



The Hammond Streeter

Hammond Street Congregational Church, UCC, Bangor, ME

An Open and Affirming Community October 8, 2025

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381



FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

NOT OUR OWN

SCRIPTURE

Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you . . . You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

— 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

WORDS OF HOPE

We live in a world obsessed with comfort. The number of air conditioning units in the world is expected to triple by 2050. Tens of billions of dollars are spent on pain medication every year, and the market is forecast to increase 50 percent by 2032. Myriads of other products offer comforts we can't live without. And yet I meet and pray with people who are anxious and stressed out!

We all need comfort, and we all have important needs, especially for our physical, emotional, and spiritual health. But too often we look for comfort in the wrong places.

Being part of a community and having a sense of belonging is part of the answer to finding comfort for daily living, but the best way to find comfort is in a right relationship with God, who provides the true and lasting comfort of full life forever.

The apostle Paul reminds us that we do not belong to ourselves but have been bought at a price—through Christ—who came to offer us new life through the gift of his own life. Belonging to Christ, we are connected to each other as well.

This world provides only limited, temporary comforts. But belonging to God through Christ offers true and lasting comfort for both body and soul, during life and in the face of death.

PRAYER

God, thank you that we are not our own but belong, in life and in death, to you. 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

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

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****

Diaconate on 10/14 at 5:30 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
INVITES YOU
TO**



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



“HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA”

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 11**

AT 6:00 PM

28 HIGH ST, BANGOR

**FREE ADMISSION!
(DONATIONS WELCOMED)**



WHY THIS CHURCH MATTERS

Erica K. Miller

Things were hard for me for a long time. I don't say a lot, but most of you know I'm always just around. I love being here. This place feels like home. I love this church so much, and I want to share a little about what it's meant to me.

Many of you don't know this about me, but I come from a place that often lacked love, empathy, and encouragement. Most things like joy, curiosity, and kindness were typically met with cruelty and ridicule. I felt broken for a long time. I didn't trust anyone. I had spent a lot of my life lonely. Most of the time, I felt trapped. There were many days that living just didn't seem worth it.

I've always had a deep longing to feel seen, but I had never truly believed people could have good intentions for me, or that anyone could genuinely love me. That made it hard for me to love others in return. Somewhere along the way, I was also told that God was not for me, that no church would really accept me. That deeply affected me, and most of me believed it, because it was what I was used to. I've been spiritual since I was a child, so I still prayed very often, just calling out to someone or something, often in desperation. I wasn't sure anyone was listening.

I met Kaitlyn, my wife, about four and a half years ago, and things started to change. We moved here, and slowly, life got better. Then I found this church. Honestly, I was scared to come here. I couldn't believe there would be a place for someone like me. I thought about it for months before I finally walked through the doors. It was the day of the Christmas Cantata. It was so scary, but also surreal. I felt like maybe I could have a place here. I kept coming back.

I was baptized at the age of 32. Since then, my life has changed in ways I never thought possible. I've learned what real love and compassion look like. I've learned to trust. Aside from Kaitlyn and our animals now, I don't really have any other family, but I have all of you, and I consider you my family.

Being able to be part of things here, to help people, to give back, to make an impact, has helped me heal in ways I didn't think possible. I'm a different person these days. The brokenness isn't there so much anymore. I'm slower now, more understanding. I care and love in ways I didn't think I could ever before.

This church has helped me become someone who feels worthy, someone who can love, listen, and show up for others, to do exactly what God intended for me to do. When I think back on all those times I prayed and wondered if anyone was listening, I know now that God was, because I have this place. I have joy, happiness, contentment, family, Christ, and so much more.

This church is the answer to so many of those prayers. Every act of giving, every hour of service, every offering keeps this place alive. As you balance your budgets and think about how you can contribute this year, I hope you'll remember the impact your generosity has. It makes a real difference. It's made a significant difference in my life.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AT HSCC

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” Matthew 25 v. 35 - 36

October 2025 Topic : Domestic Violence Awareness Month



Information from this site: <https://www.mcedv.org/>

“Domestic abuse and violence is a pattern of controlling behavior in the context of a current or former relationship. One person purposefully seeks to limit the rights of their partner. The actions of the abusive person are purposeful and chosen. They are based on a **belief system** that tells them they are entitled to privilege their desires and needs above their partners’.

This behavior pattern is sometimes called “battering” and can include physical, verbal, and emotional tactics.”

Maine Statistics

- Advocates from the MCEDV network worked with 14,810 people statewide in 2024. 12,385 of those were directly experiencing abuse and violence. 48% of adults served had at least one child in their home.¹⁶
- Of those served in 2024, 2,418 people received housing help, including emergency sheltering, transitional support, housing navigation, homelessness prevention, and housing problem solving.¹⁷
- In 2024, 324 households, including 218 children, found refuge in emergency sheltering problems.¹⁸
- In 2022, domestic violence assaults comprised 30% of the total assaults reported to law enforcement.¹⁹

Nationally, only 56% of all nonfatal domestic violence crimes are reported to the police.²⁰

What Can I do To Help?

Supporting your local program (<https://www.mcedv.org/>) is one of the most tangible, invaluable ways to get involved in helping to end domestic violence. Your local program offers critical, lifesaving services such as emergency shelter, crisis intervention and legal advocacy, and they can greatly benefit from your commitment, empathy and help. On the website, you will likely find a “Get Involved” or “How You Can Help” tab listing a variety of ways to help, including volunteering, making a financial contribution, donating needed items, and taking action.

Resources

SAFE at St. Joseph Healthcare

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzQcpwkpRJpmTJKllIFNrPhMZgSM?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1>

Rape Response Services
1.800.871.7741

Child Abuse/Neglect
(to report) 1.800.452.1999

Adult and Elder Abuse/Neglect

(to report) 1.800.624.8404

Contacting our representatives “is instrumental in the implementation and enforcement of legislation and policies that increase safety for victims and their children, hold perpetrators accountable, and create funding sources for programs and services.”

FEDERAL

Representative Jared Golden

Bangor, ME 04401

207-249-7400

golden.house.gov/address

Senator Susan Collins

202 Harlow St., Suite 20100

Bangor, ME 04401

207-945-0417

collins.senate.gov/contact

Senator Angus King

202 Harlow St., Suite 20350

Bangor, ME 04401

207-945-8000

king.senate.gov/contact

President Donald J. Trump

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW

Washington, DC 20500

STATE

Find your State Senator

<https://legislature.maine.gov/senate-home-page/find-your-state-senator>

Find your State Representative

<https://legislature.maine.gov/house/house/MemberProfiles/ListAlphaTown>

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

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

In Person Sunday Service

Pastor Gary Bagley

OCTOBER 12, 2025 at 10 AM

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

**The Hammond Streeter
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