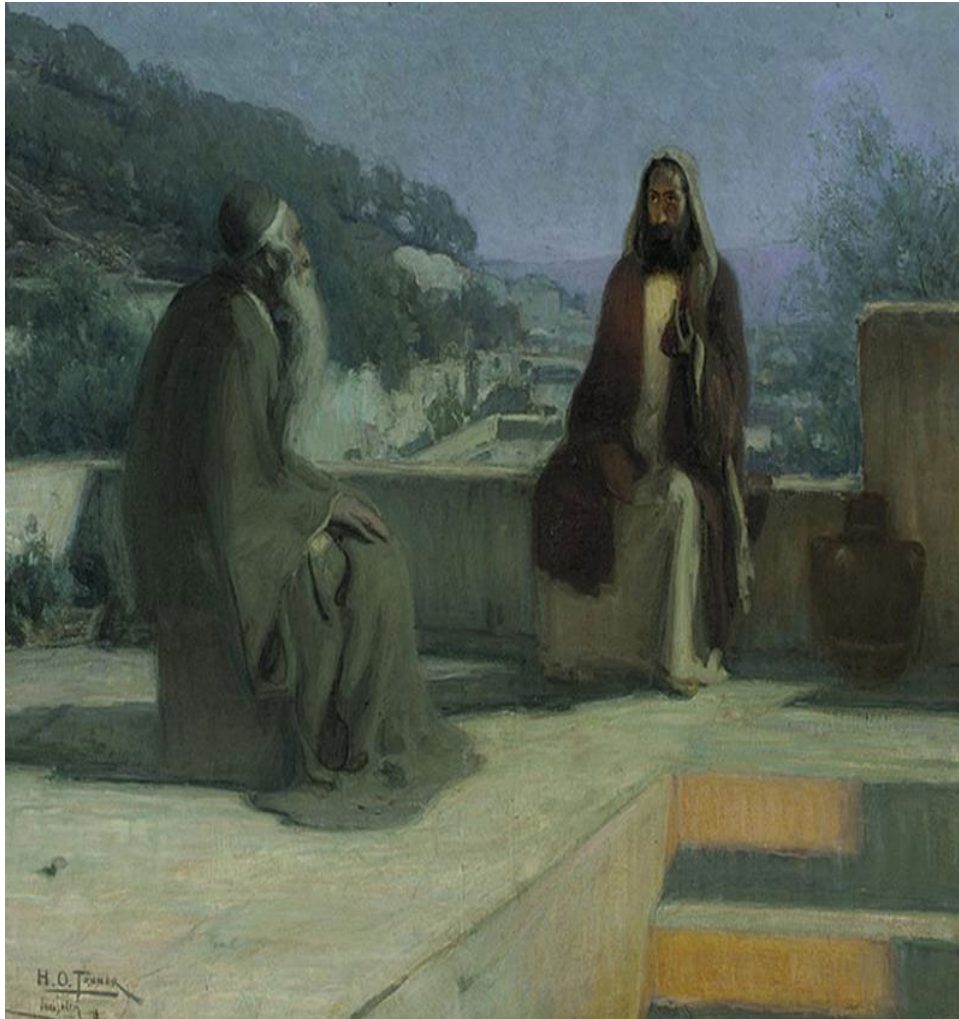


NEWFANE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE UCC



“To be transformed by the practice of love
is to be born again,
to experience spiritual renewal.”
—bell hooks

Cover art by Henry Ossawa Tanner, 1859-1937. “Nicodemus” (1899), 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”

Second Sunday of Lent
March 5, 2023, at 10:00 in the Morning

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

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stan Adams

PRELUDE

“Sonata Pathetique”

Beethoven

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: *From the safety and comfort of home, God calls Abram to go from all he knows into a future yet to be revealed.*

ALL: We do not know what comes, yet we place one foot in front of the other, trusting God with the unknown.

ONE: *By night, Nicodemus comes seeking greater insight into the teachings of God for the journey set before him. Jesus calls him out of the shadows and toward new life.*

ALL: We do not know what comes, yet we reach toward the One who comes to heal all wounds.

ONE: *We fear that which we do not know, that which we do not understand. Yet God’s call invites us to go completely into that unknowing.*

ALL: We do not know what comes, yet the Holy One assures us we will never walk alone. Thanks be to God!

*** HYMN # 358 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**

INVOCATION

PRAYER (in unison): *God of new beginnings, we long to know the richness of life you bring. We encounter heartache and grief, injustice and cruelty, fear and anxiety as daily teachers on this path of faith. As you call us into the unknown, help us to let go of that which binds us to pasts we cannot change. Teach us to take hold of the new life you are bringing about even now. Though we may not know where we are going, God, your way is revealed moment by moment, step by step, and breath by breath. In the name of the One who so loves the world we pray. Amen.* (A time of silent reflection)

COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE

The Peace of the Life-giving One be with you. And also with you.

*** THE PEACE**

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

SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:1-17

NRSVUE

Stan Adams

Nicodemus Visits Jesus

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. **2** He came to Jesus^[a] by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” **3** Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can

see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”^[b] **4** Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” **5** Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. **6** What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You^[c] must be born from above.’^[c] **8** The wind^[c] blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” **9** Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” **10** Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

11 “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you^[c] do not receive our testimony. **12** If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.^[c] **14** And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.^[c]

16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17 “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Response: What do you notice?

SERMON

“Born again...and again”

Matthew Deen

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

THE LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY

“Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me”

arr: K.L. Scott

*** DOXOLOGY**

(See inside back cover of the hymnal)

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Giver of Life be with you

And also with you

Open your hearts to the One who brings new life

We open our hearts to you, O God

Let us give thanks to God, who gathers us together

To the One who makes space for us at this table, we give thanks and praise

*** HYMN #422**

“Amazing Grace”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Shout to the North”

Martin Smith

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. March 6	7:00 pm	Al-Anon
Tues. March 7	4:00 pm	Sew What’s
Weds. March 8	6:30 pm	Trustees’ Mtg
	7:30 pm	Council Mtg
Thurs. March 9	6:15 pm	Bells rehearsal
	7:30 pm	Choir rehearsal

Birthdays this week: March 6 – Joe DeFelice,

March 7 – Miriam Allbee, Jane McAllister, & David McCormack

March 8 – Karen Fontaine, Derek Pierson, Dylan Shine and Greg Underwood,

March 9 – JoEllen Tarallo,

March 10 - Olivia Chabot, March 11 – Marge Dedell

Special thanks to those helping with our service today:

Lay Reader, Stan Adams; Greeters, Verna Lang & Anissa Clement;

Coffee Hour, Doug & Marji Wellman.

Want to help? Please sign up on the whiteboard!

March Mission: One Great Hour of Sharing

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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.

Please note that Matt will be away from Sunday, March 12 to Saturday, March 18.

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