



The Hammond Streeter

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

An Open and Affirming Community
February 8, 2023

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381

FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE



SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 4:1

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.

WORDS OF HOPE

While there is more to this passage than this opening line, this one line stuck out to me. It struck me because of a quote I recently came across from former slave and ardent abolitionist Frederick Douglass. "One and God make a majority". While my basic understanding of these two quotes tells me they are different, I also see a commonality in them.

These two carry a theme that runs throughout the teachings of the Bible. It is said in many ways. In the letter to the Romans, Paul says "If God is for us who can be against us?" The Gospel of Matthew states: "they shall name him Emmanuel which means God is with us."

That is what I see as a main message from the life of Jesus. That is what I hear in the words of Douglass. People who walk with God can accomplish all the things through that relationship with God that God wants to see done. For Douglass that was abolition.

For us that might be justice: racial justice, housing justice, food justice, justice in all forms. I have a belief that these are not unrelated. They all fall into what we called "humanity's inhumanity to humanity" when I was in literature classes. With God we can, we must, become more humane to God's creation; of which we are part and parcel.

PRAYER

Loving Creator, be with us as we travel through Your Creation. Strengthen us, guide us, empower us to be engaged in ministry. In Your presence we cannot lose heart.

6TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
In Person Sunday Service
Pastor Gary Bagley
February 12, 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

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.

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.

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.

Call the office at 207-942-4381 to place your orders before it's too late. **Deadline for all orders is Friday, February 10th at 2 pm.**

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

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.



NORTHERN LIGHT, EMMC INTERVIEW

Seth Poplaski from Northern Light, EMMC came to the Food Cupboard today to interview Yvonne and I for their Find Help Program.

They are going to post the video testimony on their website when it is completed. We discussed the amount of people the cupboard serves and how this website would be an advantage for people looking for help in the area. The website will list food cupboards, meals, heating assistance, housing assistance, etc..



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.

DID YOU KNOW:

that HSCC is part of the Katahdin Association which is a network of UCC churches based on geographical location in ME? Our Assoc. has 3 scheduled meetings -- a Midwinter meeting in Feb, an Annual Meeting in June & a Semi-Annual Meeting in Oct -- where pastors & delegates from each church, as well as members, meet to report, discuss & tend to Assoc. business. This business is funded by dues assessed yearly based on each church's membership. Then, of course, after the meetings there is the joy of seeing old friends & making new ones plus getting together in fellowship and enjoying a delicious meal! As with churches, service is also part of the Assoc., perhaps hands-on or financial support of groups in the area. One major function of the Assoc. is to work with churches at the time of ministerial changes & oversee & work with candidates who feel called to ministry - hopefully ending with an Ecclesiastical Council & Ordination in coordination with the sponsoring church. Ecclesiastical Councils are also called when there are new church starts. 190 years ago, a Council of the Penobscot Assoc., the predecessor of the Katahdin Assoc., voted to allow the formation of HSCC.

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:

Katahdin Assoc. Mtg. on 2/11/23 at 9 AM
Music Committee Mtg. on 2/12/23 at 12 PM
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.

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

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