



The Hammond Streeter

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

An Open and Affirming Community

February 22, 2023

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381

FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE



READING

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." — Barack Obama

WORDS OF HOPE

When Jesus was at the tomb of Lazarus, his dead friend, he joined those present, and with them, he cried for the lost friendship of that good man. By that he demonstrated divine compassion, but more than tears were shed. Jesus went into action to do something which would comfort and alleviate the family's sorrow. Using the power of God, present in his life, he ordered the dead man to walk out of the tomb. What he did was incredible, but it was the solution for the family's loss. Jesus acted on his compassion and the action was appropriate for the need.

While often watching TV news coverage of a traffic accident, a deadly shooting, or the brutal killing of a black man being arrested, you hear someone say: "Our hearts and prayers are with the family". It's a socially acceptable "Band-Aid", but does it really reflect compassion like the compassion demonstrated by Jesus? As a Christian, how should we respond in genuine compassion to the suffering of others? In this gospel passage, Jesus ordered that the tomb be opened and the stone which covered it be rolled away. But, before he ordered Lazarus to walk forth, he prayed to God. "Abba, I thank you that you heard me." (John 11:41) By that prayer he indicated that he had questioned God about what to do. Various options for action were available: continue to weep, preach a short message about the ultimate resurrection of the faithful dead, or a miracle to raise Lazarus to life. I believe that in the moment of prayer, Jesus silently let God tell him what he should do.

That's how we should form our compassionate response to the suffering of others. Let God's wisdom, power and resources be involved. Allow God to tell you if, when and how you should respond. Do that with a prayer (it can be brief and unspoken), but let God direct you! If your compassion is expressed as God desires, it will be appropriate, and you will have the power and resources of the All-Sufficient God to enact your compassion. You are the change that you seek.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
In Person Sunday Service
Pastor Gary Bagley
February 26, 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

PRAYER

God of Compassion may our prayers to you be requests for the course of our actions in your behalf.
Amen

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

During the season of Lent/Easter Pastor Gary will deliver a sermon series entitled Toward Easter and Beyond.

Each week Pastor Gary will help us look at our relationship with God and each other. The series will begin on Sunday, February 26. Make plans to join us for worship during Lent as we look at our relationships with God and each other.

LENTEN STUDY

There will be a Lenten Study each Thursday @ 1:00 p.m. in the Parlor @ HSCC.

We will begin NEXT Thursday, March 2, 2023. (Please note this change due to the impending weather forecasted for Thursday 2/23/23.)

The name of the study is "Bless the Lent we Actually Have" by Kate Bowler.

Interested in participating? Please contact Kathy Frazier:

kathyjfrazier@gmail.com or 207-745-1429 call/text

She will email the materials or provide a printed copy, and answer any questions you may have.

FOOD CUPBOARD

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. 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

That the building dedicated in 1834 was radically different from what we know today? When the \$17,000 construction limit agreed upon with the architect was being reached & the building was still very incomplete, it was obvious he had not made the building plans to conform with the cost limit; so the architect was instructed to basically just put a roof on because the building committee did not want to ask parishioners for more money. As a result, the brick walls were shorter in height and length and, against the already completed massive front of the building with its portico featuring "...large, fluted columns & an entablature & two steeples of wood...", proportionally, the building was a disaster & known as an eye sore by the community for the next twenty years. (This information comes from a letter written by John E. Godfrey for the Semi-Centennial celebration Dec 3, 1883.) Stay tuned for how we "made it right" with our neighbors!

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.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Installation of

The Reverend Gary W. Bagley

As the Designated Term Pastor and Teacher
of Hammond Street Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

On March 12, 2023

At 3:00 in the Afternoon

A Reception will follow in Fellowship Hall

MEETINGS:

Stewardship Mtg.—2/23/23 at 6:30 PM-Sinnott

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.

SHROVE TUESDAY CELEBRATION

Thank you to the Diaconate and others for the Shrove Tuesday on Sunday Mardi Gras celebration. From Ben Bigney's jazzy tunes, to pancakes and King Cakes, it was a joyful day.



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.

**Hammond Street
Congregational Church
P.O. Box 1106
Bangor, ME 04402-1106**

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