



The Hammond Streeter

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

An Open and Affirming Community
February 15, 2023

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381



FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

SCRIPTURE

James 2:12-13

Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

WORDS OF HOPE

What's love got to do with it? Valentine's Day, that is. Tuesday was a wash of pink and red, sweet treat boxes filled with chocolate treats and flowers, teddy bears and hearts, romantic dinners and declarations of abiding love. Why do we set a single day aside for these things? And, If we love someone so deeply, shouldn't we show that love daily? Why do we celebrate love on February 14th, Valentine's Day?

Tuesday was Saint Valentine's Day. The designation as a Saint's day suggests that February 14th is a significant day to the church. As is the case with many saints in the early church, details about their life and work are sketchy. Over time, the lives of several different men by the name Valentine have been mixed up and confused. Through the centuries, the stories about the good works associated with the figure Saint Valentine have become a combination of recorded facts, assumptions, and folklore.

Valentine was likely a clergyman of the Christian church during the third century. He eventually was held under house arrest in Rome for spreading the word of Jesus. Valentine began talking of his faith with the judge, Asterius. Skeptical, but willing to give Valentine and his faith a chance, Judge Asterius asked Valentine to cure his daughter of her blindness, promising that if Valentine could indeed perform such "a miracle" Asterius would do whatever Valentine asked. Valentine laid hands on the young girl and prayed. The darkness faded. Her sight was restored. Since Asterius told Valentine he would do what Valentine asked if the girl was made to see, Valentine said he must destroy the idols around his home, fast for three days, and be baptized in the name of Jesus. Asterius was more than happy to comply. Not only was he baptized, but so were dozens of his family members.

Valentine was again arrested in Rome for continuing to share his Christianity. This time, he was brought before Emperor Claudius II. The emperor seemed to sympathize with Valentine until he tried to convert Claudius to Christianity. Claudius was not as open-minded as was Asterius; thus, Valentine was sentenced to death. Legend says that on the night before he was executed, Valentine wrote a letter to that daughter of Asterius. He signed it, "from your Valentine." He was martyred on February 14, 269.

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY
In Person Sunday Service
Pastor Gary Bagley
February 19, 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

From this story comes our modern-day tradition of sending cards signed in the same way. The interesting thing is that nowhere in this story is the relationship between Valentine and Asterius's daughter ever described as a romantic love. Valentine believed that his faith in the power of Jesus was enough to heal the girl's eyes.

The love story here is not between him and the girl. It is between Valentine and Jesus. Valentine was so committed to his love of Jesus that he continued to share it with the world. Even with those who did not want to hear it. If the accounts are true, it was Valentine's love of Jesus that ultimately cost him his life.

We celebrate our love and the feast day of Saint Valentine by giving sweet treats and flowers. Valentine gave his life for his love.

As you celebrate the one you love keep these words close to your heart. "Follow God's example; therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (Ephesians 5:1)

This is the love we need to celebrate...today and always. And if you have a companion on this journey, may this love be magnified both in your hearts and the hearts of all those you meet on the path.

PRAYER

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine, and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear, and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing."

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 sign up 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 sign up.

WINTER COATS:

We are in need of warm, winter coats for men and women in sizes Medium to XL. We may have a lot more frigid temperatures ahead of us for the rest of the winter. If you have one that you would like to donate to HSCC to help us to keep people that are in need warm this winter, please feel free to stop by with your donations.

JOIN THE FUNDRAISING TEAM

Fundraising is serious business for the church's financial health, but the good news is that it's a lot of fun, and you can help.

We need volunteers to be on a fundraising team. This is not a committee with monthly meetings, agendas, etc. It is an action-oriented group, and your commitment can be as big or limited as you wish. There will likely be one meeting for this team to organize and start planning. After that we will be organized around the events with those working on any event involved at that time.

We have seven fundraising events tentatively on the calendar this year, and we are open to other ideas. Let's be creative. We need people to plan, coordinate, and carry out these events. You can be involved in any number of events and in different roles depending on your interests.

We have lead coordinators lined up for most of the fundraisers ready to work with volunteers. We also have a faithful and highly skilled group of cooks and crafters who regularly help with dinners, food sales, and the fair. So, join the team.

Please let Don Spencer (dspencer@rsu63.org) or Tracy Bigney (tbig@zwi.net) know if you are willing to join the fundraising team or for more information.

DID YOU KNOW

Some hymn lyrics & other vocal celebratory music sung at HSCC have been "original" creations by our members? At the dedication of our "meeting house" on July 23, 1834, the first hymn to be sung was simply titled "Original Hymn" (lyricist & tune not identified.) Sarah Forbes Woodhull (Rev. Richard Woodhull's wife) wrote lyrics for at least 4 occasions. One was the 25th Anniversary of Rev. Maltby's pastorate at HSCC, July 23, 1859; another was the Silver Wedding Anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. E. F. Duren, May 30, 1861; next came the Installation of Rev. Edwin Johnson, our 2nd Pastor, Oct 16, 1861; and finally for Bangor's 100th Anniversary, Sept 30, 1869, was a piece titled "Centennial Hymn." In 1929, Annette Morrison Stubbs wrote lyrics for an Easter hymn, "Christ is Risen" & sung to the tune Faben. More recently, our Organist & Sanctuary Choir Director, Kathy Jellison, has arranged and written music for the adults and Children's Choir Director, Judy Fricke, has composed music and written lyrics for 4 songs presented by our youngest choristers.

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!

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.

MEETINGS:

Council Meeting on 2/16/23 at 6:30 PM-FH

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 our Hammond Street Congregational Church Facebook page.

hammondstreetcongregationalchurch@hscucc
Please contact the church office if you can help.

KATAHDIN ASSOCIATION MEETING AT HSCC 2023

Here are some photos from the Katahdin Association Winter Program Meeting on Saturday. Barbara Goodeill, Rev. Connie Insley and Tracy Bigney represented HSCC. Familiar faces included Stacey and Rev. Linette George and Rev. Sarah Pringle Lewis. Rev. Bruce Burnham provided accompaniment during worship led by Rev. Chad Poland.



SHOVE TUESDAY

Join us for Shrove Tuesday Coffee Hour after worship this Sunday. We'll celebrate the end of Epiphany and the beginning of Lent. Enjoy Jazz tunes by Ben Bigney, pancakes, goodies, and a King Cake in Mardi Gras tradition.

History about the King Cake: The royal colors of purple, green and gold on the cake honor the three kings who visited the Christ Child on Epiphany.

**Purple represents Justice,
Green stands for Faith,
God signifies Power.**

Traditionally, whoever finds the "Baby" in the cake will have a year of good luck and makes sure there is a King Cake for the next year.

SHROVE TUESDAY



VALENTINE'S SWEET TREATS SALE PACKAGING PROCESS:

A great big thank you to all of the volunteers that made the boxes, packaged the boxes and the awesome bow makers who decorated the boxes. Tracy Bigney, Andre Chasse, Carolyn Dorfman, Tricia VanKirk, and Larry Blethen. We are pleased to announce that we raised approximately \$500 for this years sale. Hope everyone enjoys their delicious sweet treats this Valentine's Day and thank you for your support.



THE YOUTH OF HSCC WANT TO KNOW YOU! **PLEASE JOIN US IN THE ADELLA PROJECT!**

During Sunday School, the youth will be interviewing members and friends of HSCC. Please share your faith journey with us and tell us how God has influenced you.

We have a pre-interview questionnaire, so you will know what to expect! There will also be an opportunity for you to draw a question from our "Fun Question Jar". After your interview, the youth will submit an article for the Hammond Streeter. We hope you will share your stories, talents and fun facts with us!

Why did we name this project "The Adella Project"? Del Reidt embodied our objectives for this project:

- A - accept all people
- D - devour ice cream with them!
- E - explore your world
- L - love one another
- L - learn everyday
- A - advise thoughtfully

We have chosen to honor someone that we did not have the opportunity to interview but we know would have loved to participate!

Won't you join us in this fun, educational project? Let's shape young disciples together! To sign up for an interview slot, please contact Kathy Frazier.

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***An Open & Affirming Congregation
God is still speaking.***