



The Hammond Streeter

Hammond Street Congregational Church, UCC, Bangor, ME

An Open and Affirming Community August 14, 2024

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381



FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:14

And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

WORDS OF HOPE

For years, I struggled with Religious Stockholm Syndrome. Normally, Stockholm Syndrome is defined as having feelings of affection or trust towards one's captor. It is possible, however, to be held hostage by one's religion inasmuch that I was trapped in a cage of fear by the teaching that I was going to go to hell because I was gay. My captor, as it turns out, never even existed. Instead of getting to know God myself, I trusted humankind's image of God, and it was this image that held me prisoner. The image promised me love if I obeyed without question. I was a child when I developed a Religious Stockholm Syndrome that was generational, and I was taught to confuse prejudice with love from people who were suffering from the same thing I was.

How often does humankind confuse prejudice with love because we believe it is what God wants? Would the Creator of the universe think as a person who lives but for a short time? Or what does it mean to show love to another? No one can live our lives for us; therefore, we need to ask our own questions and seek out the answers. I would never believe someone who said, "I love you," if they were trying to destroy me. Ironically, I used to accept that God discriminated, and I called it good. Even worse than what I was doing to myself, was passing my degradation and Religious Stockholm Syndrome to others.

It is long overdue that humanity examines the impossibility of a God of love having a human disposition of prejudice. You do not have to pray like I pray or think like I think to get my love. I should hope to believe that God is better than I, and would in nowise, love you less than me. Anger comes from unresolved pain, and it is sad that many have allowed their anger to become hate. But their story does not have to be your story. You can face the pain and give it the one thing it needs, and that is love.

PRAYER

Abba God,

Save us from the pain, from the helplessness, from the loneliness, from the rejection, and from the anger that turns into hatred. Break every cycle of discrimination in the world. Teach us who You really are, for we long to know You. Free us from all bondage. Bless You Lord. In You we trust. Amen.

See you on Sunday, *Pastor Gary*

THANK YOU

Health Equity Alliance thanks Hammond Streeters for faithfully contributing laundry detergent containers to be used as syringe containers. You have done such a great job that HEAL now has more than are needed for the immediate future. The collection barrel will be gone from the narthex. When there is a need for more containers, it will return. Thank you for your help in this important work. Tim Rogers and Health Equity Alliance



CLYNK --AN EASY WAY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHURCH

We have green Clynk bags with tags that will direct the money from the returnables to the church. Each Hannaford super market has a place to return Clynk bags.

See Tracy Bigney, Joni Decato or Mary Klemt in the office for the bags. You may get one or two bags, and then get more when those have been used.

The 5 cent and 15 cent redemption funds will add up when lots of people join together. Thanks, Tracy

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

My program, SEARCH, helps older people by matching them with a volunteer. Recently, I met a lady on Cedar Street who needs help with grocery shopping.

She says your church is her preferred place of worship, so I am wondering if you might post or announce a need for a shopper for her? The interested volunteer could call me at 207-245-8042

We do the background check and orientation for volunteer, as well as evaluate the person requesting help, there is never a cost for the program.

I know of your fine community work through the Ecumenical Food Pantry, our parish does food campaign every third Sunday of the month for the cupboard.

Might you help me find a volunteer for Sandra? (Sandy Farver)

Thank you for consideration,

Jane French
SEARCH at Catholic Charities
436 S Main St
Brewer 04412
207.245.8042
jfrench@ccmaine.org



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

July 1st until August 23rd HSCC office hours will be 9 AM to NOON Monday thru Friday.



ALWAYS NEEDED IN THE FOOD PANTRY

Pasta, Sauce, Cereal, Baked Beans, Soup, Canned Fruit, Non-Refrigerated Milk. Thank You



COVID GUIDELINES

Covid levels are sharply increasing. We 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 would like a mask.

SNACK PACK SATURDAY IN THE PARK 2024

It's time for our annual Snack Pack Saturday in the Hayford Park from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on September 14th. It is an event to help introduce children and youth as well as parents to Hammond Street Church. We will have a bounce house, a large yard game, snow cones, popcorn, facepainting and other activities for the children. We will also have information available for the parents. The Executive Council has been working on this as a part of this year's focus on our vision and moving forward.

We need everyone to help make this a success. Along with the activities we will also have cloth backpacks for each of the youth and children who visit us. We have approximately 100 backpacks to fill. Our goal is to fill each backpack with snacks for the kids. This is where you can help. We need donations of snacks for the backpacks. There is a box in the church where you can place the snacks on Sundays or bring them into the office during office hours. You are welcome to buy whatever you feel a child would like as a snack. Please help us with your donation and make plans to be a part of the fun on Saturday, September 14th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Hayford Park.



2024 HAMMOND STREET CONCERTS

Sunday September 29th, 3 PM

Kathy Jellison, An Organ Recital

Sunday November 10th, 3pm - The Winds of the Bejeweled Diadem, a Woodwind Quartet

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

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

HSCC COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2024

NO MEETINGS THIS WEEK

PLEASE REMEMBER

Hammond Streeters at Home:

Sandy Farver, Eda & Hugh Morrison

Sylvia Ross Home-Bangor

Ronnie 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 11 AM

SUNDAY BULLETIN-THURSDAYS at 11 AM

SUMMER CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday 9 to NOON. 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 on the table in the back of the Sanctuary.

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

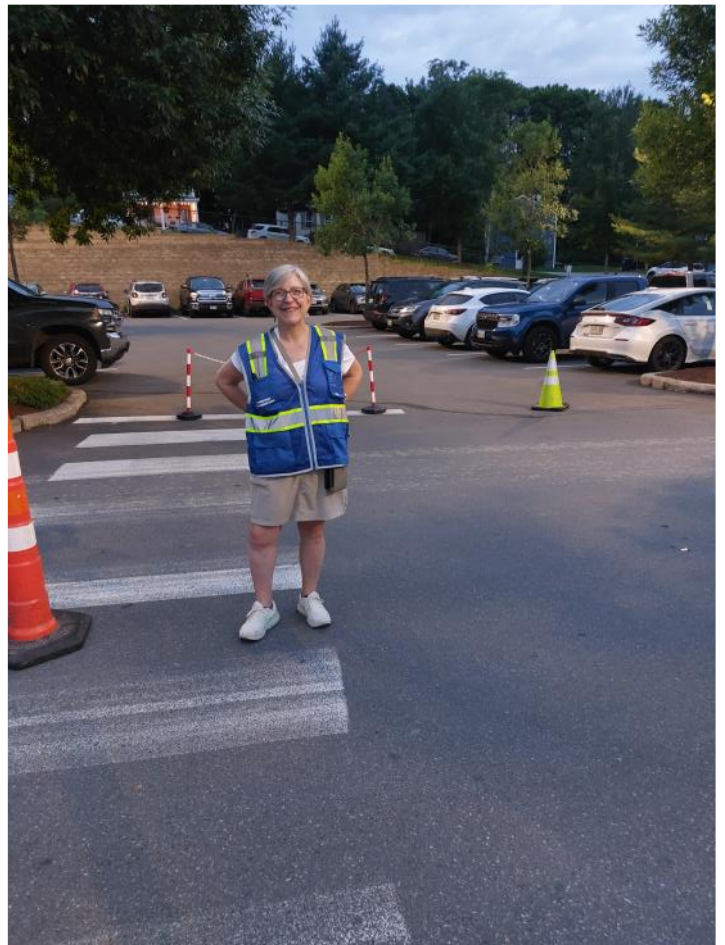
Please contact the office if you can help.

CONCERT PARKING A BIG SUCCESS

Thanks to our parking crew, Shaw's, and many Smashing Pumpkins fans, we raised \$2,211 on Sunday, August 4th. We also had an opportunity to assist with parking for the Dan + Shay concert on August 11 and earned an additional \$1,339. Our parking crew looks official, spiffy, and safe in our new reflective vests that identify us as Hammond Street Congregational Church. Funds raised support all our ministries. Great work HSCC'ers.



Our HSCC Concert Parking Attendants
at Shaw's: Jan Hill and Bobby Magee



One of our HSCC Concert Parking Attendants
at Shaw's. Kathy Frazier

MUSIC ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Sanctuary Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday September 4th at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. They will be singing in worship starting on Sunday September 8th.



The Chime Choir will be hosting an "Introduction to Chiming 24/25" event after service on August 25th. Experienced ringers are welcome to come and view the new music for this fall. Those curious about ringing chimes may come and try out the chimes and see how the music is marked etc. Regular rehearsals will begin on Sunday September 22nd immediately after service. Chime Choir is open to all 5th graders to 100-year-olds!

The Music Committee is looking for new members. Our main task is coordinating the Hammond Street Concert Series as fundraisers for the Organ and Piano Maintenance Fund. If interested, you could help out some this fall and then jump on the committee in January!

Please mark your calendars and consider joining these active ministries in our church!

If you have questions about any group, please contact Judy Fricke, judysfricke@yahoo.com.

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

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

In Person Sunday Service

Pastor Greg Bridges-Music

August 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 (EXCEPT IN JULY AND AUGUST)**

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