



The Hammond Streeter

Hammond Street Congregational Church, UCC, Bangor, ME

An Open and Affirming Community November 22, 2023

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381



FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 2.21

For to this you have been called because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

WORDS OF HOPE

I'm sure everyone remembers the WWJD? Era with all its bookmarks and buttons, but I think about this question often. I mean seriously often. When we ask each other what we do, it usually is regarding what do we do for a living. If Jesus had a business card, what would he do? What would the card say?

In scripture, we read about Jesus saying and doing many things. His mother asked him at a wedding party to turn some water into wine. Another time he walked on water. We read that he was a healer, a performer of miracles, the great liberator. You might know that back in the day, if you repeated something he said in public, or told someone that you thought he was telling the truth and you were therefore going to follow him, you could very be likely killed. Would that have been a small-print warning on his business card?

I see all kinds of services on a business card that he offers. "Son of the one true God" "Instant Winemaker for Parties" subtitled "Do not ask me how I do it!" And others like "Wilderness Seeker," "Christ Family Carpenter" - Subtitled: "the perfect table for any occasion, especially Communion!" "Crowd-gathering Speech Writer: Stuff too good to repeat!" "Jesus the Divine: Millions Served."

What about Jesus' pronoun? There's not really a way to inclusify that kind of male God. Jesus was a "he" but in God's divine Trinitarian nature of having created us in their image, Jesus may have been the very first "they/them."

You get the idea. I also think that I probably obsess too much over labeling and titles, but to be inclusive you must look at these things. It's hard to describe the nature of someone who was historically real but was credited with so many things that are so far out of our understanding, we must either accept it in faith, or perhaps, question Him and his ultimate purpose.

The ultimate question, however, is this: If you are a follower of Jesus what would you do? What should you do? How would you describe your purpose in calling Jesus your example for living? What would your business card say?

PRAYER

Loving God, though we can follow Jesus as our example, we could never duplicate his many aspects. Help us to discover that which we can do best in being his love for others.



HSCC'S HOLIDAY FAIR 12/9/23 AT 8AM to 1PM

After a three-year interruption, the Fish Chowder and Chili Luncheon is back. Grammie's Attic, the Christmas Booth, Jewelry and the Food Booth are ready to be shopped. **Plus, pre-orders for food items including chowder and chili will be available by calling the church office or emailing at admin@hammondstreetchurch.net starting on Nov. 27th and ending on Dec. 6th.** Donations of items for the booths including books are welcome after Thanksgiving. Please hold yard sale items including clothing until spring. If you have questions about donations, contact Lynda Ryder 207-745-6851. If you have questions about the pre-orders for food call Mary at the church office at 207-942-4381. Coffee & snacks starting at 8 AM and Chowder & Chili lunch starting at 11 AM.

Help us get the word out. Download and share the attached poster.



THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY MEAL

Help spread the word for folks to join us for our annual HSCC Thanksgiving sit-down meal for the Greater Bangor Community. We will be serving Turkey, all the fixings and delicious pies. Doors open at 11:30 AM on 11/23/23.

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.

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, dismissals, 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.

Place order 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

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.

DID YOU KNOW

That in June, 1832 when a man from Massachusetts agreed to a salary cut to accepted a job offer in Bangor, arrived and saw the town & workplace said "As I was here with my family and household goods, I concluded I would not turn about and go back."¹ This decision made by Rev. Enoch Pond, D.D. (1791-1882) that day was the start of a 50-year tenure at a then struggling Bangor Theological Seminary that he helped turn around & develop into a reputable, respected institution, serving faithfully until his death. That decision also led to another significant relationship with the yet to be constituted Hammond Street Congregational Church. After we formally became a congregation in December 1833, Rev. Pond served the congregation's many needs & conducted worship services for 8 months while we searched for our first pastor. Interestingly, our records show there was only one candidate, a Rev. John Maltby (1795-1860), who just happened to be Rev. Pond's brother-in-law, because he had married John's sister, Julia Ann Pond (1797-1838). Rev. Maltby, installed July 23, 1834, served for 26 years. During those two plus decades, Rev. Pond & his family were active members of HSCC and, after Rev. Maltby's death, Rev. Pond once again tended to the needs of the now grieving congregation that he knew so well. So, from our very beginning we have had a close relationship with the now former Seminary. Reports show Rev. Pond was held in high esteem not only by his colleagues but by years of BTS graduates as evidenced by the obelisk-style monument at his grave site in Mt Hope Cemetery. The inscription reads in part: "For half a century Professor in Bangor Theological Seminary. Erected in his memory by the Alumni of the Seminary."¹ Likewise, we have The Maltby Memorial Window. All this goodness & blessing because of one man's "right decision" in 1832. Thanks be to God!

¹ History of Bangor Theological Seminary, Calvin M. Clark, 1916, pg 131.

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

NO COMMITTEE MEETING THIS WEEK

PLEASE REMEMBER

Hammond Streeters at Home:

Sandy Farver, Eda & Hugh Morrison

Sylvia Ross Home-Bangor

Ronnie & Helga Kittredge

Brewer Rehab

74 Parkway S.—Room 109, 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.

Mary Small extends heartfelt Thanks to Hammond Streeters, friends and family who watched our Moderator, Don Spencer proclaim Sunday, November 19, 2023 as "Mary Leah Mehann Small Sunday" as I celebrate my 95th birthday, my 82 years of membership and service to Hammond Street Church and 80 years of singing in the choir.

So many wonderful memories of special events and wonderful people along the way. I was presented a framed plaque with this information signed by Don and Pastor Gary. Quite a journey!!





Advent and Christmas Celebrations

At

Hammond Street Congregational Church

- December 3 Hanging of the Greens*
Worship Music Provided By the
Black Bear Men's Chorus
- December 10 Intergenerational Choir Cantata*
And Tableau
- December 17 Service of Lessons and Carol with musical*
Presentations by the Sanctuary Choir
and the Chime Choir
- December 24 Morning Worship—10:00 a.m.*
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

All Sunday Services are at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Please join us as we celebrate and prepare for the birth of our
Savior, Jesus Christ.



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

REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

In Person Sunday Service

Pastor Gary Bagley

November 26, 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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