



When I was a child I used to dream of a “white Christmas.” On average east central Iowa would have a white Christmas about half the time (the weather service defines this as having an inch or more of snow on the ground). Some parts of coastal Maine have a white Christmas a little less than half the time. Most of Maine, however averages more. And Caribou? According to the National Climatic Data Center, Caribou has a 97% probability of having a white Christmas. In fact Caribou has a better than even chance of having *10 inches* or more of snow on Christmas Day. Caribou is the most likely city in New England to have a white Christmas. There are actually people who travel to a place more likely to have a white Christmas.

Sometimes we will bargain with God as if they were dealing with the weather. “What can I do to increase my chances of being in God's favor? Perhaps if I do this or if I do that, God will love me more.” I am grateful that God's love does not work the way we might think about improving our chances of experiencing a white Christmas or being able to observe the next total solar eclipse (coming in April 2024 to Caribou by the way). The gift of Jesus that we expectantly recall during Advent is given to you no matter what. There is no factor that can take this gift away...not where you live, not how much money you have (or don't have), not your politics (really!), not the mistakes you have made, not the color of your skin or where you were born (even people from away), not even whether you prefer the Patriots or the Giants. In a culture in which we often talk about whether or not people have earned what they have, our culture teaches something different: there is nothing we can do or not do that will earn us this gift. It is freely given—no strings attached. Too good to be true? White Christmas for everyone? Yes, the gifts of Christ and the Holy Spirit are given to everyone, full stop. It is no wonder the gospel was viewed as scandalous. Who would include everyone? Thankfully, it is our Lord, Jesus Christ. We might distance ourselves. We might turn away. We might become distracted by other aspects of our lives or too busy for Jesus. Jesus is never too busy for us. As we approach Christmas, know that you are a beloved child of God, cherished by Jesus. Help the miracle of the season come alive for others in your ministries by connecting people with such Good News.

Have a blessed Christmas!  
Rev. Tim

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**Bishop's Challenge**

In November Bishop Devadhar issued a challenge to the churches of the New England Conference called the Christmas Giving Challenge. This challenge was in response to the reality that as a conference we had fallen behind in mission shares. Our mission shares make possible a great many ministries. Among them are our camps and retreat centers, rural and urban ministries in areas of substantial poverty in New England, developing curriculum like Disciple, new church starts, church revitalization, ethnic ministries, missionaries, retirement for pastors who have previously served, lay servant training, and the recruitment, training and deployment of pastors. Many churches (including our own) are short of where we would usually be. The bishop challenged us to give an additional \$3 per day over the last two months of the year, or \$183. If an average of 10 people from every church participates, the conference could fulfill its world service, New England missions and ministerial support covenants. Gray Memorial will need a larger effort--half of our commitment remains—to be able to contribute 100% of our covenant for the year. I will be announcing my participation in early December with a gift marked for mission shares. I invite you to join me!



# Caribou Clock

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*Date: December 2019  
Church Office: 498-2103  
Website: <http://www.bgmumc.com>*

Greetings from the Church Office!

If a committee/group wishes to have an event posted on the outside sign, I would appreciate the wording you want used and when/how long it should be posted. I typically try to get events posted no later than the week of the event, but that all depends on the weather. And with snow, it's not always easy to get to the sign.

For any committee/group who decides to reschedule their meetings from the "typical" dates listed on the "Usual times for meetings" schedule, please notify the Church Office so all bulletins and Newsletter calendars are accurate. Thank you!

Please help me by meeting deadlines for submitting things for the Newsletter. It is very difficult to "pull it all together" at the last minute and create a quality product. For October, that deadline is **Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am!**

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier  
Church Secretary



## October Prayer Joys and Concerns

Prayer Concerns: Debbie & Lu Sharp, Reta Haley, Darlene Nelder, Sheila Belyea, Dave & Marcia DeMerchant, Emily Stuart, Robin Stuart, James Stuart, Phyllis Sykes, Leona Michaud, Keith Drew, Glen Tagget, Janie Lidey, Bob Cyr, Ralph Ferguson, Millie Wakana, Avis Chapman, Debra Gauvin Smith, Meaghan Lombard, Richard Carde, Melvin Griffin, Cathy Firth, Linda McClair, Andy Nadeau (George & Joyce Knorr's son-in-law), Gretchen Brissette, Joanne Smith, Amy Dubay, Michelle Carde, Richard Carde

On Family Death: Family of Tom Travis; family of Tommy Collins; family of Avis Chapman; family of Millie Wakana

Other: Brenda & Ron Curtis (travelling south!); Ruth Ross (hip replacement scheduled for Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>)

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!

Correspondence received:

A note received to the Prayer Committee:

Thank you so very much for your prayers and thoughtfulness of the prayer shawls. Richard & I are very grateful for your prayers for our family. Dick's illness is the same. We pray that his illness will recover soon. We appreciate all of your prayers during our time of healing. Sally, Richard & Michelle Carde

### REMINDERS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LITURGIST</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>COUNTER</u>	<u>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP **</u>
Dec 1	Debbie Nichols	Friedrich Wilcox & Tamara Wilcox	Shirley Bowman	Trustees
Dec 8	Kathleen Forbes	Susan & Richard Clark	Elsie Doody	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Dec 15	Mary Ouellette	Roberta & Conrad Walton	Elsie Doody	Finance/Stewardship
Dec 22	Del Ramey	Judi & Louis Greenier	Elsie Doody	Worship Committee
Dec 24*	Bobbi Pelletier	Meagan & Robbie Irving	Diane Fitzpatrick	No Coffee Fellowship
Dec 29	Dean Rauch	Mary Ouellette & Mary Anderson	Joelene Boucher	No Volunteers!!!!

\* Christmas Eve Service is at 4pm

**\*\* After a meeting on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, Coffee Fellowship with food resumed on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>!**

December Usher Coordinator: Romeo Bouchard

December Communion Stewardesses: Dec 1-Ruthann Weeks; Dec 24-TBD

Organist/Pianist: Dec 1-Margaret Cyr; Dec 8-Mary Lou Brown; Dec 15-Judi Greenier; Dec 22-Margaret Cyr;  
Dec 24 (4pm)-Margaret Cyr; Dec 29- Mary Lou Brown

Acolytes: Dec 1-Althea Wilcox & Alden Wilcox; Dec 8-Ken Peters; Dec 15-Neal Genz; Dec 22-Conrad Walton;  
Dec 24-Althea Wilcox & Alden Wilcox; Dec 29-Richard Clark

Child Care Volunteers: Dec 1-Diane Fitzpatrick; Dec 8-Duska Franklin; Dec 15-Meagan Irving; Dec 22-Debbie Barnes;  
Dec 24 (4pm)-Meagan Irving; Dec 29-Diane Fitzpatrick

**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!

# \* \* 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  | Mike Ayers, Carson Doody                                   | 17 | Peter Bentum  |
| 7  | Bonnie Ward  | 18 | Donald Cole   |
| 9  | Jeffrey Alden, Janet Chandler, Dave Doody,<br>Daniel Swain | 23 | Diane Fitzpatrick, Alison Kieffer,<br>Meghan Scott, Katherine Scott |
| 10 | Pamela Danforth, Paula Richards                            | 24 | Dylan LaForge, Carol Norsworthy                                     |
| 11 | Elsie Doody, George Knorr                                  | 27 | Dan DaCosta   |
| 12 | Leslie Anderson, Steven Scott                              | 28 | Nick Pelletier  |
| 14 | Libby Collier, Connie Ennis, Claire Hodgins                | 29 | Ken Albert, Jody Smith  |
| 15 | Ryan Fitzpatrick, Dawn Frost, Zelma Merritt                | 30 | Kathleen Forbes   |
| 16 | Leland Frost   |    |   |



- |   |                     |    |                       |
|---|---------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 1 | Pat & Warren Dobson | 24 | Jeanette & Ken Peters |
| 3 | Penny & Ivan Shaw   | 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:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Operating Fund Offering</u>
Nov 3	68	\$11,317.00
Nov 10	73	\$2,066.00
Nov 17	62	\$6,481.00
Nov 24	70	\$2,931.00
*****		
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 November 24th, the balance in the CASM account is \$42,162.87. (Of that amount, the "furnace replacement donations" total \$32,828.00. All donations made for the "Furnace Replacement" will be held in this account until needed.)

As we embark on our next Capital Campaign (Growing in Faith), donations will continue to be deposited into this account and reported.

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Photo Directory Changes (December 2019 Newsletter changes):

- Beckum, Thomas & Marie: new address – 11 Campground Hill Rd., Caribou ME 04736
- Dale, Christopher & Rhonda: address – 46 Bog Road, Limestone ME 04750
- DeMerchant, Dale: new address – 103 Virginia Lane, Bangor ME 04401
- Greenier, Judi & Louis: new mailing address – 85 Windy Cove Rd., Cross Lake ME 04779;  
delete 498-8189 telephone number (no longer used)
- Roberts, Anna: Change Apt. # to 18
- Sutherland, Adelbert: new address – 610 Little Madawaska Lake Rd., Westmanland ME 04783
- Till, Lydia and Matthew: new address - 718 East Presque Isle Road
- Wischmann, Steve & Amy: new address – 4819 Southwestern Blvd., Apt. A103, Hamburg NY 14075

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



Nov 17 - Joyce & George Knorr give witness on their commitment to tithing



Nov 24 - Handbell Choir, led by Tamara Wilcox, performed "When Morning Gilds the Skies"



Nov 24 - Alden Wilcox accompanies the choir on the djembe for the "Harvest of Praise" anthem



Nov 24 - the youth bring forward the vegetable donations and placed them in front of the altar for the Bread of Life Kitchen

## Other Kodak Moments!

### Message from the Education Committee: Youth and Family Ministries



The Education Committee sponsored a Trunk or Treat vehicle at the Caribou Rec Center in October. Our theme was Harry Potter and it was quite a hit. We would like to extend our thanks to all that donated candy.

Both Sunday school programs have been off to a good start this year. We are pleased to see the increase in attendance. The older group is working on the book of Daniel. And the little ones are enjoying the stories of Moses.

We are looking forward to continuing to build and grow our youth and family programs as the year goes on!



Nov 24 - Judson Drake gets into the Christmas Spirit, greeting Worshipers with red antlers!



*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 or call 498-2103 so we can add you to the email list!*

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**You can make a contribution to our church through a mobile app!**

To get started, download GivePlus Church for free from the App Store or Google Play. Simply search for "GivePlus Church" to quickly find and download the app today. Then, you can easily make donations directly from your smartphone using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account.

You can also choose to donate as a guest or set up an account that allows you to securely and conveniently schedule recurring donations and manage and review your giving history.

We hope you enjoy this new way to contribute to our ministry! Thanks for your support!

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Please note that many congregation members pay their donations to the church through their banks directly to the church. Therefore, they may not pass in offering envelopes each week. This is a very convenient way to make your tithes/offerings to the church on a regular basis even when you are away for winter months!



*The Worship Committee is again sponsoring a school-year project to provide school supplies, clothing and hygiene items to local school children. There are specific boxes in the Library and we started accepting donations on Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. Our first donation date was as of Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. We will continue to accept donations through Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> for our next phase and then start again to continue this much-needed ministry! Please consider helping our local school children with these much needed items. The school personnel were thrilled with all that was donated last year! Thank you!*

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### "Angel Tree 2019"

The Missions & Evangelism Committee is sponsoring the "Angel Tree" again this year, providing gifts for local school children. The tags will be on the tree Sunday, Dec 1<sup>st</sup> and we ask that all gifts be brought to the church no later than Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. We ask that gifts for each recipient cost no more than \$25. If you wish to donate money to help provide gift cards to the families, there will be special envelopes in the pews or if using your envelope, mark check and/or envelope "Angel Tree".

The Youth will sell Christmas Trees this year!

Schedule is as follows:

Friday, Nov 29: 9:00am – 4:00pm

Saturdays (Nov 30, Dec 7, 14, 21): 9:00am – 4:00pm

Sundays (Dec 1, 8, 15, 22): 11:00am - 4:00pm

Plan to come and support our youth as they raise funds for future activities!



The UMM will sponsor the "Tree of Lights" again this year.

The tree will be set-up on with all white lights.

As lights are purchased for \$5.00 each, the bulbs will be changed to red!

All the proceeds will go towards UMM future projects.

Forms to "purchase" the lights will be in the Sunday bulletins beginning December 1<sup>st</sup> through December 22<sup>nd</sup>.



UMM is sponsoring the Living Nativity Scene on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> from 6-7 pm.

# TREE OF LIGHTS ORDER FORM

The United Methodist Men are sponsoring a "Tree of Lights" that will have approximately 200 white lights and be on display outside the church soon.

You may "purchase" a light for \$5 and as the lights are "sold", they will be replaced with red bulbs! Our hope is that all the lights will be "sold" by Sunday, Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Please complete the form below and UMM will use the proceeds for future projects. Payment to the church is due by Sunday, Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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: \_\_\_\_\_



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## **FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS SEASON**

Again this year, 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 during office hours (9am – 12pm) on **Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>** or at **1:00pm on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**, when Worship Committee members are here to arrange them for the December 23<sup>rd</sup> Service the next day. If the following information is provided by **Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**, it will be listed in the December 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> bulletins:

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH!**

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## Special Worship Experiences

Blue Christmas (aka Service of the Longest Night)

December 16, 2019 at 7 pm at Gray Memorial UMC



The holidays can be difficult for us all: the stresses and strains of trying to offer a time of celebration take their toll. Many people find they have trouble feeling "in the spirit" of things, whether because of the recent (or anticipated) death of a family member or friend, the end of a marriage, the loss of work, or other trying change.

This year we will be gathering together for **A Service of the Longest Night** (also known as a *Blue Christmas service*). It is so named because of its proximity to the winter solstice - the longest night of the year. But the name is also fitting because – despite the trappings of gifts, special meals, and Christmas carols – the season can be darker than "normal" times of the year for those who struggle. If this is not a time of struggle for you, please come and offer your spiritual resources to others.

We will be gathering with our sisters and brothers from across the Aroostook Cluster of United Methodist churches and from the wider ecumenical community of Christian churches. Come and join us!

*Christmas Eve service at 4pm featuring candle light, communion and carols!*

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### CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES 11-21-19

ATTENDEES: Roy Alden (Chair), Claire Hodgkins, Wendy Bossie, Tamara Wilcox, Rev. Tim Wilcox, Bobbi Pelletier, Melonie Carlson, and Debbie Barnes.

Roy Alden brought the meeting to order at 6:35 PM in the church Kitchen. Rev. Tim said a brief prayer. Then, Roy asked the members to be thinking about this question: "What are some ways we could grow our church?"

FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP: The October Financial statistics pages were passed around and Roy asked who was in charge of the money in the various special fund accounts. Bobbi explained that she disbursed the money at the various committees' direction. She does encourage the committees to use this money whenever they have a bill to pay, rather than expensing it against the budget.

Wendy was not familiar with the report so Bobbi took the time to explain some things which Wendy greatly appreciated.

Page one of the Finance report for October, as reported by Tamara Wilcox, shows the tithes and offerings received.

Regular Offerings	\$13,690.68
Other Sources of Operating Fund	40.00
Total Operating Funds	\$13,730.68
Reimbursements	9.00
Special Funds for Church Use	2,765.50
Special Funds NOT for Church Use	177.00
Total Tithes and Offerings for October	\$16,682.18

A few line items of interest include \$500 toward the Capital Account Seed Money, \$471.50 from cookie sales, and \$1,520.00 from the Harvest Supper. Also, World Communion Sunday donations came to \$117.00.

Bobbi discussed the following Checkbook figures for October:

Beginning Balance	\$2,440.39
2019 Operating Income	13,730.68
Interest	4.97
Less EFT fee	(27.37)
Less Expenses	(14,664.83)
Ending Balance	1,483.84

The original \$25,000.00 given for maintaining the Memorial Garden has earned back the \$1,073.78 cost to invest in June of 2017, and as of October 31<sup>st</sup> was \$27,087.00.

The Capital Account Seed money

Beginning Balance - \$41,000.23: Deposits - \$538.90: Current Balance -\$41,539.13 of which \$32,828.00 is earmarked for the Furnace Replacement Fund.

We are now behind by \$19,618.64 in Mission Shares.

**Note: Final payment of \$4,400 for the Capital Campaign is due to the Foundation by Dec. 24, 2019.**

Dead River Accounts:

C= (\$3,416.67): P= (\$1,002.19)

Our weekly Average needed for 2019 is \$4,246.45

The church has spent \$155,639.86 YTD. If we had paid all bills we would have spent a total of \$175,258.50.

Melonie went over the Annual Budget figures YTD as follows:

Target-\$184,012.72; Tithes & Offerings- \$147,430.05; Total Expenses \$175,158.50; Unpaid Expenses- \$19,618.64. Average Attendance – 73 in October; Average Attendance YTD 75.

Melonie reported that committees have been submitting their 2020 Budget requests, which are due by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

PASTOR'S TIME: Rev. Tim reported that the Companions in Christ Class, which runs until May, has gotten off to a good start. There are 6 regular participants who have experienced some deeply meaningful sessions already. Eighteen have signed up for the "Not a Silent Night" Advent book study beginning this week in 2 sessions per week for 5 weeks.

Rev. Tim will be the Cluster Co-coordinator for a Blue Christmas service (aka Service of the Longest Night), Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM and is intended to be ecumenical.

Tim will also be the Cluster Coordinator for the Confirmation class which is projected to have 4 or 5 participating churches, at least 2 likely participants from Gray Memorial.

Tim has had 9 visits or phone contacts (not counting those making appointments at the church). Also, Tim has had an initial meeting with Mike Hood, the new pastor of Caribou Full Assembly of God Church and Pastor Hood seems interested in connecting with the Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry.

The Advent worship focus is on lectionary texts and Advent themes while living in an anxious world.

Based on feedback, Rev. Tim is currently listing office hours as "By Appointment Tues.-Sun. Monday is Rev. Tim's day off.

We are in the stretch run of our Growing in Faith combined Capital and Operating Budget Campaign. While there have been fair questions about the campaign, the response thus far has been encouraging.

Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> will be the date for Rick McKinley's "Future Possibilities" workshop after worship. This is an all-church event with as much attendance as possible. An advance group will do some homework in the 6-8 weeks prior to this date.

We are further behind in Mission Shares than usual. Those who can make an additional contribution are asked to prayerfully consider doing so. Rev. Tim will be bringing the Bishop's challenge forward on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.

Roy started a discussion around changes made to the Sunday school location. He was not in favor of Judson moving out and renting space and wondered if people could work together to make a better choice. Various ideas were put forth for developing space for supply storage to free up some space for the Sunday School supplies.

There being no new business to discuss the Council got into a brainstorming discussion around Roy's original question on ways to grow the church. Bobbi shared that she thought a Youth Rally was a great idea. Then others chimed in with other ideas. Rev. Tim felt radio spots were a good idea. A Hunters' Breakfast was mentioned. Applying talents to the community was also mentioned. Having a community lunch every Friday was well received. Another idea of having a Day Care Center - interesting, brought out the fact that setting one up with all the red-tape in the form of insurance and certifications was a barrier to achievement. Roy said he and Judson would be willing to put up spotlights in the church's Sanctuary to shine through the stain glass windows. The Council was all for that.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM. The next meeting will be Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the church kitchen.

Respectfully Submitted by Claire Hodgkins, Secretary

#### Other November Reports 2019 (submitted prior to the meeting)

CLUSTER: The meeting came to order at 9:30am with the following in attendance: Paula Lilley, Bill Thomas, Cheryl Stratton, Carolyn Winter, Josselyn Langworthy (chairperson), Sandra Bartley, HyungYong Choi, Tim Wilcox and Sue Brown

#### Discipleship Recognition

Persons to be recognized for discipleship: Lidstone Memorial UMC – Nancy Thompson, Mars Hill UMC – Bonnie & Andy Anderson. Limestone UMC – Sharon Berz. Hodgdon UMC – Brenda Carmen, Houlton UMC – Regina & Dale Thibodeau, Stetson Memorial UMC – TBD, Bessie Gray Memorial UMC – Kathy Forbes, Grant Memorial UMC – Sheila & Noel Currie, Mapleton UMC – Alma Pelletier.

#### Pulpit Exchange

To be discussed in the spring.

#### Celebrating Families

Cheryl recently emailed information to all Cluster members. She also spoke with Dottie Martin who said Joy Barressi-Saucier from Aroostook Area Agency on Aging as well as Aroostook Mental Health Association are willing to partner on this project. David Cote from Van Buren Resiliency Project has some ideas for fund raising. Josselyn shared another name with Cheryl to contact as an additional resource. It appears that this project will become a reality!!

#### Cluster Mission Project – St. Apollonia Festival of Trees – Dec 6, 7, 8, 2019

Please continue to share this information in all church bulletins. All children's arts and crafts items should be provided to Cheryl either by dropping them off or making arrangements with her or anyone helping to decorate the tree by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Cluster Thanksgiving Service

The Cluster Thanksgiving Service will be held on November 24, 2019 at 4:00pm followed by a potluck meal at Grant Memorial UMC. Opening – Sue, Scripture – Tim, Discipleship – Ellen, Explanation of Offering – Cheryl, Offertory Prayer – Paula, Benediction – Chris Dare. Choi will send a bulletin via email.

#### Blue Christmas Service

Suggested dates for a Blue Christmas service – Friday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> or Monday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> for the Caribou Service. After discussion, it was decided on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. We will have just one service this year and gauge if there might be need to expand to two next year.

#### Sharing Joys and Concern

Several prayer concerns and joys were lifted. Prayer was offered by Sue.

## Church Activities:

### **Cluster:**

Cluster Thanksgiving Service at Grant Memorial UMC – November 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm. Potluck dinner to follow.  
St. Apollonia Festival of Trees – December 6-8 at Northern Maine Community College  
Blue Christmas Service – December 16<sup>th</sup> at Gray Memorial UMC at 7:00pm

### **Limestone UMC – Nov. 13 – UMW 6pm**

Nov. 14 – Women’s Bible Study  
Nov. 16 – UMM Free Breakfast  
Nov. 16 – Game night  
Nov. 18 – Free community lunch 11:30am – 12:30pm  
Nov. 21 – Free supper 4:30 – 6:00pm  
Dec. 8 – Sunday School Christmas Pageant  
Dec. 13 – Christmas party at Limestone Estates  
Dec. 14 – Christmas party at Rising Hill  
Dec. 15 – Deadline to order Christmas cookies  
Dec. 22 – Cookie Pickup  
Dec. 25 – Free Christmas Dinner

### **Gray Memorial UMC – Mondays beginning Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> – Matter of Balance Classes**

### **Grant Memorial UMC – December 7<sup>th</sup> – UMW Christmas Bazaar (End of Cluster Report)**

## EDUCATION AND FAMILY MINISTRIES:

The Education Committee met on Nov 10. The children and youth coordinators reported that Sunday school continues to go well. Michelle and her group are looking forward to an evening of fellowship and cookie baking together. Josselyn's group is excited for a new VeggieTales Christmas movie. Pastor Tim reported that a cluster confirmation class is in the works. Pastors from interested churches have begun planning and hope to start the class in later winter or early spring. We discussed and set our budget request for 2020. The main topic of discussion at this meeting was the upcoming Christmas tree sales. This is a pivotal project for our committee. Things seem to be coming together as we approach the start of the sales. We will begin on Friday, Nov 29 and continue every Saturday and Sunday through Dec 22. We are looking for volunteers to help us with sales, especially people who are physically able to lift and move the trees. There will be a sign up board in the Narthex. Finally, we would like to thank the UMW in advance for offering to provide refreshments to our volunteers.

## MEMORIALS: No Report.

## MISSIONS & EVANGELISM: Committee met on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> and the following was discussed:

- 1) 2020 Budget – agreed to \$750, as in the 2019 budget
- 2) “Angel Tree” – we have a list of 30 children for gifts this year; will prepare angel tags and have for November 30<sup>th</sup> when Christmas Tree is available for December 1<sup>st</sup>; envelopes for monetary donations will also be placed in the pews; deadline for returning gifts is December 14<sup>th</sup>; will get together on Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> to inventory the gifts and coordinate getting them to the school
- 3) Asked for volunteers to assist the Worship Committee on November 30<sup>th</sup> at 1pm to prepare the sanctuary for Advent – Duska Franklin and Tamara Wilcox volunteered
- 4) Advent & Lent radio spots – Rev. Tim agreed to do them (we have sufficient funds to pay for both)
- 5) Decided to donate \$200 of the committee’s “Special Funds for Church Use” (proceeds from Cookie Booth) to the operating budget
- 6) Asked for volunteer to assume sending “We Miss You”, “Get Well”, etc. postcards – Duska Franklin volunteered

## UMM:

1. **Program:** October's program was a presentation by our own Del Ramey on his June trip to Iceland. It was a "bucket list" trip for him and he gave us a great window into the country with an excellent photo illustrated talk. A very interesting and informative presentation that included a lively question/answer period.
2. **Prelate's message:** Prelate Richard Clark read a passage from Ephesians Ch. 3, v. 16 – 19 a prayer about grasping the how wide, and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. His message was "who need the church today?" With the proliferation of seeming endless support groups and selfish pursuits, it seems like many are in need of finding the root of all love and forgiveness – Christ.
3. **Old Business:**
  - **Secretary's Report:** the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were accepted as written.
  - **Treasurer's Report:** The current checkbook balance is \$ 1,053.91. The report was accepted as presented. Treasurer Ken asked for a motion to renew our national membership for \$80.00. A motion was made and passed.
  - Discussed Christmas tree sales. This is a youth program fundraising activity that the youth have been having less and less support. UMM will continue to be a major supporter – but our service has not been recognized in the past. That should be acknowledged for future sales. It was also suggested to contact Caribou High School for youth who needed community service hours as potential helpers.
  - Discussed the Tree of Lights project briefly. Will finalize at the Nov. meeting. Del will supply the tree. One suggestion was to put a full complement of white lights on the tree initially and swap out white lights for red lights when a light donation is received.

UMW: No report.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: Committee met on Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup> and the following was discussed:

Feedback on recent Worship services – October 13<sup>th</sup> Healing & Prayer Service: well received, quite a few people came forward to request prayers; October 20<sup>th</sup> Laity Sunday: connected with the personal stories told by the laity; October 27<sup>th</sup> Baptism – family very grateful and they also provided a wonderful Coffee Fellowship!

Upcoming Sundays:

Nov 3 – All Saints Day: designated people came forward to light candles for those we remembered (Bob Ellinwood, Jackie Mayhew, Florence Gallagher, Steve Cashman, Nancy Leavitt, Elizabeth Cochran, Cathy Griffeth)

Nov 10 – Veterans will be asked to stand and be recognized for their service; each will receive a red carnation

Nov 24 – Thanksgiving Sunday; donations of fresh/canned vegetables will be donated to the Bread of Life Kitchen

Dec 1 – First Sunday of Advent

Dec 24 – 4pm Christmas Eve Service; we will check the candles at our next meeting

Other items:

People can order Christmas plants and bring in on Friday, Dec 20<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, Dec 21<sup>st</sup> at 1pm; we will meet at 1pm to arrange them

Jan 5 – Epiphany Sunday

Jan 12 – Baptism of the Lord Sunday; we will remember our own baptisms

Jan 19 – Human Relations Day; Rev. Tim's sermon will be related to Human Relations Day; we will discuss if we want to do anything special to commemorate this at our December meeting

Coffee Fellowship – we are hearing concerns that eliminating food on most Sundays is an issue; decided to call for a meeting after Worship on November 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss with those who attend; Neal Genz will facilitate

Cluster will sponsor 2 Blue Christmas services – Northern service will be here (either Friday Dec 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm or Monday Dec 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm); Southern service will be in Houlton; Cluster Thanksgiving service at Grant Memorial UMC at 4pm, followed by a potluck supper

UMM will do the "Tree of Lights" – tree will start with all the white lights lit and as bulbs are "purchased" they will be changed to red

Margaret told committee that she will/did have a meeting with Rev. Tim and Tamara about special music; instead of one special Sunday, do something "extra" each week in place of offertory

Advent Sundays – have to decide what we want to do regarding lighting the candle(s) each week; use the "Light the Advent Candle" song again as people come forward to light them each week

Rev. Tim reported that he's considering in 2020 a year-long series "Bible A to Z" (beginning with Jan – Genesis; ending in Dec – Revelation)

#### SPRC:

The SPRC met on Thursday, November 14, 2019 in the church kitchen. The committee considered appointing a replacement representative to the Finance and Stewardship Committee. There being no volunteer as a regular attendee, Debbie volunteered to attend the meeting scheduled November 21.

An announcement of the Worship Committee's intention to reinstate Sunday morning Coffee Fellowship with food and beverages was made, with SPRC in line for Sunday, November 17.

Rev. Tim reported on congregational and other visits, his meetings with staff, his plans for studies and classes, and vacation plans.

The committee considered suggestions to be made to the Finance and Stewardship Committee for the 2020 fiscal year. It was agreed that given the situation of the current financial condition we should hold salaries for all part-time employee's levels for the year 2020 and only minor adjustments in related SPRC categories.

The committee then spent time carefully reviewing the current Church Profile line by line in an effort to provide a more current version of this document for the district office.

#### TRUSTEES:

Present: Wendy Bossie, Richard Clark, Judson Drake, Judi Greenier, Louis Greenier, Tamara Wilcox, Rev. Tim Wilcox

Absent: Samuela Manages Albert, Del Ramey

Guests: Susan Clark, Bill Thomas

Meeting opened with prayer – Richard

Treasurer's report: Judi. There is \$29,010.77 in the checking account and one bill outstanding. Louis made a motion to accept the report, Judson seconded, passed.

Secretary's report: Wendy. Unscheduled meeting October 13. Louis made a motion to accept the report, Richard seconded, passed.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Safety glass has been installed in Sunday School room downstairs. Class moved upstairs. Judson will see to that door.

Televisions are in place.

Andover Organ Co. had ten organs to service in Maine so our cost was less that anticipated. We were charged \$1500. The chimes are working. Andover worked on the swell pedal and cleaned the pipes. Judson will need to install plastic over the pipes when the sprinkler system is being completed so that dust will not get into the pipes. Judi asked about leaving money in the organ fund. It was decided to leave \$200. Louis made a motion, Richard seconded, passed.

Sprinkler system. The system will be completed in the sanctuary on December 5<sup>th</sup> with 28 new sprinkler heads.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Snow plowing. Bernaiche Property Maintenance has begun their stint as the plowers of our snow for 2019-20. Discussion about the pillars.

Kitchen stove. The white gas stove in the church kitchen died. Judson purchased a new Whirlpool gas from Sears Home Town in Caribou (local). The stove was set up for natural gas; a propane conversion kit was needed. The flat grid top is a great feature for large pots and pans. The stove was christened/used this evening.

Heat pumps. They have not been cleaned yet. This work is forthcoming.

Snow blower. A used Husqvarna snow blower was donated by Del Ramey. It has been repaired. \$200.



Electrical. The electricians are coming on December 17, 18, 19, 20.

North Wall in Fellowship Hall. After complaints of a musty smell, Judson discovered that the wall from the outside door to the piano is deteriorating.

Grease trap. There is need for a grease trap in the kitchen. Judson can get a used one. A church member offered to pay for this.

Parsonage chimney. The chimney is plugged with a pigeon homes and adjoining buildings. A chimney sweep is needed if this cannot be removed from below.

Bills. Judson is paying some of the church maintenance bills from his pocket. This is not necessary. The companies that will bill the church should be asked to do so. Judson should submit other bills to the church office. There is a \$7800 maintenance budget approved by the Finance Committee. Much discussion.

**2020 BUDGET, Trustees**

Church utilities	\$18,500
Parsonage utilities	\$ 8,500
Telephone/Internet	\$ 4,300
Property insurance	\$ 9,500 (Church Mutual/broker: Fred C. Church)
Snow removal/lawn	\$ 5,360 (Lawn mowing \$1400, snow plowing \$3960)
Maintenance	\$ 7,800
Real estate taxes	\$ 2,100
Technology	\$ 1,400 (Computers in office and library are old and slow.)
	\$57,460

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**Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow (author unknown)**  
(shared by Gwen Ellinwood at Jennie Lyon Circle Meeting November 13<sup>th</sup>)

There are two days in every week about which we should not worry, two days which should be kept free from fear and apprehension.

One of these days is YESTERDAY with its mistakes and cares, its faults and blunders, its aches and pains. YESTERDAY has passed forever beyond our control.

All the money in the world cannot bring back YESTERDAY. We cannot undo a single act that we performed, we cannot erase a single word that we said. YESTERDAY is gone.

The other day we should not worry about is TOMORROW with its possible adversities, its burdens, its large promise and poor performance. TOMORROW is also beyond our immediate control.

TOMORROW'S sun will rise, either in splendor or behind a mask of clouds - but it WILL rise. Until it does, we have no stake in TOMORROW, for it is as yet unborn.

This leaves only one day - TODAY. Any man can fight the battles of just one day. It is only when you and I add the burdens of those two awful eternities - YESTERDAY and TOMORROW- that we break down.

It is not the experience of TODAY that drives men mad - it is remorse or bitterness for something which happened YESTERDAY and the dread of what TOMORROW may bring.

Let us, therefore, live - But One Day at a Time.

## LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DECEMBER 2019!!!!

Sunday	01	8:40am	Advent Book Study Group in Library
		9:00am	Sunday School
		10:00am	Worship - First Sunday of Advent; UM Student Day (special offering)
		<b>3:00pm</b>	<b>Caribou Choral Society Concert at St. Luce Church, Frenchville</b>
Monday	02	9:30am	"A Matter of Balance" Class in Fellowship Hall
		6-8pm	Girl Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
Tuesday	03	6:30pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry in Library (or chapel)
Wednesday	04	9:30am	Companions in Christ Class
		1:30am	Advent Book Study in Fellowship Hall
		5:30-7pm	Bible Study Class in Fellowship Hall
		6:00pm	Handbell Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	05	9:00am	Aroostook Cluster Meeting in Mars Hill
		5:30-7pm	Foster Parents Support Group Meeting in Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
Friday	06	9:30am	"A Matter of Balance" Class in Fellowship Hall
		9:30am	Worship Committee Meeting in Kitchen
		<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Caribou Choral Society Concert, St. Mary's Church, Presque Isle</b>
Saturday	07	8:30am	UMM Pancake Breakfast for all women of the church!
		<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Caribou Choral Society Concert, Caribou Performing Arts Center</b>

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Sunday	08	8:40am	Advent Book Study Group in Library
		9:00am	Sunday School
		10:00am	Worship - Second Sunday of Advent
		11:30am	Education Committee Meeting in Library
Monday	09	9:30am	"A Matter of Balance" Class in Fellowship Hall
		6-8pm	Girl Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
Tuesday	10	6:00pm	Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Board Meeting at Pantry
Wednesday	11	9:30am	Companions in Christ Class
		12:00pm	Jennie Lyon Circle Luncheon & Meeting (note earlier start time)
		1:30am	Advent Book Study in Chapel (note location change)
		5:30-7pm	Bible Study Class in Fellowship Hall
		6:00pm	Handbell Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	12	6:30pm	SPRC Meeting in Kitchen
Friday	13	9:30am	"A Matter of Balance" Class in Fellowship Hall (last session)

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**LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DECEMBER 2019 (continued)!!!!**

Sunday	15	8:40am	Advent Book Study in Library
		9:00am	Sunday School
		10:00am	Worship - Third Sunday of Advent
Monday	16	10:00am	<u>DEADLINE FOR COMMITTEE/GROUP REPORTS TO CLAIRE &amp; OFFICE</u>
		6-8pm	Girl Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
		7:00pm	Aroostook Cluster "Blue Christmas Service"; Gray Memorial UMC
Tuesday	17	10:00am	Missions & Evangelism Committee - Collect "Angel Tree" gifts
		6:00pm	Trustees Meeting in Kitchen
Wednesday	18	9:30am	Companions in Christ Class
		1:30pm	Advent Book Study in Fellowship Hall (last session)
		5:30-7pm	Bible Study Class in Fellowship Hall
		6:00pm	Handbell Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	19	6:00pm	Finance/Stewardship Committee Meeting in Kitchen
		6:30pm	Church Council Meeting in Kitchen
Friday	20	10:00am	<u>DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER INPUT</u>
		6-7pm	Living Nativity Scene sponsored by UMM
Saturday	21	6-7pm	Living Nativity Scene sponsored by UMM

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Sunday	22		<u>FIRST DAY OF WINTER</u>
		8:40am	Advent Book Study in Library (last session)
		9:00am	Sunday School
		10:00am	Worship - Fourth Sunday of Advent
		7:00pm	<b>21<sup>st</sup> Annual "Ladner &amp; Friends" at Grant Memorial UMC</b>
Tuesday	24	4:00pm	Worship - Christmas Eve (communion)
Wednesday	25		<u>FEDERAL HOLIDAY - CHRISTMAS DAY - CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED</u>
Saturday	28	8:00am	UMM Breakfast & Meeting in Fellowship Hall/Kitchen; Guest Speaker - Robbie Irving

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