



# The Hammond Streeter

## Hammond Street Congregational Church, UCC, Bangor, ME

*An Open and Affirming Community September 10, 2025*

Website: [www.hammondstreetchurch.org](http://www.hammondstreetchurch.org)

Phone: 207-942-4381



### FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

#### REFLECTING THE LIGHT

#### SCRIPTURE

[John] himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

— John 1:8

#### WORDS OF HOPE

When we think about sharing our faith, we are often nervous about having the right words to say. What if I say something wrong? What if someone asks me a question I don't know how to answer? What kind of witness would that be?

I love how the gospel of John describes the work of John the Baptist. It is a reassuring description of what it means to be an evangelist (a messenger) for Jesus. We are told that John came as a witness, to testify concerning the light of Christ. We get this important clarification: "He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light."

Wherever you may be right now, take a look at the closest light near you. Doing so might not be very comfortable for your eyes, though. In general, lights are not designed to be looked at. The purpose of a light is to reveal the things around it. For example, you can read a book and see other things around you because some kind of light is helping you to see those things.

The role of John the Baptist, "who came as a witness to testify" about Jesus, was to help people understand about the light. John was not the light. But he helped people to understand that the One who is the light makes it possible to see what life is all about. In the same way, our witness about Jesus is not about ourselves—it points people to the One who is the light of the world.

#### PRAYER

Jesus, light of the world, shine in our hearts today. Help us to witness faithfully about you in a world that longs for your light of love and hope. Amen

See you Sunday, *Pastor Gary*

## **WHAT ARE CHURCH DUES?**

It would be more accurate to call dues “Conference and Association support.” HSCC pays an amount each year (currently \$22) for each church member to support the Katahdin Association and the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC). Dues are paid by the church regardless of whether individuals pay them. We also budget an amount of income to offset the expense, assuming that many members will pay dues in addition to their pledge or other contributions.

The Katahdin Association is made up of the UCC churches in Penobscot and Aroostook Counties. Other Maine counties comprise other associations. The Association provides opportunities for connection and fellowship among the churches. The Association’s Committee on Ministry plays a leading role in overseeing people entering the ministry and the ordination process.

The Conference is Maine’s body of the national UCC. The Conference provides services to local churches such as assistance with the search and call process, consultation for churches that need support, education for pastors and laity, ministerial support and guidance, consultation to committees on ministry, coordination of communities of practice and interim ministers’ support group, and represents us in social justice endeavors, such as our outreach efforts in Honduras and membership in the Maine Council of Churches. The Conference is also responsible for Outdoors Ministries/Pilgrim Lodge.

When churches pay dues, the Association keeps 10% and sends 90% to the Conference. The Maine Conference keeps 90% of that amount and sends 10% to the National Office. The Conference staff include the Conference Minister, Associate Conference Minister, Office Manager, and Treasury Coordinator.

HSCC elects delegates who are our representatives to the Association and Conference. Our current delegates are Ben and Betty Ann Haskell. They attend Association meetings and the Annual Meeting of the Conference. They may also participate in Association and Conference committees. Pastor Gary is also active in the Association and Conference and currently serves on the Committee on Ministry. He previously served as moderator of the Association.

So, in a nutshell, that’s what dues are and where they go. Please consider giving \$22 this year for each person in your household who is a member of the church to support the work of the Association and Conference (Please put “dues” on the check memo line.) If you have questions about the Association and Conference, please contact Betty Ann and Ben. There are also brochures about the Maine Conference on the ushers’ tables at the back of the sanctuary.

## **FALL BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

Fall is upon us and so is the time for our fall Bible Study. The Study will begin on Monday, October 6th and continue through Monday, November 10th. Classes will be offered at 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the church Parlor.

Our fall study is “The Bible With and Without Jesus” by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler. In this Bible study based on their book, *The Bible With and Without Jesus*, esteemed Bible scholars and teachers Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler take readers on a guided tour of the most popular Hebrew Bible passages quoted in the New Testament to show what the texts meant in their original contexts and then how Jews and Christians, over time, understood those same texts. Passages include the creation of the world, the role of Adam and Eve, the Suffering Servant of Isaiah, the book of Jonah, and Psalm 22, whose words, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me,” Jesus quotes as he dies on the cross.

I hope you will join us for this dynamic study. You can purchase the book in the church office for \$20.00 or you can get one from Pastor Gary on Sunday.

## **THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP**

The Way of the Innkeeper – Luke 10: 25-37  
(The Good Samaritan) *Rev. Dr. Elena Larssen*

The Good Samaritan is a ‘greatest hit’ of Christian scripture. There is an abundance of good writing and thinking about the parable. One of the most important interpretations comes from St. Augustine. He famously stated, “all humanity are our neighbors.” In his reading of the text, each character stands for a different part of Christianity. The inn is the church, where weary people can find refreshment, and a safe place of refuge and healing. The innkeeper stands for the Apostle; an interpreter of the faith, who seeks to grow the faith. The congregation must think and feel like the innkeeper, who is passionate about bringing the faith to the world.

In the inn, the keeper receives the broken and vulnerable survivor and some money from the Samaritan, who assures the innkeeper that there will be more funds if they are needed. The text implies that the innkeeper kept the money, and maybe even took further payment from the Samaritan. Surely, they had to buy food to feed the survivor, to clean the room, to pay the staff, to have a profit and stay open another day. The innkeeper reminds us to be practical about the needs of the Inn. If the faith is to grow, the church must be prepared for people.

The parable is not about the innkeeper, just as the story of God’s redemption is never about the church. Instead, the church is a nesting and growing place for God’s love and justice. The ultimate goal of faith is to turn outward and seek out those in need of our generosity and mercy. And mercy is demonstrated in a warm place to sit and heal, to be restored.

To have the powerful asset of a building in which to build the faith is an undeniable blessing. Buildings are a blessing when the congregation takes up the way of the innkeeper. Building faith, that is the way of the innkeeper.

## **SOLIDARITY HARVEST**

Oh yes! It is time to think about Solidarity Harvest at Food and Medicine. They distribute food baskets to about 1,675 households each year. St. Patrick's has a reputation of baking the most pumpkin breads for this outreach, making more than 150 loaves last year! SO!! Please let Mary Ann Perry know an estimate of how many breads your congregation could make. Food and Medicine requests the small loaves (5 3/4" x 3 1/2" pans) and please freeze and keep the breads in the tins. The sooner Food and Medicine has a commitment, the better they can plan. Mary Ann Perry has to send Food and Medicine the pumpkin bread estimate by Sept. 25, 2025. Again, this is an estimate and there is plenty of time to bake especially since they have to be frozen anyway. Send your pumpkin bread estimates to Mary Ann at [maryann\\_perry@hotmail.com](mailto:maryann_perry@hotmail.com) by September 25, 2025!

## **REMEMBER TO CLYNK**

Hammond Street has a CLYNK account for recycling cans and bottles at Hannaford stores. Pick up a bag with our tag on the ushers' tables in the back of the sanctuary or in the office. When the bag is full, put it in the receptacle at a Hannaford location. The proceeds go to the church. It's a very easy way to help. If you have questions, contact Tracy Bigney at 207-356-7223 or [bigney@maine.edu](mailto:bigney@maine.edu).

## **There is Humming Happening at Hammond Street!**

### **\*\*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!

### **Special Musical Guests for Sunday Service on October 5<sup>th</sup>!!**

#### **Roosevelt Credit and Sandra Billingslea!!**

After a wonderful Friday concert on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Roosevelt Andre Credit, New York singer and Sandra Billingslea, New York violinist will join us for our worship service on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. along with our sanctuary choir! The music will surely inspire you! We hope you can attend this special time of worship!

## **ALWAYS NEEDED IN THE FOOD PANTRY**

Egg Cartons, Pasta Sauce, Cereal, Baked Beans, Soup, and Mac n Cheese. Thank you very much

## **COVID GUIDELINES**

**Covid levels have increased.** 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.**

### **\*\*HSCC COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2025\*\***

Trustees on 9/11 at 6:30 PM—Sinnott Room

Music on 9/14 at noon—Throckmorton Room

Food Pantry on 9/15 at 4 PM—Sinnott Room

## **\*\*\*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., Brewer, ME 04412  
Ansley Throckmorton-Rm. 109

### **Westgate Manor**

750 Union St.—Room 111, Bangor, ME 04401  
Susan Davies

## **\*\*DEADLINES FOR PUBLICATIONS\*\***

**HAMMOND STR. \*TUESDAYS\* at 11 AM**  
**SUNDAY BULLETIN \*WEDS.\* 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](mailto:admin@hammondstreetchurch.net)

**\*Please sign up to read scripture and dedicate flowers in the notebooks on the table in the back of the Sanctuary.\***

## **PRAYER CIRCLE**

Do you believe in the power of prayer? Willing to lend your prayer power for others? If so, join the HSCC Circle. The only requirements are that you have an email address and will maintain confidentiality when requested. Interested? Have a prayer request? Contact Fran at [frandg31@gmail.com](mailto:frandg31@gmail.com)

## **\*\*\*SECURITY REMINDER\*\*\***

**Please make sure the backdoor is locked. Lock it and give it a tug to make sure it is secure and ALWAYS 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.

[AVTECHHammondStreetChurch@Youtube.com](mailto:AVTECHHammondStreetChurch@Youtube.com)  
or use this QR Code:





## HSCC DUETS AND DESSERTS CONCERT



Three Little Maids



Sounds of Silence



Happy Days are Here Again



Hallelujah



Themes from Pirates of the Caribbean



Teach Your Children Well



## HSCC RALLY DAY/MINISTRY FAIR 2025



Ministry Fair 2025



Diaconate Table



Rally Day Luncheon 2025



Grill Master

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

---

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**In Person Sunday Service**

**Pastor Gary Bagley**

**SEPTEMBER 14, 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)**

28 High Street, Bangor, ME 04402-1106

Phone: 207-942-4381

Website: [www.hammondstreetchurch.org](http://www.hammondstreetchurch.org)

Email: [admin@hammondstreetchurch.net](mailto:admin@hammondstreetchurch.net)



