



The Hammond Streeter

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

An Open and Affirming Community
June 28, 2023

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381



FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

SCRIPTURE

Acts 28:1-2

Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was called Malta. The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold.

WORDS OF HOPE

The first ten verses of the 28th chapter of the Book of Acts contain several extraordinary miracles that might be so outrageous as they cannot be believed.

The first miracle is when Paul throws a pile of brushwood on a fire, and he is bitten on the hand by a viper. So tenacious was this bite that the viper fastened itself and would not let go. Can you picture Paul holding out his arm and there's a snake just hanging there? The local islanders were so shocked that they believed that Paul was a murderer and that the goddess of Justice finally caught up to him. But when Paul suffered no ill effects from the hanging viper, they changed their minds and decided that perhaps Paul was a god.

And then there's the part of the narrative where Paul heals the chief official's father. Even though healing stories are familiar in scripture, can we say that makes them no less extraordinary? The story goes on to say that this action was so well received that the inhabitants of the island who were sick came to Paul and were cured.

Harmless snake bites and healing the sick might grab the headline, but what might easily be overlooked in this narrative, however, are the acts of kindness from people who lived on the island of Malta.

Having no reason to trust Paul and his companions, when they washed up on shore, the islanders showed them unusual benevolence. Despite not knowing them, these new friends built them a fire (from which Paul's serpent emerged!) and took them in out of the rain and cold. Soon after, the leader of the island welcomed Paul into his home and showed generous hospitality for three days. Upon departing, these new friends gave what they were able to speed Paul and his friends on their way.

What we find in this generosity is a truer and more compelling extraordinary miracle. God works to turn complete strangers into great friends, especially when they're going through a hard time. It's interesting how sometimes people who may seem unrefined or unsophisticated are the most approachable and friendly. In fact, the actions of so-called barbarians or heathens can shame those who claim to be civilized Christians. God is always raising up people to be a source of comfort and blessings during tough times.

How often in your own life have you been blessed by the kindness of those who are most unlike you? When have you been given a gift by a person whom you, for whatever reason, would normally avoid? When has a person stopped to help someone else who is down when their own resources are meager?

And the question we are called to ask of ourselves: When will we be that person who helps, who gives, and who shares? How can we be an extraordinary and miraculous part of someone's story of need?

PRAYER

from St. Ignatius: Dear Lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight, and not to heed the wounds, to toil, and not to seek for rest, to labor, and not to ask for reward, save that of knowing that I do your will. Amen.

HSCC 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.

SUMMER HAMMOND STREETER

This is the last WEEKLY Hammond Streeter for the summer. The next publication will be on Wednesday, July 19th, which will be the only one for July. We will determine if we will go back to weekly publications for mid-August at a later date. **All articles and photos must be submitted by Tuesday, July 18th before noon for the 19th's edition of the Hammond Streeter.**

JULY SERMONS SERIES

During July Pastor Gary will be doing a Sermon series entitled "Religions". Each week we will look at four different religions and what we as Christians can learn from each. Make plans to be in worship and see how other religions can teach us and help us to be better Christians.

COFFEE HOURS

Each Sunday after worship, the hospitality of HSCC continues in Fellowship Hall. AND, we need someone(s) to host Coffee Hour on July 23 to keep this tradition in place that Sunday. A few goodies and something to drink (it doesn't have to be coffee) is all that is needed. Please contact the church office at 942-4381 or email admin@hammondstreetchurch.net if you can help.

SOCKS FOR THE HOMELESS

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

HOME COMMUNION

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

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.



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 Bangor 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 your time and self at the Food Cupboard.

DID YOU KNOW

That folks at HSCC seem to have grasped the fact several centuries ago that "fun" is the beginning of "fund raising" and we have been "capitalizing" on this idea ever since. Not surprisingly, music plays a large part in meeting our various needs. For instance, in 1886 the ladies wanted carpet & curtains for the vestry which led to a series of concerts between 1886-87. So where is the "fun" you may wonder. Consider for one thing a whistling solo, "Fond Hearts Must Part," by Miss Tenie Gerich at the end of the first concert. According to the Oct 15, 1886 Whig & Courier coverage, she "...always carries a Bangor audience by storm ..., and last night was no exception." For encores she "... responded with the 'Nightingale's Echo Song' and 'Mocking Bird.'" Then in 1891-92 the Music Committee did some fund raising, starting with an all-day excursion on the *Henry Morrison* steamer that included an orchestra providing music during the day & a concert after dinner on Islesboro & continuing with a series of 9 travel & musical events. Jumping into the 20th & 21st Centuries, our annual Christmas fair has a long history of being an excellent fund raiser & a lot of fun; and who can forget the fun & profits made at our booths -- the Ice Cream Booth at the Bangor State Fair & our "Bean Suppah" booth with brownies & ice cream at the Folk Festivals. Our Trustee & Music Committee continue to find ways to keep the "fun" in fund raising with bus trips to wonderful & exciting destinations &, of course, the beautiful concerts featuring, among others, our own gifted musicians. More great events to come this July & in the Fall so get ready to "come and see!"



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.

HSCC COMMITTEE MEETINGS

There are no committee meetings scheduled for this week.



DEADLINES FOR PUBLICATIONS:

Hammond Streeter—Tuesdays at NOON

Sunday Bulletin—Thursdays at NOON

THE CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday 9 AM—3 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.



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 3 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.



FREE BEAN LUNCH

Join us on Saturday, July 1st 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 if you would like to volunteer.

PRIDE PARADE AND FESTIVAL 2023



HSCC Pride Truck in the Parade



Paul Pfrang ready to begin & Pastor Gary tidying up last minute details for the parade.



Marchers with our Pride Color Streamers



Mary Klemt & Patrick Diehl carrying the HSCC Banner



Pastor Gary and Patrick Diehl at the HSCC Pride Booth

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

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

In Person Sunday Service

Pastor Gary Bagley

JULY 2, 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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