

The Hammond Streeter

Hammond Street Congregational Church, UCC, Bangor, ME

An Open and Affirming Community February 12, 2025

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381



FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

WORSHIP MUSIC

In the last few days, I have had conversations about our music in worship. The conversations have primarily centered around the hymns. The conversations have been about hymns we like and don't like, traditional wording verses inclusive language and tempo of the hymns being too slow. I can understand each of the concerns that have been raised.

Over my 45+ years of ministry and leading worship this is not the first time I have encountered these issues. You see for each of us there are hymns and worship music that tugs at our heartstrings. Not every hymn moves us in the same way, but we all have our favorites. I have never had a congregation where everyone walked out of worship thrilled about the hymns we sang. But then we need to ask the question, is worship about me and what I want.

Our Worship is directed to God and the glory of God. Our Worship services are designed to direct our hearts, minds and souls to the one who created us and to give praise and glory to the one who has given us life.

Our services are planned around the Scripture and all that we do and say is to bring our focus to the lesson found in the Scripture. Our hymns are designed to lift our praise to God as well as help us focus on the message of the day. The music that fills our service is selected based on the Scripture. Sometimes the hymns will be old familiar and cherished selections. Other times they may be new to us but each hymn whether familiar or new has a message that directs our thoughts to the Scripture and praise of God.

One of the most challenging times for me in worship was when I moved into the United Church of Christ from the United Methodist Church. You would think that the hymnals would be similar, after all our liturgy was very similar. However, there were many differences. There were different hymns and different wording for familiar hymns. There were and still are times when I find myself using the words I learned on a familiar hymn only to discover they've changed. You see I was reminded that worship is not about me and what is familiar to me. It is about praising God and giving thanks to God. So, I had to learn new words to familiar hymns as well as new hymns and expressions of praise.

We like the familiar, but God challenges us daily to stretch our boundaries and ways of doing things and that is true even in worship. Words are another issue with hymns. As many know, the New Century Hymnal stretches our boundaries when it comes to the words of the hymns. The hymnal was developed so that our praise would use inclusive language, providing hymns of praise that all people of all ages would be comfortable with. As an Open and Affirming Church we offer a place for people of all walks of life and from many backgrounds. So, it is only appropriate that we provide language in our hymns that speak to all people and not just a few. We want people to be comfortable and find a place where they are accepted and part of that is language in our hymns. Words, even in hymns, do make a difference and convey a message of God's Love for all. So, for that reason, we sing hymns that use inclusive language

As your pastor I made a covenant with you, the church, that I would ensure that we used inclusive language in worship and other communications so that all people would feel welcomed here at Hammond Street Congregational Church. For that reason, the New Century Hymnal is our primary hymnal for worship. As an Open and Affirming Congregation we will be inclusive in the life of the church so that all people know that they are welcome here and have a place in the household of God.

See you Sunday, *Pastor Gary*



REUSEABLE BAGS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

The Bangor Food Pantry is in need of reusable bags to hand out to their clients on Tuesdays and Thursdays when the Food Pantry is open. If you can help them out it would be much appreciated. **NO PAPER BAGS PLEASE**



CABIN FEVER RELIEVER Our 3rd Annual HSCC Live and Silent Auction is not far away! Mark your calendars for **March 15th**, 5pm to enjoy a potluck supper, silent and live auction! Last year we had an incredible assortment of unique items as well as yummy treats and baked goods. Proceeds to benefit HSCC and our Outreach programs. Just in case....snow date is the following weekend, March 22nd.

Contact Brad Ryder, 207-745-6850 or kayaker97@aol.com if you have an item(s), service, gift certificate to donate or have any other questions. See you there!



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. 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



There is Humming Happening at Hammond Street!

Please save these dates for the 2025 Hammond Street Concert Series!

Sunday May 11th, 7pm

A Mother's Day Concert with The Maine Steiners

Friday June 20th, 7pm

A coffee house setting with local folk singers Larry and Leslie Latour

Saturday September 6th, 7pm

Duets and Desserts HSCC Choir presents homegrown talent and homemade desserts

Friday October 3rd, 7pm

An evening of Gospel and more with New York Artist Roosevelt Credit

All funds raised go to the maintenance of our beautiful pipe organ and pianos. Please plan on joining us and bringing friends!



ALWAYS NEEDED IN THE FOOD PANTRY

Pasta Sauce, Cereal, Baked Beans, Soup, Canned Vegetables. Thank you very much

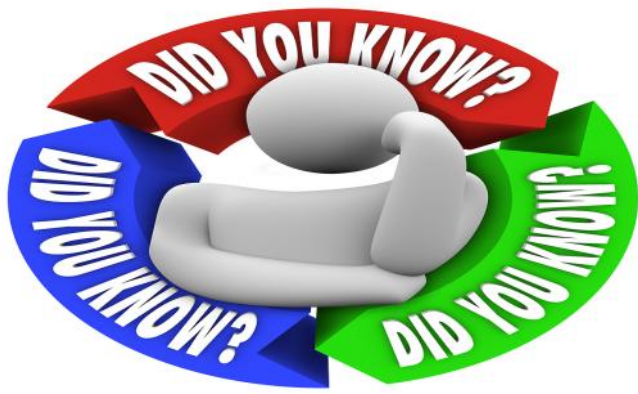


PILLOWS & THROWS IN THE SANCTUARY

They are there for anyone to use and to create a welcoming atmosphere. Please feel free to take one and put it behind your back or sit on it during the service or wrap yourself up in a comfy throw to keep warm.

COVID GUIDELINES

Covid levels are rapidly rising. 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.



WHO WAS ST. VALENTINE

As the story goes, Emperor Claudius II of [Rome](#)—who reigned from the year 268 A.D. to 270 A.D.—banned marriage because he thought unmarried men made better soldiers. Priest Valentine thought this was unfair and decided to break the rules and perform marriages anyway. He kept the ceremonies quiet, but he was eventually caught and later killed on February 14th of the year 270 for defying the emperor. Right before he died, Valentine supposedly wrote the first-ever “valentine” to his jailer’s daughter, with whom he’d fallen in love. Later, in the 5th century, Pope Gelasius I declared the day of his death as St. Valentine’s Day.



*****HSCC COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2025*****

Trustees Mtg. on 2/13 at 6:30 PM—Sinnott Room
Faith Formation Mtg. on 2/17 at 6:30 PM—Sm. Office
Council/Exec. Mtg. on 2/18 at 6:30 PM—Parlor

*****PLEASE REMEMBER*****

Hammond Streeters at Home

Eda & Hugh Morrison, Glen & Ann Rea, Sandy Farver

Sylvia Ross Home

758 Broadway, Apt. 37, Bangor, ME 04401
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 10 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.

SERVICE STREAMING LIVE OR RECORDED

You can find our services live or at your convenience on our YouTube channel.

AVTECH Hammond Street Church

You can also find the link to YouTube on our Facebook Page.

hammondstreetcongregationalchurch@hscucc

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

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

In Person Sunday Service

Pastor Gary Bagley

February 16, 2025 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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Email: admin@hammondstreetchurch.net

A Celebration of Black History Month

WE INVITE YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS TO
JOIN US ON FEBRUARY 15TH AT 3:00PM
FOR A FREE CONCERT, PRESENTED BY
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
FEATURING TRADITIONAL GOSPEL SINGER
ROOSEVELT ANDRÉ CREDIT.

DUE TO THE
UPCOMING STORM, THE
CONCERT DATE HAS
BEEN MOVED TO
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY
15 AT 3:00 P.M..



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
225 FRENCH ST, BANGOR, ME 04401



(207) 947 - 0156
STJOHNSBANGOR.ORG

