

My sermon series during Lent originated with an interest in knowing more about why I, as a pastor, do what I do. The series has expanded to include why we worship, use music, do missions and observe Holy Week and Easter the way we do. What follows is an adaptation of some of the material from February 18 when I outlined my approach to pastoring and preaching and how I arrived at that point. As with anything I preach or write, if you would like to know more information or have a conversation about anything you see or hear, do be in touch.

When I first came to New England almost two decades ago, I barely knew a soul. I was grateful for the many veteran pastors who took me under their collective wings during those early years. In my conversations with these pastors one of the topics I found interesting was how pastoring has changed over time. While each pastor has their own skill set and interests and while each congregation they have served has a unique context, there were some common characteristics. For many pastors, their earlier years were centered around preparing a good worship service and sermon and making regular visits to people around the congregation. As time went on, there has been an increase in other roles of the pastor. Teaching, some administrative tasks, area missions and evangelism and mentoring of new ministerial candidates and clergy are among those areas that have taken on an increased role for many.

In thinking about these trends over time, I realized that the role of the pastor in this country has evolved to meet changing needs. When the United States won its independence, the Anglican Church temporarily withdrew. Without the mother church, the Methodist chapels that were left behind organized themselves into a new denomination, the Methodist Episcopal Church. The many existing and new congregations were served by traveling circuit riders. Jesse Lee was the most prominent one in Maine, having a major role in the founding and nurturing of dozens of congregations across the state. One circuit rider traveled a geographically large circuit, typically by horse, and might only be able to visit a congregation every few months. When the traveling preacher came for those few days, there would be a focus on activities such as baptisms, communion, confirmations, weddings and organizing the ministries of the church. This arrangement was a key reason that the pattern of quarterly communion developed---not because of belief or rule, but as a practical matter. For the many weeks in between, the lay people of any church were essential to the functioning of the church and its ministries.

Over time, as the frontier gave way to a more settled society, a pattern of one pastor to one or a couple churches emerged. With pastors now traveling much less and being in a culture that was predominately Christian and with large proportions of people regularly attending churches, their time could be focused on the worship and pastoral needs of a given congregation. The experiences of the Great Depression and World Wars reinforced the importance of these priestly and pastoral offices. Increasingly, the pastor was looked to as the central focus of the ministry in many cases. More recent years has seen the changes I noted above, brought about by a combination of a changing culture in which Christianity is a less dominant force than it used to be in people's lives. Pastors now are being asked to include more explicitly leadership in areas of evangelism and outreach. As the number of pastors who are elders such as me has declined there is an increased need for elders to return to more of their historic work of ordering the denomination's ministries. I see even more changes in the next generation of pastors, who are coming into the pastoral ministry with an even greater sense of urgency about orienting (in many places) a shrinking church to the realities of the world around them so that we can better make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

I often sum up my work with Ephesians 4:12, that a pastor is, "...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ ..." A major part of what I do is bringing out the God given gifts in the people of the church and, in partnership with the church, to develop the congregation's ability in implementing and sustaining its own ministries. Few things excite me more than watching someone or a group discover and develop their own gifts for ministry. I aim for the church to be guided by the Holy Spirit and dependent upon God's movement on our lives with the pastor and staff being catalysts for ministry. This means the people of the church are also key drivers of ministry.

I know that different people need different elements from a pastor at different times and that that range among the generations is quite high at the moment. I'm looking forward to traveling this road with you as we refine the model of pastoring and lay ministry that will work well for both the present and the near future here in central Aroostook County in these changing times. In what scriptures do you anchor your ministry? How is God calling you to use your gifts to meet today's needs inside and outside our church walls?

Grace and peace,

Rev. Tim



# Caribou Clock

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Publisher - Gray Memorial United Methodist Church  
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**E-mail:** [graymemorial@outlook.com](mailto:graymemorial@outlook.com)

Date: March 2018

Church Office: 498-2103

**Website:** <http://www.bqmumc.com>

Greetings from the Church Office!

The cold and ice has really been difficult this winter, hasn't it? Well, hopefully as we enter March, the temperatures will rise a little and melt some of the mounds of snow!

The new flooring in the Fellowship Hall and kitchen is amazing – we need to thank Mary Lou Brown for all her dedication through this project!

The Missions & Evangelism Committee has updated their “GMUMC Prayer Chain” chart – please see it in page 10. I encourage you to post this chart in a handy spot in your home and use it when prayers are needed.

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! I have received a number of returned newsletters in recent months due to an incorrect address! I am also emailing the Newsletter to many people – if you do not get your Newsletter through email, just let me know and I will add you to that list! **In recent months, several previously used email addresses no longer work, so I have had to mail hard copies of this Newsletter. If the address label on this Newsletter is in red – that means you!**

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier  
Church Secretary



February Prayer Concerns

Prayer Concerns: Debbie, Lu & Dale Sharp, Judi McKee, Phil Turner, Don Collins, Reta Haley, Sheila Belyea, Emily Stuart, Phyllis Sykes, Janie Lidey, Mary Roberts, Rodney & Dustin Nichols, Bruce Fitzpatrick, Joelene Boucher, Martha Dunn, Monte Guerrette, Florence Gallagher, Herman & Joann Wright, Barbara Foster, Bob & Elsie Locke, Keith Drew, Bruce Fitzpatrick, Aurora Hodgkins, Pat Ouellette, Theresa Wunderlich, Angel Alexander

On Family Death: The family of Robert "Bob" Cormier; family of Raymond Siver; family of Raymond Beaulieu; family of Earlyne Blackstone; family of Elizabeth Belmain

Other: Nations of Israel, Palestine, Syria; All who serve in harm's way

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!

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REMINDERS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LITURGIST</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>COUNTER</u>	<u>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP</u>
Mar 4	Dean Rauch	Joelene Boucher & Duska Franklin	Ruthann Weeks	Trustees
Mar 11	Alden Wilcox	Barbara & Dale Dee	Ruthann Weeks	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Mar 18	Friedrich Wilcox	Judi & Louis Greenier	Diane Fitzpatrick	Finance/Stewardship Comm.
Mar 25	Tamara Wilcox	Joanne Smith & Barbara Van Kirk	Diane Fitzpatrick	Worship Committee

March Usher Coordinator: Romeo Bouchard  
March Communion Stewardess: Mary Theriault

Organist/Pianist: Mar 4-Susan Clark; Mar 11-Susan Clark; Mar 18-Judi Greenier; Mar 25 – Margaret Cyr

Acolytes: Mar 4-Darrell Adams & Lauren Craig; Mar 11-Friedrich Wilcox; Mar 18-Alden Wilcox; Mar 25-Lauren Craig

Child Care Volunteers: Mar 4-Meagan Irving; Mar 11-Diana Locke; Mar 18-Samuella Manages; Mar 25-Debbie Barnes

**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 each year.



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



- |    |                        |    |                     |
|----|------------------------|----|---------------------|
| 10 | Barbara & Steven Scott | 26 | Betty & Dale Fowler |
|----|------------------------|----|---------------------|

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>
Feb 4	79	\$4,799.00
Feb 11	79	\$2,598.10
Feb 18	81	\$2,399.00
Feb 25	88	\$3,272.00

\*\*\*\*\*  
Needed to meet 2018 Budget: \$3,989.24 weekly

**Capital Account Seed Money:**

We continue to receive donations for the "Capital Account Seed Money" account. In January & February, we paid for most of the expenses related to the new flooring, painting, etc. in the Fellowship Hall and the kitchen. Those bills totaled \$19,330.03 and as of February 25th, the balance in the account is \$20,089.36. We anticipate one more bill to pay in March for approximately \$350.

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**Changes to November 2016 Church Directory (March 2018):**

McKee, Judith: change of address – Borderview Rehab & Living Center, 209 State Street, Van Buren ME 04785; 868-5211

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Michele Sterner will be leading a prayer class on March 25<sup>th</sup> for adult Sunday School. This is her description of the class: "The class is on praying in one accord using a four step method. The ministry of prayer is the highest calling a Christian can have. Right now, Jesus is seated at the right hand of God interceding for you (Romans 8:34). Praying in one accord helps us focus on God and not ourselves. The sincerity of our heart is what God hears."

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**Mark Your Calendars for the following Lenten services:**

Aroostook Cluster Lenten Service, March 11 at 4 p.m. Followed by a potluck ... people from Gray Memorial are asked to bring a hot dish to share.

Daily Worship during Holy Week, March 26-30 at noon each day featuring a different pastor or priest each day. Lunch follows at about 12:30 each day.

Good Friday service: 7pm, March 30<sup>th</sup>

**Two Special Events on the Future of the Church**

The Fruitful Congregation Team's recent work has included gathering information about our community and congregation with the goal of developing a vision and action plan for Gray Memorial UMC. The team is asking you to mark your calendars for two events in March toward this end. One is the worship service on March 18 and the other is a follow up on the night of March 22 at 6:30. More information will be forthcoming the first week of March. The team asks you to join them in building a positive and faith-raising future for our church as we look to God for direction.

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



Feb 4 - Rev. Tim prepares to Commission Jeffery Cyr as he leaves for his new position in Germany.



Congregation shows their support of Jeffery Cyr during Rev. Tim's commissioning ceremony.

Scenes from our “Mardi Gras Worship Service” in the Fellowship Hall on February 11<sup>th</sup>!  
(photos by Pat Dobson)



In honor of Scout Sunday, Dave Belyea (along with Vaughn Keaton and several scouts) attended the worship service and shared some scout oaths.



Rev. Tim and children during the “Children’s Time”



The Senior Choir sings during the Mardi Gras Worship Service.



Feb 25<sup>th</sup> – Tamara Wilcox leads the Handbell Choir presenting “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

The theme for the Worship Service was Music – this musical piece highlighted a new technique called “singing bells”!



## Other Kodak Moments!

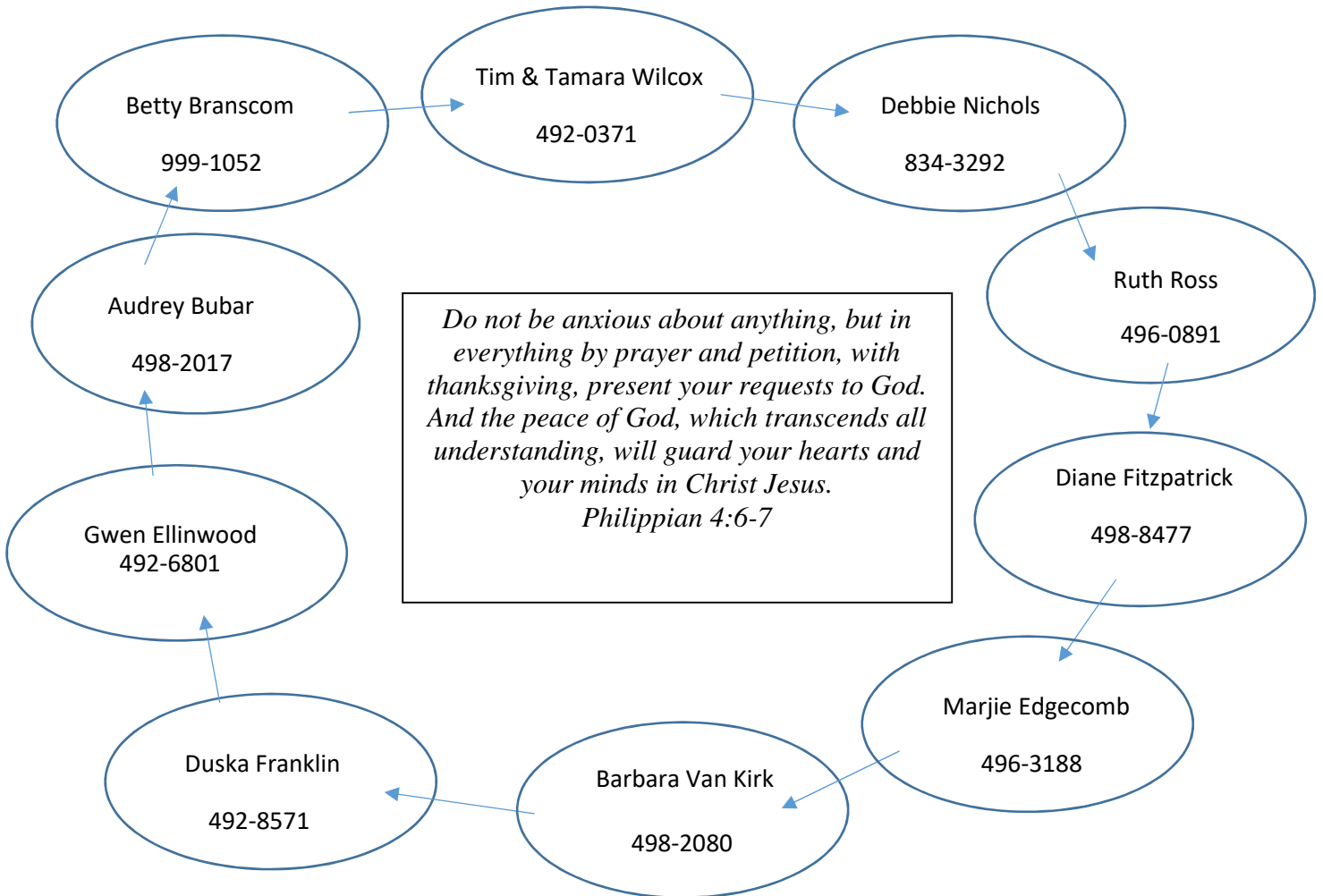


Special "Valentine Day Themed" Birthday & Anniversary Cake on Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>!



Jan 27 - David DeMerchant (UMM President) & guest speaker Shawn Gillen (Aroostook County Sheriff's Dept.)

**GMUMC PRAYER CHAIN**  
Updated February 2018



**GUIDELINES**

1. Those requesting prayer may contact ANYONE on the chain. That person calls the next person on the list. If the next person is not available, go to the next, until you reach someone. Continue until the call comes back to the one who started it.
2. Remember it is a prayer chain, not a gossip chain. If you are initiating a prayer request for someone else, it is best to ask them permission to contact our prayer chain.
3. To maintain respect and confidentiality, it is best not to leave the prayer request on an answering machine, but request a call back from the person you skipped, to talk with them directly. Continue to the next person until you reach someone.
4. It is helpful to ask people requesting prayer, what specifically they want us to pray for, and then write it down. You may find it helpful to keep a little notebook by the phone. Record answers to those prayers as you hear about them. You'll be amazed how God works!



*Would you like to receive the Sunday afternoon email newsletter summarizing events at worship and upcoming events for the next week? Also, special bulletins, notices of changes of events, etc.? Send an email to Ruth & Emmett at [rneross@maine.rr.com](mailto:rneross@maine.rr.com) or contact the church office.*

### **Cluster Confirmation**

Several churches in the Aroostook Cluster of United Methodist Churches are sponsoring a confirmation class from March - May. Gray Memorial UMC is one of the participating churches (currently also including Grant Memorial UMC, Presque Isle, the United Church in Fort Fairfield and Limestone UMC). Lauren Craig & Alden Wilcox, along with their mentors will participating from our church. Please keep these students, churches & the entire confirmation process in your prayers.

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This next piece was provided by Dale Dee:

The following history of "Methodist Pie" was taken from an article apparently composed from two articles, one from the "Report" (date unknown) written by Pat Timberlake, a freelance writer, and the other from the "Shepherdess" magazine dated 1953, writer unknown.

Apparently during the 1930s a song entitled "Methodist Pie" became extremely popular at camp meetings at least in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, North Carolina, West Virginia, Tennessee and Georgia. At first any tasty pie might have earned the name "Methodist Pie" especially if its desirability followed the growing popularity of the song of the same name. After a fashion specific ingredients were put together and a recipe for "Methodist Pie" came into being. Sometime later the Chattanooga Times requested recipes for Methodist Pie. They received numerous recipes for Methodist Mints and Methodist Cakes but only one recipe for Methodist Pie.

**Crust:**

18 graham crackers  
2 tablespoons sugar  
¼ cup or ¼ lb. butter (melted)

Roll crackers, mix sugar and butter together. Add cracker crumbs and mix well.

**Filling:**

1 ½ lbs. Philadelphia cream cheese  
¾ cup sugar  
3 whole eggs (No Shells)  
1 tsp. lemon juice  
1 pinch salt

Line a 10" pie pan with graham cracker crust mixture. Beat cream cheese thoroughly until fluffy. Add well beaten eggs, sugar and other ingredients. Pour into crust. Bake exactly 20 minutes in a preheated oven at 375 degrees. Remove from oven and carefully spoon the following mixture over the pie:

1 pint of sour cream to which has been added 2 tblsp. sugar and 1 scant tsp. vanilla. Glaze in oven at 475 degrees for 5 minutes more. Chill before serving.

**Anyone interested in making this recipe and bringing it to Coffee Fellowship for all to try?**

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CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES  
2-22-18

ATTENDEES: Diane McDonough (Chair), Claire Hodgkins, Stephen Cashman, Bobbi Pelletier, Re. Tim Wilcox, Tamara Wilcox, Lee Frost, Susan White, Mary Lou Brown

Diane McDonough called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm in the church kitchen and after Rev. Tim said a brief prayer the Council voted to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published and printed. The following reports were entered into the record:

CLUSTER: No Report

EDUCATION AND FAMILY MINISTRIES:

1. Mission trips for 2018 and the National Youth Ministries trip in 2019 were discussed.  
Camp Mechuwana starts in June; we will be looking for attendees to go to this camp or others more local if a family requests; cost info is not available yet.  
The National Love Well Kansas Mission was discussed and we think 4-6 students may be interested, not sure. 1-2 chaperones would be needed and cost data needs to be collected and determined for planning this trip.
2. Sunday school and Terrific Tuesday was discussed. Training material and method of topics was reviewed.  
We will continue as we have been  
Possibly a little more planning time for materials for Terrific Tuesday  
Privacy Act info questions arose- Michele will invite Sue White to our next meeting for a quick review of the requirements.
3. We began a list of Annual Education Committee activities. There are 7-10 items on the list. We need to formalize it more so we can plan better.
4. Movie Night went well. We had 24 in attendance for "All Saints"; a story based on true events. May will be the next movie night and "Facing the Giants" is planned. In August we plan to show "The Shack" and Nov has not yet been determined.
5. Mr. Brown from the United Baptist Church has contacted Michele about VBS being held jointly this year. The contact info was given to Pat Dobson who is once again the leader for VBS Quest.

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP: Tamara Wilcox reported that the Regular Offerings for January came to \$23,605.80. Reimbursements were \$35.00, and Special Funds for Church use were \$987.65. OF that latter figure \$429.00 more was added to the Christmas tree account. The December Christmas tree account showed \$6,269.00 which brings the total to \$6698.00 in sales. Special Funds not for church use came to \$115.00. The Food Pantry got \$45.00 and the Human Relations Day received \$70.00. The Total January Offering came to \$24,743.45.

Next, Tamara reported the following 2018 Pledges as of 2-1-18:

44 Pledging units	
Operating	\$111,630.00
Fuel	1,356.00
Capital Account Seed Money (CASM)	3,840.00
"Special"	500.00
Benevolences	120.00
Total Pledge Units	\$124,946.00

Bobbi Pelletier reported on the January Checkbook figures as follows:

Beginning Balance	\$2,724.49
2018 Operating Income	23,605.80
Interest	1.36
Less EFT fee	(19.20)
Less Expenses	(18,287.67)
Ending Balance	8,024.78

Bobbi reported that the \$25,000.00 gift to the Memorial Garden which was invested with Thompson/Hamel LLC on June 29, 2017 at a cost of \$1,073.78 as of January 31, 2018, showed an ending value of \$24,952.12. So it had almost made back the original amount. Claire remarked that there has been great volatility in the market in February but that any losses we might note at the end of this month would most likely be temporary.

The previous balance for the Capital Account Seed Money was \$38,663.72, deposits were \$358.67 and \$14,448.00 was spent for the new floor in the Fellowship Hall leaving an ending balance of \$24,574.39.

Bobbi reported that as of January 31<sup>st</sup> \$18,287.67 had been spent of the 2018 Budget. She has paid two months of Mission Shares (\$2,433.58/mo.) which puts us ahead one month. The Dead River Balance for the church as of January 31<sup>st</sup> was \$677.19. The Parsonage is behind (\$156.45).

The January Budget Target is \$17,286.71. Tithes & Offerings were \$23,706.80. Total Expenses amounted to \$18,287.67. No unpaid bills. The average attendance for January was 80. Bobbi reported that the April 7<sup>th</sup> Italian Supper menu includes Tuscan soup, three kinds of lasagna (traditional, white chicken, and vegetable), salad bar, and dessert (to be determined).

MEMORIAL: The Memorial Committee has received and granted a request from the Worship Committee to fund the purchase of a set of CD's which would include all the music in the United Methodist Hymnal, but not the Faith We Sing hymnals. This is due to the fact we have been unable to find a permanent organist. The Worship Committee wants to be able to ensure there will be music when needed to accompany hymns. The Committee also voted to recommend the church purchase a sample to preview the discs to ensure they would indeed be a good investment. The Committee discussed the Scholarship program and Diane McDonough will update the Scholarship Packets and make them available by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

MISSIONS & EVANGELISM: The committee decided to take a look at determining the status of a few items:

- 1) Updating the GMUMC Prayer Chain to include additional suggestions to the members in order to avoid miscommunication. The members will all receive a letter with the instructions and the new Prayer Chain document will be in the March Newsletter.
- 2) Visitors Packets – we updated the contents and decided to have them available in the Narthex for people to pick up. Rev. Tim will also make an announcement. Once supplies are needed, we will discuss any new items we might want to include and place those orders.
- 3) Birthday/Anniversary Notes – the committee used to send these out, but ceased this quite a while ago; we will start it up again and use the office Prayer Note papers/envelopes to send birthday & anniversary wishes and also invite them to make an extra donation in honor of these special days
- 4) "We Miss You" postcards – we have quite a few of them, so we made a list of people who have come to church for a while; Ruthann will mail them out
- 5) Publicity – this committee is willing to generate publicity for any event happening at the church. However, each sponsoring committee must provide the required information in a timely manner. Ruth Ross provided guidance on what is needed:

Committee chair (or designated person) must be provided to the committee (Ruth Ross) providing all the details – What, when, where, cost, etc. Options for publicity are: WAGM-TV County Calendar, Channel X radio, WFST radio, Aroostook Republican, Caribou Wellness & Recreation Center. We will also create/print flyers & posters for the event sponsoring committee to post throughout the community (Hannaford's, Save-A-Lot, Sleepers, Reno's). Cindy's Sub Shop and Big Cheese Pizza will accept small flyers. In order to provide timely publicity, committees must provide the specifics to the church office a month in advance of the event.

SPRC: Committee did not meet in February. The next meeting is on Tuesday, March 6th at 6:30 PM.

TRUSTEES: Mary Lou Brown reported that the renovation of the Fellowship Hall and the new floor in the kitchen has been completed. She warned that people need to be careful entering the fuel tank room from the Fellowship Hall as the new floor in the Hall is higher now and is causing a possible entrance hazard until it can be modified. She wants to replace the small

water catching rugs placed as you enter the Hall as they could be a tripping hazard. Also the supports under the black gas stove in the kitchen do not meet food preparation standards because they are plywood which is porous. Acrylic is preferred.

The west wall leak in the fuel tank room has returned. It needs to be a project for the spring. Meanwhile everyone must be alert to keep water from migrating to the new floor. Ice dams on the roof have caused leaking into the church school room facing west around the door frame. Buckets are catching the water for now but something must be done to prevent the ice dams from forming in the future. Meanwhile shoveling the roof is difficult due to its height, ice melt material will be applied in hopes of decreasing the ice dam.

The Andover Organ Company is expected in March to make tuning and further repairs to our organ.

The Sanctuary clock has been repaired and installed with some adjustment. The Tower clock has also been repaired and installed, but the timing of the ringing of the bell on the clock needs adjusting so Me. Yoder will be coming to work on the problem. Rev. Tim and his son, Friedrich, installed LED lights in the clock tower and found that the ladder is unsafe. It will be replaced.

The elevator door has been repaired and passed inspection for another year.

Dead River is in the process of doing a church heating system energy audit.

A new kitchen drain was installed in the Parsonage. The problem was that the wrong kind of drain pipe had been installed causing the entire problem. It was discovered that the two drain pipes in the church kitchen were the same wrong type as in the Parsonage. They will have to be replaced when time and money allow. Other recent Parsonage projects included a new Microwave oven, defrosting the refrigerator regulator, repairs to the upstairs bathroom radiator leak, repairs to the garage door opener, and a repair to an attic window.

Future work projects being discussed include rebuilding the patio by the Men's Club, redesigning porch gutters, the continued leaking of water into basement on east and northwest walls of the Parsonage, and correcting the backflow of water into the garage from buildup of ice near door opening.

The church has paid \$18,322.57 for the renovations to the Fellowship Hall and kitchen, but there are bills to be submitted. It is estimated that the cost will be in the neighborhood of \$20,000.00.

The church plans to have Nicklas Roble the job of renovating the wall of the church office now covered with film. He gave an estimate of \$1,200.00.

Dave Belyea plans to insulate the wall of the elevator soon.

The church has received \$383.00 (a performance dividend check) from New England Conference for property and liability insurance.

Trustees are planning to have Gary Melville of the NEC Finance Services speak to our church regarding investments. The Trustees are exploring how best to manage investments for the best possible outcome going forward.

UMM: The Men's Club met on January 27<sup>th</sup> for a breakfast and meeting. Shawn Gillen, Chief Deputy Sherriff of the Aroostook Sherriff Department was the guest speaker. The menu included pancakes with Del Ramey's homemade blueberry and Strawberry syrups and maple syrup, scrambled eggs, sausage, bananas, orange juice, and coffee. Richard Clark gave his Prelate message followed by Treasurer Ken Peters reporting a balance of \$852.59 which included the money from the Tree of Lights which the men took over from the Worship Committee. Final plans were made for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The UMM received their 2018 sticker from the General Commission. The men discussed possible fund-raisers for this year. Our next meeting will be February 24<sup>th</sup> with Judy Anderson from Aroostook Area on Aging as guest speaker.

UMW: No Report

WORSHIP: The committee last met on Sunday, February 4 (postponed from Feb 1<sup>st</sup> date due to inclement weather). At this meeting, the following items were discussed:

Children's Worship Bulletin renewal – we decided to extend for one more year

Marcia McFee Worship Design Studio membership was renewed for one more year

Received the 75 Lenten booklets "Finding Peace in Lent" that were ordered; start making them available on February 4<sup>th</sup>

Ash Wednesday: Bobbi will prepare the chapel on Tuesday; Prayer Vigil – two open slots (2pm and 2:30pm); Rev. Tim will provide "Ashes on the Go" from 7:15am – 9:30am (several people came by!); Noon Service (30 people attended)

Mardi Gras Worship Service in Fellowship Hall on February 11<sup>th</sup> – scheduled to set-up the hall on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1pm; Memorials Committee will provide refreshments; Pat Dobson will provide the King Cake

Lent: Cluster Service to be held at Gray Memorial; date selected – March 11<sup>th</sup> at 4pm

Palm Sunday: order the African Palms and place an order for appropriate altar arrangements and other palms we normally have for the service

Holy Week Services: Bobbi will coordinate with Rev. Tim to invite other churches to participate in the noon-time services  
Good Friday (March 30) 7pm Service – Rev. Tim will draft that service bulletin and we'll discuss at next meeting  
Easter Sunday (April 1) – make plans at March's meeting; will discuss Easter plants (delivery and arrangements)

Pastor's Report:

Several items are contained in other committees' reports. Some highlights of the past month include organizing the cluster confirmation class along with Limestone, Ft. Fairfield United Church and Grant Memorial in Presque Isle. The class will meet most Sundays from March to May. We currently have two students participating and mentors from the congregation will be asked to sponsor them.

Gray Memorial UMC will host a Cluster Lenten service on March 11 at 4 pm. This service will feature our senior choir and hand bell choir.

The Fruitful Congregation Team has requested time during the March 18 service for a conversation to engage the congregation as they work toward developing our church's vision and an updated action plan. They have also requested that a follow-up event be held on March 22 during the Church Council meeting that would be open to all. More information will be distributed in early March. These will be important times.

Thank you to all who filled in for me on January 28 when I was ill. It was much appreciated. Thank you also from our District Superintendent for 100% participation in Mission Shares for 2017.

Work continues with SPRC and the District Superintendent on updating my priorities and commitments. I'm especially pleased with the adult class which is now being led by a team of people who have lined up an intriguing lineup of classes. Richard Clark, Neal Genz, Michele Sterner, Tamara Wilcox and Jean Cashman are providing leadership this winter and spring and then we will evaluate this summer how everything is going. This change in leadership was made so that I had more time before services to focus on service preparations and to have some time for conversations with people during that time when there is a need. In addition, I will be discontinuing my work with the New England Conference Nominations Committee after this spring. Gray Memorial's Nominations Committee will begin its work in March.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM with a final prayer given by Diane McDonough.

Respectfully submitted by Claire Hodgkins, Secretary

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**FLOWERS FOR EASTER – APRIL 1, 2018**

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, March 30<sup>th</sup> from 9am-2pm or at 1:00pm on Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, when Worship Committee members are here to arrange them for the Easter Sunday Service the next day. If the following information is provided by Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, it will be listed in the Easter Sunday Bulletin (April 1<sup>st</sup>):

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

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

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

**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup>!**

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## LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARCH 2018!!!!

Saturday	03	8:30-9:30am 11am-3pm	Moms in Prayer Group Baby Shower (Fellowship Hall & Kitchen)
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Sunday	04	8:45am 10:00am 6:00pm	Sunday School and Adult Study Worship - Third Sunday in Lent Confirmation Class in Fort Fairfield
Tuesday	06	6:30pm 6:30pm 6:30pm	SPRC Meeting in Library (note date change) "Terrific Tuesdays Ministry" with Michele Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting in Chapel
Wednesday	07	1:15pm 4:30pm 6:00pm 6:15pm 6:30pm	Disciple IV Bible Study Barbershop Group Practice Handbell Choir Practice Disciple IV Bible Study Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	08	10:00am 6:30pm	Aroostook Cluster Meeting in Mars Hill Worship Committee Meeting in Kitchen (note date change)
Saturday	10	8:30-9:30am	Moms in Prayer Group

### *DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS - TURN CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR!!!!*

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Sunday	11	8:45am 10:00am 11:30pm 4:00pm	Sunday School and Adult Study Worship - Fourth Sunday in Lent; UMCOR Sunday (formally One Great Hour of Sharing - Special Offering); Scouting Sunday Education Committee Meeting in Library Aroostook Cluster Lenten Service at Gray Memorial UMC; potluck dinner to follow-our congregation brings hot dishes and provides beverages
Tuesday	13	6:00pm 6:00pm 6:30pm	Confirmation Class at Caribou (other dates & times TBA) Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Board Meeting at Pantry "Terrific Tuesdays Ministry" with Michele
Wednesday	14	9:30am 12:00pm 2:15pm 4:30pm 6:00pm 6:15pm 6:30pm 6:30pm	UMW Meeting at Church Jennie Lyon Circle Potluck Luncheon & Meeting in Fellowship Hall Disciple IV Bible Study (note time change) Barbershop Group Practice Handbell Choir Practice Disciple IV Bible Study Crown of Maine Quilters at Mapleton UMC Senior Choir Practice
Saturday	17	8:30-9:30am	Moms in Prayer Group





**LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARCH 2018 (continued)!!!!**

Sunday	18	8:45am	Sunday School and Adult Study
		10:00am	Worship - Fifth Sunday in Lent
Tuesday	20		<i><b>FIRST DAY OF SPRING!!!</b></i>
		1:00pm	Caregivers Support Group in Fellowship Hall
		6:00pm	Trustees Meeting in Church
		6:30pm	"Terrific Tuesdays Ministry" with Michele
Wednesday	21		<u><b>DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER INPUT - PLEASE!!</b></u>
		1:15pm	Disciple IV Bible Study
		4:30pm	Barbershop Group Practice
		6:00pm	Handbell Choir Practice
		6:15pm	Disciple IV Bible Study
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	22	6:00pm	Finance/Stewardship Committee Meeting in Kitchen
		6:30pm	Church Council Meeting in Kitchen
Saturday	24	8:00am	UMM Breakfast & Meeting (Guest Speaker: Tim Doak)
		8:30-9:30am	Moms in Prayer Group

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Sunday	25	8:45am	Sunday School and Adult Study
		10:00am	Worship - Passion/Palm Sunday
Monday	26	12:10pm	Holy Week Service
Tuesday	27	12:10pm	Holy Week Service
Wednesday	28	12:10pm	Holy Week Service
		1:15pm	Disciple IV Bible Study
		4:30pm	Barbershop Group Practice
		6:00pm	Handbell Choir Practice
		6:15pm	Disciple IV Bible Study
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	29	12:10pm	Holy Week Service
Friday	30	12:10pm	Holy Week Service
		7:00pm	Good Friday Service
Saturday	31	8:30-9:30am	Moms in Prayer Group

Please note that beginning Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, the church office hours changed.  
 The office will be closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays until April 17<sup>th</sup>.  
 The office hours will be Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 9am - 2pm.  
 Regular office hours (Mon-Fri, 9am-noon) will resume on Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>.