



The Hammond Streeter

Hammond Street Congregational Church, UCC, Bangor, ME

An Open and Affirming Community November 15, 2023

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381



FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

SCRIPTURE

I Corinthians 14:23

So, if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and inquirers or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind?

WORDS OF HOPE

An astute 12-year-old once dropped a truth bomb on a room full of middle school youth:

Popularity is an invention of the shallow and dull.

The setting was a retreat weekend full of 11 through 14-year-olds. In the middle of a rustic wooden cabin full of bunk beds, tables and benches, and colorful art supplies, this pre-teen nailed what everyone needed to hear. Being popular isn't a goal, it's a farce. Trying to be like those perceived to be with the "in" crowd was a futile and ultimately self-defeating. The more you tried to be popular, the more you alienated yourself from everyone else, thus not being popular at all.

By the end of that weekend, the phrase "Popularity is an invention of the shallow and dull" was written on notebooks with pencils and scribed on arms with washable marker.

When the Apostle Paul was writing the saints in the 14th chapter of I Corinthians, he was trying to tell them something similar. The Corinthians were apparently making a big deal about how their possession of the gift of tongues was a "sign" of their great spirituality. They were a part of the "in" crowd because they had this popular gift.

So, when unbelieving outsiders walked through the door and found the "in" crowd unintelligible to each other and to them, they assumed the room had taken leave of their senses and left as quickly as they could. However, Paul argues, if these same visitors could walk in on a worship of people speaking plainly about God's truth, those plain words would soften their hearts and speak to their souls.

It's been my experience that bible study groups and youth meetings and Sunday morning worship can get a little too exclusive. The "in" crowd of friends who have known each other for years can speak in a language that is off-putting to the non-initiated. The church can have traditions and programs that say "all are welcome" but leave newcomers wondering what's going on around them.

Paul reminds us that part of our discipline of welcoming is knowing that we were once new to the group too. When we say words like "narthex" and "Pauline letters" and "discipleship" to someone who just walked in the door, we might be speaking in tongues to a newcomer. We're in danger of delineating the "in" crowd from the outsider.

PRAYER

from A Prayer for Every A.A. Member

God, I ask for the grace to listen to newcomers. Please help me to remember the patience with which others listened to me when I was new. Please seal my lips to giving advice, and help me to remember to share my experience, strength, and hope. Remind me that my purpose is to fit myself to be of maximum service to You and the people around me. Amen.



HSCC'S HOLIDAY FAIR

It's just four weeks away—Our Holiday Fair is on Saturday, December 9 from 8-1. All the favorites will be there plus the return of the Chowder and Chili Lunch. Pre-orders for takeout chili and chowder as well as sweets and treats will be taken after Thanksgiving. Hold on to your donations for Grammie's Attic (Gail Zuck), The Christmas Booth (Nancy Smith), The Food Booth (Judy Fricke) jewelry, books, etc., until the week of the Fair. We need cashiers, hosts and greeters during the fair and a team at the end to reset for Sunday. Please contact Lynda Ryder at 745-6851 or email at pondpaddle@msn.com if you have questions, can help with set up, day of and clean-up activities, or have donations. Information on pre-orders for food items will be in next week's *Hammond Streeter* and bulletin.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The Advent Study is called, "The Journey", by Adam Hamilton. Travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem in a fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. Hamilton approaches a world-changing event with thoughtfulness. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road.

The Advent Study begins November 27 through December 18. Classes are at 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. I hope that you will sign up for this study.

Signup sheets are on the back table in the Sanctuary

ADVENT DECORATING

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the church for Advent. We will gather after church on November 26th. Many hands make light work!

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 16th at 28 High Street in the HSCC Fellowship Hall from 9 AM to 11 AM. Enjoy a continental breakfast, talk to Santa and enjoy family crafts.

CHURCH CLERK NEEDED

Hammond Street Church is looking for a Clerk. This is a three-year position, elected by the congregation at the Annual Meeting. The duties and responsibilities are laid down in the by-laws as follows.

The Clerk shall keep a record and oversee the distribution of minutes of all business meetings of the church, of the Church Council, and of the Executive Committee; keep on file all official reports, give legal notice of all corporation meetings, notify all officers, members of committees and delegates of their election; and keep an accurate register, with name, date, and classification of all member admissions, dismissions, deaths, and baptisms. The Clerk shall be legally sworn.

If you are interested in serving the church in this way, please contact Don Spenser or Pastor Gary. They will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

GIFT CARDS

An easy way to provide gifts for your loved ones is to purchase gift cards through Hammond Street! Every purchase you make can put 2% - 16% of the card value back into our Operating Fund. I will be placing 2 orders this year.

Order 1: place on November 13th and be ready for pickup/delivery on November 19th

Order 2: place by December 11th and be ready for pickup/delivery by December 17th

Attached to your electronic Hammond Streeter is a list of all the vendors that are available for gift cards. If you would like to order gift cards, email me at jonid@roadrunner.com. A reminder that we have Hannaford and Shaw's cards available all year round (in denominations of 25, 50 and 100). If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at jonid@roadrunner.com. **Printed lists are available in the church office and on the back table in the Sanctuary.**

WINTER OUTERWEAR

Your Outreach Committee is looking for gently worn winter outerwear. Can you help us out?

During the winter months, HSCC offers gently used winter outerwear to guests at our Free Bean Lunch. We offer the clothing from the first week in November through March. Any winter outerwear in good condition is appreciated. Donations can be placed in the box in the Narthex or given to any outreach committee member. Contact Andy Wood (207-745-3428) with questions.

Thanks for helping our neighbors in need –
Your Outreach Committee

DID YOU KNOW

That the window behind the pulpit was originally called "The Maltby Memorial Window" when it was installed in 1883 in time for HSCC's 50th Anniversary celebration and in memory of our first pastor, Rev. John Maltby, who had served until the time of his death, May 5, 1860, for 26 years. Undoubtedly, still in the hearts & minds of the congregation, they decided to contribute to a memorial fund, thus raising \$1,200 to cover the cost of a stained window. E. P. Treadwell from Boston, whose windows were already placed in well-known public buildings in New York City & Boston, was chosen to design the window. A plaque placed under the finished window read: "In Memoriam Rev. John Maltby, first pastor of this church, 1834-1860. Donated by present and past members of the church and parish on the fiftieth anniversary, December 5, 1883." Over the decades, the window became known as "The Christ Window" perhaps, in part, due to the misplacing of the plaque during a later sanctuary restoration project. At the December 16, 1883 dedication of the window, Rev Henry Griffin focused on Luke 24: 51: "And it came to pass while He blessed them that He was parted from them and carried up into Heaven." Indeed, we still see the risen Christ, arms outstretched, blessing six of his disciples as he ascends as if on a cloud with the two angels welcoming him. The three kneeling on the left are James, John & Peter while on the right are Andrew & Philip with Thomas shielding his eyes from the incredible light of the now Glorified One. On either side of the main portion of the 6'3" x 11' window are decorative grape & pomegranate vines. While you cannot see through the opalescent glass as you gaze at this masterpiece, when the sun suddenly shines through it sending sun burst of colors flooding the sanctuary it is truly a divine experience & a beautiful gift from our spiritual ancestors.

HISTORIAN'S REQUEST

To honor this, our 190th year as Hammond Street Church, you have received "C.I." generated material on a weekly basis regarding all things historical in the form of "Did You Know..." articles appearing in the bulletin and newsletter and, at Easter, a booklet of highlights from the past 15 years (copies still available--just ask.) Now "C.I." wants to know what you want to know that could be one of the next "Did You Know..." celebration pieces AND also to thank you for your positive responses and some "gentle" words regarding a date error --so, for the record our parsonage at 30 High St was demolished in 1970 not 1960 as noted back in March. Looking forward to the challenge of researching your questions in our records. Peace & blessings from your Historian, "C.I."

HSCC COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Council/Executive-11/21/23 at 6:30 PM—Parlor

PLEASE REMEMBER

Hammond Streeters at Home:

Sandy Farver, Eda & Hugh Morrison,
Valerie Montgomery

Sylvia Ross Home-Bangor

Ronnie & Helga Kittredge

Brewer Rehab

74 Parkway South, Brewer, ME 04412
Ansley Throckmorton

Westgate Manor

750 Union St.—Room 111, Bangor, ME 04401
Susan Davies

DEADLINES FOR PUBLICATIONS

HAMMOND STREETER-TUESDAYS at NOON

SUNDAY BULLETIN-THURSDAYS at NOON

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.

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.

For the last 20 months I have served Hammond Street Congregational Church as a Designated Term Pastor. Today in a Called Congregational Meeting a vote was taken to call me as their Settled Pastor. It is with great joy that we entered into a new covenant with me named as the settled Pastor of Hammond Street Congregation Church in Bangor, Maine.

Those pictured behind me are my husband Paul and the search committee.



SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTREACH

The children of HSCC Sunday School are making Thanksgiving table decorations for Bangor Nursing & Rehab and for our Thanksgiving Community Meal at HSCC on Thanksgiving Day.



**Our Church is preparing a
Thanksgiving Feast for our
congregation and our
community.**

We could use your help.



On Thanksgiving Day, HSCC will host a Thanksgiving Feast for anyone in our extended community to enjoy. This Community Outreach will require involvement from a lot of folks to be successful. In the season of Stewardship highlighting our "Time & Talents" this project offers many opportunities to contribute. We need kitchen help (Wednesday & Thursday), pie bakers, turkey bakers, all the ingredients for our feast and everyone to spread the word. The two links below take you to spreadsheets which list our remaining needs. Click on the link, then fill your name in for the item / time you can contribute. For questions, call Mary in the office or Andy Wood.

Thanks for your support. Please join us on Thanksgiving Day.

Mary K: 942-4381

Andy W: 745-3428

Ingredients list: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tcu9-lBd3uhnGdleBKdea9zav1FpTLIH/edit#gid=261685464>

Volunteer help: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NDg_1SIGte-ShtQDzja0i_tgL7PRIogb/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=111952070446478495078&rtpof=true&sd=true

Thank you to everyone who signed up on the Food Donation sheets at church.

We have everything we need committed for the Black Bear Men's Chorus luncheon and the Breakfast with Santa!

Anyone who still wishes to bake or cook for the Holiday Fair baked goods table should contact Judy Fricke at judysfricke@yahoo.com by the end of this week! Judy will need to know what you are making and how many if you want to be on the pre-order list. This list will be going out to folks by email and snail mail next week!

Again, thank you for all the yummy things already in the works! Judy

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

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

In Person Sunday Service

Pastor Gary Bagley

November 19, 2023 at 10 AM

ALL ARE WELCOME !!!!

**The Hammond Streeter
is a weekly publication of the
Hammond Street Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ**

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