



The Hammond Streeter

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

An Open and Affirming Community
April 5, 2023

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381

FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE



SCRIPTURE

Sirach 12:13-14

Who pities a snake charmer when he is bitten, or those who go near wild animals? No one pities a person who associates with a sinner and then becomes involved in the other one's sins.

WORDS OF HOPE

Jesus spent much of Holy Week teaching parables and confronting the practices of the Priests and other religious authorities who were holding on to their positions of power regardless of the teachings of their own Bible. I'm sure they were familiar with the words of wisdom taught by Ben Sira whose writings are still available to us in the Apocrypha. His teaching here is about the danger of close association with sinful practices. He considers close association which involves some adoption of sinful behaviors, exactly what these so-called leaders were doing.

No doubt, the religious leaders found reinforcement to their corruption within their own circle. It can happen so easily. A person dips his toe into their sinful practice, hears their excuse as to why it is okay, and pretty soon the individual is swimming in the dirty pool with them. When someone outside of the pool of bad behavior asks: "what happened?" The common response is: "big mistake, I goofed up and didn't mean to get that deep". And the other person shrugs his shoulder and mutters: "you should've known better".

Of course, the Pharisees and their associates were deliberately blind to this sort of self-examination, but most of us who are honest with ourselves can sense a moral danger and still override a first urge to avoid the sin. It will happen unless we maintain a strong spirit of moral integrity. And the strength of that integrity is based in one's devotion to divine instruction. Is that what God would want me to do?

Personally, I frame the matter with this question to myself. "If I do this possible action, would Christ Jesus be glorified and manifested via my behavior? Often that puts the brakes on my potential action and always keeps dancing snakes out of my life. What about you?

PRAYER

Eternal God, on this Holy Week, may I learn by bad examples as well as good. May my guiding thought this week be to ask myself if Christ Jesus would be glorified and manifested through what I am about to do. I seek your guidance in our Savior's name. Amen

ANNUAL HIKE FOR THE HOMELESS

On behalf to the Outreach Committee, we'd like to thank all who participated or supported the Hike for the Homeless fundraiser for the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter. Despite less than ideal weather on Saturday morning, we had a great turnout of Hearty Hammond Streeters to walk on the waterfront in support of the Shelter and the many services they provide to the greater Bangor area. As a result of generous support from the HSCC congregation, we were able to sponsor the Hike at the \$500 level and sign up a team of 30 hikers. Combined, this generated a total contribution of at least \$1,200 to the Hike for the Homeless fund raiser. Thanks again for your generous support.
– Your Outreach Committee.



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.

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: judyfricke@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.

YES, THE RUMOR IS TRUE!

An indoor yard sale is on the HSCC calendar for May 20, 2023. Details coming soon.

HOME COMMUNION

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

WILLING WORKERS EASTER CLEANING



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 thanks to the dedication & high standards set by two men who served as both Deacon & Scribe (Clerk) - Elnathan Duren & Prof. Francis Denio - throughout the 19th Century & early decades of the 20th, we have 7 ledgers full of almost 2800 pages of wonderful records and 13 large scrap books filled with over 3500 items that give us a front row seat, so to speak, on people, events, mission and so much more. Dea. Duren & Dea. Denio were members for 76 & 65 yrs respectively. While neither of them bore the title of "Historian" they seemed to be forward looking as they compiled materials for those who would want to know about their spiritual ancestors & heritage at HSCC. Yet for the 3-day celebration of our 100th Anniversary, Dea. Denio at age 84 finds himself in the role of Historian when he presents a 31 page "Historical Sketch" to the assembled members & guests. Carl Delano becomes the next Clerk & also picks up the unofficial mantle of Historian for 28 years. Finally, in 1965 it becomes a named position filled by Carl, then a series of folks: Ruth Dole, Grace Coffin, Alice Soldati, Margaret Cook, Philip Schlegel, Perry Amsden & now yours truly. It is truly an honor to follow in such big footsteps. Picking up on Perry's lead of compiling memories of 1953-2002 & publishing them in booklet form, "Volume 2" covers 2003-2007" (copies still available) & the third "Volume" -- 2008-2022 is hot off the press with a copy available for each family -- an early Easter gift so please enjoy!

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:

Last Lenten Study-4/6/23 at 1PM—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.

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

EASTER SUNDAY

In Person Sunday Service

Pastor Gary Bagley

April 9, 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.***