December 2026

Dear Gray Memorial United Methodist Church Family,
Grace and Peace!

"I was a stranger, and you welcomed me . . ."
Jesus in Matthew 25:35

As we round the corner into Advent, Christmas, and the New Year, I would like to share a fascinating bit of word origin trivia I learned not too long ago. The words guest, host, and ghost all derive from the same root word in a linguistic ancestor of English, Indo-European. The word is **ghosti.* The fact that the words were once combined in one suggests that the 'guest-host' relationships were intertwined, and that there was a specific set of expectations around hospitality. In ancient times among nomadic tribes, a person never knew when today's guest could be tomorrow's host.[1] "Ghost" is related as well, since a ghost is a form of house-guest. Who'd have guessed? This got me to thinking: it is only in recent decades that the term "Holy Ghost" has been all but replaced by the term "Holy Spirit." What would it be to consider the Holy Ghost as our Holy Guest? I hope you enjoy this poem, on hosting and guesting.

The Guest House
by Jalaluddin Rumi

This being human is a guest house.
Every morning a new arrival.

A joy, a depression, a meanness,
some momentary awareness comes
as an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they're a crowd of sorrows,
who violently sweep your house
empty of its furniture,
still, treat each guest honorably.
He may be clearing you out
for some new delight.

The dark thought, the shame, the malice,
meet them at the door laughing,
and invite them in.

Be grateful for whoever comes,
because each has been sent
as a guide from beyond.

Blessings in Christ!
Pastor Ben

[1] "History of English Podcast" Episode 7; https://historyofenglishpodcast.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/HOE-Transcript-Episode007.pdf

The Caribou Clock

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

Greetings from the Church Office!

Welcome to December! Where did the year go?

Our church family lost a very special member recently – Mary Lou Brown. Her loss will be felt deeply. We will celebrate her life on Wednesday, Dec 2nd at 11am. Here is the link for you to view the service:

https://youtube.com/live/tHfoUPVdFJw

I will soon travel to Massachusetts for my family's Christmas Party and Ellen Cleaves will cover the church office on Thursday/Friday, December 3rd & 4th and Monday, December 7th. Blessings to everyone while I am away.

Please consider coming to the church on Saturday, December 5th to support the NOW Committee's "Holiday Fling" from 10am – 2pm. There will holiday decorations and handmade articles for sale, as well as a baked goods table. From 11am to 1pm, they will serve a variety of soups for lunch, cost is $5 per meal. Some of the proceeds will be donated to the Homeless Shelter in Presque Isle.

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 Monday, December 28th!!!

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier
Church Office Administrator



November Prayer Requests

Prayer Concerns: Dale, Lu & Debbie Sharp; Leland Frost, Sheila & Dave Belyea, Sylvia Akeley, James Stuart, Richard Carde, Charlotte Wilson, Mary Anderson, Mary Lou Brown, DeDe Nichols, Sally Carde, Jim Saucier, Donna Barnes, Eric Nelson, Melonie Carlson, Guilford Marquis, Sandy Pethick, Gwen Ellinwood,

Deaths: Family of James Saucier; Family of Mary Lou Brown; Family of Catherine Chatman; Family of Linda Schall (Dan Schall's wife);

Other: Praise for Mari-Jo Hedman's husband John – recent test came back benign

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

REMINDERS

DATE	Greeter	Pianist/Music	Liturgist	Counter	Coffee Fellowship
Dec 06	Kathy Panaro	Mari-Jo Hedman	Deborah Nichols	Ruthann Weeks	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Dec 13	Penny Shaw	Hymnal CDs	Mary Ouellette	Elsie Doody	Now Committee
Dec 20	Gwen Ellinwood	Mari-Jo Hedman	Bobbi Pelletier	Elsie Doody	Church Council
Dec 24	Bobbi Pelletier	Hymnal CDs	Del Ramey	Elsie Doody	Worship Committee
Dec 27	Ruthann Weeks	Hymnal CDs	Aurora Barnum	Diane Fitzpatrick	NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Usher Coordinator for December ~ Neal Genz
Communion Stewardess for December ~ Debbie Barnes
Communion Bread for December ~ Del Ramey

Changes to July 2026 Church Directory:

Brown, Mary Lou: delete, passed away November 11, 2026
Hart, Rona: add to directory – P. O. Box 305, 18 Roosevelt Ave., Caribou; Home phone 492-0730; Cell phone 999-2762; email ronahart39@gmail.com

* * December Birthdays & Anniversaries * *

Birthdays and Anniversaries are celebrated on the first Sunday during Coffee Fellowship.
Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



1	Alaina Pethick	16	Leland Frost
4	Robin Cyr	20	Hazel Barnum
7	Bonnie Ward	23	Diane Fitzpatrick, Alison Kieffer, Meghan Scott, Katherine Scott
11	Elsie Doody		
12	Steven Scott	24	Carol Norsworthy
14	Libby Collier, Connie Ennis, Claire Hodgkins	29	Jody Smith
15	Dawn Frost	30	Kathie Forbes



7	Sally & Richard Carde	24	Jeanette & Ken Peters
		26	Ruthann & John Weeks

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
Oct 25	48	30	$3,360.06
Nov 01	52	26	$2,751.63
Nov 08	49	21	$5,255.00
Nov 15	45	39	$2,680.63
Nov 22	45	(will report next month)	$3,121.00
Nov 29		(will report next month)	

****

+ 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 $31,207.54. Since then, we received interest of $1.34 and did not have any payments. Our balance as of November 23rd is $31,208.88 (of that amount, the "furnace replacement donation funds" that remain are $5,424.27).

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The Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry is in need of the following items: Any type of 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.

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Here are the links for our December services on Sundays at 10:00am and Christmas Eve at 4:00pm:

Dec 6 - https://youtube.com/live/WYxgR_HyjgU
Dec 13 - https://youtube.com/live/Ycv8VtHsOGU
Dec 20 - https://youtube.com/live/KWxHf5IQnHE
Dec 24 - https://youtube.com/live/figS5wUY_Sk
Dec 27 - https://youtube.com/live/lf82-TOjH6w

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).



USHER COORDINATORS NEEDED

We are short by 6 Usher Coordinators. If you may be interested in serving as a UC, please contact Neal Genz for more information.

Phone: 207-551-7377

Email: neal.genz@gmail.com

Thank you

Please consider joining our Liturgist Team! Our schedule for January through June 2027 will be created during December. If you are interested, please contact the church office by Friday, December 18th! We would love to have YOU join our team!





The Worship Committee is seeking volunteers to become communion stewards or stewardesses for 2027. If you are interested, please speak with Diane Fitzpatrick as we would love to have new members for this vital ministry!

TREE OF LIGHTS ORDER FORM

The United Methodist Men are sponsoring a "Tree of Lights" that can eventually have approximately 400 white lights lit and be on display outside the church.

You may "purchase" a light for $5 and as the lights are "sold", the lights will be lit! Our hope is that all the lights will be "sold" by Sunday, Dec 20th!

Please complete the form below and proceeds will go to the UMM. Payment to the church is due by Sunday, Dec 20th.

Please make checks payable to Gray Memorial UMC and indicate "Tree of Lights" in the memo line.

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Number of lights: _____@ $5.00 each Total _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

By: _____

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS SEASON

The Worship Committee is offering people the opportunity to purchase their own plants/flowers and bring them to the church for display during the Christmas Season.

Flowers are to be brought in or delivered from 9am – 12pm or at 1:00pm on **Friday, December 18th**, when Worship Committee members are here to arrange them for the December 20th Service. If the following information is provided by **Thursday, December 17th**, a list will appear in the bulletins for the December 20th service:

IN MEMORY OF: _____

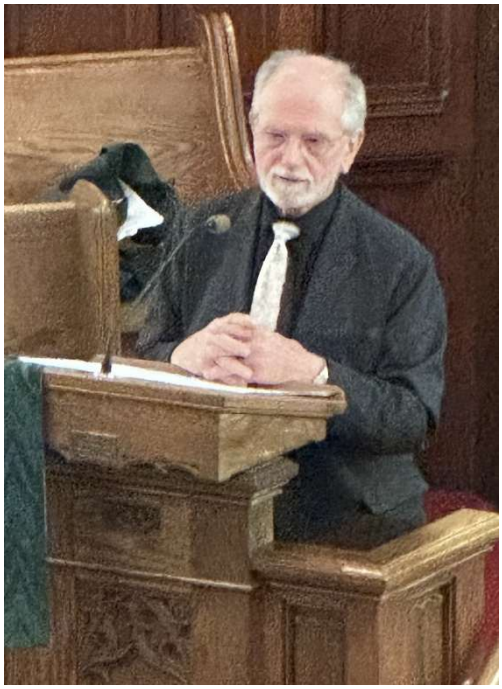
IN HONOR OF: _____

BY: _____

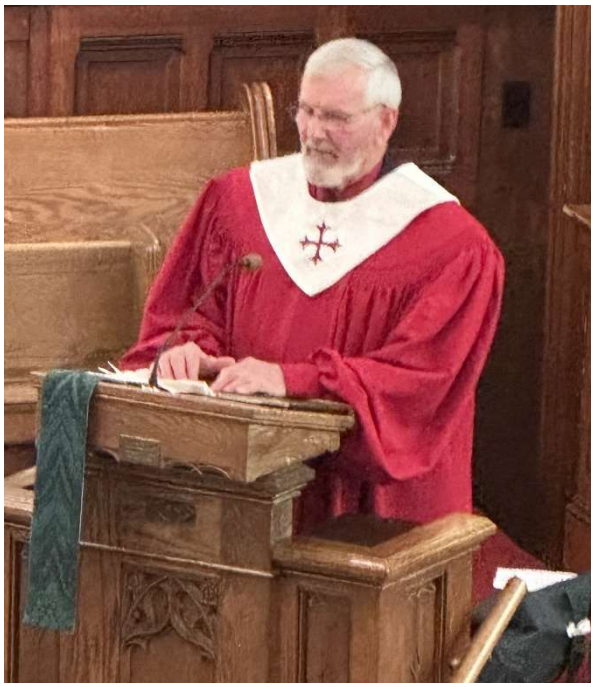
PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17th!

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PICTURES FROM OUR WORSHIP SERVICE



Nov 8th – Organ & Tissue Donor Sunday
Our guest speaker, Mike Lajoie
shared his double-lung transplant journey!



Nov 8th – Del Ramey shared his
story of gratitude for our stewardship campaign
for 2027

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Church Council did not meet in November

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

Education Committee Minutes
November 5, 2026

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

The minutes of the October meeting had been accepted via email and sent to Bobbi.

- ❖ Sunday School Program
  - We are so pleased with our Sunday school room. Thanks to many hands it has become a cozy, welcoming space.
  - Congregation members being asked to assist Sunday school teachers is a great way to involve them.
  - Neal has been helpful in letting us know when to rejoin the service and we will continue this until we have another option in place.
  - It has been found that the youth lessons from the liturgical calendar on Discipleship Ministries are not always applicable so we will be looking into using other resources as well. A few of these include teacher manuals in the library relating to children's moments, materials committee members may have at home and researching lessons online.
  - Mary shared Advent Bible lessons that she found online that will coordinate with the Advent services. It was agreed that she will purchase these and have them printed off so the four Advent season lessons will be taken care of. She will also look for battery operated Advent candles for the classroom that can be used each year.
  - Materials will be prepared for eight children so they will be in place for visitors.
  - Teachers were asked to pick up a few more Sundays since Melonie and Cheryl are unable to teach at this time. They are more than willing to do this and will also be asking other members of the congregation if they would be willing to help out at this time by teaching a lesson.

Teaching Schedule

11/8 No SS (special speaker)
11/15 Diane Fitzpatrick/Barb Hade
11/22 Diane Fitzpatrick/Kathy Panaro
11/29 Mary Theriault/RuthAnn Weeks
12/6 Alaina Pethick/tbd
12/13 Mary Theriault/tbd
12/20
12/27

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 9th, at 9:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Theriault

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FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:

From Financial Secretary:

The following is the total church offering for October:

Regular Offering	$11,731.63
Loose Offering	487.06
Subtotal-Regular Offering	$12,218.69
Other Sources Operating Fund:	.00
Total Regular Offerings	$12,218.69
Reimbursements:	
Upper Room	3.00
Subtotal-Reimbursements	$3.00
Special Funds for Church Use:	
Prayer Shawl	$ 325.00
Coffee Fellowship	56.00
Community Support	60.00
NOW Committee	100.00
SPRC/Worship	276.00
Subtotal Funds for Church Use	$ 817.00
Special Funds Not for Church Use:	
Ecumenical Food Pantry	215.00
Sub-Total Funds Not for Church Us	$215.00
Grand Total:	$13,253.69

From Treasurer:

Beginning Balance	4,576.31	
2026 Operating income	12,218.69	
Interest	1.67	
Less EFT fee	(33.96)	VANCO fees (EFT deposits)
Less Expenses	(16,283.32)	
Ending Balance	479.39	

Total "Special Funds for Church Use", which includes many lines for various donations, total $30,294.65. The "Special Funds NOT for Church Use" total $4508. 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 November 6, 2026, on-line report shows ending value = $27,130.76.

The Capital Account Money is as follows as of October 31st: Previous Balance - $31,207.54; Deposits - $1.34; Expenses = 0.00; Current Balance - $31,208.88. *(Includes funds earmarked for Furnace Fund - $5,397.33; Emergency Fund Donations = $21,104.23).*

Expenditures for October 2026:

Worship	$ 15.00
Office	506.34
NOW Committee	88.50
Programs Sub-Total	$ 609.84
Trustee Expenses:	
Church Utilities	$ 993.77
Parsonage Utilities	649.67
Telephone/Internet	246.45
Property Insurance (3 mos.)	3,271.71
Maintenance/Cleaning	271.60
Trustee Sub-Total	$5,433.20

Staff-Parish Relations Expenses:	
Pastor's Salary	$4,416.66
Health Insurance	1,788,83
Pastor's Total Comp	$6,205.49
Choir Director	$ 200.00
Treasurer	250.00
Church Office Administrator	833.33
Custodian	1,625.00
Maine PFML Deductions	71.37
Total Other Salaries	$2,979.70
Other Expenses:	
Guest & Substitute Staff	$ 100.00
FICA	222.49
Workman's Comp	51.97
Total Other Expenses	$ 374.46
Sub-Total SPRC Expenses	$ 9,559.65
New England Conference:	
Pastor Pension Benefit	680.63
NEC Total	$ 680.63
Grand Total Expenses	$16,283.32

Note: Dead River bills for church also include charges for propane deliveries. Balances as of Oct 31: Church = ($3,540.61); Parsonage = ($2,791.93). *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!

2026 YTD REVIEW – August 2026	
Annual Budget	$230,347.29
Required Monthly	$19,195.61
Required Weekly	$4,429.76

Target = $191,956.08; Beginning Operating Fund Balance (Jan only) - $1,961.71; Operating Fund Income from F/S YTD - $155,652.13; Special Funds Used for Operating Fund Expenses YTD = $27,827.95; Total Expenses YTD - $184,644.68; Unpaid Mission Shares = $0.00 (paid in full).

An aggregate of in-person and virtual attendance shows monthly average of 79 and 71 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 - November 4, 2026
Nurture - Outreach - Witness

In attendance: Sandy Pethick, Charlotte Willet, Cheryl Martin, Pastor Ben Daggett, Kathy Panaro, Bobbi Pelletier, Alaina Pethick

Not present: Aurora Pethick Barnum, Ruthann Weeks, Melonie Carlson

Opening Prayer – Kathy

Treasurer's Report - Cheryl

NOW Treasurer's Report November 4, 2026

Beginning Balance		$2634.01
10-14-26	Seed money for the cookie booth	($100.00)
10-19-26	Deposit	$830.00
10-19-26	Deposit	$100.00
10-27-26	Deposit	$20.00
10-27-26	Thanksgiving/Food Pantry Check #567 to Colleen Harmon	($105.10)
10-27-26	Purchase of Thanksgiving turkeys Check #568 to Judson Drake	($108.16)

Explanation of Deposits

10-19-26	Proceeds from the Cookie Booth
10-19-26	Returning of Cookie Booth Seed Money
10-27-26	Additional Cookie Booth donation

Balance	11-4-26	$3270.75

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Martin
Treasurer

A couple of minor clerical errors were corrected. It was noted that the total proceeds for the Pie Sale and the Cookie Booth were $1240, so our 10% tithe to St. Apollonia will be $124.

Sandy made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as amended. Kathy seconded. The motion passed.

Turkeys for Food Pantry

20 turkeys were purchased and delivered to the pantry. Cheryl reimbursed Colleen and Judson (see Treasurer's Report).

Christmas Dinner

Judson came in to share some information about this meal. It will be take-out only from 11 am until sold out on Christmas Day. He is planning on making about 150 meals to be given out at the church, and additional food for 60-70 people at the homeless shelter. He said he needs to purchase turkeys, stuffing and containers. All other supplies are being donated. He plans to get 8 turkeys for approximately $100 and estimated his total costs would be $275-300. He will also need volunteers to help with the event. He'll have a better idea of specifics in early December.

After a brief discussion, the NOW team decided to help financially support this event. Charlotte made a motion to donate $300 to Judson for expenses of the dinner. Cheryl seconded. The motion passed.

St. Apollonia Tree Festival

Cheryl brought in some of the ornaments that she, Melonie and Kathy had worked on. There are quite a few that still need to be finished. They need to be complete before Dec. 3. Melonie has invited us to continue working on them at her home. Cheryl will check and then email everyone with dates/times that will work.

Bobbi shared the flyer that will go into the bulletin this Sunday.

Food Pantry

There is a potential new co-coordinator that will work with Ruthann. She has already been involved with the pantry for some time.

Children's Museum

There was a request for volunteers at the Children's Museum this month. We needed some clarification on what the needs were. Alaina will reach out to Elise and get back to everyone.

Holiday Fling - Dec. 5, 10-2 (Lunch 11-1 $5)

We will need to make an announcement for donations soon. Items can be brought in the week of Dec. 1. Bobbi will bring in her sweatshirts to sell. The Rada cutlery will also be available. The rest of the items will be donated holiday themed. There will also be a baked goods table of donated items.

Next, we decided on the menu for lunch. We will have soups and brownies with ice cream for dessert. The meal is 11-1 and will be $5 per person. Here are the volunteers so far:

Soups:

Pastor Ben
Ruthann
Melonie/Cheryl
Alaina
Sandy - Chili
(Bobbi - chili toppings, etc.)

Dessert:

Cheryl - ice cream
Everyone - a pan of brownies

Setup will be on Friday, Dec. 4 at 1 pm. The tables will need to be rearranged. Sandy will create a flyer for the bulletin.

There was a brief discussion about the recipient of the tithe for this event. We decided to donate to the homeless shelter this time. Kathy made a motion that the 10% tithe from the proceeds of the Holiday Fling will be donated to the Homeless Shelter. Sandy seconded. The motion passed.

Angel Tree

The Worship Committee has invited the NOW Team to join them in decorating the sanctuary for Advent on Sat., Nov. 28 at 1 pm. The NOW Team will put up the Angel Tree at that time as well.

Other

Bobbi shared that the church received a message from a woman asking for assistance with reading materials for her 17 year old autistic son. She did not leave enough information on the message and Bobbi has been unable to reach her. But she asked that we keep it in our minds should she get in touch again.

Pastor Ben shared some information about a Tango group that Philip Andrews would like to host at the church. He is asking all of the committees for their input on this. Aside from a few logistical details, the NOW Team is in support of it, but feel it is ultimately the Trustees decision.

Our next meeting will be Dec. 2 at 10 am. *(later changed to Saturday, November 29th following putting up the Angel Tree)*

Respectfully submitted,
Alaina Pethick
NOW Team Recording Secretary

Worship Committee Minutes
November 5, 2026

Members Present: Bobbi Pelletier (chair), Claire Hodgkins, Gwen Ellinwood, Mary Ouellette, Beth Alden, Cheryl Martin, Diane Fitzpatrick, Mary Theriault, Richard Clark, Mari-Jo Hedman

The meeting was opened by Bobbi at 10:30am.
Mary Theriault offered devotions. She shared a lovely reading from In the Shadow of His Wings, called "I See You". This reading was a beautiful reminder that God is always watching over us, is aware of our struggles, and is a constant presence in our lives.
Minutes from the October meeting were reviewed. Claire moved to accept the minutes as published, Cheryl seconded, and all were in favor.

Old Business:

- Bobbi asked for feedback on the Laity Sunday recognition of the Tech Team and all who serve on the various committees in the church. All agreed that it was wonderful to recognize the Tech Team for all the dedication they put forth every week! Members of the team were grateful for the gift cards they received from the church.
- Mary Ouellette has agreed to serve on our committee and was welcomed at this meeting!
- November 1st was All Saints Sunday. This was the first year that we didn't have members whose loss we remembered. We did, however, honor Jeff Franklin, Rebecca Sutherland, and Arlene Ward who all had connections to our church. Their families were grateful for the recognition their loved ones received.
- On November 8th, Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday, Mike Lajoie will be our guest speaker. He is a double lung transplant recipient who will share his testimony on his experience and how he felt God's presence with him.
- November 8th is also the date for the Cluster Service at Houlton UMC at 2:30pm. Our choir will be participating.
- Cheryl has offered to change the paraments and banners each week. Bobbi will continue to help her until we get other volunteers to help. Mary Ouellette offered to help Cheryl!
- November 22nd will be Thanksgiving Sunday. There will be an announcement in the November newsletter and our bulletin about bringing in fresh/canned vegetables for the food pantry. People will be invited to bring their items forward during the service. Mary Theriault, Beth Alden, and Diane Fitzpatrick offered to decorate the altar area in a "harvest" theme.
- On Saturday, November 28th at 1:00pm, we will decorate the sanctuary for the Advent season. Our color theme this year will be purple. The NOW Committee will be assisting us as they have to put up the "Angel Tree". Diane, Claire, Bobbi, Mary O., Cheryl, and Mary T. offered to do the decorating for our committee. Bobbi mentioned that the "Angel Tree" will have only angel ornaments on it for the first few Sundays. After the angel ornaments have been taken, the Chrismons will be added. Bobbi has asked Denise Hamlin for a list of students in need of gifts.
- November 29th will be the first Sunday in Advent. Bobbi has ordered and received 50 Advent Devotionals that will be distributed to folks attending the service on that day. This day will also be UM Student Day with a special offering being taken.

New Business:

- Eight people have expressed an interest in joining the handbell choir. This has been put on hold for now as Melonie Carlson, leader and director of the choir, is recovering from a recent injury. Melonie hopes that the choir can play on the first Sunday of each month once they get going. Our Senior Choir does not sing on the first Sundays of each month.
- The Christmas Eve Service will be held on December 24th at 4:00pm. We will check the batteries used in the candles for that service following our meeting on December 10th.
- We are still in need of a secretary for our committee beginning in January.
- We feel that it would be helpful to have more Communion Stewardesses (or Stewards) and bread bakers for next year. Bobbi will mention this need in the December newsletter.
- Bobbi will also mention a need for more Liturgists in the next newsletter. Gwen Barnum did an excellent job on Children's Sunday, so Bobbi will ask her if she would be interested in serving.

Other Business:
Mari-Jo talked about her plans for the Mark Hayes concert that will be held on August 7th, 2027. This is shaping up to be an amazing event that will be a fundraiser for our organ repairs. A free will offering will be taken instead of charging admission. Mari-Jo presented each member of our committee with a list of concert points that will need to be addressed (seating capacity, parking, tuning of the organ and piano prior to the concert, and rehearsal schedules and snacks that can be provided for the members of the choir and musicians).

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 10th, at 10:30am.
Richard Clark will offer devotions.

Diane Fitzpatrick, Secretary

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DECEMBER 2026!!!

Wednesday	**02**	**11:00am**	**Memorial Service for Mary Lou Brown; Followed by Reception**
		5:30pm	**Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Board Christmas Dinner**
Thursday	**03**	**9:00am**	**Aroostook Cluster Meeting via Zoom**
		3:00pm	**Prayer Café**
Saturday	**05**	**10am-2pm**	**NOW Committee's Holiday Fling with Lunch (11am-1pm)!**
Sunday	**06**	**10:00am**	**Worship; Second Sunday of Advent**
Monday	**07**	**10:00am**	**Bible Study at Parsonage**
		1:00pm	**Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting**
Thursday	**10**	**10:30am**	**Worship Committee Meeting (note date change)**
		12:30pm	**SPRC Meeting**
Friday	**11**	**7:00pm**	**Caribou Choral Society Concert at CPAC**
Saturday	**12**	**11:30am**	**Senior Choir Practice**
		7:00pm	**Caribou Choral Society Concert at Skyway Elementary School, PI**
Sunday	**13**	**10:00am**	**Worship; Third Sunday of Advent**
Monday	**14**	**10:00am**	**Bible Study at Parsonage**
Tuesday	**15**	**1:00pm**	**Trustees Meeting**
Thursday	**17**	**1:00pm**	**Church Council Meeting**
		3:00pm	**Prayer Café**
Saturday	**19**	**11:30am**	**Senior Choir Practice**
Sunday	**20**	**10:00am**	**Worship; Fourth Sunday of Advent**
Monday	**21**		***FIRST DAY OF WINTER!!!***
		10:00am	**Bible Study at Parsonage**
		10:00am	***DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWSLETTER INPUT***
Thursday	**24**	**4:00pm**	**Christmas Eve Family Service**
Friday	**25**	***FEDERAL HOLIDAY – CHRISTMAS DAY – CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED***	
Sunday	**27**	**10:00am**	**Worship; First Sunday after Christmas Day**
Monday	**30**	**10:00am**	**Bible Study at Parsonage**

