

Dear Gray Memorial United Methodist Church,
Grace & Peace!

How is it with your soul?

From the earliest days of the Methodist movement, class meetings gathered and the group members asked one another the question: “How is it with your soul?” It is an unusual question, and it might even sound strange to the ear. It’s a question that invites some reflection, and sends us to deeper inner spaces than the more familiar greeting, “How are you doing?”

From its beginnings in England, the Methodists sought to encourage one another at following the two great commands of Jesus: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and the second: to love your neighbor as yourself. These two commandments sum up all the teachings of the Bible and the prophets.

A mentor of mine puts it this way: “Trust God and be kind.”

The question of “How is it with your soul?” invites the one fielding it to reflect on his or her relationship with God, with self, and with neighbor. The question has a way of being continually applicable.

Beginning in November, the Monday morning Bible study group will be turning its attention to this reflective work with God and neighbor, specifically to companion each other, and grow in the life of faith through the lens of Scripture. You may ask: isn’t that what the group is already doing? Yes and no. This work is not new to us, but there is a quality of presence and awareness of God’s grace at work in our lives that takes some practice and attention to build. This is especially true when we set about listening to one another deeply, and with an ear and heart attuned to the Holy Spirit’s movement in our midst.

Group spiritual companioning is a powerful and beautiful way of sharing the journey of faith, to step into the wonder of trusting more deeply how God is always in our midst. It is one more way that we can grow and live into what Jesus called each of us to do, as Christians: Love God, and love your neighbor as yourself. God is not through with us yet!

Blessings in Christ!

Pastor Ben



The Caribou Clock

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

Greetings from the Church Office!

I told you last month that I planned a trip to New Orleans, but that did not happen due to the threat of Hurricane Isaias. We decided it was not worth the risk, so we cancelled our flights and hotel. We all look forward to another trip in March where we will all be together for a birthday celebration cruise for a nephew.

Our annual Church Conference was held on Saturday, October 24th at Grant Memorial UMC in Presque Isle. The booklet that we typically produce each year was finally completed on Friday (whew)!!! I appreciate those who completed their required forms and narrative reports ahead of time. You may pick up a copy of the booklet we used in the Narthex.

Melonie Carlson had a great response when she announced starting up the Handbell Choir again! Our first practice is on Monday, November 2nd and she Plans to have them play during service at least one Sunday each month!

Come join us for a free-will offering dinner on Thanksgiving Day. See the information about it later in this newsletter!

Please help me meet deadlines by submitting things for the Newsletter when due. If I receive your input too late, it may not make it into the Newsletter or it might severely delay the mailing of the hard copies I send out, so I appreciate your cooperation. My objective is to have the hardcopy Newsletter to the recipients prior to the beginning of each month.

For our next Newsletter, all input must be submitted by 10am on Tuesday, November 24th!!!

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier
Church Office Administrator



October Prayer Requests

Prayer Concerns: Dale, Lu & Debbie Sharp; Leland Frost, Sheila & Dave Belyea, Sylvia Akeley, James Stuart, Richard Carde, Charlotte Wilson, Mary Anderson, Jackie Farrell and family, Donna Barnes, Gabriel Ben Tepherrith, Carol Stone, Mary Lou Brown, Ida Drew, Sheldon, June Churchill, Eric Nelson

Deaths: Prayers for Rona who visited us while grieving for the loss of her friend; Nancy Boardman & family on the death of Sandy; Family of Norma Bondeson (class of 1959)

Other: Safe travels for Madison Jandreau; safe travels for Elida Frederick visiting family; Joy - children's Sunday School in full swing and area is well stocked with various supplies! Travel mercies for Pastor Ben as he travels to Massachusetts; Prayers for people who need food over the winter; prayers of joy from Mari-Jo Hedman on Karen & Joe Booth's wedding

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>
Nov 01	Roy Alden	Hymnal CDs	Mary Ouellette	Mary Ouellette	SPRC
Nov 08	Diane Fitzpatrick	Mari-Jo Hedman	David Belyea	Mary Ouellette	NOW Committee
Nov 15	Charlotte Willey	Hymnal CDs	Melonie Carlson	Mary Ouellette	UMM
Nov 22	Richard Clark	Mari-Jo Hedman	Richard Clark	Ruthann Weeks	Worship Committee
Nov 29	Ruthann Weeks	Hymnal CDs	Cheryl Martin	Ruthann Weeks	Need volunteers!!!

Usher Coordinator for November ~ David Belyea
Communion Stewardess for November ~ Mary Theriault
Communion Bread for November ~ David Belyea

Changes to July 2026 Church Directory:

Burgess, Donna: add to directory - 13 View Street, Caribou; phone 540-3315;
email dmburgess1215@gmail.com

Cashman, Chris: add to directory - 739 Woodland Center Rd., Woodland; phone 551-2151;
email cashman@gmail.com

Cashman, Jean: change phone number to 551-2156

* * November Birthdays & Anniversaries * *

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

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



5	Deborah Pringnitz	23	David DeMerchant
9	Catherine Brewer	24	Scott Albert
10	Doug Hise, Gary Langley	25	Lehrle Kieffer, Barbara Scott
12	Karen Rego	26	Lisa Soderberg
15	Conrad Walton	27	Rhonda Cyr
16	Evelyn Irving	28	Aurora Pethick Barnum
17	Locke Wischmann	30	Penny Shaw



9	Danna & Rickey Bouchard	23	Mary & Todd Theriault
29	Lehrle & Rob Kieffer		

If your name or the name of someone in the Gray Memorial Family does not appear on this list and you would like to add it, please contact the church office, 498-2103.

Corrections are ALWAYS appreciated!!! If you know someone whose last name has changed, please let Bobbi know so she can update the database.

Finance & Stewardship Committee

<u>Worship Attendance and General Fund Offerings:</u>			
<u>Date</u>	<u>In-Person Attendance</u>	<u>*On-Line Attendance</u>	<u>+ Operating Fund Offering</u>
Sep 27	50	29	\$1,813.63
Oct 04	54	29	\$5,049.00
Oct 11	43	41	\$1,479.63
Oct 18	46	27	\$2,180.00
Oct 25	48	(will report next month)	\$3,360.06

+ 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 \$31,206.24. Since then, we received interest of \$1.30 and did not have any payments. Our balance as of September 28th is \$31,207.54 (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**. ***For Thanksgiving, the pantry could use stuffing, cranberries, gravy and pumpkin pie filling.***

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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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.

There were no donations received this month, so our total proceeds remain at \$1,439.00!

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 November services on Sundays at 10:00am:

Nov. 1 - <https://youtube.com/live/szWyiW5W-ZI>

Nov. 8 - <https://youtube.com/live/W-RLYqa9pmI>

Nov. 15 - <https://youtube.com/live/x7c5wRCwl0Q>

Nov. 22 - <https://youtube.com/live/-7PFcHp1QVM>

Nov. 29 - <https://youtube.com/live/1yq9UnwmZpM>

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).

PICTURES FROM OUR WORSHIP SERVICE ON OCTOBER 11th:

We celebrated Children's Sabbath on October 11th (pictures from Melonie Carlson)



Gwen Barnum was our Liturgist



Aurora Barnum shared a message entitled
"Reflections as a Junior Camp Counselor"
from her time at Camp Mechuwana this past summer



Oct 11th: Cheryl Martin helped the children lead an "Adult Time". They selected five different people from the congregation to ask them various questions about joy. The children selected Diane Fitzpatrick, Elsie Doody, Vicki Clyburn, Donna Burgess and Pastor Ben. They each answered the question they were given - it was very touching!



October 25th – Pastor Ben and the children during the “Children’s Time” (pictures taken by Mary Theriault)



On Sunday, November 22nd, we will celebrate Thanksgiving Sunday. Please consider bringing in fresh and canned vegetables that will be donated to the Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry! We appreciate your support and generosity over the years!

On Thursday, November 26th, we will host a free-will offering Thanksgiving Dinner at 1pm. Reservations are needed. We will also offer a take-out option for those who are unable to come in-person. ***Please contact the church office by 10:00am on Thursday, November 19th to let us know how many in your party will attend.***

90% of the proceeds will go towards the operating budget and 10% to the St. Apollonia Festival of Trees project. Workers are also needed to prepare the room on Wednesday at 1pm and to work on Thursday beginning at 8am to cook the vegetables, prepare and serve the meal and clean-up. If you are willing to help prepare the meal or provide any of the food, just let Bobbi know as soon as possible.





Church Council Minutes

September 24, 2026

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

The meeting was opened with a prayer offered by Roy at 1:00pm.

Financial Statements:

Debbie reported that we received \$27,796.89 in offerings for the month of August. Bobbi reported that we began the month with a deficit of \$5,370.82. However, with a generous donation of \$18,114.00, she was able to pay our Mission Shares for the year and ended the month with a balance of \$7,785.30. All bills for the month of August have been paid. Cheryl reported that we are compliant with VANCO until September of 2027. Pastor Ben expressed a word of gratitude to God for the gifts and the spirit that moved the donors to give so graciously. Debbie will send a thank you note to the anonymous giver of the \$18,114.00 for Mission Shares. The complete reports are available for review (copies located in the Narthex).

Other Business:

- A question was raised about who is watching our services on-line. Currently, we cannot tell who is, but is there something we can put on Facebook (chat) or a comment to help us identify these viewers?
- Discussion was held on a proposed suggestion to tithe all church fundraising proceeds to an outside organization or charity. Roy moved to accept this proposal, Melonie seconded, and all voted in favor.
- Is it time to have an updated Mission Statement? It was suggested that we discuss this at the next meeting of the stewardship group.
- Bobbi moved that the Memorial checking account for unencumbered monies remove Mary Lou Brown and Mary Ouellette as signers, and name William Barnum as the authorized signer. Ellen seconded the motion and all voted in favor. It was also recommended that the Trustees regulate the Organ Fund and Memorial Fund accounts. Will Barnum will be the treasurer of the Trustees.

- Bobbi shared a document that listed current committee members and asked if there were additions to be made. Pastor Ben reported that the Committee on Nominations has met. He mentioned the quality of discussions around when vacancies arise and feelings emerge concerning who could fill the positions. Melonie added that the committee recognized that asking people to serve may not be the best approach, as some people respond out of either willingness to serve or feel pressure to serve. The committee will pray that God will lead people to volunteer to serve on the various committees of our church in order to fill the vacancies.
- Roy reported for the Stewardship Committee. They will be asking a few people to make presentations focusing on gratitude and how it is expressed through commitments. He also reported that a class be formed to work on spiritual growth in the church.
- Bobbi reported that the audit report was completed and has correct beginning and ending balances. She does have questions about some of the recommended changes in the report. Roy asked us to thank Colleen Harmon for the work she has done on the audit.
- Roy reminded committee chairs that reports for the Church Conference need to be submitted to Bobbi by October first.
- Our budget proposal for the Church Conference shows a little over a \$2,000.00 increase from last year, which is a less than 1% increase. Roy moved to approve the 2027 proposed budget as presented by the various committees. Ellen seconded the motion and all were in favor. Bobbi will have the documents that we voted on available in the Narthex for folks to peruse before the Church Conference on October 24th.

Pastor's Moment:

Pastor Ben asked Roy to speak to his concerns on the Nominations report. In light of there being so few people willing to serve open positions on committees, Roy feels that we should perhaps approach people who we feel would serve well where there are vacancies. Pastor Ben shared a lovely reading from The Methodist Book of Daily Prayer on making room for God in all aspects of our lives.

Melonie mentioned that the requests of the Lay Servants to continue needed to be voted on. Debbie Barnes moved that Melonie Carlson and Cheryl Martin be continued as Lay Servants. Ellen seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

No date was set for the next meeting.

Diane Fitzpatrick, Secretary

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

Aroostook Cluster Council of United Methodist Churches Meeting Minutes for October 1, 2026

The meeting came to order at 9:00 AM via Zoom with the following present: Nicholas Perez, Mary Miller, Ben Dagget, Paula Lilley, Sue Michaud, Craig Taylor, James Choi, Sara Hill, Melonie Carlson and Sue Brown.

Nicholas welcomed everyone. Mary led us in a time of devotions beginning with sharing about a duck pond full of life where she walks with her grandnieces and how it exists in such beauty side by side with humanity's creations and pollution. She spoke of the Season of Creation which began as a day of prayer for the environment. She encouraged us to praise for the glory of these days and pray for all creation. Mary closed with a prayer from Steve Garnaas-Holmes.

Secretaries Report

The minutes of the September 3, 2026, meeting were presented. Correction to the date of the All-Saints' Service from Nov. 1st to Nov. 8th. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Sara and seconded by James. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Paula reported no expenses since the last meeting. The current checkbook balance remains at \$413.68. Motion to approve the report was made by Craig and seconded by Sara. Motion carried unanimously.

2026 St. Apollonia Festival of Trees

Plans continue for this event. Sue M. is doing the administrative pieces while Melonie is heading up making the decorations aligning with our theme of: "Love, Serve, Feed, Shelter." Melonie asks for help from each church to paint a few of the ornaments. Each church is to provide gift cards (however they wish to do that is fine). Cards need to be ready by November 29th. Sue M. and her husband will coordinate with others to pick up cards from each church.

Cluster Sock Drive

All cluster churches are participating in the Sock Drive for Homeless Services of Aroostook. Sue Michaud provided a bulletin insert for our churches. NEW items requested include socks, winter hats, mittens and underwear.

Fall Cluster Service

The Fall Cluster Service will be held in Houlton on November 8th. After discussion, it was decided on a time of 2:30pm. Craig shared that he is planning a service of healing with a lot of music as well. Craig asked which churches might provide music. Please let him know if/what you can provide for music (i.e. bell choirs, choirs). Sara made a motion that our offering from this service go to provide for heating. Paula seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Mission and Outreach Ideas

Sue M. asked that all socks, mittens, etc. be brought to the healing service on Nov. 8th. They will then be delivered to Homeless Services of Aroostook.

The conference is looking to kick-start a conference confirmation program. Nicholas asked about youth from other churches that might be interested in this program.

New Business

Nicholas reminded those in the northern portion of the Cluster that our Annual Conference will be at Grant Memorial UMC. He asked that each church provide a 9x13 main dish for every 5 people that are staying for the potluck after the conference.

Joys and Concerns

After sharing joys and concerns, Sue B. led us in prayer.

The next meeting will be by Zoom on Thursday November 5th at 9:00 AM.

Devotions for next meeting: Ben

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Brown for John DeFelice

Secretary

Aroostook Cluster Council of United Methodist Churches

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FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:

From Financial Secretary:

The following is the total church offering for September:

Regular Offering	\$12,752.26
Loose Offering	1,261.00
Subtotal-Regular Offering	\$14,013.26

Other Sources Operating Fund:	.00
Total Regular Offerings	\$14,013.26

Reimbursements:

Upper Room	20.00
Discovery Guide	21.00
Subtotal-Reimbursements	\$41.00

Special Funds for Church Use:

Prayer Shawl	\$ 773.00
Coffee Fellowship	57.40
Bottle Redemption	28.55
Organ Fund	70.00
Community Support	580.00
Library	10.00
Christian Education	50.00
SPRC/Worship	284.00
Subtotal Funds for Church Use	\$ 1,852.95

Special Funds Not for Church Use:

Ecumenical Food Pantry	215.00
Sub-Total Funds Not for Church Use	\$215.00
Grand Total:	\$16,122.21

From Treasurer:

Beginning Balance	7,785.30	
2026 Operating income	14,013.26	
Bottle Redemption	28.55	
Interest	1.71	
Less EFT fee	(32.55)	VANCO fees (EFT deposits)
Less Expenses	(17,219.96)	
Ending Balance	4,576.31	

Total "Special Funds for Church Use", which includes many lines for various donations, total \$30,744.88. The "Special Funds NOT for Church Use" total \$260.08. 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 October 2, 2026, on-line report shows ending value = \$27,911.21.

The Capital Account Money is as follows as of September 30th: Previous Balance - \$31,206.24; Deposits - \$1.30; Expenses = 0.00; Current Balance - \$31,207.54. *(Includes funds earmarked for Furnace Fund - \$5,397.33; Emergency Fund Donations = \$21,104.23).*

Expenditures for September 2026:

Education	\$ 49.00
Office	859.30
NOW Committee	71.50
Programs Sub-Total	\$ 979.80

Trustee Expenses:

Church Utilities	\$1,010.91
Parsonage Utilities	603.58
Telephone/Internet	245.99
Maintenance/Cleaning	156.90
Real Estate Taxes	3,621.10
Trustee Sub-Total	\$5,638.48

Staff-Parish Relations Expenses:

Pastor's Salary	\$4,416.66
Social Security	500.00
Health Insurance	1,788.83
Pastor's Total Comp	\$6,705.49

Choir Director	\$ 200.00
Treasurer	250.00
Church Office Administrator	833.33
Custodian	1,625.00
Maine PFML Deductions	(36.63)
Total Other Salaries	\$2,871.70

Other Expenses:

Guest & Substitute Staff	\$ 100.00
FICA	191.89
Workman's Comp	51.97
Total Other Expenses	\$ 343.86

Sub-Total SPRC Expenses \$ 9,921.05

New England Conference:

Pastor Pension Benefit	680.63
NEC Total	\$ 680.63

Grand Total Expenses \$17,219.96

Note: Dead River bills for church also include charges for propane deliveries. Balances as of Sep 30: Church = (2,925.66); Parsonage = (\$3,010.00). *New monthly contract payments = Church \$612/month; Parsonage \$361/month.*

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

Mission Shares = \$2,264.25/mo. As of EOM August, Mission Shares for 2026 were paid in full!

<u>2026 YTD REVIEW – August 2026</u>	
Annual Budget	\$230,347.29
Required Monthly	\$19,195.61
Required Weekly	\$4,429.76

Target = \$172,760.47; Beginning Operating Fund Balance (Jan only) - \$1,961.71; Operating Fund Income from F/S YTD - \$143,433.33; Special Funds Used for Operating Fund Expenses YTD = \$27,827.95; Total Expenses YTD - \$168,361.36; Unpaid Mission Shares = \$0.00 (paid in full).

An aggregate of in-person and virtual attendance shows monthly average of 73 and 74 YTD. (No services on Jan 11th and 25th; Services on Aug 2 & 6 had technical issues with livestream and/or video.

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NOW Team Meeting - October 7, 2026
Nurture - Outreach - Witness

In attendance: Cheryl Martin, Pastor Ben Daggett, Melonie Carlson (chair), Kathy Panaro, Alaina Pethick, Bobbi Pelletier, Sandy Pethick, Charlotte Willey

Not present: Aurora Pethick Barnum, Ruthann Weeks

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

Review of September Minutes

Treasurer’s Report - Cheryl

NOW Treasurer’s Report October 7, 2026

Beginning Balance		\$2143.15
8-31-26	Credit Interest	\$0.43
9-5-26	Pie/Bake Sale seed money Returned	\$100.00
9-5-26	Deposit	\$390.00
9-30-26	Credit Interest	\$0.43

Deposit on 9-5-26 was the proceeds for the Bake Sale.

Balance	10-7-26	\$2634.01
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Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Martin
 Treasurer

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

Pie/Bake Sale Review

The sale went very well. There were not a lot of apple pies this time. Next year, we would like to go back to the original July timeframe.

Cookie Booth - Oct. 16-18

Melonie brought in the sign up sheets from the narthex. We still need help with set up and breakdown. She will talk to Judson to see if he is available to help. Another announcement will be made this Sunday and there will be a flyer for the bulletins. Cookie drop off at the church will be Thursday and Friday morning or at the high school on Saturday morning. Cookies need to be in bags of 3 with labels showing the kind of cookie and "no nuts or peanut butter" when applicable.

Turkeys for Food Pantry

We would like to purchase 20 turkeys for the Food Pantry. Judson said he would arrange the purchase and pick them up by Nov. 19. Cheryl made a motion that the NOW Team funds the purchase of 20 turkeys for the Food Pantry by November 19. Charlotte seconded. The motion passed.

Bobbi added that there will be additional items for the Food Pantry donation list - stuffing, cranberry sauce, gravy and pumpkin pie filing. This will also be noted on the Sunday bulletins.

Christmas Dinner

Judson is planning a free take-out Christmas dinner this year. Bobbi asked if our committee would be interested in donating funds to help support this effort. Everyone was in agreement. When we know more specifics, we can make a motion for the donation.

Festival of Trees

The Festival of Trees is December 4-6. The theme is Love, Serve, Feed and Shelter. Our church will collect funds or gift cards for food and fuel (gas or heating oil) from November 1-29. Melonie is working on the decorations for the tree. They will be painted wooden ornaments with silhouettes representing the theme. She could use a couple of volunteers to help complete the ornaments. A date/time will be set for some time in November. The setup for the festival is Thursday, Dec. 3. Those that help set up will get a preview of the whole festival.

Tithing Proceeds from Events

Pastor Ben mentioned a motion made during the last Ad. Council meeting to tithe proceeds from church events to an outside organization. Kathy made a motion for the NOW Team to tithe 10% of the proceeds for each of our events. Charlotte seconded. After further discussion, the motion was amended to specify that the tithe from the Pie/Bake Sale and the Cookie Booth proceeds will be given to the St. Apollonia Dental Clinic.

Dec. 5 Holiday Fling

We discussed some of the details for this event, although more discussion will take place at our November meeting as well. Donations of holiday decor and handmade crafts will be accepted to sell at this event. There will be a lunch of soups/stews and a simple dessert (probably brownies and ice cream). The cost will be \$5 per meal. There will also be a bake table. In early November we will make an announcement seeking volunteers and donations.

Housekeeping Items

- The cutting boards arrived and are very nice
- Welcome bags need to be put together. The notepads need to be trimmed.
- There is still a need for a couple people to join the Prayer Chain. Contact Bobbi if you are interested.

State Auction Boxes

This has been tabled for now. No further progress can be made until a brochure is created.

Status Reports

- Food Pantry
 - Bobbi reported the pantry is doing well. They will be in need of a new co-coordinator to work with Ruthann.
- Penpals
 - Melonie and Denise will be meeting this Friday to discuss the start of the program and possibly including the 8th grade students.
- Children's Museum
 - There has been no update from the Children's Museum. And there has been no recent need for our volunteers.
- NOW Team membership
 - There is still a need for a new committee chairperson

Melonie reminded us that our committee has Coffee Fellowship for Oct. 11

Melonie offered a closing prayer.

Our next meeting will be Nov. 4 at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Alaina Pethick
NOW Team Recording Secretary

Trustee Meeting September 15, 2026

Present: Del Ramey, Will Barnum, Pastor Ben, David DeMerchant, Roy Alden, Richard Clark, and Colleen Harmon.

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m.

Opening prayer was given by Pastor Ben.

Secretary's report for August 2026 meeting was presented. Motion was made, second and voted to approve it.

Treasurer's report was presented by Chairman David DeMerchant. Available funds from Board of Trustees Checking Account as of 08/31/2026 is \$2,456.00. LOCAL ACCOUNTS will be reported quarterly with the interest. Any significant change, re: deposits or withdrawals will be reported as they happen.

Trustees reviewed the budget items for 2027. Decision is as follows: Church Utilities \$16,000; Parsonage Utilities \$9,500; Telephone/internet/cell phone \$2,500; Property Insurance \$14,000.00; Snow Removal/sanding \$6,100.00; Maintenance/Cleaning \$5000.00; Technology \$500.00; Real Estate taxes \$3,500.00.

OLD BUSINESS

Roy proposed that in order to pay Mr. Yoder for his work on the church clock that we take \$300.00 from the clock account and the balance of the bill from the trustees checking for a total of \$655. Motion was made, second and approved.

Shingles are falling off the steeple because they were improperly nailed. A lift will be needed to correct this problem. Judson suggests we contact A & M Painting.

Dave D. contacted Rideout Neighborhood Repair and he will give us an estimate to fill cracks and reseal the driveway and parking. It was decided to wait until next year.

Dave DeMerchant received an insurance form that will need to be filled out and returned to Bobbi Pelletier.

Andover Organ has set a date for tuning the organ We need to consult with Mari-Jo Hedman about this immediately, given the huge expense involved. Roy recommended that we put \$7500 of the funds donated into a CD. Will thinks that, in order to avoid temperature fluctuation, the organ not be tuned until next spring. Roy asked Pastor Ben to talk with Mari-Jo.

Will suggests we have a benefit dinner for the clock maintenance. No decision was made.

Dave DeMerchant announced that he will resign his position at the end of his term because of hearing and eyesight issues.

Will Barnum announced that he was willing to take over the Treasurer position. A motion was made and seconded to appoint Will Barnum as Trustee treasurer, there being no other nominations. Motion was approved. The next meeting will be on Tuesday October 20, 2026.

Closing prayer given by Pastor Ben.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Richard Clark, Sec.

Worship Committee Minutes September 30, 2026

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

The meeting was opened by Bobbi at 10:30am.

Pastor Ben read a prayer based on 1 Corinthians, chapter 16, from **The Methodist Book of Daily Prayer**.

The minutes from the meeting on September 3rd were reviewed. Gwen moved to accept the minutes as previously published, Cheryl seconded, and all voted in favor.

Old Business:

- Bobbi reported that the older banner was found and will be used for World Communion Sunday on October 4th. She and Beth will prepare a display on the table in front of the second choir loft where the banner will be draped.
- Children's Sabbath will be observed on October 11th. Cheryl and Melonie have invited the children to participate in every aspect of the service. The paraments with children will be used.
- Laity Sunday will be celebrated on October 18th. All laity who support the church will be recognized, especially the Tech Team. This will include greeters, ushers, liturgists, choir members, counters, committee chairs and members, etc. Diane asked that Lawana be recognized for the work she has done in painting the Sunday School room recently. She donated the paint as well.
- Bobbi thanked Diane for being willing to take over as chairperson of this committee beginning in January. We are in need of a secretary for the committee.

- Gwen Ellinwood has asked to come off the committee, so we thanked her for her service. Mary Theriault and Diana Locke have agreed to continue serving. Bobbi asked that we reach out to invite others in the congregation to consider joining our committee.
- Bobbi reported that our request for \$1,000.00 in the 2027 budget has been approved.
- An “Altar Guild” will hopefully be established. Cheryl offered to serve with others in changing the altar paraments and banners as needed. We are looking for a few others to serve with her.

New Business:

- All Saints Sunday will be observed on November 1st. We have not lost any members since last November, but we will recognize the passing of Rebecca Sutherland, Jeff Franklin, and Arlene Ward, who all had a relation to our church.
- Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday will be observed on November 8th. Mike Lajoie, a double lung transplant recipient, will be speaking.
- November 22nd will be Thanksgiving Sunday. We will be asking for donations of fresh or canned vegetables that will be given to the Food Pantry. The altar will be decorated in a harvest theme.
- Th first Sunday of Advent will be on November 29th. Purple will be our color theme for Advent this year. United Methodist Student Day will also be observed that day.

Pastor’s Time:

Pastor Ben announced that a Cluster Service for All Saints Sunday will be held at the Houlton UMC on November 8th at 2:30pm.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Ben.

The next meeting will be held at 10:30am on Thursday, November 5th.

Mary Theriault will offer devotions.

Diane Fitzpatrick, Secretary



When you come to the church,
please take some time to look at
the Library bulletin board, where
many photos showing the
“Beauty of the Earth”
are on display!
(this is not one of them!
Special thanks to the ladies who
put this display together! 😊)

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NOVEMBER 2026!!!

Sunday	01	10:00am	Worship; All Saints Sunday
Monday	02	10:00am	Bible Study at Parsonage
		1:00pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry
		5:00pm	Handbell Choir Practice
Wednesday	04	10:00am	NOW Committee Meeting
Thursday	05	9:00am	Aroostook Cluster Meeting via Zoom
		9:00am	Education Committee Meeting (note date change)
		10:30am	Worship Committee Meeting
		3:00pm	Prayer Café
Saturday	07	11:30am	Senior Choir Practice

Sunday	08	10:00am	Worship; Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost; Organ & Tissue Donor Sunday
		2:30pm	Aroostook Cluster's Fall Service at Houlton UMC
Monday	09	10:00am	Bible Study at Parsonage
		5:00pm	Handbell Choir Practice
Tuesday	10	5:30pm	Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Board Meeting at Pantry
Wednesday	11	<u>FEDERAL HOLIDAY - VETERANS DAY - CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED</u>	
Thursday	12	12:30pm	SPRC Meeting
Saturday	14	11:30am	Senior Choir Practice

Sunday	15	10:00am	Worship; Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Monday	16	10:00am	Bible Study at Parsonage
		5:00pm	Handbell Choir Practice
Tuesday	17	1:00pm	Trustees Meeting
Thursday	19	10:00am	Deadline for Thanksgiving Dinner Reservations
		1:00pm	Church Council Meeting
		3:00pm	Prayer Café
Saturday	21	11:30am	Senior Choir Practice

Sunday	22	10:00am	Worship; Christ the King Sunday; Thanksgiving Sunday
Monday	23	10:00am	Bible Study at Parsonage
		10:00am	<u>DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWSLETTER INPUT</u>
		5:00pm	Handbell Choir Practice
Thursday	26	<u>FEDERAL HOLIDAY - THANKSGIVING DAY - CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED</u>	
		1:00pm	Thanksgiving Dinner - Free Will Offering
Saturday	28	8:00am	UMM Breakfast & Meeting
		1:00pm	Worship & NOW Committee Members prepare sanctuary for Advent Season

Sunday	29	10:00am	Worship; First Sunday of Advent; UM Student Day (special offering)
Monday	30	10:00am	Bible Study at Parsonage
		5:00pm	Handbell Choir Practice
