

The Hammond Streeter

Hammond Street Congregational Church, UCC, Bangor, ME

An Open and Affirming Community December 3, 2025

Nebsite: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

Phone: 207-942-4381



What We've Been Taught

SCRIPTURE

I . . . decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

— Luke 1:3-4

WORDS OF HOPE

The Christmas story is familiar to many people throughout the world, wherever the message of Christ has spread. In various parts of our world today, though, the Christmas season has become a time when focusing on Jesus competes with shopping, holiday parties, and a frenzied rush.

In the book of Luke, the story of Jesus begins with a reminder that can help us even today in our world of competing ideals. Luke writes to a reader called Theophilus ("friend of God") so that this person may know deep-down that the story of Jesus is certain and true.

The Christmas story should inspire a kind of certainty in us. This is not intended to promote pride or superiority, as if to suggest that we know God better than anyone else. Instead, this is to instill wonder at the reality of the birth of Christ and what it means for the whole world.

Do you feel overwhelmed by the busyness of the Christmas season? Does the holiday remind you of stresses and hurts from the past that have not healed? In this season, turn again to the story of what God has "fulfilled among us"—the promise to provide a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Christ changes the lives of all who encounter him. Let Christ birth renew in you the certainty of God's love for us all.

PRAYER

Spirit of God, thank you for sharing the story of Jesus with us. May the wonder of this story sink into our hearts, giving us certainty and hope in you. 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 bring in all donations for Grammies Attic by Tuesday, Dec. 9th.



HOLIDAY GIFT CARDS

Christmas is less than 30 days away! EEKS!

An easy way to provide gifts for your loved ones is to purchase gift cards through Hammond Street! Every purchase you make can put 2% - 16% of the card value back into our Operating Fund.

 Place by December 7th and be ready for pickup/ delivery by December 14th

If you would like to order gift cards, email me at jonid@roadrunner.com or call the church office at 942-4381. A reminder that we have Hannaford and Shaw's cards available all year round (in denominations of 25, 50 and 100). If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at jonid@roadrunner.com. Thanks, Joni



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.

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. 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



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



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

NONE THIS WEEK

PLEASE REMEMBER

Hammond Streeters at Home

Eda & Hugh Morrison, Glen & Ann Rea, Sandy Farver

Svlvia 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

<u>DEADLINES FOR PUBLICATIONS</u> 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.

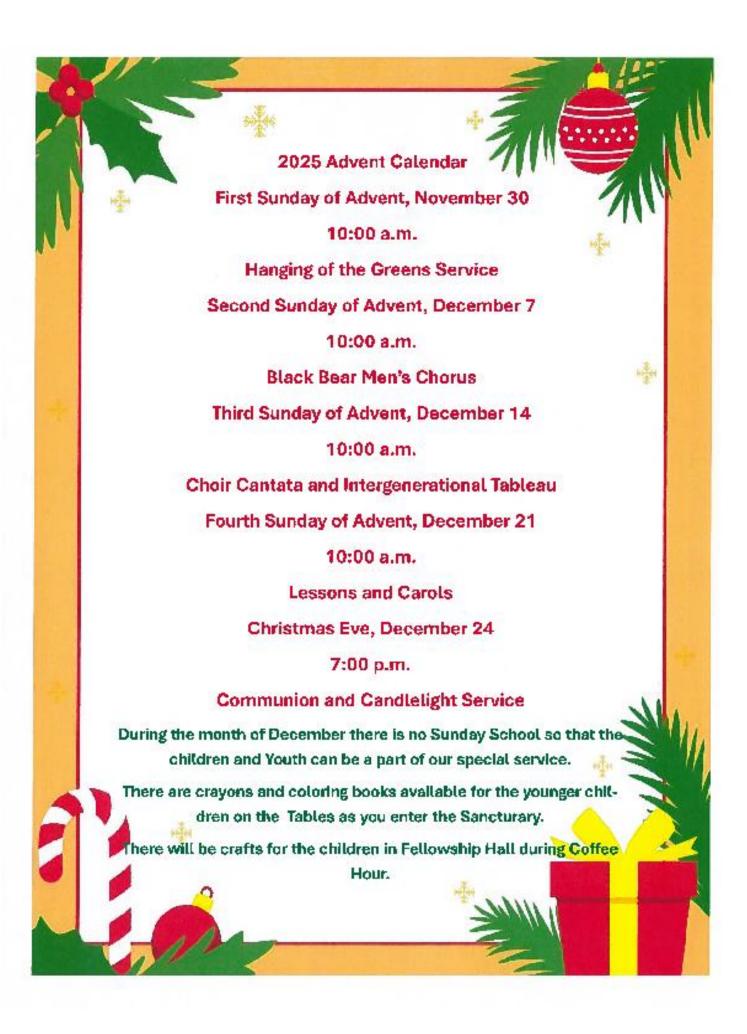
SERVICE STREAMING LIVE OR RECORDED

You can find our services live or at your convenience on our YouTube channel.

AVTECHHammondStreetChurch@Youtube.com or use this OR Code:







Instructions for Dec. 7th, 2025 Black Bear Men's Chorus Luncheon

Please have food at the church kitchen by 9:30 am Sunday Dec. 7th. It would be helpful, but not necessary, if sandwiches or cookies were already plated. If you do use your own plate/platter, please be sure your name is on it.

2.

Instructions for those participating in the Intergenerational Christmas Tableau Dec. 14th, 2025

All participants will be assigned a part (shepherds, animals, angels, wise men, pages, and Mary and Joseph). All will be assigned costumes and given directions as to where they will stand **after the service on Sunday December 7th.** Please meet in the children's Sunday School room immediately after the service to try on your costumes.

3.

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**.

4.

There will be **NO PRESALE ORDERS** for Fair Baked Goods. 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.



Lovern Stockwell introduced the Winter Warmth Tree project for this year on Sunday.

28 10:00am SUNDAY SERVICE 11:15am CHIME CHOIR 5:15pm AA MEDITATION GRP (PARLOR)	22 10:00am SUNDAY SERVICE - LESSONS & GRP (PARLOR) 11:15am CHIME CHOIR	10:00am SUNDAY SERVICE - CANTATA SERVICE - CANTATA SERVICE - CANTATA GRP (PARLOR) 11:15am CHIME CHOIR 12:00pm MUSIC COMM. MTG. (THROCK)	7 10:000am SUNDAY SERVICE - BLACK BEARS MEN'S CHORUS 11::15am CHIME CHOIR	Nov 30 Dec 1 5:15pm AA MEDITATION GRP (PARLOR)	ecember 2025
					.5
8:00am WILLING WORKERS	8:00am WILLING WORKERS	16 8:00sm WILLING WORKERS 6:30pm COUNCIL/EXECUTIVE MTG (PARLOR)	9 8:00am WILLING WORKERS 6:30pm MTN ADULT SUPP. GRP (PARLOR)	TUESDAY 2 8:00sm WILLING WORKERS 6:30pm DIACONATE MTG (PARLOR)	
31 New Year's Eve (United States) 6:00pm LGBTQ-NA GRP (PARLOR) 6:30pm CHOIR (FH)	6:00pm LGBTQ-NA GRP (PARLOR) 7:00pm CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE (SANCTUARY)	6:00pm LGBTQ-NA GRP (PARLOR) 6:30pm CHOIR (FH)	10 6:00pm LGBTQ-NA GRP (PARLOR) 6:30pm CHOIR (FH)	WEDNESDAY 3 6:00pm LGBTQ-NA GRP (PARLOR) 6:30pm CHOIR (FH)	
Jan 1, 26	Christmas Day (United States) 5:30pm ALANON GRP. (PARLOR)	18 5:30pm ALANON GRP. (PARLOR) 6:30pm STEWARDSHIP MTG (SINNOTT ROOM)	5:30pm ALANON GRP. (PARLOR) 6:30pm TRUSTEES MTG. (SINNOTT ROOM)	THURSDAY 4 5:30pm ALANON GRP. (PARLOR)	Su Mo Tu We Th 1 2 3 4 7 8 9 10 11 14 15 13 14 17 18 21 22 23 24 25 28 29 30 31
2	26	19	12	FRIDAY 5	5 Fr Sa 1 12 13 1 19 20 5 26 27
w	27	20	13 8:00sm HOLIDAY FAIR/BREAKFAST WITH SANTA (FH)	SATURDAY 6 12:00pm FREE BEAN LUNCH (FH)	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Hammond Street
Congregational Church, UCC
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Bangor, ME 04402-1106

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT In Person Sunday Service Pastor Gary Bagley December 7, 2025 at 10 AM ALL ARE WELCOME!!

The Hammond Streeter
is a weekly publication of the
Hammond Street Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ (EXCEPT IN JULY AND AUGUST)

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