



The Hammond Streeter

Hammond Street Congregational Church, UCC, Bangor, ME

An Open and Affirming Community December 11, 2024

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381



FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 119:105-112

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. I have taken an oath and confirmed that I will follow your righteous laws. I have suffered much; preserve my life, Lord, according to your word.

Accept, Lord, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach me your laws. Though I constantly take my life in my hands, I will not forget your law. The wicked have set a snare for me, but I have not strayed from your precepts. Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart. My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end.

WORDS OF HOPE

The psalmist describes God's word as a lamp and a light. There is a sense of movement here with the emphasis of the psalmist's feet on a path. We don't know where the psalmist is going, but it's notable that the psalmist doesn't say, "Your word is a light outside my house." The picture here is that God's word guides the believer through life, even in dark spaces where the path is uncertain, and potential dangers may lie ahead.

This psalm reminds us that God has not left us to figure out life on our own. Rather, God accompanies us, showing us how to live faithfully as God's people here and now. While our technology, governmental structures, and understandings of the universe are different from when the Bible was written, the commands and the stories of God's faithful love provided through the Bible help us to see what it can look like to walk in the light of God's path today.

As we immerse ourselves in God's word, we also learn to recognize more fully that Jesus is the ultimate expression of God's word. Jesus was sent not simply to guide us but to be "the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6) through whom we receive redemption and experience peace with God.

PRAYER

Lord God, we are so grateful that you did not leave us on our own. Thank you for sending Jesus not only to light our path in life but also to be the path to life in you. In his name, Amen.

See you Sunday, *Pastor Gary*



DROP OFF TIMES

Items for the Food Booth must be at the church by 2 p.m. Friday, December 13th.

AND DON'T FORGET to bring the kids or grandkids to Breakfast with Santa from 9-11 and invite your friends to join you for shopping and lunch.



CHRISTMAS SAMPLER RAFFLE

As part of this year's Holiday Fair we are holding a raffle for a classic Christmas sampler cross-stitched by Judy Carter. Beautifully crafted and professionally framed, this 12x17 piece is ready to hang for the holidays or as a year-round reminder of the scents and sounds of season. Judy will have the sampler and raffle tickets, \$5 each, at Fellowship Hour and at the fair.



HOLIDAY CARD BOX IS IN THE NARTHEX

Christmas Cards for Your Church Family

The HSCC Christmas mailbox is in the Narthex and it is ready for business. If you want to share Christmas cards with your church family, just deposit the cards in the box. There are slots for the letters of the alphabet to keep them sorted. **The mailbox will be there through January 3, 2025.** Merry Christmas to All!



FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

We need volunteers on Tuesdays & Thursdays (8 am to noon) who can lift up to 45 lbs. Please contact Maina Fernald at bangorfoodpantry@gmail.com or Carolyn Dorfman at cdorfman@ymail.com if you can help us.



ALWAYS NEEDED IN THE FOOD PANTRY

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

COVID GUIDELINES

We can help 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.



CHRISTMAS CANTATA /TABLEAU 12/15/2024

Come join us for this special service this Sunday at 10am
A Candlelight Christmas - music by Benjamin Harlan

Intergenerational Living Nativity portrayed by youth and adults from HSCC congregation.



WINTER OUTERWEAR

Your Outreach Committee is collecting gently used winter outerwear. Any warm outerwear in good condition would be appreciated, especially larger adult sizes. We distribute this winter clothing to guests at our monthly community meal throughout the winter months. If you know of anyone who would benefit from a winter clothing upgrade, send them our way. Thanks for your support of folks in Bangor. Please place your donations in the basket in the Narthex.

Call Andy Wood with any questions at 745-3428.



WINTER WARMTH TREE

It's time once again to support a long-standing tradition here at HSCC. The **Winter Warmth Tree** is a program that will run from now into January. Your Outreach Committee is looking for **Hats, Gloves/Mittens, and Winter Socks ONLY**. These items will be distributed to folks in our community needing a winter-worthy upgrade. They will be offered to guests at our Free Community Meal and Food Pantry. These accessories will also be provided to area shelters for distribution to their clients. So, if you're out Holiday Shopping and you see some warm winter accessories, please consider purchasing an item for donation to this worthy program. The Winter Warmth Tree or a donation box will be in the narthex through January. **Thanks – Your Outreach Committee**

HSCC COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2024

Trustees Mtg. on 12/12 at 6:30 PM—Sinnott Room

Council/Exec. Mtg. on 12/17 at 6:30—Parlor

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

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 on the table in the back of the Sanctuary.

SECURITY REMINDER

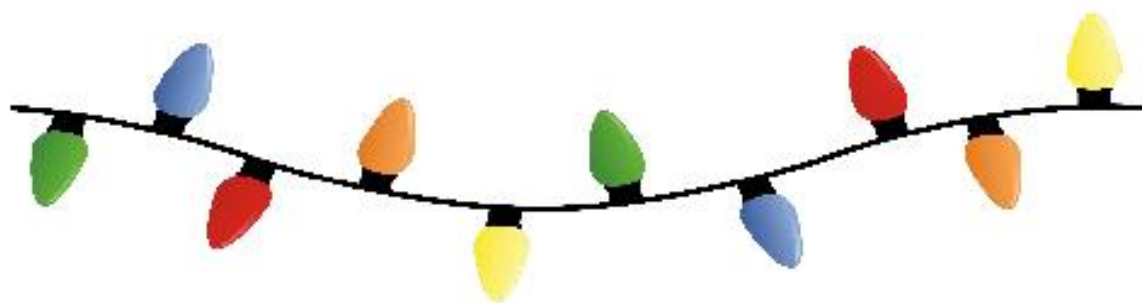
Please make sure the backdoor is locked when you leave. Lock it and give it a tug to make sure it is secure and make sure your vehicle is locked.

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.



HOLIDAY FAIR

8 - 1 Saturday, Dec. 14

**Hammond St. Church,
28 High Street, Bangor**

Breakfast with Santa from 9 - 11



Haddock Chowder & Chili Lunch at 11

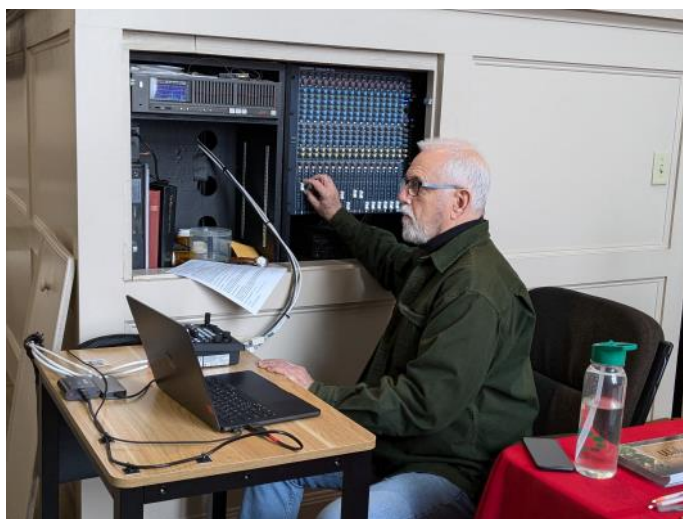
Bake Sale, Crafts & Gifts

Christmas Items, Grammie's Attic Treasures

The Black Bear Men's Chorus with Director Danny Williams and Accompanist and Assistant Director Ginger Wallace provided the service music on Sunday for an appreciative congregation. Included in the program was the offertory anthem "The First Noel/Pachabel's Canon" by M.Clawson performed during the collection taken by ushers Deb Higgins and Patrick Diehl.



George Fricke monitoring the new video and sound system. Live streaming will soon be available.



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

In Person Sunday Service

Pastor Gary Bagley

December 15, 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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