



The Hammond Streeter

Hammond Street Congregational Church, UCC, Bangor, ME

An Open and Affirming Community March 13, 2024

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381



FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 10.6-33

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So, if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful and will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing God will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

WORDS OF HOPE

This passage deals with the idea of God testing us and our ability to endure. In this day and age, we sometimes think of tests and think of the academic setting where we all had regular tests and a final exam. No doubt we all remember those good test days and those bad test days.

There was always that test that came up on a day when you had a headache or weren't feeling up to snuff. Even if we had well prepared, something stood in the way of success. We might make it through the day-to-day homework and pop quizzes, and classroom questions and then fall flat on the final exam; often for reasons beyond our control. And some of us are just not good test takers, and some of us are.

When I was a student, I personally liked tests. I liked the challenge of proving myself to myself. It wasn't a matter of competition with other students. It was a matter of competition with myself to do better than I had done before. A teacher friend told me that whenever he had a student who had done well all semester long and suddenly had a bad test, he always did what he could to weigh the long-running success of the year more heavily than the one time shot at a test.

I suspect this is what the author of this passage is hinting at in his last couple of lines. God's Grace, God's mercy, means that we can and will be forgiven. It also means as it says whatever test God throws in front of us will be something we can survive through; successful or not.

The examples of those in the past who had been punished for their failure, were not able to give up on those things that they knew were not what God wanted. I like to think of them as the students who never studied, never did homework, failed the test, and then wanted extra credit to pass.

I also think when the author admonishes people when they are standing to be cautious, they do not fall, what is really being talked about is what we would've called a pop quiz. Life is a pop quiz. When you're driving down the road and your tire blows out, that's a pop quiz (pardon the pun). When the dog eats a chocolate bar and must be run to the emergency vet, that's a pop quiz. When the grease in the pan on the stove catches fire, that's a pop quiz. In each case you have to take what you know and apply it. It's not like a final exam. You know what's on the final and when it is. These life skill quizzes come up and you never know when, how, or even if they will happen. So, in your devotional time today, think about life's pop quizzes, and what you do to prepare for them so that if and when they do occur, you are ready.

This Lenten season is meant to prepare us to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection. Think about the fact that even though they had pretty much been told what was going to happen, when and where, the apostles were not ready for the pop quiz that came on what we call Good Friday. Think about Peter who draws his sword and slices off the ear of one of those who has come to arrest Jesus, but within a short time is denying Jesus three times in a row.

Peter failed the pop test, but in the end, he became the leader that Jesus intended for him to be. His commitment over time outweighed his one bad test day. Through God's grace and mercy, it can be that way for all of us.

PRAYER

Merciful God, though we ask that you lead us not into the time of trial, we ask that you be with us if and when it comes. Show us your mercy when we fall short. Amen

EASTER FLOWERS

It's time to put in your orders for Easter Flower dedications. **Prices are as follows: Lilies-\$20, Daffodils, Tulips, and Hyacinths-\$15.** Order forms will be on the table in the back of the Sanctuary and emailed. You can bring the completed form to the office or drop it in the offering plate. **All orders must be received no later than Friday, March 22nd before 2:30 P.M. because all orders will be called into Bangor Floral at 2:30 P.M.**



PREPARE YE THE WAY!

Join the Willing Workers on Saturday, March 23, from 9-noon to dust off and shine up the church for Holy Week. Come for the morning or an hour, many hands make light work.



FOOD NEEDED IN THE FOOD PANTRY

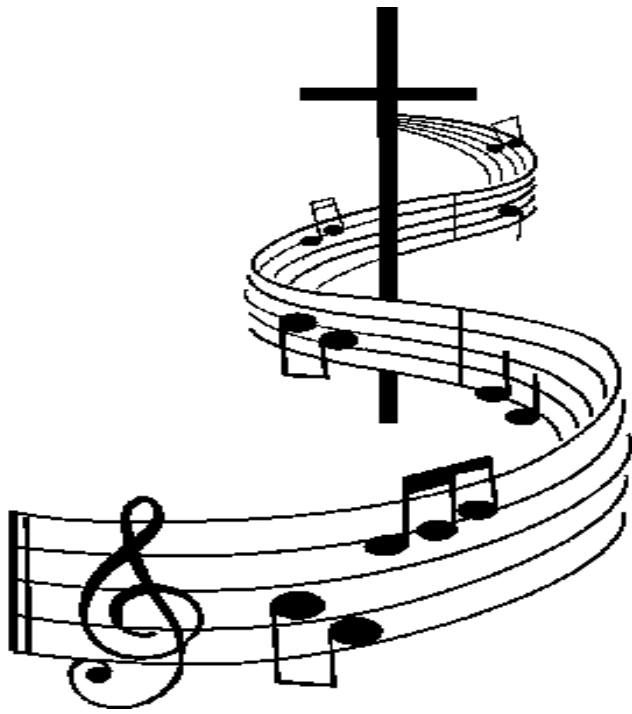
We are in need of Pasta, Sauce, Cereal, Baked Beans, Canned Fruit, non-refrigerated Milk and Re-useable Shopping Bags (**NO PAPER**). Thank You



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.



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.



Pilgrim Lodge
Maine Conference, United Church of Christ

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@zwi.net about scholarships).

HSCC COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2024

Trustees on 3/14 at 6:30-Sinnott Room

Food Pantry on 3/18 at 4 PM-Sinnott Room

Council/Exec on 3/19 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.

WELCOME ALL HSCC NEW MEMBERS MARCH 10, 2024

Mason Amon



Rev. Jim & Diane Scovil



Geneva Duncan-Frost



Erica Miller & Kaitlyn Smith



Gail Zuck



HSCC CABIN FEVER RELIEVER
SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024 5pm
Potluck Supper (dessert provided)

Here's a sample of auction items

Artwork

Planters

Luggage

A "Mystery Box"

Tickets to BSO, PTC

Andy's Mix



Gift Certificates for

Restaurants, Groceries,

Movies, Oil Changes,

And Ice Cream

A Downtown Coffee Tour



*Come for an evening of fun raising - and
don't forget to bring a friend*

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

In Person Sunday Service

Pastor Gary Bagley

March 17, 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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