



The Hammond Streeter

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

An Open and Affirming Community
March 15, 2023

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381



FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

SCRIPTURE

Romans 15:4

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

WORDS OF HOPE

How do you read the Bible? As a series of stories? As children we were read "Bible stories". A story is defined as "a narrative, either true or fictitious, in prose or verse, designed to interest, amuse, or instruct the hearer or reader. That definition offers us a lot to unpack. "To interest, amuse, or instruct" provides many different levels of engagement and commitment with the words that we, as the receiver of the story, hear or read.

And discerning truth from fiction, especially when it comes to the stories of the Bible, opens up a great big can of worms. Some read the Bible as if every word is absolute truth. (Well, except those words that require them personally to believe or live in ways that they find uncomfortable.) And others read the Bible as if it is a collection of tales that likely are not factual. In the end, does it really matter which way an individual engages with the stories that we call holy scripture?

The Bible certainly contains both interesting and even amusing stories, but its primary purpose is to instruct. A well-crafted story does not have to be true for us to learn something from it. It only must speak to our human condition in a way that is relevant and purposeful. To debate the literalness of biblical stories is to miss altogether the point of the stories themselves. As children, most of us read the story of Charlotte's Web, one in which Charlotte, a barn spider, weaves words into her web, with the help of Templeton the rat in an effort to save their friend Wilbur the pig from being sent to slaughter. We all know that this story is not true, that rats cannot spell and spiders cannot weave words into their webs. Yet, we are all drawn into this world of friendship, love, and self-sacrifice. Though in the end, Charlotte the spider dies of old age, she leaves her egg sack to Wilbur so that a part of her will live on in the barn and her offspring will continue to keep Wilbur, the humble pig, company. This is the importance of story. Stories keep people and places in our hearts and minds. They keep our thinking and feeling active. Most importantly, they keep our hope alive.

Whether you believe the stories of the Bible to be fact or fable, they provide a moral compass to guide our daily living. And if we become active characters in this way of being, we are afforded a means by which hope is kept alive through the generations.

Like Jesus and every other character in the Bible, we too have a story, a story that is unique to us. If you were to write your story, what would the plot look like? Who or what is the protagonist? What details are important to include in the writing of your story and which are best left to mystery? Should the reader expect a plot twist? And perhaps most importantly, what is the moral of your story? What part of your story will be carried into future generations? Each of our stories is just as important and can be just as powerful when shared with others as are those found in the Bible. We might even think of ourselves as the next chapters of scripture, like the baby spiders that Charlotte left for Wilbur.

PRAYER

Creator God, author of many stories, guide my thoughts today as I reflect on my unique story. Help me to see that my story is integral to yours, that I and all those that you have created, are important and loved characters in your still developing plot. AMEN

MEMBER DUES 2023

The Membership dues for 2023 are \$20.79. This amount includes both the State dues (18.79) and the Association dues (2.00).

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. 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.

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.

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.

RESERVE NOW FOR THE SEA DOGS BUS TRIP

All aboard to Portland to enjoy an afternoon of Baseball with the Sea Dogs at Hadlock Field, an all-you-can-eat ballpark style picnic buffet and box seats (section 202). Tickets are \$100 each and there are limited tickets available, so if you are interested in going contact Susan Gildart at: susan.gildart1215@gmail.com as soon as possible to reserve your seat. Bus leaves on Saturday, May 13th at 9:30 am from the Hammond Street Church parking lot. The game starts at 1:00 PM.

AED TRAINING AT HAMMOND STREET

March 26, 2023 11:15 (Second hour)

It is that time again, to refresh ourselves in the use of our defibrillator. The safety committee with support from the trustees has arranged for a "refresher" training on the AED on March 26th at 11:15am hosted by the Eddington Fire Dept. EMT's. We welcome anyone who wishes to join us for this important safety training in the Church Parlor. Our sincere thanks to these First Responders.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, March 25th, 5 PM

Join us for a cabin fever reliever and discover how HSCC does a Fund Raiser with the first signs of Spring! We are planning an old fashioned potluck supper with a live and silent auction. Bring a dish or bread, we provide the drink and dessert. Contact Brad Ryder at kayaker97@aol.com if you have any auction items or questions. **Bring a friend!**

JOIN THE FUNDRAISING TEAM

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 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.

THANK YOU

Words are not enough to express my gratitude for the love that has been shown by this wonderful congregation. Since my accident and then Paul's hospitalization we have experienced nothing but love and care from HSCC. Then this past week the love expressed through the Installation Service and Reception. From the first time that I met with the search committee over a year ago I knew that this was a congregation that shared the love of God with all people. As we moved forward in the call process I knew that this was the church to which God was calling me. Sunday we celebrated that call and the covenant that we established with one another to be in ministry together here in the Bangor area. Thank you to everyone who worked to make the Service and Reception a wonderful celebration. It was beautiful and as always, the food was delicious. I was left speechless, which doesn't happen often, when presented with the beautiful stole and picture of the Angel Gabriel window. When I wear the stole and look at the picture, they will be reminders of our covenant and the love we share with one another and the world. It has been a year and our work continues as we move forward led by God into a bright future. May HSCC continue to express the love of God through its care and love for one another and for others.

EASTER FLOWERS

It's time to put in your orders for Easter Flower dedications. Prices are as follows: Lilies-\$20, Daffodils, Tulips, and Hyacinths-\$15. Order forms will be on the table in the back of the Sanctuary and emailed. You can bring the completed form to the office or drop it in the offering plate. **All orders must be received no later than Friday, March 24th before 2:30 P.M. because all orders will be called into Bangor Floral at 2:30 P.M.**

DID YOU KNOW

that the last set of stained glass windows installed in our sanctuary in 1955 are from Maria Stetson (Thurston) Williamson (1858-1930) in memory of her parents Dea. Samuel David Thurston (1822-1892) & Jane Maria (Sparhawk) Thurston (1818-1901)? Samuel serves as Deacon from 1856 to 1892, teaches Sunday School for years & is Superintendent, & also serves on the Parish Committee. In the wider community he is known as someone who only knows how to do good, thus he becomes a trusted, respected & honorable Christian man in business. After earlier partnership ventures, he serves almost 20 years as Treasurer for both Bangor Savings Bank & the Seminary. He also served Bangor in several municipal roles including as Mayor in 1869-1870. While we do not have much information on Jane's activities at HSCC, we know she raises two sons - George & Elliott at 30 Ohio St. along with Maria - & most likely shares Samuel's love of God & extends acts of kindness & shows respect to all those she knows or meets. The windows' themes of family & the young Christ teaching seem appropriate memorials for Dea. Thurston & his wife. Let it be said: "Well done, thou good and faithful servants."

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 every day
- A - advise thoughtfully

To sign up for an interview slot, please contact Kathy Frazier.

MEETINGS:

Lenten Study-3/16/23 at 1PM—Parlor
Food Cupboard Mtg.-3/20/23 at 4PM—Parlor
Council/Exec. Mtg.-3/21/23 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 and make sure your vehicle is locked.**

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.

**THERE IS HUMMING HAPPENING AT
HAMMOND STREET!**

**Save these dates for our 2023 Spring
Concert Series!**

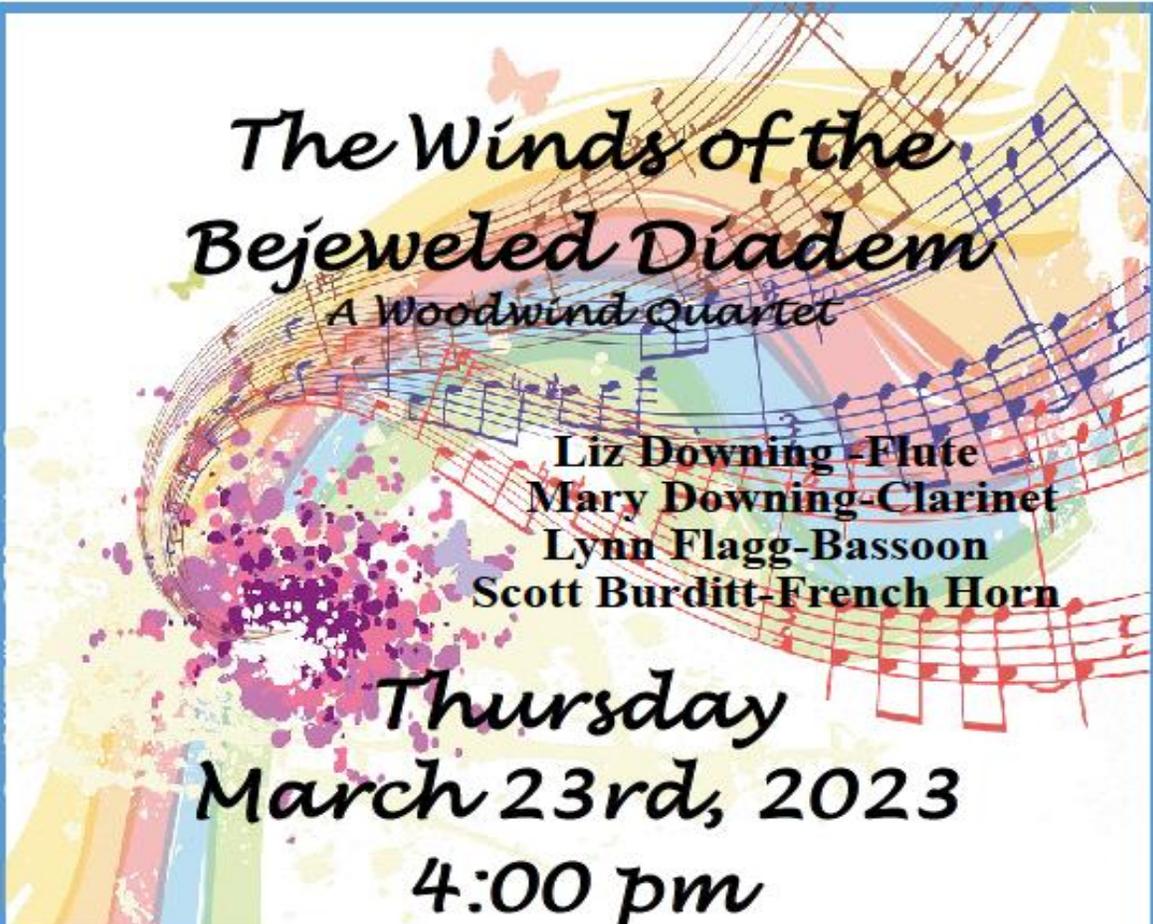
Thursday March 23, 4:00pm - The Winds of the Bejeweled Diadem, a Woodwind Quartet

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!

If you have any questions, contact Judy Fricke at: judysfricke@yahoo.com



*The Winds of the
Bejeweled Diadem*
A Woodwind Quartet

**Liz Downing - Flute
Mary Downing - Clarinet
Lynn Flagg - Bassoon
Scott Burditt - French Horn**

*Thursday
March 23rd, 2023
4:00 pm*

*Hammond Street
Congregational Church*
*On the Corner of Hammond and High Streets
In Bangor*

**A free will offering will be taken with proceeds going to our
E. & G. G. Hook Pipe Organ Maintenance Fund.
Suggested donation \$10.00**



Sunday, March 12, A Day Filled with Joy and Promise

HSCC celebrated a beautiful baptism and new member welcome for Jade Sovis during morning worship.

At three o'clock, to all present, Moderator Don Spencer presented Gary W. Bagley to be installed as HSCC's called designated term pastor and teacher. Members of the Search Committee served as ushers, greeters, and readers while Maine Conference Minister Dr. Marisa Laviola and Maine Conference Designated Term Associate Minister Alexis Fuller-Wright presided over the service along with Katahdin Association representatives including Rev. Bruce Burnham and Association Chair Jan Barton. It was wonderful to have Association Member and long-time Hammond Streeter Ben Bigney part of the service and celebratory reception that followed.



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

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
In Person Sunday Service
Pastor Gary Bagley
March 19, 2023 at 10 AM**

PLEASE REMEMBER

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

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United Church of Christ
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***An Open & Affirming Congregation
God is still speaking.***