

The Hammond Streeter

Hammond Street Congregational Church, UCC, Bangor, ME

An Open and Affirming Community December 10, 2025

Nebsite: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

Phone: 207-942-4381



Difficult Faithfulness SCRIPTURE

Joseph . . . had in mind to divorce her quietly.

— Matthew 1:19

WORDS OF HOPE

From Luke 1, we know about the angel's announcement to Mary and the miraculous conception of her son, who would be named Jesus.

But Joseph did not know all of this at first. To him, Mary's story must have sounded ridiculous: Really? A virgin birth?

Joseph knew that the law was on his side and that he had every right to end his pledged relationship with Mary. But he was also righteous enough to understand grace.

People of faith understand the need to protect others despite the apparent circumstances. Joseph intended to do the best he could with a bad situation. He felt he had to confront what he saw as Mary's sin while also living with as much integrity as one could muster when his world had turned upside down.

Have you been there? We all face difficult decisions at times. Even seeking to live faithfully does not guarantee a life free from hard choices.

But God, in God's grace, revealed to Joseph that Mary's child was part of a bigger plan. In fact, God invited Joseph to be part of that plan: to let the world know of forgiveness through Jesus' birth. Grace invited Joseph into that story. It can do the same for you.

PRAYER

God of truth, in a sinful world our vision of righteousness is sometimes cloudy, and our obedience is imperfect. Give us the courage to follow you even when faithfulness is difficult. Amen.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Gary





HSCC ANNUAL HOLIDAY FAIR

Don't miss the Holiday Fair on December 13 from 8-1. Come for Breakfast with Santa (9-11), sign up for a massage by Sharon Murphy, shop for treasures in Grammie's Attic, fill up your tummy and your freezer with goodies from the Food Booth, visit the Christmas Corner for all things Christmas, check out the handmade items, and stay for the Haddock Chowder and Chili Luncheon. *Please call in ALL Chili & Chowder pre-orders by Friday, December 12th at NOON.



WHAT IS THE CHRISTMAS CARD MAILBOX?

It's a place for you to share holiday greetings with your HSCC family without needing stamps or the internet. Just address your cards with first and last name (if possible) and put them in the cubby in the Narthex.



POINSETTIA HOLIDAY ORDERS

Electronic order forms are attached to this Hammond Streeter for Holiday Poinsettias. **The deadline to place orders is December 19th at noon.** You can return them to the office during the week or place them in the collection basket on Sunday. They are \$18 each.

NAME CHANGE ANNOUNCEMENT

Hello all.

Most of you know me as Erica Miller, but I will be officially changing my name to Adrienne Knight in the coming year. I would truly appreciate it if you would begin addressing me as Adrienne going forward.

Thank you so much,

Adrienne (formerly Erica Miller)

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING

On Sunday, December 21st we will be taking a special offering for the Christmas Fund, it is the fifth of the five special offering the UCC asks each of its congregations to receive throughout the year. Our Congregation has been a Five for Five Church every year and our hope is to continue long into the future.

The Christmas Fund is a special offering by the United Church of Christ (UCC) that provides financial assistance to active and retired clergy and church workers in need.

It has been supporting UCC ministers, church workers, and their families for over 100 years. It provides emergency grants, supplements small annuities, and covers health premiums. Each December, the fund also distributes Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to lower-income retirees, ensuring they receive support during the holiday season.

I hope that you will join me in supporting the Christmas Fund and help to make this Holy Season and the coming year a little brighter for those who have given their lives in service to Christ through the United Church of Christ.

Pastor Gary



HOMELESS SHELTER MEALVOLUNTEERS

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. 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



WINTER CLOTHING

Your Outreach Committee is looking for gently worn winter outerwear. Can you help us out?

During the winter months, HSCC offers gently used winter clothing to guests at our Free Bean Lunch. We offer the clothing from the first week in November through March. Any winter outerwear in good condition and sweaters, sweatshirts and fleece would be appreciated, especially larger adult sizes. Donations can be placed in the basket in the Narthex or brought to the office. Contact Andy Wood (745-3428) with questions. Thanks for helping our neighbors in need in the greater Bangor area – Your Outreach Committee



ALWAYS NEEDED IN THE FOOD PANTRY

Spaghetti O's, Canned Ravioli, Pasta Sauce, Shelf-Stable Milk, Cereal, Baked Beans, Soup, Mustard, Ketchup, Mayo and Salt-n-Pepper. Thank you, BFP

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

Trustees on 12/13 at 6:30 PM—Sinnott Council/Exec. on 12/16 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:





Instructions for Food Donations for Holiday Fair Dec. 13th, 2025

All food donations for the Holiday Fair must be brought to the Fellowship Hall on Friday December 12th by 2:00pm. This will give volunteers time to make sure things are packaged and labelled for the Fair. It would be very helpful if bakers could prepackage cookies etc. in bags by ½ dozens **ONLY**.

There will be <u>NO PRESALE ORDERS</u> for Fair Baked Goods. Chowder and Chili can be pre-ordered by calling the office at 942-4381 by Friday at noon. Please come to the Fair early to get your favorite food items!

Any questions about any of these announcements, please contact Judy Fricke: email <u>judysfricke@yahoo.com</u> or text to (901) 491-1184.

WINTER WARMTH TREE

The Outreach Committee is hoping to decorate the Winter Warmth Tree with warm socks (new only please) and gloves. These items along with hats we already have will provide a warmer winter for our neighbors in need.

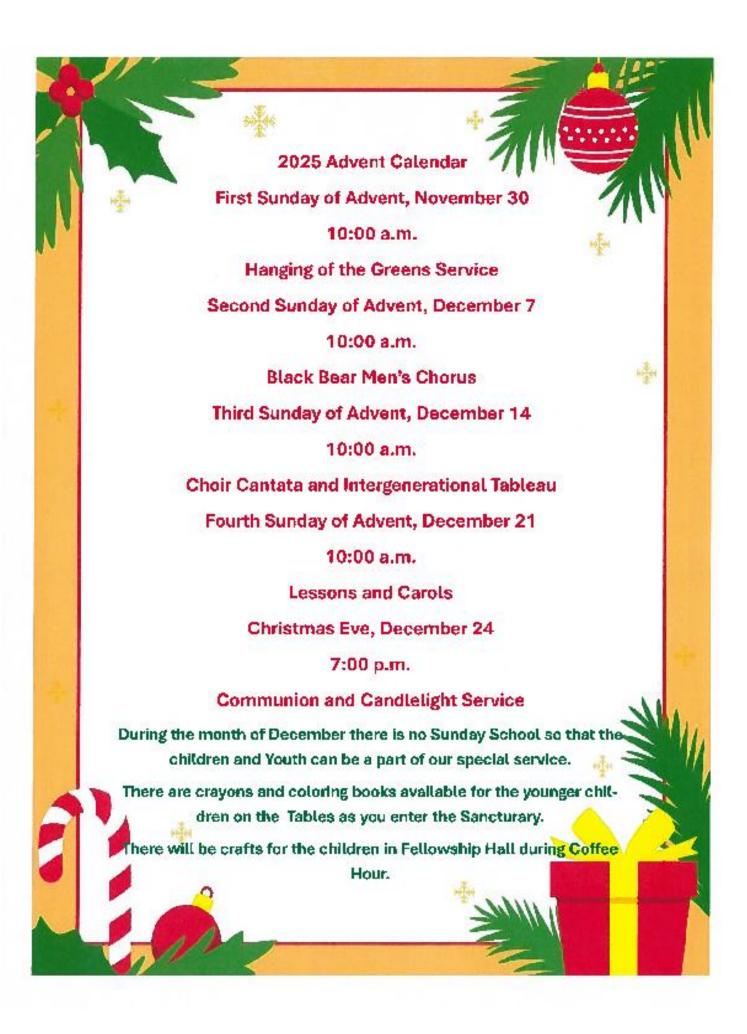


BLACK BEAR MEN'S CHORUS PERFORMED DURING 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT SERVICE









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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
In Person Sunday Service
Pastor Gary Bagley
December 14, 2025 at 10 AM
ALL ARE WELCOME!!

The Hammond Streeter
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