



The Hammond Streeter

The Newsletter of the
Hammond Street Congregational Church, UCC, Bangor, ME

Interim Senior Pastor: Rev. Joe Schulte

An Open and Affirming Community

May 12, 2021

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The 2021 Strengthen the Church Offering supports grants which make a difference in the lives of people across the United Church of Christ. The grants help congregations update their technology to be able to create an engaging virtual worship experience. It provided crucial support to congregations during the COVID Pandemic and going forward will help congregations pivot towards church renewal and community engagement. It also supports youth and young adult ministry.

The Strengthen The Church Offering will be May 23rd, 2021. Please be sure to put in the memo line of your check (Strengthen The Church Offering).

**Seventh Sunday of Easter
In person Sunday Service
May 16, 2021
10 AM
All Are Welcome!!!!**

PLEASE REMEMBER

Bangor Rehab & Nursing : Dot Simmons

Hammond Streeters at Home: Sandy Farver, Elaine Magee, Roberta Seavey, Ronnie & Helga Kittredge, Gene Carter, Del Reidt, Eda & Hugh Morrison, Tim Furrow, Mary Chamberlain, Inez George

It is said that confession is good for the soul. I would agree with that because honest self-reflection is healthy. In that spirit, I realize I have a confession to make. It is one that is difficult for me because I like to consider myself on the cutting edge of theology, aware of the latest and greatest. This confession might seem to move me out of that category, but it must be done. Here it goes: I am religious.

I know it's not the thing to be these days. It is more avant-garde to be spiritual but not religious. There's even an acronym for those in this category: SBNR. Those of us who are religious don't get an acronym; we get called institutionalists, apologists for all evil deeds of the past done in the name of Christ, and unconcerned about God. Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To is a book by the Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel, a United Church of Christ ordained minister, pastor, lecturer and writer. Dr. Daniel helped me to understand that I cannot, nor need not, apologize for every non-Christian thing done in the name of Christ.

More importantly, she assisted me in articulating the relationship between spirituality and religion. Yes, they go together; they are not mutually exclusive. They are actually two sides of the same coin. Give me a moment to explain. Those who are spiritual are seeking a connection or relationship to God. Those who are spiritual but not religious (SBNR) say they find God in the beauty of nature or in borrowing practices from a variety of places. But religious people are also interested in connecting to God. We see God in the beauty of the sunset, experience the presence of God in meditation, and are even open to the mystical presence of God that goes beyond our understanding. There are many paths on the way to God. I have chosen mine, but that doesn't mean I need to judge another's path.

I have found that being religious has enhanced, not detracted, from my spirituality. Dr. Daniel pointed out that the root word for "religious" is "community". For me, Jesus demonstrated the importance of community in his regular worship at the synagogues and Temple, and in surrounding himself with the gathering of disciples. In his book, Effective Church Leadership, noted church consultant Kennon Callahan stated that one of the great searches of life is for community. He believed that many people were looking for a sense of rootedness and belonging.

You can find God not only in nature, but also in the gathering of flawed human community. Yes, people in churches can argue over seemingly trivial matters. But I have seen people at opposite ends of the political spectrum become fast friends - people who, outside of church, might want to scratch each other's eyes out. One's political beliefs and social status are not considered when another is in need of prayer.

In community, I find myself rooted in a tradition that has been around through the ages. It has a past and a future, as well as a present. It is more than the "flavor of the month." I am part of something bigger than myself. The God shown to me by others does not always match the God of my own image, but this has allowed me to grow and deepen my faith.

There is my confession. I am religious ... and spiritual. Some will say that is not cutting edge. However, as I think about it, now that being spiritual but not religious is becoming the norm, maybe I *am* cutting edge and avant-garde again. Go figure. Either way, I will continue on my path of having my spirituality rooted in religious community.

WELCOME: We would like to welcome Rev. Jonna Jensen, our UCC Transitional Conference Minister to our worship service. The Pastor Search Committee and Church Council will meet with Rev. Jensen after worship service in the Parlor on Sunday.

SUNDAY, May 23 IS PENTECOST SUNDAY:
Don't forget to wear red!!!!

NOTE FROM THE OFFICE

Please let us know in the office if your contact information has changed Ex. Address, phone, email, etc. You can either call the office at 942-4381 or email at HSCC@midmaine.com.
Thank you Rita

ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP - Saturday May 15, 8 to Noon

Mark your calendar and call or email the church office to let us know you can help with this right of spring. Inside and outside activities are being planned. All morning or a couple of hours, your help is needed.



REMINDER: If you have a group that is meeting in the church, please let the office know so that we have it on the calendar and it will avoid a room or space getting double booked. Thank you.

LAY READER Please remember if you want to be a Lay Reader for services on Sunday, to sign up in the book on the back table.
Thank you.

FOOD CUPBOARD: The food cupboard is still in need of plastic shopping bags and cereal. Your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

FLOWERS Our current floral provider has increased their prices (without us knowing) from \$15 to \$30. So we have switched floral providers. So the price for flowers will be \$30. Thank you for understanding. The floral calendar is on the wall in the Narthex if you want to sign up or call or email the office.



HSCC YARD & BAKE SALE

Looking for folks to help with a yard and bake sale on **June 19**. Before we start receiving items to sell, we need to make sure we have folks who can help with set up during the week before, picking up donations as needed, and greeting, cashiering, and cleaning-up on the day of the sale, and coordinating the bake sale. Please contact Lynda Ryder to volunteer at 207-745-6851 or pondpaddle@msn.com. This will be an indoor sale with windows open, masks on, and limiting the number of folks inside at one time. Once we have volunteers, watch for dates when drop offs will be welcome.



The Hammond Streeter
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WHILE YOU WERE OUT

The dust has settled and it's time for spring cleaning! See you Saturday.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

