

The Hammond Streeter

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

An Open and Affirming Community

April 26, 2023

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381

FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE



SCRIPTURE

Matthew 12 :38-42

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.” But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth. The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah, and indeed something greater than Jonah is here!

The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon, and indeed something greater than Solomon is here!

WORDS OF HOPE

The Pharisees were always questioning Jesus, trying to catch him in some kind of theological trap, and this passage is another example of that. What spoke to me was the mention of the Queen of the South, and of course my queer mind cannot hear that phrase without envisioning one of the many drag queens I have known in my life. Having lived in Texas, a number of them have been southern drag queens and they seem to have the most delightfully acerbic and playfully venomous way of putting rowdy hecklers in their place.

I know the phrase refers to the Queen of Sheba in scripture, but I would love seeing the Pharisees come up against the force of nature that is a southern drag queen. I envision her letting them know that their skepticism and convoluted questioning missed the whole point of Jesus teachings.

“Ya’ll got your noses so high you’d drown in a rainstorm,” she would say. “Ya’ll had better sit yourself down and listen to this man.”

After they had followed her instructions, she would have ended the conversation with the quintessential Southern capper,” Bless your hearts.”

PRAYER

God of wisdom and wit, thank you for letting us find truth and sometimes humor in your words. May we always read Scripture with fresh eyes and look beyond the surface to bring its relevancy to our lives. Amen.



ALL CHURCH CLEANUP DAY

Join us for a morning of fun, fellowship and work on Saturday, April 29th 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.

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

It's Happening - The HSCC Indoor Yard Sale May 20th from 8 am to 1 pm

Beginning May 1st donations of clothes, kitchen stuff, household items, toys, books, cds, jewelry, . . . are welcome. Items should be clean and in working order. And, plants, summer bulbs, and seedlings are always appreciated. Please, no old electronics like computers and printers. Donations can be dropped off at the church during office hours 9-3 Monday through Friday or before or after worship on Sundays. If you are unable to bring your donations, contact Larry Blethen (207-907-9462) to arrange a pick-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 Fellowship

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.

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

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.

DID YOU KNOW

that the designer of the Ascension-themed stained-glass window over the pulpit, E. P. Treadwell of Boston, designed our next set of windows? When Mrs. Mary E. (Woodhull) Perry (1844-1910) contacts us to have windows placed in the sanctuary in memory of her parents, Rev. Richard (1802-1873) & Sarah (Forbes) Woodhull (1809-1882), Pastor Griffin suggests the Resurrection theme. Mr. Treadwell submits a sketch for the top third of the two windows on the High Street side - the bottom 2/3 being covered by blinds. In an April 19, 1884, note, he titles the scene "Angels Guarding the Sepulcher" & writes "the figures...will be treated in pure mosaic of colored glass in very delicate tints...& a very slight modeling given to the drapery. All the variation of color in the drapery & wings will be in the glass itself, being caused by opalescence with a slight rosy tinge in the drapery & soft pigeon wing shades of many colors in the wings." During the windows' dedication Nov 26, 1885, Pastor Griffin describes & talks about the Angel of Strength (left) & the Angel of Compassion (right.) In 1959 the windows are removed & stored in a closet until discovered in the late 1990's. A decision is made to restore the Angel of Compassion & in 1997 is installed over the back door where it dazzles observers when the sun shines through it just as it did when it first graced the sanctuary. Its "mate" is given in partial payment to the restorer.

THANK YOU

Dear friends,
Thank you for the lovely daffodil plant. Its bright color is reassuring after a cold, grey winter. Hoping to be back in the flock soon. Thanks to Kathy Frazier for the delivery service.

Love you all,
Berta Burbank

THANK YOU

Dear Pastor Gary & Congregation,
Greetings, What a wonderful surprise was waiting for me when I was walking back from my mailbox. A splash of color caught my eye. And, there, right in plain sight were two yellow crocuses! My heart smiled as I remembered participating in your church's special program for Stewardship Sunday, and then later, the disappearing crocus bulbs. God knew what he was doing when he sent me there that Sunday. He always does! Yours is a warm and welcoming church. Maybe I will pop in for another visit someday.

All the best,
Dorrit Emerson

HSCC MEETINGS:

Stewardship—4/27/23 at 7:00 pm - Sinnott Rm.
Diaconate—5/2/23 at 6:30 pm - 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.



PILGRIM LODGE Summer 2023



April 28-29
**JUMP START
WEEKEND**
Grades 6 and up

May 5-6
**CONFIRMATION
RETREAT**
Currently in grades 8-12
w/ Sponsors

June 2 - June 4
**WOMEN'S
SPRING WKND**
Ages 19 and older

June 3 - June 4
CIT TRAINING
Ages 16-18



June 5 - June 7
CLERGY PRAYCATION
Adults

June 21 - June 24
FAITH FOUNDATIONS - HALF WEEK
Grades 3 - 5



June 25 - July 1
ARTS ALIVE / ELEM. ADVENTURES!
Grades 7 - Post Grad Grades 4 - 6

July 2 - July 5
**GRANDPARENTS I /
EXPEDITION EVERYONE**
All Ages



July 9 - July 15
CAMP PRIDE / MIDDLE ISLAND CAMP
Grades 7 - Post Grad Grades 7 - 9

July 16 - July 22
MIDDLE SPIRIT / SENIOR HIGH
Grades 7 - 9 Grades 10 - Post Grad



July 23 - July 29
DESTINATION HOGWARTS
Grades 4 - 10

July 29 - July 31
GRANDPARENTS II
Ages 5 and older



Aug 4 - Aug 6
PRIDE ACROSS THE AGES
All Ages

Aug 7 - Aug 11
ADULT LIGHTEN UP, LOOSEN UP
Ages 19 and older



Sept 1 - Sept 4
FAMILY CAMP
All Ages

Sept 15 - Sept 17
WOMEN'S FALL WEEKEND
Ages 19 and older



Register for camp **TODAY!**

Programming for all ages

You are welcome here!

Scholarships are available for all sessions. Apply online by May 15, 2023.

To sign up, visit
www.pilgrimlodge.org



207-724-3200, info@pilgrimlodge.org

*Pilgrim Lodge is a camp lovingly provided by the
Maine Conference United Church of Christ since 1956.*



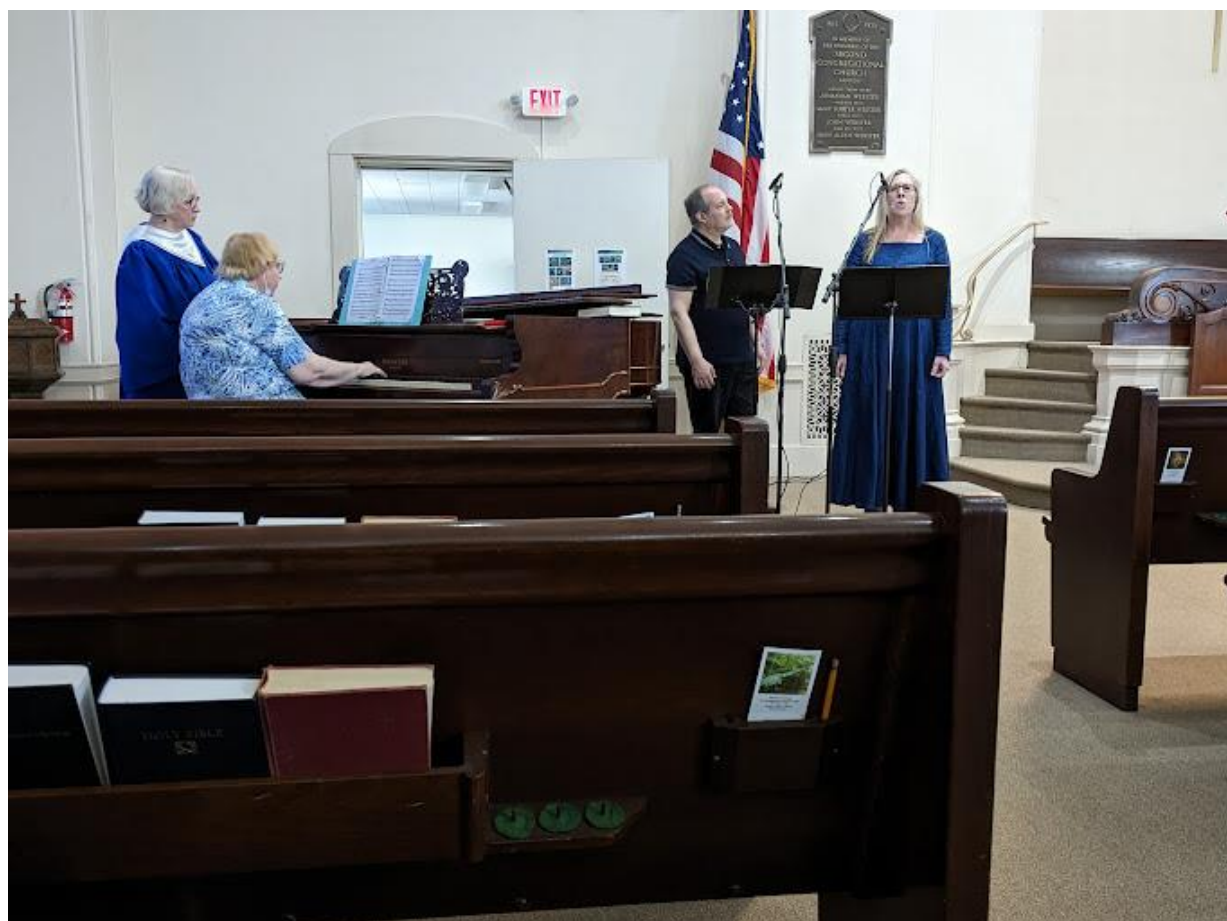
Pilgrim Lodge
103 Pilgrim Lodge Ln
West Gardiner, ME 04345

**A limited number of
scholarships are
available here at HSCC
for all sessions.**

**Early registration is suggested
to secure a spot. Please contact
Joni Decato at
joni.decato@tylertech.com for
scholarship information**



Pastor Gary shares the Walk to Emmaus story with our youth members of the congregation.



A Powerful Duet by Andre Chasse and Tricia Van Kirk

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

In Person Sunday Service

Pastor Gary Bagley

April 30, 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.***