



The Hammond Streeter

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

An Open and Affirming Community
December 14, 2022

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381

FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE



SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:13

When he saw the angel, he was terrified. But the angel said, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John."

WORDS OF HOPE

The Season of Advent is the time of year when we hear a lot of announcements about the coming birth of Jesus the Messiah. Early in the Book of Luke, the story begins with the announcement of the birth of another key player in the life of Jesus: his cousin, John, who would later be known as John the Baptist. When John, the son of Elizabeth and Zachariah, was about 30 years old, the Spirit of God motivated him to begin a special preaching ministry.

He left his home in the hill country of Judea and went into the harsh and hot wilderness east by the Jordan River. There, he preached to all who would come. His message was sharply worded, to the point, and demanded that people completely change the direction of their lifestyle. They had to repent from their life of sin and disobedience and turn toward the laws of God. "Whoever has two sets of clothes must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must share it likewise." (Luke 3:11)

Crowds flocked to him and his preaching. Many decided to repent (changing of one's way of thinking and living) and be baptized in the Jordan River as an outward sign of their change of heart. Some in the crowds, asked if he was God's Messiah, but John answered by saying: "I baptize you with water, but the One (the Messiah) who is more powerful than I am will come. I am not worthy to untie the thongs of his sandals. It is he who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." (Luke 3:15-16)

John pointed the crowd to that precious gift of God who would soon enter into a redeeming ministry. Jesus would be that One from God, the Messiah. Jesus was the One with whom they should develop a forgiving relationship. And to this day, it is he who continues to be the source of our redemption into divine fellowship.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
In Person Sunday Service
Pastor Gary Bagley
December 18, 2022
10 AM
All Are Welcome!!!!**

PLEASE REMEMBER

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

"On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake and listen for he brings glad tidings of the King of Kings. Let every heart be cleansed from sin, make straight the way for God within, and so prepare to be a home where such a mighty Lord may come." (Charles Coffin 1676-1749) p. 115 New Century Hymnal

PRAYER

O Lord, soften, prepare and open wide my heart. May you be born anew in my life. May I be ever faithful to your loving guidance in every word and action of my life. Thank you for this coming Christmas blessing. Amen.

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.

THE CHRISTMAS CARD MAILBOX

The mailbox will be in the Narthex/front entry from Dec 11 through Jan 8. We do not have a delivery person, so please check the box through the season to see if greetings are there for you.

BELL RINGERS:

Who were the masked Bell Ringers on December 4th? Lovern Stockwell and her daughter Carrie Stafford did an awesome job ringing the HSCC Bell on Sunday. Thank you to both of you.



WINTER WARMTH/MITTEN TREE:

Our annual Mitten Tree is up in the Narthex. Please bring in mittens, gloves, scarves, hats and socks if you can to help those in need keep warm this winter. **The tree will remain up till January 3rd, 2023.**

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.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT:

Christmas is the season of giving, and we would like to encourage all of you to give a one-time gift for the advent season. No gift is too small or too big – every penny counts! Growing In Faith Together – That's what we do best. Let's share our wonderful HSCC – bring a friend or co-worker to church this month. Every Sunday has something special...



MEETINGS:

Council Mtg.-12/15/22 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 12:00 PM

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.

Thank you to everyone who made this year's Holiday Fair a huge success. Raising over \$2,456 was great. Seeing the smiles and watching folks reconnect was even better. It was easy to feel the heart beat of Hammond Street this past Saturday.



Saturday's Intergenerational Live Nativity was amazing and enjoyed by all.



*Advent and Christmas Celebrations
At Hammond Street Congregational Church*

- December 18 Service of Lessons and Carol with
Presentation by the Sanctuary Choir
and the Chime Choir at 10:00 AM
in the Sanctuary*
- December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
7:00 p.m. on Saturday in the Sanctuary*
- December 25 Christmas Day Service on Sunday at
10:00 AM in the Sanctuary*

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



**Hammond Street
Congregational Church
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Bangor, ME 04402-1106**

**The Hammond Streeter
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***An Open & Affirming Congregation
God is still speaking.***