

NEWFANE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE UCC



“Not everything that is faced can be changed,
but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”

— James Baldwin

Cover art by Jan Bruegel, 1568-1625. “Mountain Landscape with the Temptation of Christ,”
from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

“Our Purpose: learning to see and love the world with the eyes of God”

First Sunday of Lent

February 26, 2023, at 10:00 in the Morning

** All who are able, please stand.**

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Phil Litano

PRELUDE

“Abide with Me”

William H. Monk

Martha LaMoria & Mike Kelly, organ/piano duet

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: *Fellow travelers, when our thoughts become overcrowded and our imaginations become limited, the Spirit invites us to slow down and turn inward.*

ALL: We follow the Holy One’s call to still ourselves and to orient our lives to God’s vision of love and justice.

ONE: *Let us root ourselves now in this time, in this space, in our bodies.*

ALL: We seek to quiet our minds and open ourselves to the movement of God’s Spirit.

ONE: *Come, let us journey together, facing whatever we need to face and allowing the truth this reveals to change us.*

ALL: We turn again to the One who calls to us from the horizon of a world only love can create.

* HYMN #111

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

INVOCATION

PRAYER (in unison): *Holy One, sometimes we are tempted to exhaust ourselves, proving our worth to systems that harm and dismiss us. We turn now to you and to the love you bear for us. Guide us back toward the vision of wholeness you have set before us. Ease us into the lush landscape of our inherent worth. Rest with us in our unshakable enoughness. Cherish with us the consolation that glimmers even amidst sorrow, that we might be a strong and tender people, unfolding your justice in the world. Amen.*

(A time of silent reflection)

COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE

The Peace of the Holy One be with you. And also with you.

* THE PEACE

(You may exchange a sign of God’s peace with each other.)

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 4:1-11

NRSVUE

Phil Litano

The Testing of Jesus

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. **2** He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. **3** The tempter came

and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.' "

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Response: What do you notice?

SERMON

"Rerooting in wildness"

Matthew Deen

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dawn Slade

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY

"Lonesome Valley"

arr: Jay Althouse

*** DOXOLOGY**

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*** HYMN #252** *“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *“Blessed Be Your Name”* Matt & Beth Redman

Welcome to Guests and Visitors!

We are glad to have you worship with us.

We hope you feel welcome and find the service meaningful.

This week’s calendar:

Mon. Feb 27	7:00 pm	Al-Anon
Tues. Feb 28	4:00 pm	Sew What’s
Thurs. March 2	10:00 am	Men’s Coffee
	6:15 pm	Bells rehearsal
	7:30 pm	Choir rehearsal

Birthdays this week: Feb 27 – David Harlow,
March 1 – Alexandria Adams, March 2 – Rehana Grip, March 3 – Kimberly King

Special thanks to those helping with our service today:

Lay Reader, Phil Litano; Coffee Hour, Maggie Bills.

Want to help? Please sign up on the whiteboard!

February Mission: Grace Cottage

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**Pastor Matt’s office hours: Matt will be in the office
and out visiting on Wednesdays and Thursdays.**

Please call the office or send him an email if you would like to meet with him.

Church Phone: 802-365-4079

Office Hours this week:

Monday & Wednesday 8:30-3:00, Thursday 8:30- 1:00

Pastor: Matt Deen ~ matt@newfane.church ~ 802-221-8411

Church Administrator: Billie Stark ~ newfanechurch@gmail.com

Music Director: Michael Kelly ~ mkellymusic@gmail.com