



A Word from the Pastor

Lent, 2017

Dear Members and Friends:

Compared to many recent winters, the winter of 2016-17 has been long. We have had more snow than we know what to do with and several missed days of school and work. The winter season began early and we have record snow and cold for late March. For many of us—even those who enjoy winter—we were beginning to think that spring might not ever come. When we look around, however, we can see the first hints of spring. The snow really is melting. I have seen the first green shoots in some exposed flower beds. The grass has become visible in some places. Stores are filling up with Easter and spring merchandise. Believe it or not, in a few weeks the area will be bursting with color and life. There will be birds, flowers, green grass and budding trees.

The events leading to Jesus' death on the cross were horrific. They are hard for many of us to imagine. In it we recognize that life is often a difficult experience. But Jesus' crucifixion was not the end of the story. Easter is a celebration of that new life we find through a faith in Christ. It is no accident that Easter is celebrated in the spring. They are to be complementary. In 4 season country, winter is part helps prepare the way for spring. Jesus' tough week enabled the outpouring of life that continues today. Even though the last hours of Jesus' life didn't cover a lot of time, I can only imagine how long it must have seemed to him and his followers. Once Jesus was condemned, it must have seemed to his disciples that they were facing a long winter in their lives that would have no end and no hope. Our joy in Easter comes from this seemingly hopeless situation being given new life. From the road of destruction, resurrection occurred. Christ was not dead, but very much alive!!

To appreciate the heights of this joy, I find it essential to understand what Jesus experienced during the events we now remember during Holy Week. I invite you to consider the story of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection and encourage you to observe the Easter story during Holy Week:

Palm Sunday, Sunday, April 9 at 10am.

Holy Week Services, each weekday from Monday, April 10 to Good Friday, April 14 at noon each day for about 30 minutes with a light lunch following

Thursday, April 13 Holy Thursday service with communion and Tenebrae, 7pm

(Easter plants may be brought to the church on Friday morning from 9am to noon or at 1:00pm Saturday – see pg. 6 for more details.)

Sunday, April 16 Easter Sunrise Service, 5:35am with breakfast following the service in Fellowship Hall
Easter Celebration, 10am, featuring the Senior Choir and the Handbell Choir

Further, if you have not had the opportunity to do so, I invite you to attend one or more of the ongoing groups of the church. They, too, are bursting with life! Youth activities (Terrific Tuesdays on Tuesdays during the school year at 6:30pm and other activities as arranged), Jennie Lyon Circle (second Wednesdays of most months at noon), Prayer Shawl Ministry (first Tuesdays at 6:30pm), United Methodist Men (fourth Saturday mornings at 8:00am) and Moms in Prayers (Saturday mornings as arranged) meet regularly. You are welcome to join the senior choir and the handbell choir, both of which meet on Wednesday evenings. Other groups include Disciple classes, study groups, fellowship opportunities, worship events and more. If you have an idea for a small group (e.g. a prayer group, book study or mission team), talk with me about what you have in mind. More information and weekly schedules are always available from the church office. Groups like these can be vital in keeping our faith growing while avoiding winter-like (or desert-like) stretches in our spiritual life.

May God's grace and peace be with you as we focus on Easter,

Rev. Tim



Caribou Clock

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Greetings from the Church Office!

Well, it looks like winter is fighting to stay with us! As I type this, we are getting a little snow and then freezing rain today and tomorrow. Later in the week, temperatures will be in the 40's! Crazy!

Thanks to all who responded to my second month's plea for responses on reading the Newsletter. It is encouraging to know that many do read it each month! If you ever have any suggestions for articles, just let me know!

I have two personal requests – if you come to the church while I am working, please let me know you are in the building. Often, people come in and go elsewhere in the church and I do not know they are here! Suddenly hearing noises is a little unsettling! Also, if you need to borrow something from the office, PLEASE return it or let me know that you still need it!!!!

The special donations received on March 26th for Camp Mechuwana totaled \$373.00! That is so awesome, thanks to everyone who donated.

If any of your information changes (mailing and/or physical address, phone number, email address, etc.) PLEASE contact the church office so we can update our records!

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier
Church Secretary



March Prayer Concerns

Prayer Concerns: Debbie & Lu Sharp, Judi McKee, Ann Sinclair, Jeff Wright, Emily Stuart, Phyliss Sykes, Gwen & Ralph Ferguson, Eileen Forbes, Roger Laverne, Jeremiah Crocket & Family, Kim, Cathy Firth, Reed Plummer, Nona Pernel, Claire Mathey, Donna Brown, Ezekiel Arnold, Officer Kyle White, Doub Brown, Samuela Manages, Rob Wright

On Family Death: The family of Bobby Corey; family of Kim Austin; family of Brentant Lahey; family of Jim Taubin

Other: Nations of Israel, Palestine, Syria; All who serve in harm's way; the homeless; Can-Am sled dogs and their mushers (for safety & success on the trail)

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:

The church received a beautiful thank you card from Debbie Jordan. It is posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for all to read!

REMINDERS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LITUGIST</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>COUNTER</u>	<u>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP</u>
April 2	Kathleen Forbes	Duska Franklin & Diane McDonough	Diane Fitzpatrick	Education Committee
April 9	Samuela Manages	Ruthann & John Weeks	Diane Fitzpatrick	Missions/Social Justice Comm.
April 16	Debbie Nichols	Judi & Louis Greenier	Ruthann Weeks	NO COFFEE FELLOWSHIP
April 23	Mary Ouellette	Jeannette Belyea & Penny Shaw	Ruthann Weeks	Worship Committee
April 30	Bobbi Pelletier	Barbara & Dale Dee	Ruthann Weeks	No Volunteers!!!!

Usher Coordinator: Leland Frost

Communion Stewardess: Mary Ouellette

Acolytes: Apr 2-Friedrich Wilcox & Darrell Adams; Apr 9-Lauren Craig; Apr 16-Alden Wilcox;
Apr 23-Friedrich Wilcox; Apr 30-Darrell Adams

Child Care Volunteers: Apr 2-Jennifer Craig; Apr 9-Diane Fitzpatrick; Apr 16-Meagan Irving; Apr 23-Diana Locke;
Apr 30-Samuela Manages

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 each year.



- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 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 | Heather Chandler, Bruce Hagelstein |
| 5 | Anna Soderberg | 22 | Avis Armstrong |
| 6 | Teelynn Herbert | 23 | Kenneth Irving |
| 7 | Scott Irving | 24 | Debbie Jordan |
| 8 | Michael Smith | 27 | Shirley Bowman, Casey Lancaster |
| 9 | Albert Akeley | 28 | Margaret Cyr, Katie Cyr, Mary Ouellette |
| 11 | Christopher & Taylor Adams, Steven Branscom,
Katherine Danforth, Diane DuBois | 29 | Bert Branscom |
| 12 | Rachel Warner | 30 | Danielle McBreairty, Nolan Sayers |



- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 7 | Diana Locke & David 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>
March 5	88	\$4,033.00
March 12	87	\$2,545.00
March 19	87	\$1,882.00
March 26	96	\$3,710.00

Needed to meet 2017 Budget: \$3,770.20 weekly

Capital Account Seed Money:

We continue to receive donations for the "Capital Account Seed Money" account and as of March 26th, our account balance is \$32,260.67. Even though our original Capital Campaign ended in March 2014 when all the expenses related to the church's restoration effort were paid, many devoted members continue to contribute to the account for the NEXT phase of our church's restoration or a new building.

Changes to new November 2016 Church Directory:

Conrad, Larry: correction to new email address published in March's Newsletter – lconrad641@gmail.com
Josselyn, Lynne: correction to new email address published in March's Newsletter – ljosselyn39@gmail.com

Home Communion

Gray Memorial United Methodist Church offers Communion to those who are unable to attend our regularly scheduled Communion Service that is usually held on the first Sunday of the month. If you are homebound, have difficulty getting around, are a resident of a nursing home or assisted living center, are receiving rehab in a local facility or have concerns with being out during winter months, our Communion Servers would be honored to bring this service to your residence. We have been trained to provide this service and will visit you after church services on Communion Sundays. If you would like to participate in this service, please contact the church office (498-2103) before noon the Friday before Communion. You can set up a regular schedule or receive a call each month to see if you would like this service.

SPECIAL LENTEN SERVICES:

Holy Week Noontime Ecumenical Services: April 10 – 14 (followed by refreshments)
Holy Thursday Evening Service: April 13, 7:00pm

Bill Thomas, our Lead Usher, is seeking a volunteer to be Usher Coordinator for either June or December. If you are interested, please speak to Bill.

FLOWERS FOR EASTER – APRIL 16, 2017

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 14th from 9am-noon or at 1:00pm on Saturday, April 15th, when Worship Committee members are here to arrange them for the Easter Sunday Service the next day. If the following information is provided by Thursday, April 13th, it will be listed in the Easter Sunday Bulletin (April 16th):

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

BY: _____

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY THURSDAY, APRIL 13TH!



Lenten Study

The division of the world's peoples into distinct groups - "red," "black," "white" or "yellow" peoples - has become so deeply imbedded in our psyches, so widely accepted, many would promptly dismiss as crazy any suggestion of its falsity. Yet, that's exactly what this provocative, three-hour series by California Newsreel claims. **Race - The Power of an Illusion** questions the very idea of race as biology, suggesting that a belief in race is no more sound than believing that the sun revolves around the earth. Yet race still matters. Just because race doesn't exist in biology doesn't mean it isn't very real, helping shape life chances and opportunities. The implications for Christians are also quite significant. Join us for this ground-breaking look at a topic that continues to reverberate in our country and world.

Rev. Tim will offer this class at three different times:

- 1) for four Wednesdays: March 15, 29 and April 5 & 12, 1:30 - 3:00 pm
 - 2) during the 6 Sundays in Lent: March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2 & 9 from 8:45 - 9:45 am
 - 3) two Wednesday nights: March 15 & 29, 6:35 – 8:55 pm
-

IF YOU ARE READING THIS NEWSLETTER AND YOU DID NOT NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS, PLEASE SEND THE CHURCH OFFICE AN EMAIL (graymemorial@outlook.com) OR CALL TO LET THEM KNOW! 498-2103

The letter below was received from our District Superintendent, Jackie Brannen, along with a certificate showing we paid 100% of our 2016 Mission Shares:



The United Methodist Church

NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE - NORTHERN MAINE DISTRICT

REV. JACQUELYN BRANNEN
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

44 KENNEDY ROAD
HAFFORD, ME 04444
TEL 207-882-8088

Dear Members of the Gray Memorial Church,

It is with a grateful heart that I write this letter to commend you in paying 100% of your 2016 Mission Shares! What a faithful witness you are for our Conference and your community! In a world where we often hear that we should take care of ourselves first, you have modeled how to put God first. This is an act of courage and love that goes well beyond a financial business obligation. You know that your mission shares support:

- *Food distribution, education, and health services for the needy
- *Local church property insurance,
- *Workman compensation payments,
- *Pastors' health insurance, and pensions
- *Grants for churches in our conference in need
- *Youth ministry and church camps
- *Development of discipleship materials
- *Personnel management of pastoral appointments

Perhaps most important of all your faithfulness in paying your full mission shares, models for your members and neighbors, that you believe the biblical mandate to, "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts. Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts" Malachi 3:10-12.

Thank you for your witness and your discipleship. I am pleased to say that our district paid 87.83% of our mission shares and 42 churches paid 100%! We can all be proud of our faithful participation. Truly, you are a light to our Conference and to our fellow Northern Mainers. I am humbled and honored to serve with you.

With Christ's blessing,

Reverend Jackie Brannen
District Superintendent

PICTURES FROM WORSHIP SERVICES! (Photos taken by Dale Sharp, unless otherwise noted)



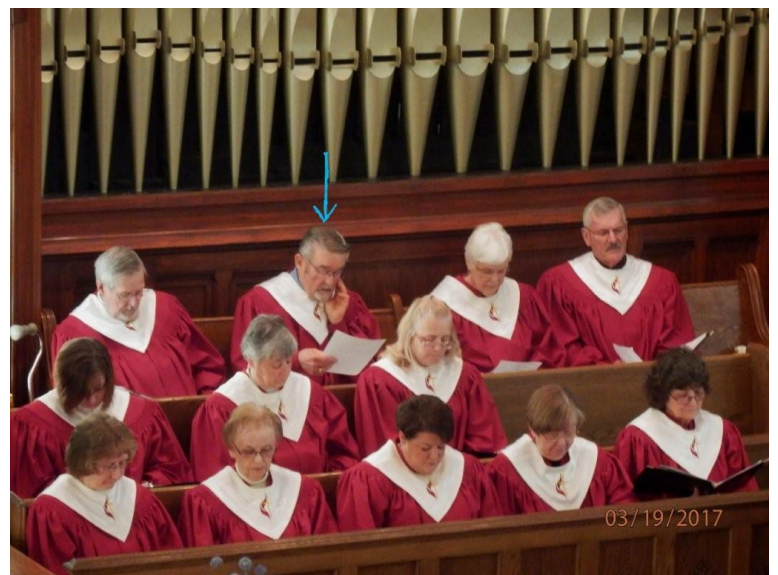
The Lenten cross draped with purple



Rev. Tim with children during "Children's Time"



Mar 19 – Richard Clark spoke about his mother, Katrina Clark, for Women's History Month



Mar 19 - Bob Ellinwood (sitting in the choir) was the liturgist, reading Scripture and a poem.



March 19 – Rev. Tim with several children during the “Children’s Time”



March 26 – Handbell Choir performs “How Great Thou Art”



Norm Thombs, Director of Camp Mechwana spoke to the congregation about the many programs available at the camp



March 29 – Mary Lou Brown spoke about Elizabeth (Betty) Bearce as part of our church’s recognition of Women’s History Month.

Other Kodak Moments!



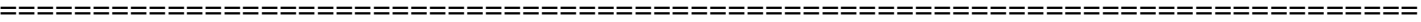
Special Coffee Fellowship Cake on March 5th!



March 25 – UMM Meeting at church



UMM President, Dave DeMerchant



Church Committees

The Nominations and Leadership Development Committee is planning to meet within the next few weeks. Their task is to seek new committee members for those groups who need new members. If you are interested in joining a committee beginning July 1st, please contact the church office by April 9th and express your interest in being considered for a specific committee.

Gray Memorial's 19th Annual

Italian Dinner

Saturday, April 1

Serving from 4:30 to 6:00

Adults \$12.00

Salad Bar Chicken Cacciatore

Pasta alla Puttanesca Filled Shells

Dessert: Panna Cotta

Buono Appetito!

Sponsored by the Finance & Stewardship Committee!
Proceeds will be given to the Trustees to establish a "Pastor's Moving Fund"



CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
March 23, 2017

ATTENDEES: Diane McDonough (Chair), Claire Hodgkins, Margaret Cyr, Judi Greenier, Lee Frost, Mary Lou Brown, Debbie Barnes, Bobbi Pelletier, and David W. DeMerchant

Diane McDonough called the meeting to order at 6:40pm in the Church kitchen with a brief prayer. The Council voted to accept the minutes of our last meeting as printed and published. The following Committee Chairs gave their reports:

CLUSTER: The Cluster continues to request nominations of persons to receive the Social Action Award this year. Forms are available by contacting Sue Brown. Also, advanced lay servant classes are available on-line at www.beadisciple.com. The offering taken at the March 12th Lenten service in Hodgdon will be sent to UMCOR. The next Lenten service for the purpose of planning by the District Spirituality Team will be held at Grant Memorial at 3:00 pm on March 26th. Norm Thombs, Director of Camp Mechuwana, will share about camps, mission teams, summer retreats, rallies, etc. on March 26th at 2 pm at Grant before the Cluster service. He will also present at worship at Gray Memorial that morning at 10 am.

The Fruitful Congregation group will meet next on April 23rd from 1:00pm to 5:00pm at Grant Memorial. Future meetings will be held in September, November, 2017, and February and April of 2018. Good ideas are being developed and Chris shared that he has a good tool for identifying Spiritual Gifts he plans to share.

Some projects in area Cluster member churches being shared include:

A child at Lidstone in Washburn requested the church provide socks, mittens, etc. for her school friends; the Sunday school children want to start their own food pantry which will happen; they also collected quarters with which they stocked the local laundromat machines.

The children brought items to church one Sunday to make soup for needy people and the ladies provided additional food.

Stephen would like to take a youth group on a bus trip to Boston and is looking for interested youth. The cost would be \$40 and it would not be overnight.

Grant's youth are doing two mission trips to Bangor overnight with meals at Grace UMC. The next trip will be in the fall. Other area youth are invited. Contact Dave Adams at dave@dascoinc.net.

The Akeley family is interested in offering the Akeley Scholarship again with which the Cluster is happy to assist.

A Celebration of Life service was held for Dot Matson on Saturday, March 4th.

Under "Various Church Activities" Rev. Tim Wilcox continues to lead "Race: The Power of an Illusion" classes which started Wed, March 15, 29 at 1:30pm to 3:15pm and at 6:35pm to 8:55pm, and April 5 & 12 from 1:30pm to 3:15pm, also the 6 Sundays of Lent- Mar. 5,12,19,26, and April 2 & 9 from 8:45am to 9:45am.

March 26th is UMCOR Sunday and Holy Week noontime services are at Gray Memorial April 10-14. Holy Thursday evening service will be at 7:00pm April 13th.

EDUCATION: No Report.

MISSIONS & SOCIAL JUSTICE (previously Community Service and Evangelism Committees): Judi Greenier reported visiting with Betty Branscom who is doing better and her committee has received new visitor cards which are now available in the pews.

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP: Debbie Barnes reported the January and February tithes and offerings for January and February. The total operating fund income for January amounted to \$15,983.00 and for February was \$12,899.99 which together was \$28,882.99. Reimbursements amounted to \$72. The total special funds for church use for January and February was \$1,231.30 of which \$767 was for the Capital Acct. Seed money, \$135 was for the Fuel Fund, and \$90 was for the Taize France trip. Coffee Fellowship got \$91.30, Youth got \$3, and Prayer Shawl ministry got \$100. Special Funds not for church use received \$631 in January and none in February. Fruitful Cong. Books got \$60, Ecumenical Food Pantry got \$20, Peace & Justice Sunday received \$375 and Hamilton Study Book money was \$176.

Bobbi reported the following checkbook figures at the end of February as follows:

Beginning Balance	\$7,316.40
2016 Operating Income	12,899.99
Interest	.93
Less EFT fee	(22.07) VANCO fees (EFT)
Less expenses	(15,542.54)
Ending Balance	4,652.71

The Capital Account Seed Money Previous Balance was \$30,502.47. Deposits of \$381.20 for the month give a Current Balance \$30,883.67. We are paid up in Mission Shares through July. The Fuel balance for the Church is \$429.84 and the Parsonage is \$507.04. The total spent in the month of February is \$15,542.54.

The February Target was \$33,303.33. Tithes & Offerings amounted to \$29,017.99. Total expenses were \$42,137.26 but we had begun the year with a cushion of cash so all the bills have been paid. Attendance averaged 95 in January and 88 in February.

Debbie Barnes reports that she needs helpers for the Italian Dinner set for Saturday April 1st. Funds raised by the supper will be donated to the Trustees to establish a new Pastor's Moving Fund.

HISTORY AND RECORDS: Mary Lou Brown reported she had made a display of pictures that included one of Jennie Lyon and our earliest choir.

MEMORIALS: Diane McDonough reported her committee reviewed the financial statement in preparation for the yearly audit. Diane suggested placing the Passbook Savings Account balance into our Checking account but the Committee thought it best to confer with Debbie Barnes as to the pros and cons of such a move. The Ecumenical Food Pantry will hold its annual spaghetti supper fundraiser on April 22nd. Diane would like her committee members as well as church members to volunteer to help out at the event. Get in touch with Diane if you are willing to participate. The Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry has recently received its 501(C)3 non-profit rating. Diane plans to update the scholarship packets and have them in the office the first week of April. Also she plans to have a notice in both the April Newsletter and bulletins.

SPRC: The SPRC will meet March 30th to consider final approval of the updated job descriptions. The Committee will begin its review of the Church Profile and begin revising the document for submission to the District Superintendent. The SPRC continues to review the Building Use and Wedding policies in partnership with the Trustees.

TRUSTEES: The Trustees discussed whether to lock the rear door by the office during services for security reasons. They also discussed whether a rope ladder out the second story window in the Parsonage would be sufficient safety access in case of fire. Lisa Wilcox will inquire of the Insurance Company on this matter. Mary Lou said the electrician would be coming to investigate the problem of burned out lights. The inspection of the elevator has been done. The sprinkler system has been inspected but the Trustees are in need of more information about major assessments to the sprinkler system such a three or five year plan and the cost. Lisa needs to follow up on completed property inspections with regards to our Insurance policy. Mary Lou reports that Rev. Tim's shelving is up and the books stacked. As per Phil Turner's wishes, a promissory note to pay back a loan he made to Janis Santos is to be forgiven.

Judi Greenier's Treasurer's report is as follows:

Organ Fund - \$4,092.32 Clock Fund - \$527.39 Steeple Fund - \$1,005.71
Local Holding Account - \$4,772.93 B.O.T. Checking - \$384.06 Trustees' CD - \$10,084.02

Additional lights have been installed in the Parsonage attic. Rev. Tim reported a leak, possibly around the south dormer has been observed in the attic. There is also a leak in the church outside Tim's office.

A partial broken Plexiglas cover has been observed on one of the stain glass windows facing Reno's. That can be repaired.

The Andover Organ Company came and tuned the organ and got the chimes running. There are three electric switches that must be on for the chimes to work. That was the problem. Not all switches were on as needed. The organ needs a lot of work. Some vital parts are not working properly. It will cost at least \$2,000.00 for the repair but Margaret feels that if we wait, more things will go wrong and it will cost much more. The bill for the tuning and chimes was \$1,563.80. It costs less if the cost of the trip up can be shared with other church organ repairs in the region. The Council suggested putting it out to the congregation for possible donations.

Mary Lou passed out copies of the rough draft for the Building Use and Wedding Policies. No changes have been made to the Building Use Request Form. Mary Lou will have to meet with Bob Thompson on the use of video and sound components. Completing the policy on Weddings is still a work in progress.

UMM: Dave DeMerchant reported on the January meeting that in December, the men helped put up the "Tree of Lights" and provided the "Living Nativity" for two consecutive nights. The men voted to make a donation to "The Friends of Caribou Schools" from the proceeds of the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

Next Dave reported at the February meeting that the men voted to purchase 2 large non-stick fry pans for the church kitchen, a project Ken Peters will take up. Some of the upcoming speakers at future meetings will be Frank Frost in April speaking about the Reclamation of Big Reed Pond; in May, Dixie Shaw will speak on farm production in Caribou and related topics; in June, Evan Graves will talk about the Caribou Marathon and update us on the 2016 race as well plans for the 2017 Marathon.

UMW: Responding to a letter from a United Methodist Missionary, UMW prepared a box of Maine products to send to the Willow United Methodist Church in Alaska for their annual fund raising auction. The box is not opened until bought and then can be opened and items exchanged with other box winners. The UMW held its annual Boiled Dinner on March 11th. Jennie Lyon hopes to have 4 projects this year. Debbie Nichols is the new President of UMW for 2017-2018.

UMW Sub District Meeting will be April 8, 2017 here at Gray Memorial from 9:30am to 2pm. It is bring your own lunch and host church will provide coffee, muffins, and drinks. Dixie Shaw will be the guest speaker. Her topic will be garden produce. Bring a pack of garden seeds. UMW will provide a soup luncheon on April 14th at noon after the Friday Holy Week service.

WORSHIP: Margaret Cyr reported that while attendance was low at both Ash Wednesday services it was well worth it to allow people who could not attend during the day to get a chance to attend at night. March is Women's History Month. Due to extra elements in the Marcia McFee Lenten services only 2 BGMUMC women are being honored. Richard Clark talked about his mother, Katrina on March 19th and Mary Lou will talk about Betty Bearce on March 26th.

The Taize Service was a way to give a sense of what Friedrich would experience when he goes to Taize this summer, and Rev. Tim has wanted to do one for some time. Feedback has been mixed - positive, negative, and neutral. The biggest negative has been the length of the service.

We have had 2 Services with Marcia McFee elements so far during Lent and we plan to continue with some of her elements for Palm Sunday (4-9-17) as well as Easter (4-16) and the week following that, April 23rd.

There will be a Sunrise Service on Easter at 5:35am at the Caribou Golf Course.

Flower forms for Easter will soon be available in the Bulletin (see page 6 of this Newsletter!).

The Worship Committee is wondering if anyone has any ideas for making the heart shaped wreath more visible. Also, the Lenten decorations have been in keeping with the McFee themes but will be more traditional for Holy Week. The Choir thanks whoever fixed the lighting in the loft and chapel.

OTHER: Diane pointed out that the purpose of the Church Council is to plan, implement, and evaluate the ministry of the church. It is important for the Chairs to get with their committee members to decide who will be stepping down or staying on and if there is a need for more members on certain committees and get that list back to Rev. Tim as soon as possible so that the Nominations Committee can begin to do its work.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

The next meeting will be April 20, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted by Claire Hodgkins, Secretary



Notice from SPRC:

The Financial Secretary position will become vacant in May. If you are interested in filling this staff position, please speak with Sue White, SPRC Chair. The recently revised job description is available upon request for your review.

Church Scholarships

Each year the Gray Memorial United Methodist Church offers scholarships to eligible members of our church. Any active member of our church who is a high school senior (or in the absence of a qualified high school senior, a student already in college or technical school) may apply. The Scholarship Information and Application Packets will be available in the Church Office beginning April 2, 2017 or you can call the office (498-2103) and have one emailed to you. All applications must be returned to the office by May 19, 2017. The scholarships will be presented during the Graduation Sunday services on June 4th. If you have any questions, call Diane McDonough at 496-8441.

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN APRIL!!!

Saturday	01	8:30-9:30am 4:30-6pm	Moms in Prayer Meeting in the Library Italian Supper Sponsored by Finance & Stewardship Committee

Sunday	02	8:45am 8:45am 10:00am	Lenten Study: "Race - The Power of an Illusion" Sunday School Worship - Fifth Sunday in Lent
Monday	03	9:30am 6:30-7:30pm	UMW Meeting at Church Girl Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
Tuesday	04	12:00pm 6:30pm 6:30pm	Day Home Extension Meeting in Kitchen (reserved by Betty Branscom) "Terrific Tuesdays Ministry" with Michele Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting in Library
Wednesday	05	12:00pm 1:30pm 4:30pm 6:00pm 6:30pm	Jennie Lyon Circle Potluck Luncheon & Meeting (<u>note date change</u>) Lenten Study: "Race - The Power of an Illusion" Barbershop Group Practice Handbell Choir Practice Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	06	9:30am 10:00am 6:30pm	History & Records Committee Meeting at Church Aroostook Cluster Meeting in Mars Hill Worship Committee Meeting at Church
Friday	07	1:00pm	Disciple II Bible Study at Church
Saturday	08	8:30-9:30am	Moms in Prayer Meeting in the Library

Sunday	09	8:45am 8:45am 10:00am 11:30am	Lenten Study: "Race - The Power of an Illusion" Sunday School Worship - Palm/Passion Sunday Education Committee Meeting in Library
Monday	10	12:00pm 6:30-7:30pm	Holy Week Ecumenical Service Girl Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
Tuesday	11	12:00pm 6:00pm 6:30pm	Holy Week Ecumenical Service Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Board Meeting at Pantry "Terrific Tuesdays Ministry" with Michele
Wednesday	12	12:00pm 1:30pm 4:30pm 6:00pm 6:30pm 6:30pm	Holy Week Ecumenical Service Lenten Study: "Race - The Power of an Illusion" Barbershop Group Practice Handbell Choir Practice Senior Choir Practice Crown of Maine Quilters at Gray Memorial UMC, Caribou
Thursday	13	12:00pm 7:00pm	Holy Week Ecumenical Service Holy Thursday Service
Friday	14	12:00pm 1:00pm	Holy Week Ecumenical Service (or following luncheon) Disciple II Bible Study at Church
Saturday	15	8:30-9:30am	Moms in Prayer Meeting in the Library

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

Sunday	16	10:00am	Worship - Easter Sunday
Tuesday	18		<i>U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX DEADLINE!</i>
		1:00pm	Alzheimer's Support Group in Fellowship Hall
		6:00pm	Trustee Meeting at Church
Wednesday	19		<u>DEADLINE FOR MAY NEWSLETTER INPUT!!!</u>
		4:30pm	Barbershop Group Practice
		6:00pm	Handbell Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	20	6:00pm	Finance/Stewardship Committee Meeting at Church
		6:30pm	Church Council Meeting at Church
Friday	21	1:00pm	Disciple II Bible Study at Church
Saturday	22	8:00am	UMM Breakfast & Meeting at Church
		8:30-9:30am	Moms in Prayer Meeting in the Library

Sunday	23	8:45am	Sunday School
		10:00am	Worship - Second Sunday of Easter
		1:00pm	Fruitful Congregation Journey Meeting at Grant Memorial UMC
Monday	24	6:30-7:30pm	Girl Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
Tuesday	25	6:30pm	"Terrific Tuesdays Ministry" with Michele
Wednesday	26	4:30pm	Barbershop Group Practice
		6:00pm	Handbell Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	27	1:00pm	Disciple II Bible Study at Church (note date change)

Sunday	30	8:45am	Sunday School
		10:00am	Worship - Third Sunday of Easter; Native American Ministries Sunday (special offering); <u>Kathleen Forbes is preaching</u>

Rev. Tim's Schedule:

Vacation: April 18-21; April 28-30

Note: On Thursday, April 19th, the Church Office hours return to the regular schedule of Monday-Friday from 9am to noon!