



The Hammond Streeter

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

An Open and Affirming Community

May 3, 2023

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381

FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE



SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 26:20 NIV
Without wood a fire goes out.

WORDS OF HOPE

The Serenity of Silence

Silence is not the absence of chaos but the presence of control. Rage is chaotic, so too is lust; neither of which need sound to be present. To quiet the storms in our hearts, we need only bring order to the confusion. One can only stay silent by showing restraint. A teacher should instruct by considering what they say. Every manner of thought passes through the mind, every kind of emotion is felt in the heart, but if each thought were said and every emotion expressed, then even in sleep there would be no rest. Silence bridles the tongue and reins in the heart. It does not always stop the fire within, but it keeps the fire from spreading.

Consider silence when you do not know what to say. It is better to say nothing than it is to say the wrong thing. How good it is to sleep in peace. It is hard to sleep under a bridge while a train is passing by. Likewise, let your words offer the listener rest and try your best not to argue. Anger without control ruins relationships but anger with control sees the end of it.

There are times when we cannot stay silent, for a pot will boil over if the lid is kept on for too long. However, if we are patient and wise, then we will choose the manner in which we speak and the time. Many monks meditate in silence. Some have found silence so valuable that they even take a vow of silence, meaning that they live their entire lives without speaking. Perhaps, this is the reason why they never go to war. How can there be a fire with nothing to burn or how can there be an argument without words? Quiet places are quite peaceful. There is music all around us, and we can only hear it if we are listening.

PRAYER

Gentle Spirit,

Teach us wisdom. Help us to understand. Some of us do not know peace. Grant us the serenity of silence. Let our minds be at rest and our hearts be still. Bless You, for always making a way. Amen.



HSCC ANNUAL INDOOR YARD SALE

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

Donations of clothes, kitchen stuff, household items, toys, books, cds, jewelry, . . . are welcome. Items should be clean and in working order. 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.

PRIDE 2023

It's time to start making preparations for PRIDE week-end! HSCC will be, once again, participating in the festivities by marching in the parade and hosting a booth at the festival. Our Pride Sunday service will also be a featured event in the festival marketing and calendar of events. The parade and festival are on Saturday, June 24th. The parade is from 11:00-12:00, and the festival is from 12:00-4:00.

If you are interested in helping plan our participation in PRIDE activities, please join our first planning meeting on Tuesday, May 9th at 6:00 p.m. in the Sinnott Room. If you have questions, please contact Andre Chasse at: aechasse@yahoo.com, or 207-239-9358.

WILL I SEE YOU AT PILGRIM LODGE THIS SUMMER?

Many of us know Pilgrim Lodge as a beautiful 100-acre summer camp for youth on Lake Cobbosseecontee. It is all that and much more. For many years Hammond Street youth have enjoyed camp at PL and grown in their faith in a wonderful accepting community. But, did you know that PL has programs for everyone? Check out their schedule for this year at pilgrimlodge.org. There are events from one day to a week for all ages – grades 3 to high school grad, families, grandparents, women, Pride events, arts, women's groups, an island camping adventure, Hogwarts camp, and more. There is truly something for everyone.

I will be at PL as a counselor for the Arts Alive camp at the end of June. I'll be returning in August as a camper with my daughter and grandson for Family and Friends camp. Hammond Streeters Edgar and Barbara Brown were counselors at Pilgrim Lodge for its first season in 1956. Let's keep the tradition alive.

Tracy Bigney

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



FREE BEAN LUNCH:

Join us on Saturday, May 6th for our Free Bean Lunch from 12-1, we provide a FREE meal for the community. We serve homemade beans, hot dogs, casseroles, cole slaw and a dessert to 60-90 people. We also make bag lunches to go that include: Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches, an apple and a cookie. There are lots of volunteer opportunities to include set-up, serving and cleanup as well as making casseroles, cookies or dessert. We'd love your help. Please contact Lois Baxter at auntlolo49@gmail.com or 207-745-4117. if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

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 our worship space has undergone some major changes? The first is in 1853 when the entire structure is rebuilt in its current form and the four large gas gilt chandeliers & rosewood pulpit with carved grapevines are added. The first color we know about comes in 1883 with the installation of the Rev. Maltby memorial stained-glass window & next in 1885 with the Woodhull windows. Then in 1891 there's a dramatic change in decor at the hands of painters from the Tiffany Glass Co. who paint a dark orange halfway up the walls & use a lighter shade for the upper half -- finishing with a beautiful frescoing. There is a clouded effect on the ceiling with a dark red border. After 20 years the motif becomes Romanesque with walls tinted a soft brown & ceiling an olive gray & the Lord's Prayer & Apostles Creed on the front walls (from Tiffany work?) are replaced with verses from John 15 on Jesus as the true vine & encircled by lilies & grape vines. A note on re-decoration in 1975 reports the walls "...a lovely shade of gold." In 1963 & 1983 there are major renovations & painting but neither apparently very "dramatic." The new colors we currently experience came in our stained-glass additions in 1901, 1913-1914, 1955 & finally in 1960.

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.

Our trip to the Sea Dogs game is fast approaching. Have you been wondering how best to celebrate Mother's Day this year? Many moms love nothing better than a family outing. A trip to the Sea Dogs the day before Mother's Day would be a home run! A ballpark picnic is included, so you may not even need to buy her some peanuts and Cracker Jack. Leave the driving to Cyr bus.

Or, if the mom in your family needs a day off for a bubble bath and retail therapy, get tickets for everyone else and leave her in peace and quiet.

See or call Susan Gildart (207-478-3320) to reserve your seats. Payment in advance is required.



HSCC COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

PRIDE Prep Meeting AT 6PM-5/9/23-Sinnott

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:

Hammond Streeter—Tuesdays at NOON

Sunday Bulletin—Thursdays at NOON

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. The family
pays the deposit, and then
HSCC will pay the balance.
Early registration is suggested
to secure a spot.**

**Please contact Joni Decato at
joni.decato@tylertech.com for
more scholarship information.**



Meet our Third ADELLA Project participants, and an HSCC love story!
Larry and Elaine Blethen

Larry and Elaine Blethen met at HSCC in 1953. They have been involved in the church through the choir, the trustees, the 'willing workers', and the music committee. As the saying goes, "behind every great man is a great woman", and if Larry is the wheel then Elaine is the grease, keeping the wheels turning!

Larry's favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:13- "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me", and Elaine's favorite is Luke 10:25 - 37 the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Larry and Elaine both like to read, watch comedy shows, and in the past, they were passionate about sailing. They enjoyed their 19 foot day-sailer very much, which enabled them to experience the power of the wind and the beauty of the earth from the water.

Their family consists of 3 children, 9 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, and a cat named Willow.

The Blethens live by the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you, and Elaine also likes "Either fish or cut bait". The best advice they have received is 'make sure you know where you are going before you leave', and 'you'll get over it'.

When we asked the Blethens "if you could change one thing about HSCC, what would it be?," they both said that they would like more information about Sunday School, broadcasted to the public.

Larry joined the navy four days after they were married. After active duty, he was in the reserve for a total of 30 years. While on reserve duty, he also worked full time for the telephone company until his retirement in 1991, 36 years later. Elaine was a registered dietitian, at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston doing nutritional research on diet and disease. She retired in 1992, and they moved back to Maine in 1997.

And now for the great love story: In 1953, HSCC pastor, Reverend Ernst asked Larry to come and speak to a meeting of the Young Adult group at HSCC to show the group some pictures of the damage to a ship he was on that went through a typhoon on the Pacific Ocean. After the meeting, Reverend Ernst told Larry he had to get his car out of the public garage to take one of the girls home to Brewer, as he was concerned about her walking across the bridge. Larry said he would be pleased to take her home. The girl he took home was Elaine Carroll, a University of Maine student, and as Larry revealed to us, "pleasant to talk to". That meeting was in April, and they were married in October of 1953. After almost 70 years, they are still happily married!

Finally, some fun facts about the Blethens. They enjoy playing Monopoly and watching Jeopardy, and Elaine enjoys reading *Jan Karon's Mitford series*. Larry remembers his favorite 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Carrie Rowe, because she was "born to teach" meaning that she had natural talent and she would make sure that her students understood what she was teaching.

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

In Person Sunday Service

Pastor Gary Bagley

MAY 7, 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.***