



The Hammond Streeter

Hammond Street Congregational Church, UCC, Bangor, ME

An Open and Affirming Community February 14, 2024

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381



FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 3:16

Without any doubt, the mystery of our religion is great: He was revealed in flesh, vindicated in spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among Gentiles, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory.

WORDS OF HOPE

Tuesday was Mardi Gras. Mardi Gras, of course, means "Fat Tuesday". The name coming from the fact that it was a day known for eating much of the fat or fat containing products in the house. This would include meat and butter and other dairy products. Partially this was in preparation for the season of Lent when fasting from meat and other such products was part of the regular church routine. Part of it was practical. In the days before refrigeration, these are the sorts of things that would have spoiled over 40 days.

But It is also known as Shrove Tuesday. Shrove is an old term meaning absolution or forgiveness. Tuesday was the last day of Shrovetide, a term we rarely hear anymore. Another name for Shrovetide is Carnival.

This is a four-day period that starts on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, (though some places start Carnival at Epiphany). That Sunday is Transfiguration Sunday, the day marking the time when Jesus took some of the apostles up a mountain and was transfigured standing next to Moses and Elijah. It was a period of preparing for Lent not only by clearing out those foods that one would not eat during the Lenten season, but by repenting of sins. In those churches which practice confession before a priest or minister, this was the time to do that. Think of it as cleaning house inside and out.

As with so many Christian holidays, there is a pagan backstory. This is the time of year when in many cultures, including the Roman Empire, fertility rights were held in anticipation of the planting of crops and the birthing of new cattle. As it was so often done, the early church simply imposed new holidays on already existing celebrations. And so much of the festivities and partying that we associate with Mardi Gras comes from those rites.

By the time you're reading this, Mardi Gras will be over. But I think you should set aside some time to think about the idea of Shrove Tuesday. Not just getting rid of the fat in the house, and perhaps reflect on those areas of your life that you need to leave behind.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and many of us will follow the tradition of giving something up during those 40 days. And many others will take up a newer tradition of taking on some new work following in Jesus' steps. And some will do both. But for today, don't think so much about the tangible physical things that will be left behind. Think about the things in our lives that we often call sin, which I personally define as those things that separate each of us from God, and work to eliminate what does keep you from God.

PRAYER

Loving Creator be with me today. Help me to see those things in my life that keep You and I separate. Guide me to work to close that gap as we approach this season of remembrance of the life and sacrifice of Jesus. Amen.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Beginning on Monday, February 19th, Pastor Gary will be hosting a Lenten Bible Study at 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The study will continue every Monday through Lent and will conclude on Monday, March 25th. Sign up sheets are on the table on the High Street entrance to the Sanctuary. The Study is, "Remember: God's Covenants and the Cross", By Susan Robb. Each student's book cost \$14.00

SHROVE TUESDAY COFFEE HOUR

"Thanks to the Diaconate for coordinating the Shrove Tuesday on Sunday Coffee Hour, to Tricia Van Kirk for the King Cakes and to Ben Bigney for sharing his music."



FOOD NEEDED IN THE FOOD PANTRY

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

FRESH START FOOD BOXES

As part of our involvement with the interdenominational church group "Moving in Faith & Hope", your Outreach Committee is committed to supporting the Fresh Start Sober Living program in the greater Bangor area. Our part is to supply a box of food for one person for about 5 days. Just enough for a person to get acquainted with their new neighborhood and find the local food pantry & bus routes. In 2023 we provided one box per month. In 2024 we would like to increase that to two per month as the Fresh Start Program now has thirteen homes and may use 15 boxes a month. We need your help to reach this goal. Standardized boxes are available at church. The list of items needed to fill each box is below. **Contact Andy Wood (745-3428) for a box or any questions.**

Thanks for your support – Outreach Committee

Canned Fruit-2 cans
Crackers-1 box
Canned Veggies-2 cans
Mac & Cheese-3 boxes
Canned Stew, Chili-1 can
Canned Tuna, Chicken-2
Canned Soup-2 cans
Cereal or Instant Oats-1
Pop Tarts-1 8-pk box

Jelly-1 jar
Shelf Stable Milk-1
Cookies-1 package
Spaghetti-1 box
Spaghetti Sauce-1 jar
Rice-A-Roni-2 boxes
Pasta Other-1 box
Peanut Butter-1 jar

COVID GUIDELINES

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.

PILGRIM LODGE 2024 PROGRAMS FOR ALL

Pilgrim Lodge registration is open for the coming summer. There are programs and wonderful friends to meet for all ages at beautiful Cobbooseecontee Lake. You will be amazed at the variety of things to do at Pilgrim Lodge. See pilgrimlodge.org.

Scholarships will be available. Please check with Tracy Bigney (207-356-7223 or tbig@gwi.net about scholarships).

WILL YOU JOIN THE CONCERT PARKING CREW?

We are hoping to have an opportunity to assist with parking for Waterfront Concerts again this summer. Would you be willing to help or to be on call to help?

The work is usually a 4-hour shift, noon to 4 or 4 - 8. There is a lot of standing, but you can bring a lawn chair and sit some of the time. Your job is to direct people where to park in the Shaw's parking lot for the concert and to tell concert goers they cannot park in the spaces saved for shoppers. Last year we had a great crew (2 shifts of 8 people each) and a lot of fun, and it was a **very** successful fundraiser for minimal effort.

We hope to have one scheduled concert to work at. In addition, there are added opportunities that come up with little notice, and we have to respond within a few hours whether we can cover the date. We are developing a list of people who would be on call for these unexpected opportunities. If we have enough names, we would have a good chance of finding 16 who are available. We will set up a text or email list, so that we can contact people quickly.

If you would be willing to be on the list of potential parking helpers, please let Tracy Bigney know (207-356-7223 or tbig@gwi.net.)

IN 2024 THERE'S HUMMING HAPPENING AT HAMMOND STREET!

Save these dates:

Friday April 5th, 7pm - Windham High Chamber Singers

Sunday May 5th, 7pm - The Maine Steiners

Saturday June 8th, 7pm - Jessi Mallory, An Elvis Tribute

Sunday September 22nd, 3pm - Kathy Jellison, An Organ Recital

Sunday October 20th, 3pm - The Winds of the Bejeweled Diadem

Something for everyone! All to benefit our Instrument Maintenance Fund!

HSCC COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2024

Food Pantry Meeting on 2/19/24 at 4 PM-Sinnott Rm.

Investment Comm. Mtg. on 2/20/24 at 4 PM-Sinnott

Council/Exec. Mtg. on 2/20/24 at 6:30 PM-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 to 3. 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.

SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, 3/16/24 AT 5PM HSCC LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION

Last year we had a lively and entertaining live and silent auction. We enjoyed a delicious potluck supper and held a FUN raiser for the benefit of HSCC. The Auction is back this year on March 16th. Bring a casserole, salad or bread and we provide the drink and dessert.

Contact Brad Ryder at kavaker97@aol.com if you have **silent or live auction items** and/or questions.

PS. Bring a friend! Show them what HSCC is all about and the fun we have!



KATAHDIN ASSOCIATION OF THE MAINE CONFERENCE and FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC OF LINCOLN

Welcomes you on Saturday, February 17th for our Winter Program meeting which will feature a program by our Conference Minister the Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola in a follow-up to her Spring workshops across our Conference that offered ways for our churches to be ALIVE AND THRIVE in their ministry and mission. In addition we will have an opening worship offered by the Rev. Tim Hall and the Lincoln church, and an opportunity for churches to individually make a brief report about what is going on in their congregation's life! This will be followed by a luncheon for everyone who can stay following the program.

The meeting will be a hybrid meeting so you don't have to be there in person to enjoy the worship, and fellowship and program. You'll just miss the great FOOD!

Registration will begin at 9:45am, and the church building will be open at 9:30am for light refreshments before the worship will begin at about 10am.

We hope to see you there! One more email soon before the event will be a reminder and have a link for those joining by Zoom.

Bruce Burnham, Scribe
Katahdin.me.ucc@gmail.com

207-331-4672

Facebook: Katahdin - Maine UCC - Association



LENT

prayer • fasting • almsgiving

Hammond Street Congregational Church

Lenten Worship and Study

THE LENTEN BIBLE STUDY, "REMEMBER"

BEGINS ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19 AND RUNS THROUGH MARCH 25, IN THE CHURCH PARLOR EACH MONDAY WITH CLASSES AT 1:00 P.M. AND 6:30 P.M.

YOU CAN STILL SIGN UP BY CALLING THE CHURCH OFFICE OR PUTTING YOUR NAME ON THE CLASS LIST IN THE SANCTUARY

HOLY WEEK BEGINS

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24, WITH THE PROCESSION OF PALMS

AND CONTINUES

HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 28, WITH THE CELEBRATION OF THE LAST SUPPER.

GOOD FRIDAY, WILL CONTINUE OUR LENTEN JOURNEY AS WE JOIN IN THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS. THIS YEAR WE WILL FOCUS ON THE "WAY OF THE CROSS"

LENT CONCLUDES

WITH

OUR EASTER SERVICES ON EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31

SUNRISE SERVICE WILL BE AT WATERFRONT PARK ON FRONT ST AT 6:00 A.M.

EASTER BREAKFAST IS AT 8:00 A.M. IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION WILL BE AT 11:00 A.M. IN THE

SANCTUARY

MAKE PLANS TO BE JOIN US AS WE MAKE OUR 2024 LENTEN JOURNEY TO THE CROSS AND THE EMPTY TOMB

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

In Person Sunday Service

Pastor Gary Bagley

February 18, 2024 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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