



The Hammond Streeter

Hammond Street Congregational Church, UCC, Bangor, ME

An Open and Affirming Community September 24, 2025

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381



FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

I am with you

SCRIPTURE

“Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:20

WORDS OF HOPE

Many years ago, on a mission trip to Central America, I experienced for the first time a culture that was very different from my own. Our team landed at the airport, went through customs, and discovered that our host had not yet arrived to pick us up. In the unfamiliar surroundings we felt alone and anxious. None of us spoke Spanish or knew where we were supposed to go. I remember pacing back and forth in the airport with one of our team members, talking about what we should do if no one came to meet us. Eventually our missionary host, showed up—to our great relief!

That experience reminds me that there is always a measure of anxiety and uncertainty when we step across cultural and ethnic boundaries, whether it's in our neighborhood, our country or overseas. We become vulnerable—and for many of us that can feel uncomfortable. Yet, as I also learned on that first mission trip, when we take that step, we open ourselves to new relationships, learning opportunities, and experiences that can change our lives for good in many ways.

Most of all, we discover that when we embrace Christ's Great Commission to us in Matthew 28, Christ's words also become more real to us than we might imagine: “Surely I am with you always. . .”

PRAYER

Lord, Jesus, help me to discern how I can support your mission in my community, nation and the world. What next step are you inviting me to take? Thank you for your promise to be with me always. 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

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****

Stewardship on 9/25 at 6:30—Sinnott Room

Trustees Special Meeting on 9/28 at 11 AM—Parlor

Music on 9/28 at 12 PM—Throckmorton

*****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:



Thoughts on Stewardship

The Parable of the Talents– Matthew 25: 14-30

Billy Epperhart

Merriam-Webster defines stewardship as “the job of supervising or taking care of something, such as an organization or property– especially the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care”.

The biblical meaning of stewardship is doing what God has called you to do, even when it costs you absolutely everything. On the other hand, self-promotion involves doing something to elevate and bring security to yourself. That’s why the Christian life is not about biding your time until you can get into heaven. Rather, it’s about stewarding your time well and working diligently to produce fruit for The Kingdom of God. Nothing illustrates the concept of biblical stewardship quite like The Parable of The Talents.

Here are some lessons I learned from the Parable of the Talents:

- 1. We are stewards, not owners.** The time and resources that we are entrusted with in this life are not our own. God gives them to us, and our job is to live a fruitful life with what we’re given.
- 2. God gives us things to steward “according to our ability.”** He intentionally gives different types of resources and talents. Think about the career path, hobby, or other areas where you want to partner with God. According to this parable, opportunity will come when you take a step of faith to develop your abilities! So, gain knowledge, understanding, and wisdom, and see what doors God opens.
- 3. Avoid making decisions out of fear.** The servant who was given one talent didn’t take any risks with his finances because he was afraid to disappoint the master. He thought his Master to “have high standards and hate careless ways, that you demand the best and make no allowances for error” (Matthew 25:24). Those are all great qualities for someone who deals with money! Yet, the servant’s fear drove him to the point where his actions really didn’t make any sense. He could have at least put his one talent in the bank to gain interest.
- 4. God is good.** The master’s motivation for giving his servants talents in the first place was so that they could grow in relationship and celebrate together. The reason that the first servant didn’t steward the money well was because they misinterpreted the character of their master. How often do we miss out on blessings because we don’t understand God’s goodness?

BEAUTIFUL FALL ALTAR



CELEBRATE!

A Musical Evening with Roosevelt and Sandi!

Accompanied by Margaret Katherine Jellison



Roosevelt Credit



Sandra Billingslea

Friday October 3rd, 7pm

Hammond Street

Congregational Church

On the corner of Hammond and High Streets in Bangor

Suggested Donation \$10

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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

In Person Sunday Service

Pastor Gary Bagley

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025 at 10 AM

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

**The Hammond Streeter
is a weekly publication of the
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