



# The Hammond Streeter

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

*An Open and Affirming Community*  
*November 2, 2022*

*Website: [www.hammondstreetchurch.org](http://www.hammondstreetchurch.org)*

*Phone: 207-942-4381*

## FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE



### SCRIPTURE:

And what I say to you, I say to all: Keep awake. Mark 3:37

### Words of Hope

I've been thinking lately about the difficulty of leading a truly spiritual life. One thing after another seems to interfere, projects due at work, friends and family members needing attention, household chores, car maintenance. Anything can seemingly demand our time before we attend to our spiritual lives.

What does it really mean to live a spiritual life, after all? The standard answers usually include: taking time to pray, devoting our mornings to 'quiet time,' and practicing a spiritual discipline." Those 'pat' answers are good answers, but there are other methods and ways to think about this question. Simone Weil said that prayer is paying attention.

I like that, and it makes intuitive sense to me. I read something years ago by Ruben Habito about how we typically spend our days. We get up and go to work every day so that we'll have enough money to pay our bills, right? We come home in the evening, fix dinner, clean the dishes, maybe watch some television, and then go to bed—only so that we can then rise the next morning to go to work in order to pay the bills so that we can come home, fix dinner, and so on. It's called "living for the weekend," right?

I did it blindly for years. The problem with it, spiritually, is that nothing is done just for itself. Habito invited his readers to wash the dishes simply to wash the dishes. I tried it. I paid attention one night to washing the dishes. I focused on the dish and began to see how pretty it was, I felt the slipperiness of the soap and the warmth of the water on my hands. I actually saw how the dish looked sparkling clean when I finished. Strangely enough, when I let myself see it like that, it became a pleasing sight and the whole experience felt wonderfully satisfying to me.

So, was this experience of washing dishes prayer? In an important way, I think it was. When we pay attention, that is, when we are awake and alive to our experience of living, there's

**All Saints Sunday**  
**In Person Sunday Service**  
**Pastor Gary Bagley**  
**November 6, 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

an underlying sense of fulfillment and a deep gratitude to the Holy.

When I walk through my life basically asleep, just moving from one task to another so that I can cross it off my list of Action Items, there is a deadening effect—a force that stands in direct opposition to the spiritual life. Our lives are God's great gift to us. When we live with some level of awareness of that Gift, then we are most definitely living spiritual lives.

If you ever want to talk about your spiritual life, I'd love to listen.

### **Prayer**

Gracious God, thank you for our lives. Help us live them fully.

See you Sunday  
Pastor Gary

### **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](mailto:susan.gildart1215@gmail.com) or call the church office at 207-942-4381.

### **TURKEY BASKETS & DINNER:** **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 17th. I know that we can meet this challenge and help the patrons of the Food Cupboard have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Blessings, Pastor Gary



### **SAVE THE DATE:**

We are planning the Annual Holiday Fair for Saturday, **December 10th.** This will be a pre-order event. **The fair needs baked goods, cookies, candy, pickled and preserved foods plus some craft gift and holiday items for us to sell.** The men of the church will be making their chili and chowder too. Please call or email the church office with any food items that you can provide and email Lynda Ryder at [pondpaddle@msn.com](mailto:pondpaddle@msn.com) for any craft or holiday items you wish to donate. **Donation dead line is November 21st.**

### **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY:**

As November approaches we are beginning to prepare for our All-Saints Celebration on Sunday, November 6. We are putting together a list of those who have passed from the Church Temporal to the Church Triumphant. If you know of members or immediate family members who passed away between November 1, 2021, to November 1 2022 please let us know by calling the church office and giving us the name, birth date and death date by the 3rd. Thank you for your help.

### **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.

## **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. I will be placing 2 orders this year.

Orders placed by November 13<sup>th</sup> will be ready for pickup/delivery on November 20<sup>th</sup>

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

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](mailto: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](mailto:jonid@roadrunner.com).



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!**

Kids and teens age ~11-18 with Mrs. Kathy Frazier, younger children with Mrs. Nancy Smith, and the youngest Hammond Streeters with nursery provider Kiersta Sunday mornings 9:30 AM. Sunday school starts after the children's moment. Mrs. Frazier and Mrs. Smith have prepared lessons, discussions, projects, arts & crafts, fun for the youth of HSCC.

## **MEETINGS:**

Trustees —11/10/22 at 6:30 PM—Fellowship Music Comm.—11/13/22 at 12:00 PM—Throk.

## **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](mailto:admin@hammondstreetchurch.net)

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

## **LIVE STREAMING:**

You can watch our worship services live on the public Hammond Street Congregational Church Facebook page.

[hammondstreetcongregationalchurch@hscucc](mailto:hammondstreetcongregationalchurch@hscucc)

**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 folks to stream the services on Sunday. Please contact the church office if you can help.

## STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

During our GIFT: Growing In Faith Together campaign, we had the pleasure of listening to Royal Grueneich on why he likes HSCC, and why he pledges. For those not able to be in church that day, we would like to share this with you:

I have been a member of HSCC since 2009. In talking about why I am a member of HSCC, I want to first say something about why being part of a church community is essential for Christian faith. Although the private and individual aspects of faith, such as praying and reading scriptures, are important, they are not sufficient by themselves. (By the way, that's an important limitation of the viewpoint, "I'm spiritual, not religious", when this focuses on the individual aspect of spiritual experience while neglecting or minimizing the communal aspect.) There are two basic reasons why community is essential, one of which is theological, and one of which is practical.

I have just finished reading a book titled "Humbler faith, bigger God", by Samuel Wells, who is a pastor in London, England. This book includes a passage which I think very aptly describes the importance of community in the Christian faith. To quote:

"What Christians call the body of Christ is a collective entity, by which a diverse assortment of people are bestowed with the Holy Spirit and become a tangible presence of Christ in the world today. It's not so much about their state of mind or heart; it's about their common commitment to embody the way of the cross together."

He goes on to explain that this includes:

"The daily practice of finding the forgiveness, perseverance, and hope to be a sustainable community. To seek a state of mind or heart detached from that practice is to withdraw from the principle project of being a Christian disciple."

I think that's a very powerful statement of the centrality of belonging to a community of fellow believers.

Which brings me to why I am a member of HSCC.

I moved to Maine more than 20 years ago, and I tried several churches in the area before coming to HSCC. HSCC was different from those churches in that I immediately experienced a warmth and friendliness here that I had not encountered in the other churches, even ones I had attended for several months. It is also important to me that HSCC is open and affirming and welcomes all who come here. I have heard several people say that this is the first church where they actually feel that they are welcomed and accepted.

I also appreciate the quality of the worship service at HSCC. Pastor Gary's sermons are always thoughtful, well-constructed, substantive, and relevant for daily life. The music program under the leadership of Kathy Jellison is first rate and is very inspirational.

I also appreciate that HSCC provides extensive opportunities for involvement in the community, including the Food Cupboard; the Free Bean lunch; and advocacy of LGBTQ rights. In addition, there are a number of committees which provide opportunities to serve the church, and I have found that these provide a good format for getting to know other people in the church better.

So, in summary, I am a member of HSCC because this is an excellent place for participating in a community of faith.

**Hammond Street  
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Hammond Street Congregational Church,  
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***An Open & Affirming Congregation  
God is still speaking.***