



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 25, 2021

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381

Hello HSCCers!

The Vision Team would like to invite you to any or all of the upcoming focus groups. This is a time for us to hear from you; what your passions are, what you'd like to be doing in the future, etc.

The groups will be meeting after church, at 11:15, in the parlor. For those who cannot attend in person, there will be a zoom link being sent out to everyone. Save this link – it will be good for all 7 groups. As none of us like long meetings, the focus groups are set for 1 hour maximum.

We invite you to attend as many as you wish – this is your HSCC, and we want to hear about the good things you are doing.

June 6 – Music

June 13 – Outreach/Food cupboard

June 20 – Finance/Use of the church

June 27 – Liturgy

July 1 – Website/On-line/Facebook

July 18 – Christian Ed/Youth

July 25 – Open & Affirming/Social Justice

If you have further questions, please contact Lori at 446-9002, Andre at 239-9358, Julie at 866-2198, BettyAnn at 852-5668, or Royal at 843-6136.

**Trinity Sunday
In person Sunday Service
May 30, 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

Soon Memorial Day will be upon us. It is a day that our government has set aside to honor those who have sacrificed for our country to keep its freedom. There is certainly a case to be made for doing so. What has gotten my attention over the last number of years is the use of the word *freedom*. It seems to be a word that is always in search of a definition. For some it is the ability to pursue life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Others would say that the word refers to personal autonomy. Many never really seem to define it. They treat it as something they will know when they see it.

Recently, particularly since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, I have begun to see that freedom has a new synonym - selfishness. Freedom has come to connote, "I can do anything I want at any time and no one can stop me." The idea of freedom has become only about the individual. It seems that concern for others is not to be factored into the concept. If we do something that hurts another, oh well. I saw this very clearly when it came to wearing masks during the pandemic. Some believed mask mandates were an infringement upon their freedom. They thought little of the idea that wearing a mask was to assist in the prevention of the spread of COVID. It used to be said that "your freedom stops at my nose." This meant that you could do what you want as long as it didn't harm another.

Freedom is an integral concept in our life of faith. We often speak of God's salvation and liberation, which refers to God freeing us from sin, oppression, and death. But the freedom we are offered by God is not an "anything goes" approach to life. Our freedom means that we have been empowered by God to be who God has created us to be. We can proclaim that we are all created in the image of God and are to be treated justly and allowed to live in peace. God has broken the chains that keep us from being the loving people we were made to be. We can show our concern not only for ourselves, but also for all people. Our freedom is not just about us. It is about the greater good and honoring the covenantal relationship in which we are called to live.

I hope that we, as followers of God in Christ, will take the time to reflect upon what freedom really is and how we can live it out. Perhaps - just perhaps - we can move the understanding of freedom from being self-centered to the ability to show as much love for our neighbors as for ourselves.

VISION COMMITTEE

An update from your VISION COMMITTEE. I bet there are a lot of you who don't even know you have a vision committee, so let me explain. In this exciting time of transition there are two new committees; the Pastoral Search Committee is exactly what it sounds like. They are the ones who will be seeking profiles, interviewing candidates, etc., to find our next pastor. In the meantime, the Vision Committee is a group that is looking at HSCC - the congregation, building, and our activities - to help determine what we are "good at" as well as where we might be going in the future.

To that end, we will be holding 7 different focus groups that any and all will be invited to come to and talk about their joys and passions at HSCC. Be on the lookout for any of the groups that you might be interested in attending; these will include: music, outreach/food cupboard, finance/building use, liturgy, technology, open & affirming/social justice, and Christian Ed/youth. These will be held after church at 11:15 starting on May 30th. We encourage all who can attend in person to do so, but will also have a zoom link for those who are not able to come. This is our future - We want to hear from you :)

Your Vision Committee,

Andre Chasse, BettyAnn Haskell, Julie Gosse,
Royal Grueneich, Lori Spencer

SPAGHETTI SUPPER:

The Spaghetti Supper was a great success and we made about \$1,100. Great job everyone!!!

NOTE FROM THE OFFICE

The office will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on Monday May 31.

We will be going on summer hours starting June 7th. The hours will be 9:00-Noon.

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

HSCC YARD & BAKE SALE

HSCC Yard & Bake Sale June 19

We still need a few more folks who can help the week before the sale with set up, picking up donations, and folks to help the day of the sale, with greeting, cashiering, straightening, and cleaning-up. We also need someone to chair the bake sale. Starting **Monday, June 7**, donations of clean clothes, household goods, toys, and books can be dropped off at the church during office hours (9-3). PLEASE, no electronics, large appliances, large furniture, or textbooks. Contact Lynda Ryder at 207-745-6851 or pondpaddle@msn.com to volunteer or have questions.



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 in the Sanctuary. Thank you.

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

We are excited that we have ordered our new walk in cooler—which should arrive early July. We have plans to get the electrical and demo of the closet under way in the next couple of weeks. Great things are happening.

The Hammond Streeter
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WHILE YOU WERE OUT

The "Holy Trinity" of Chefs



The whole Spaghetti Supper Crew



Chime Choir



Pastor Joe

