



The Hammond Streeter

Hammond Street Congregational Church, UCC, Bangor, ME

An Open and Affirming Community September 17, 2025

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381



FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

You've Been Invited!

SCRIPTURE

Jesus replied, "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests."
— Luke 14:16

WORDS OF HOPE

Thinking about the gospel reminds us that at the heart of the Christian faith is a life-changing message of joy. That's why I like this parable so much. Jesus uses a powerful metaphor to describe life with him in the kingdom of God: a great banquet.

In Jesus' day, banquets often celebrated important events in the community. In fact, Jesus' first miracle took place at a wedding banquet. To spare the family from social embarrassment when their wine had run out early, Jesus turned several jugs of water into wine (John 2:1-11).

In Luke 14, Jesus tells a story about a wealthy man who hosts a banquet for his friends. They all accept the initial invitation, but when the day of the banquet comes and they are told that the food is ready, they make ridiculous excuses and reject the host's generosity. So, the angry and frustrated host opens his table to whoever wants to come.

This becomes a picture of the kingdom we are invited to enjoy. Sometimes this parable is summed up in a way like this: "God is throwing a party. Are you coming?" I love that! This sounds like good news to me!

Am I willing to see that life in Jesus is better and more delightful than anything this world offers? Am I ready to drop everything and run to the feast?

PRAYER

Holy One, help me to see that life in your kingdom is a great celebration that we can enjoy forever. May I not be distracted by other things in my life and say yes to your invitation today. 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.

TRUSTEES 2ND HOUR

On 9/28/25 everyone is invited to attend a special meeting in the parlor by the Trustees after the service on the heating system analysis. All are welcome to join this meeting if you want to learn more about the upgrade needed on our heating system.



****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 13th and continue through Monday, November 17th. 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.

MONTHLY FREE BEAN LUNCHES

On the first Saturday of every month HSCC's Free Bean Lunch provides a free meal and a bag lunch to all who attend. Over the past few months we have been averaging around 65 guests at each meal. We have an email list of those who wish to help by providing needed supplies, casseroles, salads, and help with set-up, serving, and cleanup. If you are interested in being added to that email list please contact me. The sign-up sheet is emailed the weekend before the FB Lunch. My email address is: ryehle2@gmail.com and my phone number is: 207-478-9122. Thank you, Ruey

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 by September 25, 2025!

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 5th!!

Roosevelt Credit and Sandra Billingslea!!

After a wonderful Friday concert on October 3rd, Roosevelt Andre Credit, New York singer and Sandra Billingslea, New York violinist will join us for our worship service on Sunday, October 5th 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, Mustard, Ketchup, Mayo and Salt-n-Pepper. Thank you very much

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.

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****

Council/Executive on 9/23 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., 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

***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

*****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
or use this QR Code:



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

FIFTHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

In Person Sunday Service

Pastor Gary Bagley

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025 at 10 AM

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

**The Hammond Streeter
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United Church of Christ (EXCEPT IN JULY AND AUGUST)**

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