



The Hammond Streeter

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

An Open and Affirming Community

February 1, 2023

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381

FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE



SCRIPTURE

James 5:1-6 New International Version

Warning to Rich Oppressors

Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the God. You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.

WORDS OF HOPE

The Book of James is often referred to as a practical guide for anyone seeking to live a life of faith and good works. In fact, it is in the Book of James that we read, "faith without deeds is dead". He calls us to a sacred practice of living out what we say we believe. Words, or faith is not enough unless it has called forth in us a response to "practice what we preach".

Today James is addressing a common problem then, as well as now. There are those who are boasting about their wealth, but not just boasting, they are using it to cause harm to others, exploiting poor workers who struggle to make ends meet, while they demonstrate their wealth through systems of oppression that perpetuate the circumstances of those less fortunate. James was an ambassador for social justice and social change that, in our world today, we too would be wise to heed and be about.

I lose count of the number of times that I have been challenged about my understanding of sacred scripture and the ministry of Jesus. I have been told that "politics don't belong in the pulpit" and while I understand that in our world that is so polarized by "party politics", the work of Jesus is political – not party political, but definitely political. It is one of social change and equality. It is about "doing unto others as we would have done unto ourselves."

This is political and I will always try to preach the politics of Jesus, understanding that this is sometimes counter to the lens of "politics" that we have enculturated both here in the United States of America and around the world. As a follower of Jesus, a faithful subscriber to the values expressed in the sacred text, I cannot be just a believer, I must be a doer.

Our challenge always is to discern what God is leading or calling each of us to do as a response to our faith. Each of us can do something that will make a difference and I stand in awe at the impact that our shared ministry at Cathedral of Hope makes in the world.

5TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
In Person Sunday Service
Pastor Gary Bagley
February 5, 2023
10 AM
All Are Welcome!!!!

PLEASE REMEMBER

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

In the coming year, the Maine legislators will be debating numerous bills that will impact many in our state, many who are voiceless, or powerless, or oppressed already. It is the work of our faith to speak up and stand up and to remind ourselves of the work of Jesus, and the voice of James. We cannot just provide aid, but we must also live into our faithfulness which sometimes may mean traveling to Augusta to make our voices heard-for our voices are the voice of God, the voice of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit.

As we ponder our impact as a follower of Jesus, I pray that we might agree to not just be hearers of the Word, but doers.

PRAYER

God, stir up within us a desire to create God's new realm together, to bring about heaven, here on earth, and to move our world toward one of equality, justice and righteousness, for Your Name's sake. Amen.

CALLING ALL BAKERS:

Last year's Valentine's Day Box bakers are busy planning what they will be baking for our 2023 boxes. Would you like to join them? We are looking for small scrumptious items that can fit into our Valentine's Day boxes. If you are interested, please contact me (Joni) at jonid@roadrunner.com. Thank you in advance!

PALMS:

Please bring in your palms and leave them on the back table in the Sanctuary no later than February 19th, although the earlier the better.

FOOD CUPBOARD:

The number of clients the Food Cupboard is serving continues to increase. They are in need of **Peanut Butter, Cereal, Pasta**. Thank you for your continuous help we really appreciate it. Rita

WEEKLY FLOWER DEDICATIONS:

This is just a reminder that the flowers are a beautiful addition to our weekly Sunday services and now is the time of the year to start signing up ahead of time for any dedications that you would like to donate the flowers for to save your date before it's gone. **We can only take up to two arrangements per Sunday.** Please signup in the book on the table in the back of the Sanctuary on Sundays or call the office no later than Tuesday of any week to signup.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS:

We need to have someone every Sunday to read the Scripture. Please sign up in the book on the table in the back of the Sanctuary. After you sign up you will receive everything you will need by email.

FREE BEAN LUNCH:

Join us on Saturday, February 4th for our Free Bean Lunch from 12-1, we provide a FREE meal for the community. We serve home-made beans, hot dogs, casseroles, cole slaw and a dessert to 60-90 people. We also make bag lunches to go that include: Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches, an apple and a cookie. There are lots of volunteer opportunities to include set-up, serving and cleanup as well as making casseroles, cookies or dessert. We'd love your help. Please contact Lois Baxter at auntlolo49@gmail.com or 207-745-4117. if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

VALENTINE'S DAY SWEET TREATS:

How would you like a beautiful box of assorted mouthwatering treats for your Valentine or yourself? If you got a box from our Sweet Treats Sale last year, you know you want more this year. And if you missed out last year, don't let that happen again.

HSCC bakers and candy makers make a wonderful assortment of cookies, candy, bars, cupcakes, and more. Gift boxes are available in two sizes: Small \$8.00 and Large \$16.00.

Starting on February 1st, call the office, 207-942-4381, Monday to Friday between 9 am and 3 pm to order. **Orders must be placed by Friday, February 10th at 1 pm.**

Pick up Sunday, February 12th from 11 am to 1 pm. Payment by cash or check only.

DID YOU KNOW:

that a member of HSCC for 26 years was born a slave in Kentucky, and sold at least 7 times before escaping to the Union Army in Louisiana during the Civil War? Samuel Guess is brought back to Maine by soldiers, settles in Bangor, works hard, gets married & helps raise 3 daughters in their house on 14th St. He has become well known in this part of the state as a lecturer and is listened to by large audiences for over 12 years. In a Feb. 25, 1899, newspaper article it is noted "There is not a Bangor child who has not heard of Uncle Sam's existence in the South..." The article ends: "During all his life in Bangor, there have been few better citizens than Samuel Guess, and Bangor people respect this former slave who for his industry, is an example for many men born under luckier stars." He dies Nov 17, 1910, at the National Soldiers' Home, Togus, ME, about age 86. Former Pastor, Rev. Dr. Henry Griffin conducts his funeral service and speaks "...of his faithfulness in work, pleasant manner and unfailing courtesy."

THERE IS HUMMING HAPPENING AT HAMMOND STREET!

Save these dates for our 2023 Spring Concert Series!

Thursday March 30, 4:30pm - Liz Downing (flutist) and friends

Sunday May 7, 7pm - The Maine Steiners

Sunday June 11, 3pm - Andre Chasse in Concert with Kathy Jellison

A free will offering will be taken at each concert to benefit HSCC's Instrument Maintenance Fund!

THANK YOU:

Welcome To Housing Home Goods Bank would like to express our deep gratitude for HSCC's generous donation. We are doing even more in the community than ever before and we are also the drop off point for Toys-For-Tots at our warehouse in Old Town. We now have medical/adaptive equipment for those in need.

Sincerely yours,

Christopher K. Olsen Founder

MEETINGS:

Diaconate Mtg.-2/7/23 at 6:30 PM-Parlor

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 or call the office.

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
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**The Hammond Streeter
Is a weekly publication of the
Hammond Street Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
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***An Open & Affirming Congregation
God is still speaking.***