



The Hammond Streeter

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

An Open and Affirming Community
June 14, 2023

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381



FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 22:3

Thus says the LORD, "Do justice and righteousness, and deliver the one who has been robbed from the power of his oppressor. Also do not mistreat or do violence to the stranger, the orphan, or the widow; and do not shed innocent blood in this place."

WORDS OF HOPE

June 12 is celebrated as Loving Day.

Loving Day is the anniversary of a historic court decision for interracial marriage.

Every year on June 12th, it's a global day of visibility, education, and community. People around the world observe Loving Day every year on June 12th in meaningful and personal ways. While all are welcome, it can be especially significant for interracial couples, multiracial families, mixed race and transracially adopted people, and those with similar life experiences.

Many share photos and stories on social media with #lovingday. Others bring people together through events for their community, friends, or family. You can also use Loving Day as inspiration for using your creativity, skills, or professional talents in a positive way. Like other important yearly observations, Loving Day can be an intentional time to stand in solidarity with communities that intersect with ours. (From Google)

I am so thankful for the Loving's who were brave enough to fight the system to be able to marry each other despite laws that did not allow them to marry. What courage that took! We celebrate their bravery. As we see more of the rights of people being in jeopardy through our legal process, we need to continue to celebrate and uphold all the rights of people to love and marry and all rights of life! Our Christian responsibility is to "do justice."

I respond to emails from local organizations who give me links to send a prepared email asking legislators to please not vote on hurtful bills. We all must find ways to do what we can! The result of the bad bills that have been passed in many states may cause friends and people we have met or know to be forced to move from their homes to places where they can receive healthcare they need and live without fear. This is a sad outcome! Whatever doing justice looks like, we must find out how to do what we can to do that. We cannot sit by and do nothing. Edmund Burke is credited with saying: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Good people who do nothing hold responsibility for the bad things that happen. Please do not allow yourself to fall into that category.

Some people say the church should not be involved in politics. But things that are affecting the lives and wellbeing of God's people are the very work of the church. If the church body must go to the places of law to fight for the lives of God's people, then it is necessary for us to do so!

PRAYER

God of all people, help us as your people to know what to do to help the oppressed. Guide us to do justice.

NAME TAGS

We would like to request that we all go back to wearing name tags. We noticed quite a few new faces at church and it seems appropriate to help them feel more comfortable and to aid us in learning who they are.

RIDES TO CHURCH

There are members of the church as well as some visitors who want to attend worship on Sunday morning but are unable to because they do not have transportation.

Most cannot afford Uber or a Taxi either. We need volunteers who would be willing to pick up someone in their area and bring them to church and take them home after. If you feel that you could do this, please sign up on the list that you will find on the tables at the entrance of the church. Pastor Gary will then give you a call and see if you could pick up persons close to you. Currently we have one member and one elderly non-member who need transportation to church. Be a transportation angel and help others be a part of worship. If you need a ride contact Pastor Gary and he will get you on the list.

JOIN THE CONCERT PARKING FUNDRAISING

HSCC has a great opportunity (thanks to Susan Gildart) to raise funds by assisting with parking in the Shaw's lot for Waterfront Concerts. **Our first concert will be on Friday, July 7, when Chris Stapleton performs.** This will be one of the biggest concerts of the year.

Shaw's makes space available in their parking lot and allows non-profit groups to monitor the lot and share the proceeds from concert parking. We will be working with another non-profit group who have done this before; they will show us the ropes. We need 16 volunteers to each work a 4 ½ hour shift. Eight from noon to 4:30 and 8 from 4:30 to 9. The volunteers monitor the lot to be sure that people parking there are concert attendees and pay the fee. Only one person collects money; that will be someone from the other group we are working with.

If you can be on your feet, outdoors, for most of 4 ½ hours and be nice but firm with people about parking in the designated area, you are qualified! Wear comfy shoes and dress for the weather.

If you can volunteer for one of the shifts for July 7, please let Tracy Bigney know: 207-356-7223 or tbig@gwi.net. Indicate your preferred shift (noon to 4:30 or 4:30 to 9) or that you are willing to be assigned to either shift.

OUTREACH

CALLING ALL KNITTERS: Knitters keep knitting the Afghan squares! If you need any yarn, we have it available here at HSCC. Thank you so much, Outreach Committee

SOCKS FOR THE HOMELESS

Your Outreach Committee is working to support the activities of social service organizations and housing providers in the Greater Bangor Area. Socks are one of the most requested items.

Can you help us out?

We will have a box in the Narthex for sock collection until July 1st. Socks must be brand new and any summer appropriate socks are fine. After July 1st, socks will be distributed between local organizations and HSCC for distribution to those in need. Thanks for your support—HSCC Outreach Committee



God loves me
just as I am.

PRIDE 2023

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. **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 or you have questions, please contact Andre Chasse at: aechasse@yahoo.com, or 207-239-9358.

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.

SUMMER WORSHIP

On Sunday, June 25th we will celebrate Pride Sunday. Saturday, June 24th will be a day of celebration as we march in the Pride parade and have a booth at the Pride Festival downtown. Our service on Sunday will focus on diversity and the acceptance of all people.

Beginning in July we will have a more relaxed time of worship. The choir will be on vacation, but worship will continue with more informal liturgy and the singing of your favorite hymns. To make all this happen we will need to hear from you. There will be forms on the tables at the entrance of the Sanctuary for you to pick up and in the Hammond Streeter as well. All you have to do is fill in the form with your favorite hymns and return them to the church and we will begin on July 2, singing those hymns. This will continue through August. We look forward to getting your list.

DID YOU KNOW

that our Pastors do practice what they preach? For instance, the biblical advice to "ask and it will be given you,..." (Mt 7:7a) can make for some interesting announcements/requests from the pulpit & in the Sunday bulletins. During Rev Harland Lewis' pastorate, the Feb 29, 1948 bulletin contained a "Want Ad Section" enumerating 7 items, the first of which was an organ. By late August a new Baldwin electronic had been installed & an initial concert given by the internationally acclaimed organist, Dr. Alexander McCurdy that was heard by over 600 people according to the Sept 5, 1948 bulletin. Going back further to Sunday, May 7, 1893 we read an announcement by Rev Henry Griffin: "Wanted - some kind friend to take his horse & drive with two young people out to the Odlin Road (East Church) this afternoon where interesting meetings (will be) held...William C Adams will give information." On May 14 he tells the congregation --"The appeal for a horse last Sunday was not in vain as a kind friend lent his horse for the afternoon." But Rev Griffin is not finished - "The same appeal is made for this afternoon. The meetings at the Odlin Road (East Church) are growing in interest. A horse is wanted to take some of our young people there. Who will furnish it?" Still not the end --he made the request a few more times before summer when the meetings ended. Currently, Pastor Gary has asked for volunteers to supply "horsepower" for two people who would like to attend Sunday worship. "Who will furnish it?"

HSCC COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Council/Executive on 6/20/23 at 6:30 PM-Parlor



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 office if you can help.



YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

As we move through the summer, we are preparing for another year of Sunday School. This year we are reorganizing the Youth class and will need volunteers to help teach. We are moving away from the one teacher model so that one person is not left in the classroom all year and unable to attend worship.

We are setting up a rotation model that will allow a person to teach one Sunday a Month and then be in Worship on the other Sundays. This will require at least four or more individuals who are willing to give their time and at least one Sunday a month to work with the youth. We currently have some volunteers but need a few more. We will make it as easy as possible for those who volunteer to teach by providing the necessary curriculum. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Pastor Gary.

HELP NEEDED IN THE FOOD CUPBOARD

The Ecumenical Food Cupboard has been serving the Bangor area out of Hammond Street Church since 1975. Since that time, We as a congregation have supported the Food Cupboard through donations of nonperishable food items as well as volunteers to help with the distribution of food from the Food Cupboard.

The Food Cupboard is now in a time of transition as leadership changes and needs individuals who can give of their time to help pack and distribute the food to those in need. Workers are needed on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Help make a difference in the lives of others by giving of you time and self at the Food Cupboard.

ALIVE AND THRIVE CONFERENCE

HSCC hosted the Maine Conference Alive and Thrive workshop on Saturday with forty-five people representing more than a dozen UCC churches from New Hampshire to Presque Isle and Milbridge to Industry in attendance. Hammond Street leadership was well represented.



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

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

In Person Sunday Service

Pastor Gary Bagley

JUNE 18, 2023 at 10 AM

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!!

PLEASE REMEMBER

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
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United Church of Christ**

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