



The Hammond Streeter

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

An Open and Affirming Community
November 16, 2022

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381

FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE



SCRIPTURE:

2 Corinthians 4.18

... We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

WORDS OF HOPE

HOPE BREAKS FORTH

It has now been years since we first became aware of the presence of a pandemic in our world. Much progress has been made, but many of us still have not availed ourselves to the latest booster shots to lessen the possibility of contracting a variant of the covid virus. Whenever our usual life pattern is thrown for a loop, we hope for a return to normal, but generally we try to devise a way out of current problems, loss and uncertainty. "How can I get out of this pickle and get into something even better than the past?"

The same can be applied to our seemingly endless political turmoil. The generations prior to Jesus' birth also tried to find a way to get out of their subjugation by Roman occupation which had caused their social and religious despair. Referring to their earlier written prophets, they hoped for the appearance of a man who would be anointed by God's power to defeat the Romans and liberate Israel to its former well-being. They hoped that this Messiah would be a strong warrior to lead an army against Roman and corrupt Jewish authorities. He would do amazing things and restore justice, security and prosperity for Israel.

However, several attempts by "would be messiahs" and their band of fighters always ended in defeat and usually crucifixion. Human plans for liberation from this period of troubles always ended in failure. "Where, O God, are you in this. Why not send your mighty warrior Messiah?" Often, the workings of God may be mysterious, but they always bring good to those who are faithful.

Once again, this bit of Jewish history has a direct application for our lives in the Covid pandemic. How do we manage our hopes and plans to make it through the time of uncertainty and loss? We might plan our solution to these problems but a better path for the Christian involves working with

Reign of Christ Sunday
In Person Sunday Service
Pastor Gary Bagley
November 20, 2022
10 AM
All Are Welcome!!!!

PLEASE REMEMBER

Westgate: Roberta Seavey, Del Reidt
Hammond Streeters at Home: Sandy Farver, Eda & Hugh Morrison, Valerie Montgomery, Judy Bean, Emily Bean.
Silvia Ross Home: Ronnie & Helga Kittredge

God to advance the divine solution. But, if God's ways are often mysterious, how will I know what to do or what to hope for? Our plan of action, or hope for a solution, must be founded in our absolute trust in God's goodness. Commit to God the matter of how it will happen and when things will improve.

On all matters, including politics and health, we must be obedient to God, continue our hope with prayer and trust God's action. Listen attentively to God's voice; then, you will know what your part is in God's workings through these times of trouble. Our obedience to God is based in our persistent hope and action which are founded in a trust of God's goodness.

PRAYER

Eternal Bringer of Hope, may we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. Amen

HSCC GARDENS AGLOW TOUR:

Join us on Saturday, December 3, 2022 for our annual Gardens Aglow Tour at Boothbay Harbor's Botanical Gardens. The Luxury Motor Coach will pick everyone up here at HSCC. **Sign up deadline is November 26th.** Fee is \$75.00 per person. If you would like further information or to sign up please contact Susan Gildart at susan.gildart1215@gmail.com or call the church office at 207-942-4381.

TURKEY BASKETS:

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Every year members of HSCC are asked to help with Turkey Baskets for the Food Cupboard and you have stepped up to help. This year you are being asked again to help but it is even more important. The number of Baskets that the Food Cupboard usually receives has been cut back from 125 to 50. Unfortunately, that will not cover the need of the Food Cupboard and will leave many without a Thanksgiving meal.

We need your help to fill in the gap and help provide for the patrons of the Food Cupboard a Turkey Basket. **What is needed for a Turkey Basket is: Turkeys, Stuffing, canned pie filling, boxed pie crust, canned cranberry sauce, jar of gravy and rolls.**

Please help if you can with a donation of one or more of these items. Our challenge is to help make up as many Turkey Baskets as we can. **The items need to be at the church by November 20th.** I know that we can meet this challenge and help the patrons of the Food Cupboard have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Blessings, Pastor Gary

ADVENT DECORATING:

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the church for Advent. We will gather after church on November 20th. Many hands make light work.

HSCC THANKSGIVING DINNER:

Join us on Thanksgiving Day for our sit-down dinner. Doors open at 12:00 PM and dinner starts at 1:00 pm. If COVID-19 transmission level in Penobscot County goes into "High", we will do the meal as a take-out.

EMPTY LAUNDRY DETERGENT CONTAINERS:

We are collecting empty laundry containers with twist off lids for safe needle disposal for H.E.A.L. Please bring in your empties to help them out.

2022 MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Have you paid your membership dues for 2022? What are the dues and where does the money go?

Our UCC State Conference and our Association (Katahdin Association) require churches to pay dues. This year the dues are \$18 per member; this amounts to \$4,000 for HSCC annually. Ninety percent of the monies collected are sent to our State Conference for them to continue their work in our State, the remaining ten percent is sent to our Katahdin Association. The monies are used to support the conferences and their work at both the State and Local levels.

If you are not sure if you have paid your dues, please reach out to Joni Decato (jonid@roadrunner.com) or leave a message at the office.

CHRISTMAS IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!

Have you thought about gifts? An easy way to provide gifts for your loved ones is to purchase gift cards through Hammond Street! Every purchase you make can put 2% - 16% of the card value back into our Operating Fund.

Orders placed between November 13th and December 11th will be ready for pickup/delivery by December 18th

Attached to your emailed Hammond Streeter is a list of all the vendors that are available for gift cards. If you would like a printed copy of the retailers, I can provide one for you.

To order gift cards email me at:

jonid@roadrunner.com or call the church office at 942-4381. A reminder that we have Hannaford and Shaw's cards available all year round (in denominations of 25, 50 and 100). If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at jonid@roadrunner.com.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY FAIR - DECEMBER 10TH FROM 10 AM TO 1PM:

The Fair needs bakers (cookies, breads, pies, bars, whoopie pies, etc.), candy makers, picklers and preservers, so dust off your recipes and help create an exciting menu of offerings. Fish chowder and chili are already on the list. We would also like to offer craft and gift items. The Holiday Fair will kick off with a table of Christmas ornaments available during Coffee Hours after Thanksgiving for the 4 weeks of Advent.

If you can help, please contact: the church office at 207-942-4381 or email at admin@hammondstreetchurch.net for food items, Lynda Ryder at pondpaddle@msn.com for crafts, gifts and helping with set-up and day of fair activities, Nancy Smith at dsmithhammat2@gmail.com for the Christmas table. **The list of donations must be complete by November 21.**

MEETINGS:

Council Meeting—11/17/22 at 6:30 PM—FH
Advent Study Group—11/28/22 to 12/19/22 at 1 PM and 6:30 PM every Monday

HSCC SAFETY COMMITTEE

COVID GUIDELINES:

Low Risk—Social distancing of six feet and masking is not required.

Medium Risk—Social distancing of six feet and masking is recommended.

High Risk—Social distancing of six feet and masking is mandatory.

Signs will be posted to let everyone know what the level of risk is at all times.

Green Sign—Low Risk

Yellow Sign—Medium Risk

Red Sign—High Risk

DEADLINES FOR PUBLICATIONS:

Sunday Bulletin—Thursdays at 12:00 PM

Hammond Streeter—Tuesdays at 11:00 AM every other week.

THE CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—Friday 9:00 AM—3:00 PM. Please knock or call the office at 207-942-4381 for assistance. Thank you.

EMAIL ADDRESS:

admin@hammondstreetchurch.net

Please sign up to read scripture and dedicate flowers in the notebooks in the back of the sanctuary on the table.

SECURITY REMINDER: Please make sure the backdoor is locked when you leave. Lock it and give it a tug to make sure it is secure.

VIDEO TAPING SUNDAY SERVICES:

We need volunteers to video tape the services on Sunday so that anyone can watch it on Monday on our Hammond Street Congregational Church Facebook page.

hammondstreetcongregationalchurch@hscucc
Please contact the church office if you can help.



**Hammond Street
Congregational Church
Holiday Fair**

**Saturday, December 10
Pre-order pickup and in-
person shopping
From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Pre-orders for food items will be taken from Monday, November 28 through Wednesday, December 8 by calling or emailing the church office. Watch for an email by November 28 with the menu of foods including the men of HSCC's famous fish chowder and chili.

Booths for in-person shopping will include baked goods, Christmas items, gifts and collectibles, jewelry, and crafts.

**Church Office: 207-942-4381 or
admin@hammondstreetchurch.net**



*Advent and Christmas Celebrations
At Hammond Street Congregational
Church*

- November 24 Hanging of the Greens*
- December 4 Worship Music Provided
By the Black Bear Men's Chorus*
- December 11 Choir Cantata and Children's Pageant*
- December 18 Service of Lessons and Carol with
Presentation by the Sanctuary Choir
and the Chime Choir*
- December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary*
- December 25 Christmas Day Service*

All Sunday Services are at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

*Please join us as we celebrate and prepare for the birth of our
Savior, Jesus Christ.*

**Hammond Street
Congregational Church
P.O. Box 1106
Bangor, ME 04402-1106**

**The Hammond Streeter
Is a bi-weekly publication of the
Hammond Street Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 1106, Bangor, ME 04402-1106
Phone: 207-942-4381**

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org
Email: admin@hammondstreetchurch.net
***An Open & Affirming Congregation
God is still speaking.***