



The Hammond Streeter

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

An Open and Affirming Community

April 12, 2023

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381

FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE



SCRIPTURE

Exodus 15:1-8

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: 'I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;

horse and rider, he has thrown into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation;

this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name.

'Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the sea; his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea. The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone. Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power—your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy. In the greatness of your majesty, you overthrew your adversaries; you sent out your fury, it consumed them like stubble. At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up, the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.

WORDS OF HOPE

This poem in Exodus is called the Song of Moses, or the Song of the Sea. I had been taught that it was the Song of Miriam. It is the song sung by the Israelites which they sang, and to which Miriam danced in celebration of salvation from the Egyptians. When I was in school, In English class, we often talked about how perspective was so important to poetry. Every poem has at least two perspectives; that of the author, and that of the reader.

When reading this poem, the perspective of the author is fairly clear. This song with Celebration and of praise for the power of God, coming to destroy the enemies, the enslavers, of the Israelites. It seems straightforward and not really open to a great deal of interpretation. And yet many people, myself included, are not so sure it represents an actual event, or if it indicates an enhancement of an actual event.

I remember one time reading a story told by Bill Bright, who was the founder of the Campus Crusade for Christ. As the story went one of his young followers went off to college and had been told in one of her classes that the truth is the story of the drowning of the Egyptians did not take place in the Red Sea, but took place in the sea of Reeds, which was barely 2 feet deep. The young student came to Bill Bright in tears, because what she had been taught in church did not match what she had been taught in college. Bill Bright had what I have always considered to be an exquisite answer. He looked at the young lady and yelled something to the effect of "Hallelujah! What a miracle! To drown the entire Egyptian army in only 2 feet of water. That is a powerful god."

While I have always had some concerns about the overarching teachings of Bill Bright, this one thing has always stuck in my head. Because this is an excellent lesson in perspective. The message of the story of the Israelites and Egyptians is one about the power of God to bring freedom. In this case that freedom was in the form of a physical release from bondage. It is no wonder that by the time Jesus came that the Jewish people expected a Messiah, who was a warrior, who was strong, and who would vanquish their enemies in a physical manner. The Jewish people brought their perspective to this poem, and it is not difficult to see why they felt the way they did.

Jesus brought a different perspective. We have seen this during the just passed season of Resurrection. He told his disciples to love one another as he had loved them. He told them that those who live by the sword, die by the sword. These were not words that the Israelites were prepared to hear after the crossing of the Red Sea. They had to have many years of exile and suffering before their perspective was able to accept Jesus's message. And even then, and even now, some people were not ready for that perspective.

For me, the change in perspective over that time as I study, it is a change from an external God of power and force to an internal God of power and empowerment. So, ask yourself how much do you expect God to step in and fix what is wrong in the world and how much does God expect you to be his instrument of fixing what is wrong in the world? Not through force, what is the power of God within you?

PRAYER

God of power, empower me this day to follow the examples of Jesus and to work in the world to bring love to all I meet.

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.



HSCC ANNUAL INDOOR YARD SALE

We Need . . . for the HSCC Indoor Yard Sale May 20

To make this happen we need people to help and stuff to sell. During the week before the sale, folks are needed Wednesday and Thursday to sort and organize donations and on Friday to finish sorting and pricing. On Saturday we need greeters, straighteners, cashiers and a clean-up crew. And, if you want coffee and goodies at the sale, then we need a coordinator for that, too. Please contact Lynda Ryder at pondpaddle@msn.com or 207-745-6851 if you can help or have questions.

Details about dropping off donations coming soon.

ALL CHURCH CLEANUP DAY

Join us for a morning of fun, fellowship and work on Saturday, May 13th from 8 AM to noon. Some of the fun events we have planned are the carpet cleaning contest, the window washing competition and the always popular raking, sweeping and trash picking up party. Lunch will be provided from noon to 1 PM and will include pizza, salad and cold cuts.

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.

THERE IS HUMMING HAPPENING AT HAMMOND STREET!

Save these dates for our 2023 Spring Concert Series!

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



COFFEE HOURS

Would you like to help with Coffee Hours? There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Pick a date to bring snacks or host. Contact Susan Guare or talk with someone in the kitchen on Sundays. Thank you in advance for your help.

HOME COMMUNION

If you are interested in receiving Communion at home, please call the office and leave your name and phone number with Mary.

DEAR HAMMOND STREETERS

I would like to thank all of you who have been bringing in empty liquid laundry soap containers that are being handed out to the patrons of Health Equity Alliance's (HEAL'S) Syringe Services Program. When I bring them to HEAL, they are gone in a day or two. This helps to keep our patrons' households safe from accidental needle sticks as well as keeping our communities safe. I have noticed some juice containers donated as well and encourage you all to add juice containers to your donation list as we drink our juice up much quicker than we use laundry detergent to wash our clothes.

Again, thank you so much for your loving support.

Sincerely,

Tim Rogers, HEAL volunteer, HEAL Board member and HSCC Outreach Committee member.

FOOD CUPBOARD

They are in need of **Peanut Butter, Cereal, Pasta.** PLEASE DO NOT BRING IN ANYMORE EGG CARTONS. Thank you for your continuous help we really appreciate it. Rita

DID YOU KNOW

that on May 10, 1896 "at the close of the service Sabbath morning the pastor (Rev. Griffin) laid upon the communion table 12 silver trays, each containing 24 individual cups and... referred to them as the gift of Mrs. Harriet A. Daggett, ... in memory of her husband James Milton Daggett." This 1896 entry in our records (Vol. 5, pp. 57-60) continues by lifting up "...Mr. Daggett's constant & varied efforts to promote the interests of the church..., to advance its prosperity & increase its fellowship." In talking about Deacon Daggett (1840-1895) who had also been Superintendent of the Sunday School for 7 years, Dea. A. L. Bourne noted about this Bangor native & businessman: "While those of us who have lived, walked & worked with our late Bro. Daggett need no token to keep his memory fresh in our minds yet, by this generous & appropriate gift from Mrs. Daggett (1842-1926), she has made it possible for him, though dead, to continue to speak to those who come after us, of his great love for this church." Indeed, great love for the church in 1896 or great love for the church today has the same genesis -- the greatest Love & Grace found at the Table of our Lord when we celebrate Communion -- with cups & trays lovingly used now for 127 years. Amen & Amen.

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. 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:

Trustees -4/13/23 at 6:30 PM-Sinnott Room
Music Committee-4/16/23 at 12 PM-Throck.
Council/Executive-4/18/23 at 6:30-Parlor

HSCC SAFETY COMMITTEE **COVID GUIDELINES**

Low Risk—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.

EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE SERVICE ON THE BANGOR WATERFRONT WITH PASTOR GREG BRIDGES MUSIC AND 17 HEARTY SOULS.



EASTER SUNDAY BREAKFAST AT HSCC

An estimated 40-50 people were served. Funds raised will be going to the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter.

Thank you to the kitchen crew including John Merrill, Glendon Yule Sweetland, Andy Wood, Brad Ryder, Don Spencer, Larry Pile, Wally Jakubus, and Paul Pfrang for keeping the Easter Breakfast tradition.



HSCC EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE 2023



EASTER FLOWERS ADORN ALTAR



CHRIST CANDLE

HSCC CHOIR AND CHIME CHOIR



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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

In Person Sunday Service

Pastor Gary Bagley

April 16, 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

**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.***