



The Hammond Streeter

Hammond Street Congregational Church, UCC, Bangor, ME

An Open and Affirming Community February 21, 2024

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381



FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

SCRIPTURE

Job 5: 8

But if I were you, I would appeal to God; would lay my cause before the divine. God performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted.

WORDS OF HOPE

We often hear the phrase that someone has “the patience of Job.” What does that mean?

Job was said to be a good and prosperous man. He believed fervently in and was faithful to God. And then one day, Job's faith was put to the test. In a short time, all that he held dear was taken away from him—his wealth, his children, and his physical health. In the midst of all of this he also lost the love and support of his wife.

Though Job did despair, he never lost his faith.

The above passage from Chapter 5 of the Book of Job is a sermon of sorts spoken by Job's friend Eliphaz. Eliphaz is supposedly trying to comfort Job as he faces his darkest moments. In doing so, however, Eliphaz makes some incorrect assumptions and speaks partial truths that end up hurting rather than helping.

This passage opens with Eliphaz saying, “But if I were you, I would appeal to God; I would lay my cause before God. God performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted.” On the surface, these words may sound supportive and encouraging, but the assumption made by Eliphaz when he says, “if I were you” is that Job is overcome by a sinful nature and that is why all the terrible things came upon him. And, that Job cannot rise above his despair because he has lost his faith and refused to turn to God. Eliphaz is incorrect in his assumptions. Job's friend continues by presenting a litany of all the good things that God can do, all of which are accurate.

Eliphaz then tells Job not to “despise the discipline of the Almighty,” implying again that what Job is experiencing in life is because of his sins and lack of faith. If Job would only succumb to this discipline, all would be well; he'd be a blessed man. Here too, Eliphaz missed the mark, by urging Job to accept his “punishment” and do the work to repent so that he may be seen favorably in God's eyes.

In verse twenty-five, Eliphaz hits hard when he says that if Job repents, his children will be many, the implication being that Job is responsible for the death of his children. What kind of person says that to a friend?

Then, Eliphaz concludes his preaching to Job by saying. “We have examined this, and it is true. So, hear it and apply it to yourself.” Who are the “we” of which he speaks? Himself and two other friends who apparently see themselves as the experts on all things God. This was another thing about which Eliphaz was way wrong.

The truth about Job is that his faith in God never wavered. He clung to his faith believing that God would see him through the darkness. He is well-deserving of the reference “the patience of Job.”

It is apparent that Eliphaz believed in a God of retribution and Job in a God of mercy. Eliphaz used the words and ways of God to spread hurt and condemnation rather than love. In the end (Job 42:7), God says to Eliphaz, “I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has.”

How many of us have encountered an Eliphaz at some point, someone who thinks that as friend they can share “the word of God” with us to help us live a better life? They tell us that we are filled with sin because of our lifestyle, our gender, our race, our disability, our job...and the list goes on. If we would just change, God would show us favor and our lives would be so much happier and fulfilled. Such people are not sharing the love of God; they are being judgmental and hurtful; The exact opposite of what God asks of God's followers. The moral of the story here is don't be an Eliphaz!

PRAYER

Loving God, as I make my way through this life, help me to have the heart, hope, and patience of Job. Amen

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 kayaker97@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!



DID YOU KNOW

That a member of our congregation who lived 85 years & 8 months only had 20 "birthdays?" This quirk of fate happened because the year Henry Adams Merrill was born, 1832, was a leap year and he came into the world on what normally would have been March 1st but, in his case, it turned out to be February 29th. Any signs that this may have caused problems for the Barnard ME native are not in evidence. Henry, one of 5 sons & 7 daughters, moved to Bangor in 1849 where he lived for the remainder of his life. His work life started as a clerk in a grocery store downtown owned by a Mr. Godfrey after which he started a slate business. His father owned & operated a quarry in Brownville so an outlet in Bangor run by his son was a boom for both men. He outlived two wives & two children & was survived by 3 brothers & 4 sisters. As a member of HSCC he was active as a Sunday School teacher & served as a Deacon from 1909 through 1913. On the occasion of his "20th" birthday in 1916, his many friends both young & old made it a memorable event according to his obituary the following year: "He received scores of postcards, testifying to his popularity & proving that, in his case, it is possible for a man to retain the friends of his youth & make new ones as he grows old."¹ A sub-headline in the obituary called him a "HIGHLY RESPECTED CITIZEN."² Thank you, Deacon Merrill, for the fine example you set in how to live a respected & relation-filled life -- even though you were "short changed" on birth dates!

Happy Leap Year -- 2024. ^{1,2} "Commercial" Nov 5, 1917



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, thankfully, have now come down about 2/3's from the peak of this winter. However, levels are still higher than during most of the pandemic years. 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 Cobbosseecontee 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!

Please email Judy Fricke at judysfricke@yahoo.com for any questions.

HSCC COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2024

Stewardship on 2/22/24 at 6:30 PM-Sinnott Rm.

Investment Committee on 2/27/24 at 4 PM-Sinnott Rm.

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.



..ll aboard Cyr Bus Motor Coach to Portland to enjoy an afternoon of Baseball with the Sea Dogs at Hadlock Field Home of The Boston Red Sox's Double A Baseball Team!



Your Ticket Includes:

All-You-Can-Eat ballpark style picnic buffet at the The Park Avenue Plaza Picnic Area!

Conveniently located on the first base side of the ballpark, this area is exclusive to our group where you'll enjoy your ballpark picnic and move to your seats in the stadium for the game.



Saturday, May 4, 2024

1PM Game Time

LEAVE: Bangor 9:30AM

Hammond Street Congregational Church is Located on Hammond & High Streets Bangor.

Cost

\$100 per ticket

Contact Church Office

942-4381

or

Susan Gildart

susan.gildart1215@gmail.com

Limited Tickets Available



TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

Hike for the Homeless

Please join us on April 6th



With the 29th Annual Hike for the Homeless only months away, Bangor Area Homeless Shelter needs YOUR help making our largest fundraiser of the year a success. With many vulnerable community members still needing our services, BAHS needs to raise \$30,500 for our programs.

HSCC will be supporting this event in two ways:

1. **Hike with us!!** Raise community awareness and funds. Register as a hiker with the HSCC Team. Team registration is \$20, good dogs are welcome at \$10. Registration includes a very stylish event T-Shirt. **See Andy Wood (745-3428) to register.** Make checks payable to Hammond Street Church. Last year, HSCC had the largest team with 30 people registered. Grab your friends, family & neighbors and let's improve on that this year.
2. **Event Sponsorship** – Your outreach committee is sponsoring this year's event at the \$250 level – or more if funds allow. We'll need to raise these funds from generous folks like you. If you won't be able to join us on the hike, please consider supporting the Homeless Shelter with a cash donation (make checks out to Hammond Street Church).

Hikers assemble at 9:30 at the Waterfront Compass

The hike begins at 10:00 am.

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

In Person Sunday Service

Pastor Gary Bagley

February 25, 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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