



The Hammond Streeter

Hammond Street Congregational Church, UCC, Bangor, ME

An Open and Affirming Community November 29, 2023

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381



FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

SCRIPTURE

Esther 7:2

And on the second day of the feast, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your wish, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled."

WORDS OF HOPE

The Book of Esther is the story of a woman who had risen from slaving as a Hebrew servant to being the Queen of all of Persia alongside the empire's King Ahasuerus. His name literally means The Lion King, and he held the absolute power that the name implies. His offer to Esther was half of all the material wealth in their world.

Artifacts from the Kingdom of Persia in those days give us a good idea that the wealth and splendor of that empire was considerable, and the king the Bible calls Ahasuerus was probably Xerxes I, one of the greatest rulers of his era. Esther's answer could have rewarded her with power and possessions we read about only in fairy tales, but Esther was not obsessed with a personal happy ending. She wanted nothing but a guarantee of a safe and respected life for her family, the Hebrew people. Their quality of existence meant more to her than any extravagant personal luxury.

Today we consider Esther one of Scripture's most enduring heroic figures, but I wonder how we would regard her in our own game show-mentality culture? I've had the privilege of watching the evolution of that media genre from shows like *Queen for a Day* in which the Holy Grail of prizes was a washer/dryer to morphing into trips around the world and million-dollar contracts for endorsing some product that sponsors the show.

Reality shows cast their contestants according to the degrees of greed and ruthlessness they display in auditions. The *Real Housewives* series producers look for entire families driven by those same behavior traits, or who, at least, can give the audience that impression. And we cheer for them. Are there any Esthers left in our world?

Thanks be to God, there are. Many of them come to mind. My own nomination for the Esther of the Year award would be Dolly Parton. Even though she's best-known for her singing and songwriting triumphs, she is a philanthropist and humanitarian who would make Esther proud. She's championed causes including childhood literacy, environmental conservation, veterans with PTSD, established the Dollywood scholarship foundation, donated \$1 million to help develop the COVID-19 vaccine, and even convinced a billionaire to give \$100 million to a fund that will continue the good works of her charitable foundations far into the future.

The ancient scriptures use far too many pages glorifying the military victories of its pompous kings, just as our culture burns up too much social media electricity being obsessed with the activities of the greedy rich and famous. But the stories that hold the true hopes that advance both of our civilizations will always star people like Esther and Dolly.

PRAYER

Thank you for role models, past and present, who remind us of Jesus. Amen



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.

For the first time, Sharon Murphy will be offering massages during the Fair. A sign up sheet will be available on the back table after worship on Sunday and available slots can be filled during the Fair. **Plus, pre-orders for food items including chowder and chili will be available by calling the church office or emailing at admin@hammondstreetchurch.net no later than Dec. 6th.** Donations of items for the booths including books are welcome. **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.

BLACK BEAR MEN'S CHORUS ON 12/3/2023

The Black Bear Men's Chorus will be singing at this coming Sunday's service at 10 AM. Don't miss out on their amazing addition to this special service of the lighting of the Chrismon Tree.

POINSETTIAS

It's that time of year again. If you wish to purchase Poinsettias the order forms are available on the back table in the Sanctuary. Please fill out and attach payment and give it to the head usher on Sunday. If you can't make a payment today, you can bring them into the office. **The deadline for all orders is December 8th before noon. All orders will be called in to the florist at NOON on the 8th.**

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, crafts, cookie decorating and a visit with Santa.



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

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.

THANK YOU

A huge thank you for the beautiful flowers that were delivered to us. We really appreciate them.
Ron & Helga Kittredge.



DID YOU KNOW

That at the funeral service for our first pastor, Rev. John Maltby, Jr., May 18, 1860, Rev. Dr. George Shepherd delivered the sermon, just as he had done for Rev. Maltby's Installation Service on July 23, 1834 -- an undoubtedly rare "bookending" of a Pastor's life of service in a congregation. Rev. Shepherd shared with the mourners the last barely whispered words of their Pastor -- "submission," as in submitting all to God & then "all is well."¹ Rev. Enoch Pond later wrote that his brother-in-law "...exhibited some traits of character which are not often seen in the same individual. He was ardent, and yet prudent; radical, in the good sense of the term, and yet conservative; decided in his own opinions and views, and yet liberal and charitable in his judgment of others."² His life began March 8, 1795 on a farm in Northford, CT. John Sr. wanted John Jr. to farm as well, so purchased a nearby farm for him; however, at 18 he experienced a conversion & preparation for a much different occupation took him to Yale & next to the Seminary in Andover, MA, graduating in 1825. He accepted a call to Sutton, MA where he was ordained in 1826. His last call would be to Hammond Street Church where 624 people joined during his 26-year pastorate. He was gifted as a preacher & answered calls to fill pulpits for poorer churches in Maine that had no ministers. In addition to preaching, he was actively involved in our Sunday School & weekly prayer meetings. He was "shepherd" for the HSC flock, caring for & meeting its needs, thus cementing his relationship with the people. His focus & involvement extended beyond our walls & included supporting mission work worldwide, serving the Penobscot Conference in various capacities & Bangor Theological Seminary where he was on the of Board of Trustees 1835-1860, serving as President 1849-1860. (Part 1 of 2)

¹In Commemoration of the Life and Services of Rev. John Maltby by Enoch Pond, published Bangor: E.F. Duren, 1860, pg 19.

²pg 9.

HSCC COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Diaconate at 6:30 PM on 12/5/23-Parlor

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.

On behalf of your Outreach Committee, I would like to extend a huge **Thank You** to our **Very Generous Congregation**. Your support of our Community Thanksgiving Feast was nothing short of incredible. Donations of cash, food and labor were put to the test as we shared a hearty meal and warm fellowship with more than 120 hungry folks. 80 plus people joined us in Fellowship Hall for a sit-down meal accompanied by live music. When the food line receded, take-out meals were prepared for delivery out in the community. An additional 40 meals were delivered to community members residing at "Tent City". These meals, with all the fixings, were quickly dispersed to a very appreciated crowd.

The team effort required to deliver these results was awesome. Highlighted, not by the delivery of an incredible meal, but by the fellowship shared within our congregation and into the community as we prepared and delivered these services. All in all: an incredible effort, a huge success, something to make our congregation proud – the tradition continues. Thank You - Your Outreach Committee





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**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

In Person Sunday Service

Pastor Gary Bagley

December 3, 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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