



The Hammond Streeter

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

An Open and Affirming Community
June 21, 2023

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381



FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 139.16-17

Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book, they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them. How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

WORDS OF HOPE

The WEB is overflowing with sites that promote self-help and self-image these days as well as every other commercial that are forced on us when we scroll through You Tube. They are annoying, but they do frequently present the questions to us: "Who am I? How do I see myself? What am I to the people around me?"

This also begs the question, who am I to me compared to who am I to the One we call God? How do we measure our own authenticity just to ourselves? Have you ever considered that? I can give myself license to be me all day long, except for the fact that I find myself justifying the need for affirmation, or just plain looking for permission, as if the whole world becomes my parent. How often do you do that? What is it that drives us to not except ourselves from moment to moment; forgetting entirely that need to be accountable only to ourselves. That seems so simple, yet complex.

We are constantly invited to discover who we are according to someone else's definition in those packaged, and usually expensive, self-help programs. Putting all that aside, I'm giving myself permission today to just be. I have things to do today. I have chores to complete, work responsibilities, and certain responsibilities to my neighbors. Sound familiar?

But if we can slow down and take just a moment to relax informally from the stuff that we must do today and remember who we are. We are, all of us, precious in the eyes of God. The Psalmist reminds us that even our thoughts are precious to God. I hope that I can find some peace in my thought life and become a little bit more confident that I'm not just OK, but precious to the One who created me. and therefore, you must be more than OK as well.

We have our habits, perhaps, even addictions, that we deal with day-to-day and moment to moment. Yet, I know at the very core of my own personal struggles, all it takes is a few minutes to breathe, and to give myself permission to be OK to God while not being perfect. Is that too simple? Maybe. It's different for all of us. I hope in the few minutes it took to read this, you can breathe and say, "I am precious to God. being authentic with myself starts with me." Repeat that a couple of times.

PRAYER

Loving Creator, help me remember that I am OK being me and I'm not only OK being me. I welcome the peace that comes from just being me. Amen.

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.

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for the food for me, my mom and my brothers. I love the grapes and pasta. The chocolate cake was especially yummy. Thank you, Adrian

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



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 early in the 20th Century, during the summer months "when the living is easy," Hammond Streeters enjoyed various forms of fun activities together outside - both adults and children. For instance, on June 25, 1901 the Stearns Circle held its annual outing in East Corinth & travelled via "a *special* car" on the Penobscot Central Railroad & several weeks later the Dorcas Circle travelled to the same place also by train for their summer picnic. Then in July there was a free 5-hour "excursion" for the children that included a picnic along the banks of the Kenduskeag Stream & a ride in "special cars" on the PCRR. The children's squeals of delight were probably as loud as the train's wheels! In July of 1905 a newspaper caption, "Picnic Trip to Islesboro: Annual Excursion of HSCC Sunday School," indicates a change in the mode of transportation. The article tells us that all the children & two teachers left Bangor aboard the *Verona* at 7:30 a.m. "...and on the face of each could be seen anticipation of a pleasant day down river" according to Superintendent Prof. Frances Denio who saw them off. By 1936, or perhaps sooner, the young folks are no longer on the water but in it at Peterson's Beach on Green Lake enjoying water sports in the afternoon with a picnic supper on the beach before the bus ride back to Bangor. May we, too, remember to take some time this summer to relax, observe & enjoy the countless natural gifts of the Creator available to each of us in this beautiful State of Maine. *Bon voyage!*

HSCC COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Stewardship on 6/22/23 at 6:30 PM-Sinnott Room



HAPPY PRIDE

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.

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.

TRUSTEES' CORNER

Here are highlights of the work the Trustees are doing. If you have questions about any of these items, please contact Tracy Bigney (chair) at 207-356-7223 or tbig@zwi.net.

The Willing Workers will be installing insulation in the walls of the Narthex closets this summer. This project will make a big difference in the temperature of the Narthex, reducing the danger of freezing of the radiators and allowing us to keep the temperature lower during the week. The Willing Workers make this work possible at a cost far less than contracting.

As part of our ongoing work to develop a plan for modernizing the heating system, we are planning a meeting in July with the engineer who did the feasibility study on the heating system. We will publicize the date so others can attend.

Fundraising is going very well this year. We have had three successful events with the Sweet Treats Sale, the dinner and auction, and the yard sale. In July we have two events. On July 7 Hammond Streeters will be helping with parking at Shaw's for the Chris Stapleton concert. This has the potential to raise a good sum. On July 8 we are sponsoring a Penobscot Theatre Night with a pre-theatre social and performance of Mary Poppins. Call the church office to reserve your tickets at \$60 per person.

We will be reconstituting the Staff Parish Relations Committee, which has not been active since the pandemic. This is a sub-committee under Trustees and includes members who are not Trustees. The Committee oversees hiring and human resource policies and assists with any issues of misunderstanding or conflict between staff and members of the congregation.

The Investment Committee is a sub-committee under the Trustees that works with our financial advisor to invest our endowed funds. Chuck Veeder is the new chair of the committee. The committee is exploring investing a portion of our investments in funds that screen stocks to identify companies that are responsible in environmental, social and governance (ESG) areas.



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.

HSCC SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Starting on June 26th we will be returning to summer office hours. (Monday thru Friday from 9 am to 12 pm). After 12 pm you can leave a message on the answering machine and we will get back to you the next business day. We will resume regular office hours after August 18th.



POP IN FOR OUR THEATRE PARTY FUNDRAISER

On Saturday July 8 HSCC will host a theatre party fundraiser featuring “Mary Poppins” at Penobscot Theatre. There will be a pre-theatre social in Fellowship Hall with hors d’oeuvres, sweets, and beverages at 5:30. Then at 6:30 we will walk , drive, or fly by umbrella to the theatre for the 7:00 show.

SUPERCALIFRAGILLISTIC is the only word in the English language that describes this play. Mary Poppins to a T! Last Saturday evening I was in the audience filled with excitement, awe and great vibes waiting to see what spectacular scene we’d see next from the first note of music to the long standing ovation. Please don’t delay in obtaining your tickets and join your Hammond Street family for a wonderful evening on July 8th.

Lovern Stockwell ☺

Tickets are \$60 per person and we currently only have 9 left. Call or email the church office (207-942-4381; admin@hammondstreetchurch.net) to make your reservations for this supercallifragilisticexpialidocious evening of fun and fellowship. All tickets must be paid for by July 2. Checks can be made out to the church with Theater in the memo line and put in the offering plate or given to Joni Decato. All proceeds support church operations and mission.



RE-CYCLE, RE-USE, RE-PLANT!

With spring planting finally upon us, please save any 4" to 6" sized plastic pots your seedlings came in and bring them into church. I will be more than happy to fill them next year with various perennial "volunteers" from my garden for the annual yard sale! The plants come to me free, and I willingly provide the potting soil, but am unable to purchase new pots every year. Thank you, Jan Hill.

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

PRIDE SUNDAY

In Person Sunday Service

Pastor Gary Bagley

JUNE 25, 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
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United Church of Christ**

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