



The Hammond Streeter

Hammond Street Congregational Church, UCC, Bangor, ME

An Open and Affirming Community October 15, 2025

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381



FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

GOD IS IN CONTROL

SCRIPTURE

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

— Romans 8:28

WORDS OF HOPE

Life can be hard, even brutal. Wars rage; diseases kill; disasters strike; accidents maim and take lives; loved ones betray. The list goes on, and questions arise. Where is God? Does God know? Does God care?

Suffering and struggles are often described in terms of what we call the problem of evil. “And if God is all powerful and all loving,” people ask, “why do suffering and evil exist? An all-powerful and all-loving God should be able to prevent suffering and evil, right?”

Well, we need to recognize that sin, evil, and suffering entered the human experience through human actions and choices. Suffering and evil are often connected to the choices people make. But God, has provided a way for us through Christ to have eternal life—where suffering, sorrow, and evil will be no more. In the meantime, though, there is still trouble in the world, and that can make life hard.

Why does God allow this? Because God is patient with us, “not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to be redeemed” (2 Peter 3:9). All good things in life come to us from God (James 1:17). And, thankfully, God watches over us and comforts us amid suffering and evil in the world. If God didn’t, things would be far worse. In addition, God can use suffering and evil—for which God is not to blame—to bring about good. And this can lead people to find comfort and salvation in God’s loving arms.

PRAYER

Father God, in this broken, suffering world, we thank you for your love and mercy. 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.



JOIN THE CANDY CREW FOR TRUNK OR TREAT

We need volunteers to make this year's Trunk or Treat a blast! Join us on October 25 from 1:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. to hand out candy during Downtown Bangor Trick or Treat. We will line our vehicles up along Hammond Street. Just decorate your trunk with a spooky and fun theme, and bring plenty of candy for all the little ghouls and goblins who stop by. Help us make this a fun community outreach event together. Sign up today! Signup sheet is in the back of the Sanctuary on the table.

BRING THE KIDS TO TRUNK OR TREAT AT HAMMOND STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Make a sweet stop along your Downtown Bangor Trick or Treat route! Bring the family to our Annual Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 25 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. right here on Hammond Street. We'll have spooky trunks, friendly faces, and plenty of sweet treats for all the little trick-or-treaters.



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

JIMMY FUND WALK 2025 –TOGETHER AGAINST CANCER

I believe in the mission and work of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute –groundbreaking research and treatment for children and adults with cancer. Progress is made every day to save lives and defy cancer. That's why I am participating in the Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk for the 9th time this fall.

Our shirts for the walk this year have the slogan "Together Against Cancer." I invite you to join me in being Together Against Cancer by donating to the Jimmy Fund.

Here's how to donate:

- Go to <http://danafarber.jimmyfund.org/goto/Tracy-Bigney> and make an online donation
- Write a check to the Jimmy Fund Walk, put my number 1012011 in the memo line, and mail to Jimmy Fund Walk, PO Box 3595, Boston, MA, 02241-3595.
- Write a check to the Jimmy Fund Boston Marathon Walk and give or send it to me to send in.
- Donations are accepted until October 31, 2025.

My family and friends have donated generously every year. Together Against Cancer, we make a difference.

Tracy B. Bigney (she, her) bigney@maine.edu
207-356-7223

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 10/16 at 6:30 PM—Sinnott Room
Council/Exec. on 10/21 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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/AVTECHHammondStreetChurch)
or use this QR Code:





STEWARDSHIP MOMENT – GEORGE FRICKE

Back in the days when our children were growing up and people watched movies on VHS tapes, Judy's aunt sent us a copy of *It's A Wonderful Life*. It's a classic; if you haven't watched it, you should. The premise is that George Bailey, a good man in a desperate spot, is overcome by despair and is about to end it all. That's when Clarence, his guardian angel (2nd class), steps in. When George says "it would be better if I'd never been born", Clarence offers to show him what the world would have been like without him. When he is shown all the good he has done, and what a sad place the world would have been without him, he is restored, his community rallies around him, the bells on the Christmas tree ring, and Clarence earns his wings.

HSCC is certainly not in a desperate situation, but when we were offered the opportunity to talk about Stewardship, it made me think, what would our lives be like if this church were not here? What would it be like if 28 High Street were the site of a parking lot, or a McDonald's?

Would Bangor have a Homeless Shelter? HSCC was instrumental getting that started. There wouldn't be a food pantry here. The growing need for support for the hungry and un-housed might get met somewhere, but not here.

Would some other church be as welcoming? I've heard over and over people say they went to other churches but did not feel welcome. Maybe they didn't smell right. Maybe they didn't dress right. Maybe their choice of life partners didn't fit in with "our kind of people". If this place were a parking lot, where would that welcome be?

But it's not a parking lot. It's a beautiful historic building, one of Bangor's architectural jewels. And within its walls gathers a congregation of people that care about each other, and that care for and nurture the world around them.

And let's face it, we do it with style. I sit in the choir loft, and almost every week, during the postlude, I watch a child in the pews. He stands up in the pew, grabs the back of the pew to hold on, and just gazes up at the organ. He's movin' to the music, he's groovin' to Bach. That child is getting something important. Where else do you get that? Where else can you end a service with a full-on organ recital? Or begin one with a violin recital, as we did last week?

It takes work, and that's where the magic happens. There are few things more satisfying than working together to fix something or create something. It may be repairing a wall, cooking a meal, performing a piece of music; doing it together strengthens the bonds between us and brings us joy. This place, this church, gives us the opportunity to do that.

So, we give money as we are able, and we give our time and talents as we are able, to ensure that this congregation, and the building that houses it, continue to grow and thrive. And, like good stewards, we do it for others as well as ourselves, so that someday, someone else's children, children not yet born, will come through these doors, feel that warm welcome, and find the home they need.

And when our church bell rings on Sunday morning, if someone feels an itch across their back, maybe it's your wings starting to grow.

Homeless Shelter Meals

Can You Help Us Out?

On the 4th Monday of each month, Hammond Streeters prepare and serve a hearty meal for guests at the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter. While this program is coordinated by Your Outreach Committee, it takes the support of our entire congregation to sustain this effort throughout the year. We could use some additional involvement from the good folks at Hammond St. There are three options for you to ensure the success of this outreach program:

Help prepare the meal

Help serve the meal

Provide food for the meal

Meals are coordinated by a member of the outreach committee or another person who is familiar with the shelter and our process. Each lead person will need a different level of support for the meal they organize. To make supporting this meal easier, we have created a simple spreadsheet to list our needs for that month's meal. This spreadsheet will be emailed 1-2 weeks prior to the Monday meal. We will start by sending it to everyone who is on the Free Bean Lunch email list. It will also be posted on the HSCC PRIVATE Facebook page. If you would like to receive this email or if you would like access to the Private Facebook page, contact Andy Wood (664awood@gmail.com or 745-3428). To get more details about supporting this project with or without digital access, contact Andy.

Thanks for considering involvement in this HSCC Outreach program – Your Outreach Committee





TRUNK OR TREAT



HAMMOND STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

OCTOBER 25TH



2 P.M. UNTIL 4 P.M.
28 HIGH STREET, BANGOR

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

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

In Person Sunday Service

Pastor Gary Bagley

OCTOBER 19, 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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Email: admin@hammondstreetchurch.net

