



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

June 09, 2021

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381

**Hammond Street
Congregational Church
28 High Street, Bangor**

**INDOOR YARD SALE
SATURDAY, JUNE 19
8am to 1pm**



**Third Sunday after Pentecost
In person Sunday Service
June 13, 2021
10 AM
All Are Welcome!!!!**

PLEASE REMEMBER

Bangor Rehab & Nursing: Dot Simmons

EMMC: Lois Baxter

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

We often speak of God as Almighty, All-powerful, All-knowing, and beyond our understanding. These, and other words, are used to express the immensity or expansiveness of God. Although many of us see God in this way, when it comes down to our lives, we sometimes want to put God into a smaller box. We want God to be more controllable, more like us. This isn't done with an evil intent, but rather it makes God understandable from our human perspective. However, it leads us to see God more as human and not divine. God cannot love those we cannot love. God cannot forgive those we cannot forgive. God cannot value what we cannot value. As we limit God and make God more like us, we make God seem smaller than God is.

Often, we approach God with the same sense of a zero-sum game as we sometimes approach life. If one group rises, another must fall. I hear this very clearly from some people when we raise up a group or community for focused attention. When we say, "Black lives matter," some need to respond with, "All lives matter." When we celebrate Gay Pride month, people ask why we don't lift up straight people. We understand that God's love is for all people and that God loves those of all sexual orientations and sexual identities. God's love is more than expansive enough to envelop all people, and all of creation. We raise up a variety of groups not because they are better, or because other groups don't matter, but because they have been forgotten, pushed aside, abused and/or discriminated against. We want to remind people that they "belong" and "matter" as well. We remember that Jesus spent a great deal of his ministry reaching out to those on the fringes of society and welcoming them into his community. He touched those that others believed were untouchable. When Jesus lifted up those that others found unacceptable, he was stating boldly that God loves them, too. God's love is not a limited amount; it is infinite. When one group is lifted up, that does not call for the lowering of another group.

We say that God loves all people, but we forget that there are those that some in the world do not love. We need to bring their plight to the attention of all, so that the wrongs that have been visited upon them can be made right. God is not a zero-sum game. There is enough love to go around, so let us work to make sure our society is just as inclusive as God is. We lift up some to lift up all!

VISION COMMITTEE

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 is a Zoom link below -

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 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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84790786875?pwd=Sm9oVEZYUVZoSnR3Q0JUdTJkUmFLUT09>

SEARCH COMMITTEE

Two HSCC committees are working on finding a "Called Pastor". The Visioning Committee has been working diligently to answer the questions "Who is God Calling Us to Become?" and "Who Are We Now". Through Committee meetings, surveys, and now in-person/Zoom meetings on a number of Sundays they will produce a document that will help the Search Committee take the next steps in this process. Members of the Search Committee are Kathy Frazier, Sam Hess, Heidi Crahen, Brad Ryder, Tracy Bigney, Ben Haskell, Susan Gildart, and Ruey Yehle as chair. Our first step is to become familiar with the United Church of Christ Local Church Portfolio which is required to be filled out and posted when UCC churches are searching for a Called Pastor. We then must divide up the work of 23 pages of Profile questions, some of which will be addressed through the Visioning Committee. While ambitious, the goal is to have that Portfolio completed by September and posted on the national and Maine UCC websites during that month. We will keep you informed of our progress throughout the summer. For those of you who want to see the format of the Local Church Profile you can find it at:

<https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/justice-local-church-ministries/local-church/mesa-ministerial-excellence-support-and-authorization/search-call/>

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions. We'll keep you posted. Best, Ruey

IT IS TIME TO BRING DONATIONS FOR THE YARD SALE

Donations can be dropped off during office hours Mon-Friday (9-12), Sunday morning, or contact Lynda Ryder (phone 207-745-6851 or email pondpad-dle@msn.com) to set up a time more convenient for you. Clothes, household goods, toys, and books, are welcome. PLEASE - no old electronics, large appliances, large furniture, or textbooks. All donations must be dropped off before Friday, June 18.

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.

MADONNA

A lot of people have asked where Madonna is. Madonna was hired for a full time position in a Hospice program in the Farmington area. She has moved there and started her new job. She is happy to have a Monday -- Friday full time job (instead of several part time jobs). So congratulations to Madonna and we wish her well. She is still a member of Hammond Street and will come back when she gets settled.

JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH



The Hammond Streeter
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Phone: 207-942-4381

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Email: HSCC@midmaine.com

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THE BLESSING OF OUR DOORS FOR PRIDE MONTH

