



A Word from the Pastor ...

April 2019

I had mentioned last month that I knew this was an unusual winter when even some winter enthusiasts began to pine for spring. I had also assumed that several of you who were long-time residents of Aroostook County would point to long, cold, snowy winters of years past. Several of you noted that this year rivaled or surpassed almost anything in memory (other than the 200 inch winter a decade ago). At the same time, this season has been more than about cold and snow. We have mourned both recent losses (Bob Ellinwood, Cathy Griffeth, Steve Cashman) and, for many, a number of losses that from the past couple years that continue to resonate. We have said goodbye to several families who have moved to take opportunities in other places. Many of you have been facing substantial health or personal challenges. Leadership changes at church have meant changes to familiar ministries. As many of you know our buildings need urgent work both this year and over the next few years (the Trustees plan to communicate information about these in the coming months). A few of you have pondered personal or organizational mortality. For others, recent events and trends in our culture have been troubling. It would be easy to feel overwhelmed by it all....even to say that faith doesn't have anything to say with what we have individually and collectively experiencing.

Lent is 40 days, *not counting Sundays*. By tradition, Sundays are not counted because they are “little Easters,” days for celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Ah.....resurrection. Resurrection is unique among major world religions and stands at the center of what it means to be a Christian. So important is this concept, even our official funeral service is called the Service of Death and Resurrection. Easier said than done, resurrection is not always easy to live by. Hope can feel fleeting. As surely as plants will emerge from the feet of snow (really, they will!), as surely as Jesus left the tomb empty, we believe that resurrection awaits us, too. As Natalie Sleeth puts it in *The Hymn of Promise*, “...in our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory...,” we ultimately have nothing to fear because we have resurrection to look forward to both in this life and in the one to come. The worst thing about this winter or any season of your life will not be the last thing. Death or loss or hardship or evil will not have the final word. Nor will they define us. As we look forward to Easter (and all the little Easters to come), let us live in the hope of Christ, confident in the love that has brought and promises to bring us resurrection.

We have been spending much of our worship time in Lent listening for God in our lives and learning ways of praying, reading scripture and examining our lives. Many of you have observed elements of your life you want to overcome, improve or otherwise turn around. I have found spiritual practices like these essential in dealing with life's ups and downs. I highly recommend them to you for all life's seasons.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Tim

General Conference 2019 Update

The special session of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church adopted the “Modified Traditional Plan” at its meeting in St. Louis in February. The denomination's Judicial Council has been requested to review whether the plan is legal under the church's constitution at their April meeting, a step that is not unusual for complex or controversial legislation. The implications of the legislation will likely be clearer following the ruling. For more information, feel free to contact me or go to <http://www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2019-special-session> . Many news outlets also covered the conference. I expect that there will be more information to share in the coming months.

For a debriefing of the events at General Conference and an opportunity to hear from a variety of perspectives (depending on which people's feelings range from pleased to upset to uncertainty), Gray Memorial UMC will be hosting an additional Courageous Conversation event for the district on March 30 from 1-3 p.m. If you would like to attend and haven't already let our church office know, contact the district office at 862-8089 so that they can prepare for the meeting.



Caribou Clock

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Date: April 2019

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

Greetings from the Church Office!

For any committee/group who is sponsoring an event that should be posted on the outside sign, it would be very helpful if you would provide the wording and the dates you want the message posted.

Please help me by meeting deadlines for submitting things for the Newsletter. It is difficult to "pull it all together" at the last minute and create a quality product. For April, that deadline is Wednesday, April 17th.

For those who wish to have their income taxes submitted free-of-charge, come to the VFW on Van Buren Road any Tuesday or Thursday from 9am to 2pm until Tuesday, April 16th. Please bring a photo ID, social security card and all pertinent tax-related documents for each person on the return. All income statements (W-2s, various 1099s, Social Security statements, etc.) are necessary to complete returns. Even if you do not need to file a Federal return, you might be eligible for a Maine State refund! If you paid rent or real estate taxes in 2018, please bring proof of those expenses. For rent, we need the landlord's name and phone number. **The state of Maine offered credits for years 2016, 2017 and 2018 and we can submit those year's state tax returns if you did not already file them!**

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier
Church Secretary



March Prayer Concerns

Prayer Concerns: Debbie & Lu Sharp, Reta Haley, Diane McDonough, Darlene Nelder, Sheila Belyea, Emily Stuart, Phyllis Sykes, Janie Lidey, Leona Michaud, Keith Drew, Glen Tagget, Robin Stuart, Pat Dobson, Florence Gallagher, Dave & Marcia DeMerchant, Misty Sampson, Susan Clark, Diane McDonough; Austin, Jason & Leah Chartier & Family; Erika & Jamin Potter & Family; Jazzy Babcock, Families of shooting victims at Christ Church New Zealand, Danny Haines, Kathie Forbes, Mary Ouellette, Martha Dunn, Carter & JoJo Strother, Louis & Nancy Leavitt

On Family Death: The family of Stephen Cashman; family of Louis Page

Other: Nations of Israel, Palestine & Syria; All who serve in harm's way; Congratulations to Caribou Vikings Basketball Team - Class B State Champs!; Birth of Natilee Kate Thomas (grand-daughter of Bill Thomas), birth of Atley Mae Harward (granddaughter of DeDe Nichols and great-granddaughter of Debbie Nichols)

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

REMINDERS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LITURGIST</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>COUNTER</u>	<u>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP</u>
Apr 7	Kathleen Forbes	Barbara & Dale Dee	George Knorr	Education Committee
Apr 14	Claire Hodgkins	Judi & Louis Greenier	George Knorr	Missions & Evangelism
Apr 21	Samuela Manages	Debbie Nichols & Romeo Bouchard	Mary Ouellette	NO COFFEE FELLOWSHIP
Apr 28	Debbie Nichols	Mary Ouellette & Duska Franklin	Mary Ouellette	Worship Committee

April Usher Coordinator: Leland Frost

April Communion Stewardess: Penny Shaw

Organist: Apr 7, 14 & 21 – Margaret Cyr; Apr 28 - TBD

Acolytes: Apr 7-Friedrich & Alden Wilcox; Apr 14-Darrell Adams; Apr 21-Friedrich Wilcox; Apr 28-Neal Genz

Child Care Volunteers: Apr 7-Debbie Barnes; Apr 14-Diane Fitzpatrick; Apr 21-Duska Franklin; Apr 28-Meagan Irving

Each individual or committee is responsible to make arrangements for changes to these various calendars.

Please contact the church office if any changes to these lists are made so the weekly bulletins are correct!

* * April Birthdays & Anniversaries * *

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

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



1	Jim Topping	14	Debbie Barnes
2	Tammy Albert	16	Mary Ayers, Stephen Griffeth
3	Keegan Wakana	18	Larry Conrad, Peter Edgecomb
4	Greg Anderson	21	Sally Carde, Heather Chandler, Bruce Hagelstein
5	Anna Soderberg	22	Avis Armstrong
6	Teelyne Herbert	23	Kenneth Irving
7	Scott Irving	24	Richard Carde, Debbie Jordan
8	Michael Smith	27	Shirley Bowman, Casey Lancaster
9	Albert Akeley	28	Katie Cyr, Margaret Cyr, Mary Ouellette
11	Christopher & Tyler Adams, Steven Branscom, Katherine Danforth, Diane DuBois	29	Bert Branscom
12	Rachel Warner	30	Danielle McBreairty, Nolan Sayers



7	Diana Locke & Dave Wakana	12	Nancy & Louis Leavitt
28	Jennifer & Ryan Sherman		

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.



**STEWARDSHIP/
FINANCE
COMMITTEE**

Worship Attendance and General Fund Offerings:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Operating Fund Offering</u>
Mar 3	80	\$5,087.00
Mar 10	67	\$ 985.00
Mar 17	70	\$3,611.00
Mar 24	80	\$2,427.67
Mar 31 (will report in next Newsletter)		

Needed to meet 2019 Budget: \$4,246.45 weekly

Capital Account Seed Money (CASM):

We continue to receive donations for the "Capital Account Seed Money" account each month. As of March 24th, the balance in the CASM account is \$42,960.77. Of that amount, the "furnace replacement donations" total \$32,818.00. All donations made for the "Furnace Replacement" will be held in this account until needed.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORIES ARRIVED DECEMBER 6TH!

**Anyone who had their photos taken or submitted an image gets a free directory.
We have additional copies of the directory and the individual copy cost is \$6.00.**

Changes (April 2019):

Brewer, Catherine: Address change – 17 Durgin Rd., Cross Lake Twp, ME 04779-3161

FLOWERS FOR EASTER – APRIL 21, 2019

Rather than taking orders, the Worship Committee is offering people the opportunity to purchase their own plants/flowers from other places and bring them to the church for display for Easter Sunday.

Flowers are to be brought in or delivered on Friday, April 19th from 9am-2pm or at 1:00pm on Saturday, April 20th, 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 17th, it will be listed in the Easter Sunday Bulletin (April 21st):

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

BY: _____

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17TH!

Pictures from our Worship Services!!
(photos by Dale Sharp, unless otherwise noted)



New lent paraments ordered by the Worship Committee and paid for by the Memorials Committee. These were dedicated on Sunday, March 10th in honor of the Honorable Donald F. Collins. Diana Rauch has also sewn a label to the back of the altar parament that indicates the date and for whom they were purchased.



Neal Genz assists Rev. Tim in helping the children understand the candle lighting station, one of the worship elements for the "Listen" series we are doing during Lent. Then each of them lit a candle with Neal's help.

Other Kodak Moments!



Mary Lou Brown created this display of crocheted items made by Betty Branscom during this long cold winter. The large center piece is a lap robe and it is surrounded by placemats and squares. Betty said she did this work to avoid "getting into trouble"!



Would you like to receive the weekly email newsletter summarizing events at worship and upcoming events? Also, special bulletins, notices of changes of events, etc.? Send an email to the church office (498-2103) so we can add you to the email list!

The Memorials Committee is working on the 2019 Scholarship Package and will have it ready for distribution on Sunday, April 7th.



The Worship Committee continues to sponsor a church-wide Mission Project to provide local school children with a variety of items, such as socks, underwear, toiletries (sample/travel size), hats, mittens, gloves, school supplies, etc. Collection boxes are available in the Library and the Fellowship Hall. Please place your donations into the appropriate box (marked "Clothes", "Toiletries", and "School Supplies"). We hope everyone in the Gray Memorial family will help with this project! We just gave the schools all the many donations received March 17, 2019 (thank you!). Our next **deadline for donating items is Sunday, May 12th** – we will collect the donations and pass them on to the schools. We will take a break for a couple of months and then start another campaign for distribution in the fall.

Save the date! The annual Italian Supper sponsored by the Finance/Stewardship Committee is Saturday, April 13th. You won't want to miss it! Tickets are \$12 for adults and will be available in the church office!
Menu - salad bar, chicken picatta and/or baked Italian chicken with tomatoes and artichokes, pasta with marinara and/or pesto sauce, bread sticks and a simple cannoli for desert!!! Yum!!!



Annual Spaghetti Supper

All proceeds to benefit the Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry

SATURDAY - APRIL 27, 2019

4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Location: Caribou Assembly of God Fellowship Hall
Sweden Street, Caribou

Tickets: \$10 Adults; \$6 children under 10

Tickets available in the church office

Menu includes salad, spaghetti, garlic bread, dessert and beverage

Take out dinners will be available



CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
2-28-19

ATTENDEES: Judi Greenier (Vice Chair), Claire Hodgkins, Tamara Wilcox, Rev. Tim Wilcox, Judson Drake, Colleen Harmon, and Bobbi Pelletier

Judi Greenier called the meeting to order in the church kitchen at 6:35 PM and Rev. Tim said a brief prayer.

CLUSTER: After discussion, it was agreed that a service of music would be a wonderful way to celebrate our connection to one another and share time together at a Lenten Cluster service on March 31st at 4 P.M. To that end, please share this information with your congregation and let me know who from your church will be willing to share a solo, duet, quartet, instrumental, choral, dance, etc. for the service. We are praying that each church in our Cluster will provide at least one selection. The music does not have to be Lenten music - rather, it can be any music that lifts and celebrates Jesus, our ministry in this area, and who we are as Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

Josselyn Langworthy and Kathie Forbes have already announced they will participate by sharing their music.

Half of the offering will be given to Homeless Services of Aroostook and the remaining half will support the work of our Cluster.

Please let me know as soon as you can, and I will put together an order of worship. I may also reach out to you folks for some additional participation (readings, prayers, etc.).

Following the service there will be a potluck dinner. The folks in Mars Hill will provide hot dishes and beverages, and we ask that others bring salads, desserts, etc.

Let's all come together for this time of sharing!!

EDUCATION & FAMILY MINISTRIES: No Report

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP: The Finance and Stewardship Committee met on Thursday, February 14 at 6:00 pm at the church. Four members were present. Monthly reports for January 2019 were reviewed. There was 14,352.86 in tithes and offerings received for general operating purposes and \$5,390.00 received as designated for special funds. Human Relations Sunday offering was \$7.00, not for church use. Bills of \$17,802.89 were paid in January. The church's operating checkbook ended the month with a balance of \$3,606.90. Total on deposit designated for special funds was \$23,289.62, the Memorial Garden account held \$25,134.21, which gained back the cost of setting up the account, and the Capital Account Seed Money held \$42,152.53, each at month end. Detailed monthly reports are available for anyone interested by contacting the church office.

The committee reviewed a 32-year summary of Sunday attendance records, and noted that 2018 was the third year in a row with fewer than 100 average Sunday attendance.

Bobbi reported that an application for a church credit card had been submitted to the United Methodist Federal Credit Union so that she and Rev. Tim would no longer need to use their personal credit cards for online and telephone purchases for the church.

Discussion of the Italian Dinner planned for April 13 followed. The menu plan at present consists of the salad bar, chicken picatta and/or baked Italian chicken with tomatoes and artichokes, pasta with marinara and/or pesto sauce, bread sticks and a simple cannoli for dessert.

MEMORIALS: The Committee was asked by the Worship Committee to consider paying for new Lent paraments. Agreed to pay for them in memory of the Honorable Donald F. Collins.

MISSIONS & EVANGELISM: The Committee asked Rev. Tim to do radio spots for Lent (similar to the Advents ones) and make sure to include the Holy Week Ecumenical Services. The committee will pay for these Lenten Radio spots.

SPRC: There has been one application for the Children’s Coordinator position.

TRUSTEES: Judson Drake reported both church and parsonage furnaces have been cleaned. Trustees are very unhappy with the quality of the snow removal being done by North End Landscaping. Trustees plan to pay Alden and Friedrich Wilcox to do the lawn mowing. The snow removal contract will be put out for bid in May. The elevator repairs were completed by Maine Accessibility Corp so that we could get the inspection done by the State licensing people.

The Trustees discussed possibly having a campaign to raise money for the purpose of roof repairs to both church and parsonage. Trustees agreed there was a need to hire a campaign manager as was done in our last campaign. There will be an open taskforce meeting March 12th at 6:30 PM. for all who wish to participate.

The following are some possible figures researched by Judson Drake:

Low End cost for the church roof - \$98,000.00; High End for church roof - \$186,000.00
Low End cost for parsonage roof - \$24,000.00; High End for Parsonage roof - \$72,000.00

Judi Greenier reported she had sent a check to Youngstown State University for \$865.00 toward tuition for Ashleigh Craig who was awarded all three scholarships last spring.

The following funds being made available for scholarships this spring are as follows:

Jack Lancaster Memorial Scholarship \$500
Rev. Budd Memorial Scholarship \$180
Herb & Elizabeth Brown Scholarship \$205

Trustee Local Accounts	
Organ Fund	\$824.95
Church Clock	529.51
Steeple Maintenance	1,009.71
Pastor’s Moving Acct.	2,951.41
Trustees CD	10,274.29
Trustees Checking	3,183.94
Total	<u>\$18,773.81</u>

UMM: No Report

UMW: No Report

WORSHIP: The Worship Committee plans to sponsor a New England Boiled Ham Dinner on March 16th from 4:30-6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. New paraments for Lent were ordered and expected to arrive in time for the 1st Sunday of Lent, March 10th. The Memorial Committee agreed to pay for them and they will be dedicated in memory of the Honorable Donald F. Collins.

PASTOR’S TIME: Rev. Tim discussed the meetings going on about the way the United Methodist Churches General Conference may plan to take the church. There are three of the possibilities being discussed.

Three ways to go:
The One Church plan is supported by a slim majority of bishops' representatives and would let individual churches decide on LGBT issues. Another plan would create three sub-denominations of United Methodists, with approaches ranging from permissive to restrictive on LGBT clergy and marriage. But experts said it's the least likely to pass because it would require a two-thirds vote of each of the more than all annual conferences worldwide.

The last of the major plans, the Modified Traditional plan, would call for greater enforcement of existing prohibitions against clergy who identify as LGBT and against same-sex marriages in the church.

There is discussion going on how to keep population here in Aroostook County. One idea is to relocate people here who were displaced by the hurricane in Puerto Rico. There is already a family in Madawaska who is settling in. It will involve job training and support to make this successful.

The Nominating Committee is having difficulty recruiting people to fill slots on the various committees and is now wondering if smaller groups could work. Guide lines suggest the number of people needed on these committees but if that cannot be accommodated maybe we need to revisit those numbers.

Rev. Tim plans a theme of “Listen” for Lent.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by Claire Hodgkins, Secretary



Gray Memorial United Methodist Church has had a long-standing tradition of hosting Ecumenical Holy Week Services at noon during Holy Week and inviting other local church clergy to participate. The schedule is not complete as yet, but here is what we have right now:

Monday, April 14 – Father David Raymond, Parish of the Precious Blood
Friday, April 19 – Pastor Don Owen, Caribou Assemble of God Church

After each service, all are invited to participate in refreshment time in the church Fellowship Hall in the basement.

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN APRIL 2019!!!!

Monday	01	6-8pm	Girl Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
Tuesday	02	11am-2pm	Day Home Extension in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen (Betty Branscom)
Wednesday	03	9:30am	Companions in Christ Study
		5:30-7pm	Bible Study Class in Fellowship Hall
		6:00pm	Handbell Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	04	9:30am	Aroostook Cluster Meeting in Mars Hill
Friday	05	9:30am	Worship Committee Meeting in Kitchen

Sunday	07	9:00am	Sunday School
		10:00am	Worship - Fifth Sunday in Lent
Monday	08	6-8pm	Girl Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
Tuesday	09	6:00pm	Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Board Meeting at Pantry
Wednesday	10	9:30am	Companions in Christ Study
		12:00pm	Jennie Lyon Circle Potluck Luncheon & Meeting in Fellowship Hall
		5:30-7pm	Bible Study Class in Fellowship Hall
		6:00pm	Handbell Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	11	6:30pm	SPRC Meeting in Kitchen
Saturday	13	4:30-6pm	Italian Dinner Sponsored by the Finance/Stewardship Committee

Sunday	14	9:00am	Sunday School
		10:00am	Worship - Palm Sunday
Monday	15	12:00pm	Holy Week Ecumenical Service followed by Refreshments
		6-8pm	Girl Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
Tuesday	16	12:00pm	Holy Week Ecumenical Service followed by Refreshments
		6:00pm	Trustees Meeting at Church
Wednesday	17	9:00am	<u>DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER INPUT</u>
		9:30am	Companions in Christ Study
		12:00pm	Holy Week Ecumenical Service followed by Refreshments
		5:30-7pm	Bible Study Class in Fellowship Hall
		6:00pm	Handbell Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	18	12:00pm	Holy Week Service Ecumenical followed by Refreshments
Friday	19	12:00pm	Holy Week Service Ecumenical followed by Refreshments
		7:00pm	Good Friday Worship Service

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN APRIL 2019 (continued) !!!!!

Sunday	21	TBA	Easter Sunrise Service
		10:00am	Worship - Easter Sunday (no coffee fellowship!)
Monday	22	10:00am	<u>COMMITTEE REPORTS ARE DUE TO CLAIRE & CHURCH OFFICE</u>
Wednesday	24	9:30am	Companions in Christ Study
		5:30-7pm	Bible Study Class in Fellowship Hall
		6:00pm	Handbell Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	25	6:00pm	Finance/Stewardship Committee Meeting in Kitchen (date change)
		6:30pm	Church Council Meeting in Kitchen (date change)
Saturday	27	4:30-6:30pm	Spaghetti Supper to benefit the Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry; Caribou Assembly of God Church Hall

Sunday	28	9:00am	Sunday School
		10:00am	Second Sunday of Easter; <u>Kathleen Forbes is preaching</u>

IT IS TAX SEASON AGAIN!!!! BOBBI VOLUNTEERS WITH OTHER AARP MEMBERS TO PROVIDE FREE TAX PREPARATION

Thank you to Rev. Tim and SPRC for allowing this schedule variation:

Beginning Monday, February 4th, the church office hours changed.

The office is closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays until April 11th.

The office hours are temporarily Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 9am - 2pm.

Regular office hours (Mon-Fri, 9am-noon) will resume on Monday, April 15th.