

Hampden Highlights

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A JOURNEY through Lent



Dear Saints,

As many of you know, Andrew has been sick during the last week. In the wee hours of the morning the other day, his breathing was so trying, he couldn't sleep laying down, and insisted on being "up." His mother held him for a while, then I took over. Eventually, he managed to get back to sleep, resting on my shoulder, coughing in my ear. In the moment, I thought to myself, this is what being a parent is, in the end. We sacrifice our comfort, our sleep, our own desires and needs, for our children, because they are our children.

We arrange our lives for the sake of those for whom we care—children, parents, spouses, and friends. Often, we put off desired travel, continued education, career changes, or simple things like eating or other matters of self-care until a more convenient moment arises. When we do make life changes, we account not just for ourselves, but for these other beloveds whose needs are, in some ways, more precious to us than our own. Taken too far, this can lead to destructive behavior and even neglect of our own needs—but at its core is the reflection of Divine Grace given to us in Christ Jesus.

Our self-giving is nothing compared to what God has given for us. Philippians 2:5-11 is often believed to be one of the oldest hymns of the Church—it speaks of Jesus self-emptying (the theological word is *kenosis*), tying the incarnation and crucifixion into one great mystery of God's self-giving in Christ. First, God the Son gives up being Divinely Other to be one of us, then he gives up human life as well. Charles Wesley's classic hymn "And Can It Be?" addresses the fullness of *kenosis*, drawing on the imagery of Philippians but expanding upon it.

As I reflect on the power of God's self-giving in Christ, on how the One to whom we pray, whom Jesus called "Father," was willing to give the only Son for us, and continues to fill us with the Holy Spirit so that our lives may be renewed and the divine image restored in us, I can't help but pause and wonder about the way we give ourselves for others. I know there are moments when my limited self-giving is difficult. I know there are moments when I don't want to be tired, I don't want to

give up my desires anymore, where all I really want is to give in to my selfish desires and do what I want to do—and then I think of that little head resting on my shoulder, finding the sleep I so desire, or the somewhat larger one who wants to play catch to prepare for Little League when all I want is to sit and rest. Usually, I'll find a way to give something for them, especially when it's a profound need like the other night.

Even so, God's self-giving amazes me. When I think of the Cross, I know I'm not capable of approaching the self-giving explored by Paul or Charles Wesley. Amazing love, indeed! I can't fathom it, but I know I need it—and in that, I am forever thankful to the One who is far greater than me, in this and all ways. I'm sure you are too...

In Christ,
The Rev. David Nicol, Pastor of Hampden Highlands UMC

GOD'S LOVE ABOUNDS!

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

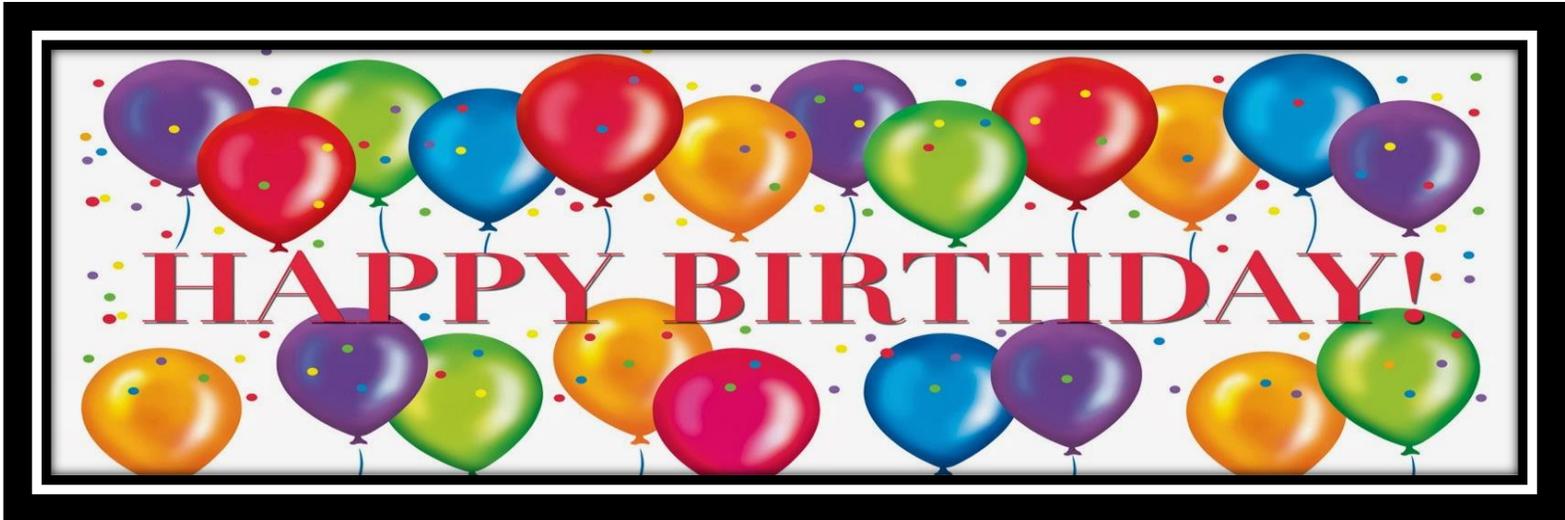
Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:5-11, NRSV

*And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain—
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?*

*He left His Father's throne above
So free, so infinite His grace—
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For O my God, it found out me!*

"And Can it Be?" C. Wesley



- 2 Susan Fraser
John Wilson
Kim Meagher
- 4 Victoria Davis
- 10 Helena Tatgenhorst
- 11 Patricia Clark
Christine Mosley
- 14 Diane Cleaves
Zara Misler
- 18 Richard Rushmore
David Bowden
Eben Belcher
- 20 Paul Wilson
- 21 Sairah Damboise
- 23 Gregory Damboise
Rylee Rawcliffe
- 24 Charlene Jones
- 30 Marilyn Boulie

*Send cards,
letters or a
quick phone
call. Or how
about adding
them to your
prayer life
for the
month of
March?*

March 12, 2017

Lector: Becky McMahan
Nursery: Isabella Urban
Acolytes: Sairah and Emma Damboise
Greeters: Ray and Tina Goss
Ushers: Dwight Packard and Sue Fraser
Counters: Angela Damboise and Darla King
Fellowship: Memorials

Communion Stewards

The McMahan Family

Worship Assistants

March 19, 2017

Lector: Noel March
Nursery: Isabella Urban
Acolytes: Abraham Nicol
and Caleb March
Greeters: Charlene Jones
and Heidi Ravenscraft
Ushers: Amy and Grace Clement
Counters: Jay Willey and Darla King
Fellowship: Worship

Communion Stewards

Noel March - B
Roberta Alls
Nathan McKnight

March 26, 2017

Lector: Brittney Taggett
Nursery: Isabella Urban
Acolytes: Mackenzie and Jadelyn Marden
Greeters: Kevin Young
Ushers: Heidi and Lainey Thomas
Counters: Kathy Gallupe and Marilyn Boulier
Fellowship: Nurture

Communion Stewards

Jessie Davis - B
Brittany Taggett
Chris Henderson

Did you know that John Wesley died in
1791, two years before Rev. Jesse Lee
preached in Hampden?

Northern Maine District News



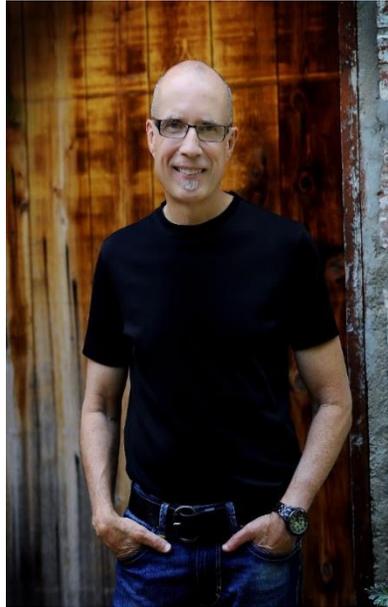
Interested in becoming a Leader within the Church?

The Basic Lay servant class which is required, is being offered at Bucksport UMC, March 31st and April 1st.

Faith UMC, Columbia will be offering the same class April 29th and May 6th.

You must attend both classes. Registration is \$25 and the form is available through the church office.

Also, check out BeADisciple.com for their online education courses for Lay Servants and Certified Lay Ministry.



Mike Slaughter will be visiting the Northern Maine District on Thursday, May 11th at Hampden Highlands UMC. The Nurture Committee is coordinating two meals for this event. Mark your calendars and plan to come. It is a day long event.



Congratulations!!! The Northern Maine District, of which there are 60 churches, has achieved 100% submission of our church statistical reports!!!

This is great news and with this being the first-time reporting, I am amazed at the information that is needed. Great job to all who participated and assisted.



KEEP CALM AND GET A SCHOLARSHIP

DS Jackie Brannen doesn't want anyone to stay home from Annual Conference because of financial concerns. Scholarship money is available to help cover the cost of registration. If you are in need of assistance, please contact the District Office **BEFORE** April 21st.

Many thanks to District Administrative Assistant Kelly Nelson Santiago for her input 🙏

Nuture Committee

The Nurture Committee has been busy! The new church library is open and several people have already made use of it. Stop by in the upper hallway and see the selection that is available.

The Welcome Packest have been updated. These are available downstairs across from the elevator, at the back and at the front of the sanctuary.

Third time is a charm....the 2nd Annual All Church Birthday Party is scheduled for March 12. Join us in the Fellowship Hall and see who shares your birthday month.

A new group that is forming is "Faithful Friends Ministry" group. People who are interested in doing a simple visit to members to say "Hi,

how are you". If interested, contact Lynette Gauthier.

We also welcome Melissa Gibboni to the Nurture Committee.

Outreach Committee

Quickly coming up the the 2nd Annual "Art, Music & Meal" event. Scheduled for March 25th from 4:30 to 6 pm, this benefits the Help for Hampden food cupboard.

Students from the RSU22 Art program have created ceramic bowls and platters which will be in a drawing at the end. Music will be provided by the Hampden Community Pick Up Band. Soup, bread, desserts and beverages complete the meal portion of the evening. Come and join the fun.

The Heath Myers lecture on Opioid Abuse Prevention was well attended by

church members. Thanks to all who came out for this lecture on a serious matter.

We continue to collect hats and mittens to be handed out and Sunday March 12th is our last day to collect for this season.

Worship Committee

Worship is busy with the Lenten Season with Easter quickly approaching. Have you witnessed the dramatic opening to Worship? Would you like to participate? Contact either Anne Tatgenhorst or Kelly Nelson Santiago.

The Lenten quarter collection will go will go towards the "Free Breakfast" being offered April 30th. Not to be confused with the "Free Breakfast" that will be April 2. April 2 will allow

those who wish to help work out the details of this exciting new adventure.

Speaking of adventures have you checked out John Wilson's blog of his bike ride? Check out his blog john.wilson.hampden@gmail.com to follow. Enjoy sharing his trip across the US.



Easter Lilies will soon decorate the front of the sanctuary. This year you can drop off the flowers at the office between 9:30 – 12:30 Monday through Friday. Each flower will be identified as to who gave the flower and who they honor.



Events coming Up

March 15 – Finance 6:30

March 17 – Kim out of the office

March 19 – Trustees and Outreach to meet after worship

March 22 – SPRC 6:30 pm

March 25 – Music, Art, & Meal 4:30 – 6 pm

March 26 – UMCOR Sunday Worship Committee meets after Worship

April 2 – Free Breakfast

April 8 – Hike for the Homeless

April 9 – Palm Sunday

April 13 – Maundy Thursday

April 14 – Good Friday

April 16 – Easter

April 22 – Bean Supper

April 30 – Free Breakfast

Holy Week Schedule

April 9 – Palm Sunday

April 12 – Maundy Thursday
Ellingwoods Corner at 6:30 pm

April 13 – Good Friday
HHUMC at 6:30pm

Easter Sunrise
Blueberry Hill at 6 am





About the Maine Hike for the Homeless

A tradition on the Bangor Waterfront

Too many people are homeless in our community.

Join us in making a difference. Together we can tell homelessness to take a hike in our region!

The 22nd Annual Hike for the Homeless is a walk to advocate for people experiencing homelessness and a fundraiser for Bangor Area Homeless Shelter. This event brings people together to help provide funding for resources that will benefit the homeless population. On April 8, 2017, hikers will gather in four communities-- Bangor, Brewer, Hermon and Hampden- to walk together, uniting at the Bangor Waterfront. We welcome families, individuals, organizations and groups from schools, churches, businesses, and clubs to take part. It is sure to be an inspiring, meaningful and fun day!

Over the past year more than 5,000 individuals visited the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter in need of a clean, safe place to stay, a hot meal, and other supportive services. Thankfully, the shelter was there for them.

BAHS is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Twenty-one full and part-time employees, along with scores of volunteers, work to provide shelter, crisis intervention, hot meals, and a safe environment. Currently 87% of the people that stay at the shelter have a mental illness, chronic addiction and/or medical issues. BAHS provides important connections for services, including medical and psychiatric care.

State and Federal homeless funding only provides 37% of the Shelter's budget of nearly \$700,000. Donations allow the shelter to stay open and provide greatly needed services. All of the money raised at the Hike supports the homeless right here in the greater Bangor Area.

<http://www.bangorareashelter.org/page/2-738/about-hike-for-homeless>

**Contact Linda
Mosley to
participate on the
HHUMC team**

Backpacks for Homeless Teens at Hampden Academy

The Outreach Committee has begun to seek donations to fill backpacks for homeless teens. The following items are needed:

single can/jar of
peanut butter, jelly
or tuna

single servings of
soup, ravioli

black leggings



SPRING IS COMING! NEWS FROM MECHUWANA

New Camps This Summer

Mechuwana is offering these new programs:

Disc Golf Camp: We are very fortunate to be very close by to a number of great disc golf courses. Every day campers will travel to one of these courses to play a fun round for campers in grades 6 – 8.

Dr. Suess Camp: A week of Dr. Seuss is waiting for you as we explore the wonderful stories, art, and adventures of this wonderful author and artist. For grades 3 – 5.

Calling Young Adults to Our First-ever Young Adult Camp

We are very excited to announce this new program. Mechuwana is responding to a requests from young adults who want to have a chance to be in a camp setting once again with others who share the same love of community. There will be

many chances to reconnect and forge new friendships. This program is designed for individuals ages 18-24.

For More Information on any of these programs visit www.mechuwana.org for a brochure or email mechuwana@fairpoint.net to have one sent to you.

Two programs that help Mechuwana:

Clynk Bags: Hannaford's returnable bottle program. Help support our youth. Just contact the camp and we will send you pre-tagged bags for you to fill.

Labels for Education: Please clip the labels and send them to Mechuwana: we will process them.

Mechuwana Wish List

- Art supplies, paints, brushes
- paper products like plates, cups, and napkins
- hand tools and paint brushes
- canoes, paddle boats, kayaks, paddles
- colored paper, copy paper, construction paper
- art glue
- camp cookware

- lawn mowers in good shape
- sports equipment, soccer balls, basketballs
- white t-shirts for tie-dyeing
- gardening supplies/tools, including seeds for camp garden

Camperships
Available
Contact the Office