



The Hammond Streeter

Hammond Street Congregational Church, UCC, Bangor, ME

An Open and Affirming Community January 17, 2024

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381



FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 34:1a, 4-5

Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Mount Pisgah east of Jericho, and there the LORD showed him the whole land ... Then the LORD said to Moses, "This is the land that I promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob I would give to their descendants. I have let you see it, but I will not let you go there."

So, Moses, the LORD's servant, died there in the land of Moab, as the LORD had said he would.

WORDS OF HOPE

The day before his assassination in 1968, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave what would be his final speech in Memphis. In that speech, King described just how far their movement for civil rights had come. Acknowledging that there was still much work to do, he rejoiced in what God was doing in the hearts and minds of people around the world.

He referenced a scene where God showed Moses the Promised Land. Although Moses would not enter the land himself, this passage from Deuteronomy tells of how Moses could see the promise unfolding before him. With sad irony, King laid out how he too could see the promised land on the day before his death. Like Moses, King was also not to enter that Promised Land.

It's been over 55 years since King made that speech at the Mason Temple in Memphis and many still believe that King would still be waiting to enter that promised land. For many, the day of entry has been further delayed because of the events of this period in our history.

From the banning of books in public schools to the closing of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion offices in public institutions of higher education, the dream of the promised land is being delayed even further. From banning healthcare for transgender teens to banning reproductive choices for women, the distance to the promised land gets further and further away.

What did King have to say about this? What is the answer? He laid it out in that Memphis speech:

"Now, what does all of this mean in this great period of history? It means that we've got to stay together. We've got to stay together and maintain unity. You know, whenever Pharaoh wanted to prolong the period of slavery in Egypt, he had a favorite, favorite formula for doing it. What was that? He kept the slaves fighting among themselves. But whenever the slaves get together, something happens in Pharaoh's court, and he cannot hold the slaves in slavery. When the slaves get together, that's the beginning of getting out of slavery. Now let us maintain unity."

Monday was the day of celebration for the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., we are called by God to take to the streets, to queue up at the voting booth, and to advocate for those on the margins. We are called to see each other's struggles for freedom as our own struggle. We must and always see not only to our own causes, but to see the causes of our brothers and sisters and non-binaries as our own. We are called to unity. For only in that moment, can we take our steps to enter the Promised Land.

PRAYER

A prayer by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. :

O God, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind; In whom to dwell is to find peace and security; toward whom to turn is to find life and life eternal, we humbly beseech Thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that thou wouldst be pleased to make thy ways known unto them, Thy saving health unto all nations. We also pray for Thy holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by thy Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the land of peace, and in righteousness of life. Amen.

ANNUAL LEADERSHIP RETREAT

As we did last year, we are having our annual Leadership Retreat in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, January 27th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. **We need all of our church leaders there as well as our committees.** We will review 2023 and then go into calendaring sessions for 2024 and then each committee will put their meetings and events on the big calendar. We look forward to seeing everyone there. Blessings, Pastor Gary

ANNUAL MEETING

HSCC's Annual Meeting will take place on January 21, 2024 in the Fellowship Hall following the Worship Service. As required by HSCC's Bylaws, the Warrant will be published in the Hammond Streeter on 1/10/24 & 1/17/24.



HELP WANTED FOR A SPECIAL WILLING WORKERS PROJECT

A project is planned for January 23rd starting at 1 PM and January 24th starting at 9 AM. The Pfaff Room (multi-use meeting, Sunday School and Food Pantry room) is getting a facelift (cleaning and painting). Speak to Larry or call him at 207-907-9462 for details and your availability.

We always welcome willing workers on Tuesdays from 8-12 or any part thereof for our regular work bee. It is true, many hands make light work.



WINTER OUTERWEAR

Your Outreach Committee is looking for gently worn winter outerwear. During the winter months, HSCC offers gently used winter outerwear to guests at our Free Bean Lunch. We offer the clothing 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

FOOD 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**). Thank You



WINTER WARMTH TREE

The **Winter Warmth Tree** is a program that will run from now into January. The tree is in the Narthex. 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 Bean Lunch, Food Pantry or anyone who comes to the office. These accessories will also be provided to area shelters for distribution to their clients. **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

FREE BEAN LUNCH FOOD NEEDED

The Free Bean Lunch team needs Peanut Butter and Strawberry or Raspberry Jam for the bag lunches they hand out every month. Please leave in the kitchen in the Fellowship Hall. Thank You

WARRANT

To Janis A. Hill, Clerk of Hammond Street Congregational Church Corporation:

You are hereby requested to notify and warn the Members of said Corporation to meet in the large vestry of their meeting house on Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 11:30 a.m.

To hear and act upon the reports of various Officers, Committees, and Organizations;

to consider and act on the budget for the year 2024;

and to transact such other and further business as may legally come before said meeting.

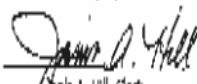
And you are hereby requested to make a return of the above Warrant this 31st day of December, 2023.


Donald Spender, Moderator
Hammond Street Congregational Church Corporation

NOTICE

To the Members of Hammond Street Congregational Church Corporation:

Pursuant to the foregoing application to me directed, I hereby notify and warn the Members of said Corporation to meet at the time and place and for the purposes named in the above application.


Janis A. Hill, Clerk
Hammond Street Congregational Church Corporation

RETURN

Pursuant to the foregoing WARRANT to me directed, I have notified and warned the persons therein named to meet at the time and place and for the purposes named, by posting a true copy of the application and WARRANT on the outside door of Hammond Street Congregational Church's meeting house on the 8th day of January, 2024; and by publication in the January 10, 2024 issue of the Hammond Streeter, the Church's newsletter sent to the general membership; all being at least seven days prior to said day of meeting.


Janis A. Hill, Clerk
Hammond Street Congregational Church Corporation

State of Maine

Penobscot, ss.

January __, 2024

Personally appeared before me Janis A. Hill, Clerk of Hammond Street Congregational Church Corporation, and made oath to the above.

Notary Public
Printed name: _____
Commission expires: _____

HSCC COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2024

Annual Meeting on 1/21 at 11 AM-Fellowship Hall

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.

MLK CELEBRATION AT HSCC
HSCC welcomes Faith Linking in Action
featuring
Dr. Harold Dorrell Briscoe as Keynote Speaker



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

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

In Person Sunday Service

Pastor Gary Bagley

January 21, 2024 at 10 AM

ALL ARE WELCOME !!!!

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

P.O. Box 1106, Bangor, ME 04402-1106

Phone: 207-942-4381

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Email: admin@hammondstreetchurch.net