



The Hammond Streeter

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

An Open and Affirming Community
November 30, 2022

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381

FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE



SCRIPTURE:

Micah 7:8b

Though I sit in darkness, the LORD will be my light."

WORDS OF HOPE

The Season of Advent is without doubt the busiest time of the Christian calendar since we are surrounded by, and are a part of huge throngs of shoppers, some Christian, some not, who are crowding the stores or cluttering the internet with their preparations for the imminent Christmas Season. Our homes, churches, and public places are in competition for the most elaborate and joyful lights, inspiring music, and colorful ornaments so familiar to the continual parties and events throughout December.

It is also a Season of beautiful and ancient symbols that we sometimes miss in the distractions of the celebrations. My favorite reminders of this Season, this time of anticipation and reflection, are the Advent Candles we light in the wreaths of some of our homes and churches.

The candles we light at church each week during the Advent Season have individual significance. The four candles remind us of various important aspects of celebrating the coming of Christ into the world. Three of the candles are either purple or blue since those are the liturgical colors that announce times of prayer, reflection, and sacrifice.

The first week's candle, which is purple, is the Candle of Hope. It is called the Prophet's Candle, a reminder of the Hebrew Scripture Prophets, especially Isaiah, who told their readers about the coming of the Messiah.

The second week's candle, also purple, is the Candle of Faith, or the Bethlehem Candle named for the little town to which Mary and Joseph made their journey of faith.

The third week's candle is rose or pink. It is the Candle of Joy. It is also called the Shepherd's Candle. Rose is the liturgical color for joy. This is Gaudete Sunday (a Latin word for Rejoice) In the Gospel of Luke, the Heavenly Host promised the shepherds "good tidings of great Joy."

Second Sunday of Advent
In Person Sunday Service
Pastor Gary Bagley
December 4, 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

On the fourth week of Advent, it's back to purple, and the final candle marks the last week of reflection and anticipation, waiting for the birth of the Redeemer. It is the Angel's Candle, or the Candle of Peace, once more a reminder to us of Luke's Gospel declaration of "Peace on Earth, good will towards All."

The most important candle, however, is yet to be lit; the White Candle, or Christ Candle, illuminated on Christmas Eve. White is the presence of all colors, and we are reminded that Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace all originate and culminate in one source; the anticipated arrival of the Christ. The Advent of Jesus.

PRAYER

May each of us experience opportunities to focus on Christ's Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace throughout a significant Advent season. Amen

POINSETTIAS:

It's that time of year again. If you wish to purchase Poinsettias the order forms are available on the back table in the Sanctuary. Please fill out and attach payment and give to the head usher on Sunday. If you can't make a payment today, you can mail in your orders or bring them into the office. **Deadline for orders is December 9th.**

SAVE THE DATE:

Faith Linking in Action Celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Through the Generations at 3:00 pm on January 15, 2023.

In person or on Zoom at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor. More information to follow!

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere!" Martin Luther King, Jr.

NATIVITY RESTORATION:

"Our large nativity figures were lovingly and beautifully repaired by Ginger Graham, sister of HSCC Sexton, Paul Graham. They look wonderful. Thank you from all of us at HSCC."



HSCC GARDENS AGLOW TOUR:

For all who have signed up to 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 at 2:00 PM.

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) asks each church 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.

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.

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:

Don't miss your opportunity to pre-order your favorite foods by calling or emailing the office by **Wednesday, December 7**. This year we will also have handmade items (knits, potholders ...), gifts & collectibles, jewelry, and Christmas items available for your shopping pleasure on fair day. Pre-order food & price lists will be available on the back table in the Sanctuary.

CAROLS IN THE ROUND:

The Mt. View Singers, an acapella group of outstanding high school singers, will present "Carols in the Round" at Hammond Street Congregational Church on Saturday Dec. 10th at 4 pm. This annual event is a wonderful kick-off to the beautiful music of Christmas. A free will offering will be taken which will go to support the music ministry of this talented group.

DECEMBER 4TH SERVICE:

The children & the youth will be staying for the service to enjoy the Men's Black Bear Choir.

MEETINGS:

Diaconate Meeting-12/6/22—Parlor
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

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.

OUTREACH – Update on the Thanksgiving Feast. In a nutshell – a huge success. Thanks to all. We had three components to manage: food, help and guests.

Food – The congregation stepped up in mass for this one. Plucky lost all his feathers in one coffee hour. We also received some money to supplement a few items. We had plenty for everyone on TG Day.

Help – Again we had a good turnout from the OR team and congregation to cover Wednesday prep work and serving & cleanup on Thursday. HSCC youth set tables and decorated Fellowship Hall for our guests.

Guests – This was our wild card. Based on our low Free Bean Lunch attendance we developed a plan A & B. Plan A was to feed everyone at the sit-down meal in Fellowship Hall. Plan B was to package individual meals and take them out to the homeless encampment to serve there. We fed about 35 folks in Fellowship Hall. Having plenty of food left, we packaged up 30 meals and headed out to the homeless encampment where we easily fed another very appreciative 30 folks. I have to say this was a very eye-opening experience. A good reminder to be thankful for all we have. We also partnered with the Food Cupboard to supplement their resources to provide Thanksgiving Baskets – all the fixings for a complete TG meal for a family of 5 -6. This was also a stellar success. After a huge reduction in resources from her usual suppliers, Rita & the OR committee reached out to all the churches involved with our Ecumenical food cupboard. The response from all was overwhelming – food & cash. Rita provided about 175 complete TG Baskets. An HSCC record. Overall, I feel that the HSCC congregation has a lot to be thankful for and proud of. Thanks to everyone for your support. Andy



*Advent and Christmas Celebrations
At Hammond Street Congregational
Church*

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|--------------------|--|
| <i>December 4</i> | <i>Worship Music Provided
By the Black Bear Men's Chorus</i> |
| <i>December 10</i> | <i>Carols in the Round</i> |
| <i>December 11</i> | <i>Choir Cantata & Intergenerational Nativity</i> |
| <i>December 18</i> | <i>Service of Lessons and Carol with
Presentation by the Sanctuary Choir
and the Chime Choir</i> |
| <i>December 24</i> | <i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary</i> |
| <i>December 25</i> | <i>Christmas Day Service</i> |

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