Ben is away from March 15th to March 24th. He is traveling to England with other clergy who will be ordained at the next Annual Conference!