

Sunday, August 2, 2026

Organ Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Invocation

Opening Prayer - *O God of light, your searching Spirit reveals and illumines your presence in creation. Shine your radiant peace into our lives, that we may offer our hands and hearts to your work. Amen.*

Hymn - *Praise to the Lord the Almighty*

Memorial Moment

Offering/Doxology & Blessing the Gifts

Intercessory Prayer (Prayers of the People)

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 6:4-7, 20, 23 (CEB); Matthew 5:13-17 (NASB)

Special Music - *Turn, Turn, Turn*

Message - *Full-filament*

Hymn - *Be Now My Vision*

Benediction

Organ Postlude

Guest Minister - Rev. Mabel Laird,
Alfred Parish Church

Organist - Marina Minkin

Special Music - Tom Osborne

Visit us at <https://eldergrey.org>

The Elder Grey Meeting House



Photo by Kathy Carr

1806 - 2026

Everyone is cordially invited to attend the 100th annual Pilgrimage Service at the Elder Grey Meeting House Chadbourne Ridge Road North Waterborough, Maine

Sunday, August 2, 2026
at 2:00 p.m.

Refreshments will be served following the service for an hour of sociability and renewal of old acquaintances

There are handrails at the Meeting House steps.

**The Elder Grey Meeting House is entered upon
The National Register of Historic Places**

GPS

*Our physical address is
346 Chadbourne Ridge Road.
Beware of an approach from Route 117 in
Hollis or Limington. The lady giving
directions does not know that this road hasn't been
used as a throughway for about 50 years.*

2025-2026 Elder Grey Meeting House-Cemetery Association Officers

President.....Lesley Ortiz
First Vice-President.....Stacey Gray
Second Vice-President.....Vacant
Secretary.....Deborah Downs
Treasurer/Clerk.....Linda Hanscom
Trustees.....Margaret Downs
Bill Butterfield
Lee Robator
Kelly Pelchat
Becky Hutchinson Joyce
Authorized Agent and Custodian
of the CemeteryJon Gale

Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting will be held at the Meeting House following the service and refreshments. All those interested are welcome and are encouraged to attend.

The Elder Grey Meeting House-Cemetery Association is a 501(c)(3) organization. Please specify whether any donation is intended for the meeting house or the cemetery.

BYOC

Those of you who find the 1806 pew seats a bit unyielding are invited to bring a cushion.



Guest Minister

Rev. Mabel Laird serves as the Pastor of Alfred Parish Church in Alfred, Maine, as well as a Chaplain for both the Maine Air National Guard (Air Force) and the Sanford Police Department. Mabel was ordained through the United Church of Christ in 2023 and is passionate about nurturing individual faith while engaging in work for social justice.

Mabel holds an M.Div. from Regent University in Virginia. She felt called to ministry after enlisting in the Navy in 2009. It was a long distance call, put on hold several times as she met and married her husband (also actively serving in the Navy at the time), welcomed their two children, endured a few military moves and experienced a global pandemic. But in God's time, she has been able to live into a call to serve those who serve, as well as the community of Alfred Parish Church. She lives in Springvale with her husband, children, two elderly dogs, one kitten that thinks she's a dog, and a few fish.

Minnie Curtis Haddaway's Poem

In July 1954, from her home in Cottage City, Maryland, Minnie Haddaway wrote a letter to Rev. Carl Seaward who was to deliver the address at the 29th annual Pilgrimage Service. She wrote that she could not attend but would appreciate his using a poem she had written to memorialize her great, great grandfather Elder James Gray.

*For scores of years he has been resting
In the churchyard across the way,
Yet in this hallowed shrine are many
Who revere his memory today.
With a twenty-ninth pilgrimage to the Meeting House
Where he used to preach and pray.*

In spite of a devastating fire in 1948
Which threatened to destroy it when all efforts
seemed too late.
A changing wind turned back the flames
And spared it from that fate.*

*Therefore, it seems that through the years
God's love and care still hover
Around the old Grey meeting house
Like a protective cover.*

*Poetic license aside,
the fire was in 1947.

This year it's the 100th anniversary of our first annual Pilgrimage Service

In 1924, the neighbors, past parishioners and descendants of past parishioners organized to repair the Elder Grey Meeting House. The building had not been used on a regular basis for many years, the windows had been vandalized, and it had fallen into disrepair. Labor and money were donated by local merchants and individuals.

By 1926, they were ready to hold what they chose to call a Pilgrimage Service on August 29th. Eva Shapleigh had the invitations printed, and Rev. Lester Holmes gave the address. These Pilgrimage Services have continued every year except for the pandemic year 2020.

You are cordially invited to attend a Pilgrimage Service at the Elder Grey Meeting House on Bradeen's Ridge, No. Waterboro, Me., Sunday, Aug. 29, 1926, at one thirty o'clock (Standard Time).

This occasion is to commemorate the restoration of the Old Meeting House to its original condition as our fathers worshipped in it.

This has been made possible by the generous gifts of labor and money, given by the descendants of those who filled its pews in the days long gone by.

Will you kindly extend this invitation to any of the friends who may be interested?

A short program has been prepared.

"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the House of the Lord." Psalms 122:1.

In 1928 the organization was formally incorporated and registered with the State of Maine. That year at the third Pilgrimage Service it was reported, "The House was full and many that could not get in."

The Windows

What fun it must have been for the vandals to break the windows. Below is a photo taken after the breakage, ca. early 1920s.



The windowpanes were replaced in 1924. A supper was held by the Ladies Aid of North Waterboro to raise money for the windows, which cost \$46 plus \$2 freight. Along the hidden edge of a frame is lettered, "J. G. Deering & Son, Biddeford."

