



The Hammond Streeter

Hammond Street Congregational Church, UCC, Bangor, ME

An Open and Affirming Community December 27, 2023

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381



FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 11.25

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

WORDS OF HOPE

Advent is the Season in which we reminisce about the closing year and recall some of our favorite stories. This story doesn't come from me. It speaks for itself, and I don't need to add anything to it, but it deserves to be shared here. Great theologians of life are all around us. One of my favorites has always been Katherine Hepburn. Please enjoy this story from her childhood, in the great actor's own words:

"Once when I was a teenager, my father and I were standing in line to buy tickets for the circus. Finally, there was only one other family between us and the ticket counter. This family made a big impression on me. There were eight children, all probably under the age of 12. The way they were dressed, you could tell they didn't have a lot of money, but their clothes were neat and clean.

"The children were well-behaved, all of them standing in line, two-by-two behind their parents, holding hands. They were excitedly jabbering about the clowns, animals, and all the acts they would be seeing that night. By their excitement you could sense they had never been to the circus before. It would be a highlight of their lives. The father and mother were at the head of the pack standing proud as could be. The mother was holding her husband's hand, looking up at him as if to say, 'You're my knight in shining armor.' He was smiling and enjoying seeing his family happy.

"The ticket lady asked the man how many tickets he wanted? He proudly responded, 'I'd like to buy eight children's tickets and two adult tickets, so I can take my family to the circus.' The ticket lady stated the price. The man's wife let go of his hand, her head dropped, the man's lip began to quiver. Then he leaned a little closer and asked, 'How much did you say?' The ticket lady again stated the price. The man didn't have enough money. How was he supposed to turn and tell his eight kids that he didn't have enough money to take them to the circus?

"Seeing what was going on, my dad reached into his pocket, pulled out a \$20 bill, and then dropped it on the ground. (We were not wealthy in any sense of the word!) My father bent down, picked up the \$20 bill, tapped the man on the shoulder and said, 'Excuse me, sir, this fell out of your pocket.' The man understood what was going on. He wasn't begging for a handout but certainly appreciated the help in a desperate, heartbreaking, and embarrassing situation. He looked straight into my dad's eyes, took my dad's hand in both of his, squeezed tightly onto the \$20 bill, and with his lip quivering and a tear streaming down his cheek, he replied; 'Thank you, thank you, sir. This really means a lot to me and my family.'"

"My father and I went back to our car and drove home. The \$20 that my dad gave away is what we were going to buy our own tickets with. Although we didn't get to see the circus that night, we both felt a joy inside us that was far greater than seeing the circus could ever provide.

That day I learned the value to Give. The Giver is bigger than the Receiver. If you want to be large, larger than life, learn to Give. Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get - only with what you are expecting to give - which is everything. The importance of giving, blessing others can never be over emphasized because there's always joy in sharing. Learn to make someone happy by acts of giving." ~ Katharine Hepburn

PRAYER

May we live out the acts of Jesus and give generously, joyfully, and unconditionally to others, especially to those most in need during this Advent Season. Amen



HOLIDAY CARD BOX IS IN THE NARTHEX

Christmas Cards for Your Church Family

The elves have set up the HSCC Christmas mailbox in the Narthex and it is ready for business. If you want to share Christmas cards with your church family, just deposit the cards in the box. There are slots for the letters of the alphabet to keep them sorted. **The mailbox will be there through January 7, 2024.**

Remember to check the box for greetings sent to you.

Merry Christmas to All!



WINTER WARMTH DONATION BOX

It's time once again to support a long-standing tradition here at HSCC. The **Winter Warmth Donation Box** is a program that will run from now, into January. Your Outreach Committee is looking for **Hats, Gloves/Mittens, and Winter Socks ONLY**. These items will be distributed to folks in our community needing a winter upgrade. They will be offered to guests at our Free Community Meal, Food Pantry or anyone who comes to the office. These accessories will also be provided to area shelters for distribution to their clients. The Winter Warmth Donation Box will be in the narthex through January. **Thanks – Your Outreach Committee**

COVID GUIDELINES

Covid is still very much with us and has been on the increase in the Bangor area. **Covid levels in wastewater in Penobscot County are as high now as they were in the Omicron era (Jan-Feb 2022).**

Fortunately, people can reduce the risk of getting or spreading Covid by wearing a mask. Getting the latest Covid vaccination will also reduce the risk of serious illness.

HSCC has free N-95 masks at the greeter's table in the narthex. Please help yourself if you need a mask.
Safety Committee



HELP NEEDED IN THE FOOD PANTRY

We are in need of Pasta, Sauce, Cereal, Canned Beans, Canned Fruit, non-refrigerated Milk and Re-useable Shopping Bags (**NO PAPER**).



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



SAVE THE DATE

This year's Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration will be hosted by HSCC on January 14, 2024. Keynote Speaker is Dr. Harold Dorrell Briscoe author of "There's a Storm Comin': How the American Church Can Lead Through Times of Racial Crisis".
For more info contact: info@faithlinkinginaction.org



DID YOU KNOW

That the three Coe brothers, Eben Smith, Henry Willard (Sr.) and Thomas Upham, shared some things in common-- their kindness & desire to help others &, when it came to jobs, they all started out in one direction -- only to wind up embracing a new direction. Early in his life, Eben wanted to be a civil engineer, but work started on successive projects each failed because funding dried up, so his dad suggested he take a temporary position in the relatively new forest industry which became his passion & life's work. Thomas had wanted to be a physician since childhood & attained that goal yet, he practiced only 15 years before turning his full attention to business & financial interests. Not surprisingly some had to do with the timber industry & his positions with Merrill Trust, Penobscot Savings Bank, several railroads, Bangor Public Library & the Bangor Opera House. Brother Henry, although described as "...a leader among men..."¹ in 1922, felt very lost at age 13 (1833) when his mother died & at 16 was encouraged to go West with a businessman who after 3 years offered him a partnership deal. Henry declined & returned home where he bought & ran his father's business & where one night his future changed when he observed a destitute widower being refused food & shelter at a local inn. He put the man up in his own home & tended to all of his needs for which the man kindly repaid him with information on a cotton mill in Cooperstown, NY he believed to be a profitable investment. This was the beginning of multiple business run & started by him over the decades. In California he is credited with the state's development as the first hops grower, silk producer, orchard grower, a miner, a shipper & an inn owner.² All three brothers had succeeded in life personally but, most importantly, making it better for others through philanthropy just as Father Ebenezer hoped. Our Pastor, Rev. Henry Griffin gave the 1900 Commemorative Address at the Northwood Academy in N.H. honoring the significant support & donations given by Eben S. Coe. Records on Henry & his namesake, Henry, Jr. show their contributions in the State of CA including the 87,000-acre Henry W. Coe State Park created in the Diablo Range. It was written of Thomas "...he may be classed as one of Maine's greatest philanthropists."³ We were blessed to have had such kind & generous individuals as Eben & Thomas in our midst from 1846-1920. Part 2 of 2

¹Webite: Henry W Coe State Park, Santa Clara County, CA; ² Ibid. ³"Bangor Commercial" July 31, 1920

HSCC COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2023

Diaconate Meeting on 1/2/24 at 6:30—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.

CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING SERVICE AT HSCC 2023



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE AT HSCC 2023



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AT HSCC 2023



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

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

In Person Sunday Service

Pastor Jim Scovil

December 31, 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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