



The Hammond Streeter

Hammond Street Congregational Church, UCC, Bangor, ME

An Open and Affirming Community February 7, 2024

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381



FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

READING

"I am passionate about everything in my life — first and foremost, passionate about ideas. And that's a dangerous person to be in this society, not just because I'm a woman, but because it's such a fundamentally anti-intellectual, anti-critical thinking society." — Bell Hooks, *Reel to Real: Race, Sex, and Class at The Movies*.

WORDS OF HOPE

Today's reading is from a book by bell hooks, a black American author, educator, and activist, best known for her writings on race, feminism, oppression, and class domination. She was an avid movie critic and published around 40 books; works that ranged from essays, reviews, poetry, and political commentaries to delightful children's books. Hooks was a follower of Buddhist philosophy which she incorporated into her lifetime Christian beliefs. Born Gloria Jean Watkins, "bell hooks" was her pen name, in honor of her sharp-witted great grandmother. She signed it in all lower-case reasoning that the substance of her works was more important than who she was.

Who she was is summed up succinctly in today's reading: 'passionate about everything in my life — first and foremost, passionate about ideas.' She died of kidney failure in 2021, but her critique of today's society is even more appropriate today. All around us, we see and hear evidence of hostility toward anything intellectually challenging, scientifically accurate, inspirational, empathetic, or compassionate. Many members of our society are stifled by fear of change, progress, or invention and are gripped by fantasies of an ideal past that never existed. This is especially dominant in the rise of far-right factions of our own Christian faith. Progressive ideas are simply not allowed.

When Dr. Hooks says anti-critical thinking, she is referring to critiquing in terms of consideration, discussion, and careful analysis. Today much of what is called criticism is defined by biased, bigoted, and unrelenting attacks against anyone or anything that does not conform to the attacker's inflexible world view. There is no room for a radical, world changing teacher like Jesus or even for the opinion that Jesus was radical. Our society is in grave need of another Gloria Jean Watkins and in fact, we still have one in the form of almost 40 books by "bell hooks". If you are not familiar with her works, it is the perfect time in history to delve into her passion for ideas. She was known to have profoundly changed some lives. Are you ready for a change?

PRAYER

Thank you, Holy One, for the bell hooks of this world, heroes among us who taught and still teach us how to find and pursue our passions, our identities, and our ideas. May Jesus guide us. Amen

SACRED CONVERSATIONS ON GUN CONTROL **FEBRUARY 2024**

The Social Action Committee is hosting sacred conversations in February covering a wide geography of our conference. You are invited to engage in spirit-led and compassionate conversation, look to one another for healing, and to contemplate a faithful response to gun control. This gathering is in person.

Saturday February 10, 10-11:30am at Hammond St. UCC in Bangor

Register Now! <<https://maineucc.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=dfae0e968e79c9400cfd5bb9&id=efc4df69b0&e=e7bd633c64>>



PALMS

The Diaconate is in need of palms from last year's Palm Sunday Service in order to make the ashes needed for Ash Wednesday, February 14. **Please bring in your palms by Sunday, February 11, 2024.** They can be placed on the back tables in the Sanctuary . Thank you.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Ash Wednesday is next week on February 14th. This year we will have two services. The first service will be a brief service at noon in the Sanctuary for those who don't get out at night and the second, our regular service at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Make plans to be a part of one of the services as we begin the Lenten Season.

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.

God's covenants throughout the Old Testament show the character of God's promises to the people of Israel. In this book, Susan Robb leads readers through the covenants with Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David, followed by the new covenant established on Maundy Thursday. The Lenten story culminates with an examination of the cross as another example of God's promise for a new world.

Each student's book cost \$14.00



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 Cobboosecontee 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

Trustees on 2/8/24 at 6:30 PM-Sinnott Room

Outreach on 2/11/24 at 9 AM-Fellowship Hall

Music on 2/11/24 at noon-Throckmorton Room

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

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

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

In Person Sunday Service

Pastor Gary Bagley

February 11, 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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