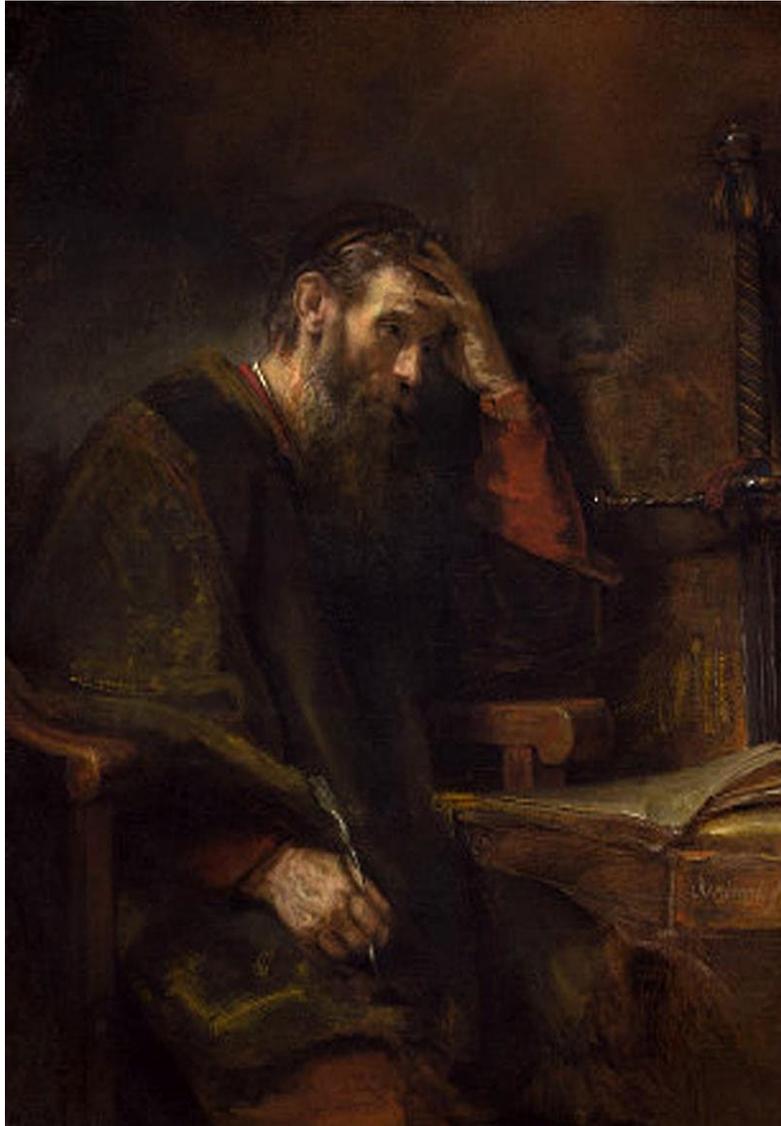


NEWFANE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE UCC



“Hope is not optimism, which expects things to turn out well,
but something rooted in the conviction that there is good worth working for.”

—Seamus Heaney

Cover art by Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn, 1606-1669. “Apostle Paul” (ca. 1657),
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”

Third Sunday of Lent

March 12, 2023, at 10:00 in the Morning

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

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dezrah Bills

PRELUDE

“Jesus Loves Me, Jesus Loves Me”

arr: M.L. Thompson

Handbell Ensemble

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: *Beloveds of God, out beyond our imagination for freedom,
there is a landscape of liberation more expansive than we can imagine—*

ALL: There, the Holy waits for us. There, the Holy beckons us to meet Her.

ONE: *Out beyond our dreams for belonging,
there is a web of connection more comprehensive than we can understand—*

ALL: There, the Holy waits for us. There, the Holy beckons us to meet Her.

ONE: *Out beyond our cries for peace and justice, there is a well of love deeper than we can fathom.*

ALL: There, the Holy waits for us. There, the Holy beckons us to meet Her.

* HYMN #87

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

INVOCATION

PRAYER (in unison): *Gracious God, we long not only to be delivered from systems and relationships of harm but into places that are soft and kind—full of rest and restoration, brimming with playfulness—Love bursting at the seams. Bless every effort to heal the harm that apathy and cruelty have caused. Bless every space of rest, play, and love we co-create along the way. Amen.*

(A time of silent reflection)

COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE

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

* THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Dezrah Bills

Romans 5:1-11

NRSVUE

5 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Dawn Slade

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

What do you notice?

REFLECTION

“The discipline of hope”

Miriam Allbee

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

THE LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY *“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”* Sebastian Temple, arr. Mark Hayes

*** DOXOLOGY**

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*** HYMN #428** *“When Peace Like a River”*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Larghetto”

G. F. Handel

Martha LaMoria & Mike Kelly, organ /piano duet

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 13	7:00 pm	Al-Anon
Tues. March 14	4:00 pm	Sew What's
Thurs. March 16	6:15 pm	Bells rehearsal
	7:30 pm	Choir rehearsal

Birthdays this week: March 13 – Riley Barton & James Dougan, March 14 – Megan King,
March 17 – Cynthia Patriquin, March 18- Andrea Baker & Samantha Harlow

Special thanks to those helping with our service today:

*Guest Speaker, Miriam Allbee; Lay Reader, Dezrah Bills;
Greeters, Andi & Chas Baker; Coffee Hour, Nancy Derosia.*

Want to help? Please sign up on the whiteboard!

March Mission: One Great Hour of Sharing

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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