



The Hammond Streeter

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

An Open and Affirming Community

December 7, 2022

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381

FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 16:11b, NASB

In Your presence is fullness of joy ...

WORDS OF HOPE

Do you have your Christmas tree up and your home decorated? Are you ready for Christmas? What does that mean to you?

If you are in a small group or doing your own study or meditation, you are preparing your mind and heart for the experience of making room in your life to welcome Christ again.

Not the evangelical "accept Christ as our savior," but the continuing concept of making room in our life and making space in all the busyness of living! Christmas comes, and Advent welcomes us to consider how we may make more room in our life. How we can remember what Christ came to show us.

Jesus had a mission on Earth. Humans needed to be shown how to know God personally and experience a relationship with God. Religion in the time Jesus was born had become about rules and sacrifices and things to "make" the people acceptable to God. God sent Jesus to show people how to be in a relationship with God without sacrifices and a bunch of rules. Just love.

Love for God. Love for our neighbors as we love ourselves. That is what it takes to please God. The real way to have a relationship with God is not with a bunch of rules or animal sacrifices or whatever else we have been told!

So, what does it look or feel like to prepare for Christmas? Not lights on a tree. It looks like blankets, gloves, or shoes for the homeless. It looks like finding a family who needs help with presents for their family or food.

**Third Sunday of Advent
In Person Sunday Service
Pastor Gary Bagley
December 11, 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

Oh, you cannot give everyone in need a happy Christmas. God doesn't expect that! But do what you can to make life better. At HSCC this year, we have the Mitten Tree. We are asking everyone to fill the tree with mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and socks to help our siblings who are homeless stay warm this winter. Please help make a difference this Christmas by sharing God's love and greatest gift with those who are in need. All of us together doing our part are God's plan to make our world better.

PRAYER

God of Christmas time, help us prepare our hearts and lives for this season. Help us know how to walk in a better relationship with you by being a better neighbor. Guide us to help neighbors in need this season and all seasons!

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.

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.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT:

We at stewardship wanted to keep you up to date with our GIFT campaign. To date, \$140,931 has been pledged toward the 2023 proposed budget of \$226,680. That means we will be short \$85,749 to fund the various programs, positions, and expenses that HSCC requires. Some might say, "why not use the investments?" The trustees have two answers to that question; first, the investments would soon be gone if we tapped into them every time our pledges were short. Second, the investments have been earmarked for emergencies, such as our boiler that is about to fail.

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... let's share our GIFTS with as many people as possible!

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.

Order Deadline is December 11th 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 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:

This year we will also have handmade items (knits, potholders ...) , gifts & collectibles, jewelry, and Christmas items available for your shopping pleasure on fair day.

CAROLS IN THE ROUND:

The Mt. View Singers, an a cappella 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.

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.

MEETINGS:

Music Committee Mtg.-12/11/22 at 12 PM
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.

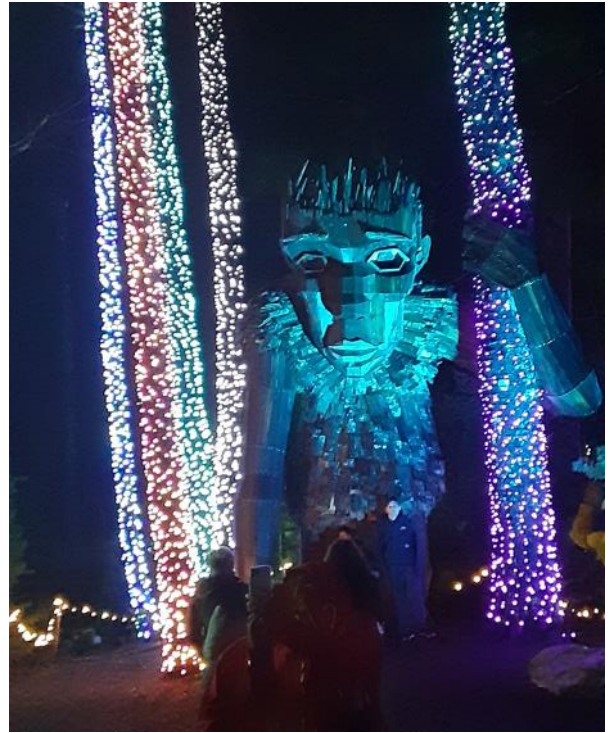
SECURITY REMINDER: Please make sure the backdoor is locked when you leave. Lock it and give it a tug to make sure it is secure.

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.

GARDENS AGLOW:

On Saturday, December 3, 2022, 22 attendees including Susan Gildart who arranged the luxury bus tour headed down to beautiful Boothbay Harbor Botanical Gardens to see Gardens Aglow. Despite the rain and high wind the bus ride was great. We watched a Christmas movie called, “Surviving Christmas” and had candy that Susan handed out. We arrived in the rain, but soon after we started out on the trail of the lighted gardens it stopped raining. The lights were awesome and there were even lighted animals throughout the trail. At the end of the trail we were all pleasantly surprised to actually see one of the famous Giant Trolls aka Guardians of the Seeds. This was the first of 5 trolls throughout the gardens. His name is, “Roskva” and legend has it that they protect the trees, bushes, flowers and gardens at all times. Thus the name, “Guardians of the Seeds”. Gardens Aglow was an amazing adventure.



BLACK BEAR MEN’S CHORUS:

On Sunday, December 4, 2022 HSCC welcomed the beautiful music of the Black Bear Men’s Chorus during the service. We have been blessed with their beautiful music for many years.



*Advent and Christmas Celebrations
At Hammond Street Congregational Church*

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|--------------------|--|
| <i>December 10</i> | <i>Carols in the Round at 4:00 PM</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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Hammond Street Congregational Church,
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Email: admin@hammondstreetchurch.net
***An Open & Affirming Congregation
God is still speaking.***