



When I moved to Caribou, I thought it would be a long time before I would see Newport, Vermont again. Apart from the norm that United Methodist pastors maintain a degree of separation from congregations they have previously served – most strongly in the first few years following an appointment and always when it comes to pastoral functions unless invited back by the current pastor – there was no reason I could think of that would bring me back to the “Northeast Kingdom.” Conference and district events aren't usually in the Northeast Kingdom nor is it on the way to anyplace we typically travel, either. Of course, sometimes we can be surprised. During the time we were in Newport, Tamara, Friedrich and Alden participated in the church's hand bell choir. Every April they would travel to the Vermont Spring Ring. The winter after we came to Caribou, the hand bell director in Newport invited the 3 of them to travel to Spring Ring (while restrictions on a pastor's family are fewer, one should still think these through). And, that first Spring Ring after we moved was held at what was then called Lyndon State College, a short drive from Newport. That gave me an opportunity to take Althea to Newport to visit an old friend of hers and to take to tour old haunts. I hadn't expected I would have been back in the area so soon.

Last spring, in response to feedback, I shifted from the thematic, series based sermons I had largely been doing to preaching more focused on the lectionary scriptures themselves. A lectionary is a table of prescribed scripture readings for use in worship. More information about a lectionary in general can be found at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lectionary> and specifically about the Revised Common Lectionary at <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/faq2.php>. I had expected this change would also mean fewer sermon series. I had not expected at the time that I soon would be doing a thematic series again. Surprise! Barely half a year had gone by when I had the idea of the year-long series using mostly lectionary passages yet designed to systematically teach the key themes, lessons and figures from our sacred texts in sequence from Genesis to Revelation. My hope is that by experiencing the Bible in this way, we will see the scriptures from a different perspective. I want you to encounter the stories of our faith as one continuous ongoing story that began at creation and continues through the formation of the Hebrew tribes, tells the story of kings and prophets, gives us the lessons of the gospels and offers us the history and correspondence of the early church. A couple elements to keep in mind about the series. There are only so many scriptures that can be covered in one year. Many favorite passages will not be included in the series. Those not covered are not less important. I do hope that those that are part of the series will give you both a representative cross-section of both the most significant lessons and the most significant figures in scripture. Second, although our primary scripture for the day will generally follow sequentially, additional passages from other parts of the Bible will often be used. During special seasons of the church year – Lent, Advent and Pentecost, for example – we will often turn to traditional passages for those times. Finally, I will not preach as much from the Gospels this year. This does not reflect on their lack of importance but because I most often preach from Gospel texts and I want you to see how they related to the larger whole of the Bible. Similarly, passages I cover frequently in other venues are less likely to appear in this series. This is especially true of passages such as the 10 Commandments and many Gospel texts.

I am already having fun with this project and I hope you will, too. See me if you have questions or passages or figures in the scriptures that you would like to have addressed.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Tim



Caribou Clock

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Church Office: 498-2103

Website: <http://www.bgmumc.com>

Greetings from the Church Office!

The tax season is in full swing! Our AARP group has helped dozens of local residents complete their 2019 (and prior years 2016-2018) individual tax returns on Tuesday and Thursdays from 9am-2pm (last client must arrive by 2pm). I encourage people to come by and see if they are eligible for a state refund for the Sales Tax Fairness Credit and/or Property Tax Fairness Credit. We just need your income information and proof of rent or real estate taxes paid in 2019.

March is one of the months when we have a "fifth Sunday", which means no specific committee is assigned to sponsor Coffee Fellowship. For those who may not belong to a committee, we ask that you form an "ad-hoc" committee to provide light refreshments and serve/clean-up that day - March 29th!

Please help me meet deadlines by submitting things for the Newsletter when due. It is very difficult to "pull it all together" at the last minute and create a quality product. **For our next Newsletter, all input must be submitted by Tuesday, March 24th!**

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier
Church Secretary



February Prayer Joys and Concerns

Prayer Concerns: Debbie & Lu Sharp, Darlene Nelder, Sheila Belyea, Dave & Marcia DeMerchant, Emily Stuart, Robin Stuart, James Stuart, Phyllis Sykes, Leona Michaud, Keith Drew, Glen Tagget, Ruth Ross, Debra Gauvin Smith, Bob Cyr, Meaghan Lombard, Anne Bernard, Deanna (Rauch) Leuenberger, David Corriveau, Pat Sterris and family, Hilleman family, Nancy Lilley, Travis Peterson & Family, Brittany Harward, Corey & Tammy Tilly & Baby Asher (born at 28 weeks)

On Family Death: Family of Robert Irving; Family of Debra Gauvin Smith; Family of Keith Drew; Family of Charles (Chuck) Mahoney; Family of Donna Cyr; Family and friends of Kenneth Oliver III; Family of Rebecca Griffeth; Family of Bill Deering

Other: None

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>
Mar 1	Mary Lou Brown	Penny & Ivan Shaw	Shirley Bowman	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Mar 8	Samuela Manages	Joelene Boucher & Mary Ouellette	Shirley Bowman	Missions & Evangelism Comm.
Mar 15	Debbie Nichols	Gwen Ellinwood & Deb Pringnitz	Mary Ouellette	Education Committee
Mar 22	Mary Ouellette	Richard & Susan Clark	Mary Ouellette	Worship Committee
Mar 29	Kathleen Forbes	Diana Locke & Dave Wakana	Mary Ouellette	NEED VOLUNTEERS

March Usher Coordinator: Judson Drake

March Communion Stewardesses: Ruthann Weeks

Organist/Pianist: Mar 1, 8, 15 & 29 – Margaret Cyr; Mar 22 – Judi Greenier

Acolytes: Mar 1-Althea Wilcox & Alden Wilcox; Mar 8-Neal Genz; Mar 15-Conrad Walton,
Mar 22-Richard Clark; Mar 29-Neal Genz

Child Care Volunteers: Mar 1-Megan Irving; Mar 8-Roberta Walton; Mar 15-Debbie Barnes;
Mar 22-Diane Fitzpatrick; Mar 29-Megan 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!

* * March Birthdays & Anniversaries * *

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

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



1	Mary Kirkpatrick, Adam Lombard	13	Danielle Harrington, Linda Norsworthy
2	Bobbi Pelletier	14	Jana Davenport, Elsie Locke, Tamara Wilcox
4	Kent Forbes	15	Deanna Rice
5	Robert Kieffer	16	Beth Alden, Daryl Frost, Bob Thompson
6	Duska Franklin, Jase Stallings, Roberta Walton	19	Alyson Michaud, Debbie Stallings
8	Ken Doody, Emerson Langworthy, Allie Sholder	22	Monica Belyea, Emily Staples, Briana Witmer
10	Ryan Genz, Jeanette Peters, Debbie Sharp	23	Peggy Bailey
11	Heather Botterill	25	Casey Felix
		26	Roy Alden, Eugenia Gardner



10	Barbara & Steven Scott	26	Betty & Dale Fowler
	30 Cherie & Jared Goranites		

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>
Feb 2	73	\$13,426.50
Feb 9	76	\$ 4,615.00
Feb 16	61	\$ 2,308.00
Feb 23	73	\$ 2,457.50

Needed to meet 2020 Budget: \$4,427.15 weekly

"Growing in Faith" Capital Campaign Account (previously known as "Capital Account Seed Money"):

As we begin to receive the Growing in Faith (GIF) donations, we will report the balance in the account each month. As of February 23rd, the balance in the account is \$74,421.50. (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.) In February, we paid contractors for some of the GIF Capital Campaign electrical and bathroom expenses and also paid for some of the rain damage work, pending receipt of insurance claim monies.

Photo Directory Changes (March 2020 Newsletter changes):

Griffeth, Rebecca – deceased

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



Feb 9 - Alden Wilcox with his father, Rev. Tim Wilcox; Alden Wilcox & Dave Belyea on Scouting Sunday.



Feb 9 - Rev. Tim with children during the Children's Time.



Feb 12 - congregation was invited to get water in a cup and pour it into the baptismal font to remember God's promise not to again flood the earth and our opportunity to offer living water.



Feb 23 - Handbell Choir, directed by Tamara Wilcox, played "All Night, All Day"



Feb 23 - Rose on the altar in honor of the birth of Cutter Yates Butler Wakana, born to Ben & Katie Wakana on February 9th.
Provided by grandparents Diana Locke & Dave Wakana

Other Kodak Moments!



We are participating again this year in the Baby Bottle Drive in support of the Pregnancy Care Center in Presque Isle. Bottles are to be returned by March 8th!



Feb 23 - We celebrated Mardi Gras during our coffee fellowship time! The "King Cake" was distributed and Warren Dobson had the piece with the small baby in it! Congratulations! This will bring luck & prosperity to him over the coming year!



Feb 23 - a number of "vintage" Gray Memorial pictures are on display in the Fellowship Hall



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!

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!

Please note that you can make arrangements to have your tithes and offerings withdrawn from your account on a regular basis, thus ensuring your donations are received even when/if you are unable to attend church. Please contact Tamara Wilcox for additional information.



The Worship Committee will continue to sponsor our project to provide school supplies, clothing and hygiene items to local school children. All donations that were received as of Dec 22nd were given to our school point-of-contact in time to distribute for Christmas! The boxes are in the Library again - we will accept donations until Sunday, March 22nd. 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!



The Worship Committee is seeking volunteers to serve as Usher Coordinators for the months of October and December!

*If you are willing to serve, please speak with Neal Genz!
We sincerely appreciate those who have already volunteered to serve!*

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**IT IS TAX SEASON AGAIN!!!! BOBBI PELLETIER VOLUNTEERS WITH OTHER
AARP MEMBERS TO PROVIDE FREE TAX PREPARATION
AT THE CARIBOU VFW ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS FROM 9AM TO 2PM**

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

The office is closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays until April 14th.

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

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

Other announcements from Rev. Tim:

Discover the Possibilities—You are Invited!

March 15 will be an important day in charting the future of Gray Memorial UMC. It is an opportunity to take stock of the strengths, assets, and opportunities present in our congregation and the communities we serve so that we can chart a direction for the future. The Rev. Rick McKinley, Director of the Office of Congregational Development for the New England Conference and teaching pastor at Centenary United Methodist Church in Skowhegan will be our guest on that day. Following worship and lunch, Pastor Rick will lead us in a Discovering the Possibilities workshop. He will guide us to consider the call of God as we chart possible futures for the ministry of Gray Memorial. The results of this workshop will be used to develop several potential options – possibilities – for the ministry of the church to consider. Past experience with these studies indicates that the results are more useful and more likely to have follow through at higher levels of participation. Our goal is to have over 35 people present. We ask that you join us that day. As we are currently investing considerable funds in our Growing the Faith Capital Campaign, we want to invest considerably in the flesh and blood ministry of Gray Memorial. Watch for more details in the bulletin and in your mail during the next couple weeks.

The Peace

The Worship Committee has decided to suspend having the peace in worship until at least Easter. This came about as a result of a couple requests from members of the congregation. The requests were related both to the severe flu season we have been having and the fact that several people in regular attendance have compromised immune systems or are at elevated risk for complications from the influenza. If you have questions or feedback, please speak with a member of the Worship Committee or Rev. Tim.

Sermon series “A Journey through the Bible: Genesis to Revelation”. The following are the titles/themes for upcoming Sundays:

March 1: “Wrestling with God”

March 8: Joseph (including music from “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat”

March 15: “Moses: Burning Bushes and Call Stories”

March 22: Walking with the Poor (Proverbs)

March 29: The Psalms



Saturday - March 7th:
Turn your clocks **AHEAD** one hour
before you go to sleep!
Daylight Savings Time begins on
March 8th!

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARCH 2020!!!!

Sunday	01	9:00am	Sunday School
		10:00am	Worship - First Sunday in Lent
Tuesday	03	6:30pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting Library
Wednesday	04	9:30am	Companions in Christ Class
		6:00pm	Handbell Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	05	9:00am	Aroostook Cluster Meeting in Mars Hill
Friday	06	9:30am	Worship Committee Meeting in Kitchen
Saturday	07	<u>TURN CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR - DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS!!!</u>	

Sunday	08	9:00am	Sunday School
		10:00am	Worship - Second Sunday in Lent; Prayer Shawl Dedication
		11:30am	Education Committee Meeting in Library
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 Potluck Luncheon & Meeting in Fellowship Hall
		6:00pm	Handbell Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	12	6:30pm	SPRC Meeting in Kitchen

Sunday	15	9:00am	Sunday School
		10:00am	Worship - Third Sunday in Lent
		11:30am	Luncheon followed by "Discovering the Possibilities" workshop
Monday	16	10:00am	<u>DEADLINE FOR COMMITTEE REPORTS TO CLAIRE & OFFICE</u>
Tuesday	17	1:00pm	Caregivers Group in Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
		6:00pm	Trustees Meeting in Kitchen
Wednesday	18	9:00am	Companions in Christ Class (note time change)
		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

Sunday	22	9:00am	Sunday School
		10:00am	Worship - Fourth Sunday in Lent
			<u>Last day to bring in donations for Worship Committee's Mission Project</u>
Tuesday	24	10:00am	<u>DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWSLETTER INPUT</u>
Wednesday	25	9:30am	Companions in Christ Class
		6:00pm	Handbell Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Saturday	28	8:00am	UMM Breakfast and Meeting in Fellowship Hall/Kitchen

Sunday	29	9:00am	Sunday School
		10:00am	Worship - Fifth Sunday in Lent