



The Hammond Streeter

Hammond Street Congregational Church, UCC, Bangor, ME

An Open and Affirming Community January 3, 2024

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381



FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

WORDS OF HOPE

Today is the second day of the new year in the church. It is the Season of Christmastide. If you haven't heard enough of that old song, The Twelve Days of Christmas here is a portion of verse 2 "on the second day of Christmas my true love gave to me two turtledoves". Those doves are symbols of the union of the Old and New Testaments, the birth of the Messiah fulfilling the hope the Prophets talked about, the assurance of God's goodness to guide us through the good times and difficult times of uncertainty. Hope has been born.

If our prayer communication with God indicates a path for action for this new hope which seems unreal or unobtainable, then what must we do? Well, that was the question which Zechariah had to answer. You remember Zechariah? In the first chapter of Luke's Gospel, we read that he was a priest, both he and his wife were very old, and they had no children. While preparing to offer incense in the Jerusalem Temple, an angel from God appeared to him.

Zechariah was told that even in the couple's advanced age, they would have a baby boy who would serve God in a special way. He should be given the name, John, and he would be a forerunner to the true Messiah's arrival. This child would be filled with the Spirit of God and empowered like the prophet, Elijah. His preaching of repentance would result in many Jews turning from disobedience and toward obedience to the laws of God.

However, Zechariah's immediate response was doubt. How could he and Elizabeth have a successful pregnancy? They had tried for years and failed. His wife might laugh or ridicule him for trying against all odds. But the story is about hope being born through obedience to God. The gospel lesson implies that Zechariah went back home and had intercourse with Elizabeth. It didn't seem possible, but he obeyed the words of the angel.

Remember: Obedience to God is founded in our hope and action which are based in assurance of God's goodness and truth. Their baby, John, (the Baptizer) grew in the spirit and power of God and became the voice which welcomed Jesus into his redeeming ministry. Now it's our turn.

PRAYER

O God, on this Second Day of this New Year, we have the opportunity to continue Jesus' redeeming ministry. May we remember that the Advent Season began with Hope and now Hope has been born to us. Help us translate that hope into action. Amen

ANNUAL LEADERSHIP RETREAT

As we did last year, we are having our annual Leadership Retreat in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, January 13th 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. Following the Calendaring sessions, we will have a potluck so bring a dish to share. We look forward to seeing everyone there. Blessings, Pastor Gary



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION

This year's Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration will be hosted by HSCC on January 14, 2024 at 2 PM in the Fellowship Hall. 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



HOLIDAY CARD BOX IS IN THE NARTHEX

The mailbox will be there until January 7, 2024.

Remember to check the box for greetings sent to you.

THANK YOU

Paul and I want to thank everyone for the beautiful Holiday Cards and gifts that you shared with us.

What a blessing it is to serve such a loving and Caring Congregation. As we move into 2024, we look forward to working beside you as we continue the work of Christ that has been going on here for 190 years.

Pastor Gary

WINTER WARMTH TREE

The **Winter Warmth Tree** 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 Tree will be in the narthex through January.
Thanks – Your Outreach 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

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

DID YOU KNOW

That our congregation, over the course of the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, has prepared food & feed thousands of faithful folks gathered under our roof in fellowship & fun—undoubtedly, by the women of the church.

Occasions were varied: our Annual Meetings; honoring individuals; celebrating wedding anniversaries; doing receptions after weddings, ordinations & memorial services; dinners for any number of church groups; marking significant anniversaries of the church; dinners for countless Maine Conference & Association meetings we hosted, & dinners for ministers attending the annual BTS Convocation Week held at HSCC into the early 2000's. Then there were the dinners in the early 1900's after the annual holiday fairs -- now we serve lunch for fair goers; special "thank you" meals at the end of our Stewardship Campaigns; Installation dinners; meals during Lent & other holiday times, & the public "Bean Suppahs" which took on a new expanded life at our Folk Festival booth on the waterfront where we served the public with food prepared by a host of people working in our kitchen at all hours of the day & night. This information appears in our written records, scrapbooks filled with flyers & newspaper clippings & our newsletters; however, there is one special notebook on meals prepared & served started by Elva Warren (1903-1998) in 1950 & last in the possession of Roberta Seavey (1945-2023). These ladies had made all sorts of lists including the suppliers for & quantity & cost of ingredients needed for recipes feeding up to 260 for BTS Convocations; lists of other materials need & assignments of people starting with purchases through clean-up plus diagrams of table arrangements in the large vestry. In addition, they kept track of the dinners served; Roberta's last entry was in 2015. Elva notes that 1961 is "the first year in the new kitchen..." which was a major renovation of the 1890 facility --enlarged & new cabinets & closet. Over many decades, the women of the church have bought new stoves (no more wood fires), refrigerators & freezers. Over the years, the men of the church have shown off their "chef" skills with baked beans, chili & chowders, & other special meals & through our Christian Outreach Committee, we prepare & take to the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter a monthly meal for the clients. The Committee also, with the help of many at home, prepares & serves a free hot meal the first Saturday of every month & a bag lunch to go. We truly are walking in the shoes of the Master as we continue to find new ways to "feed the thousands."

HSCC COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2024

NO COMMITTEE MEETINGS 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.

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

BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY

In Person Sunday Service

Pastor Gary Bagley

January 7, 2024 at 10 AM

ALL ARE WELCOME !!!!

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

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