

THE STEEPLE

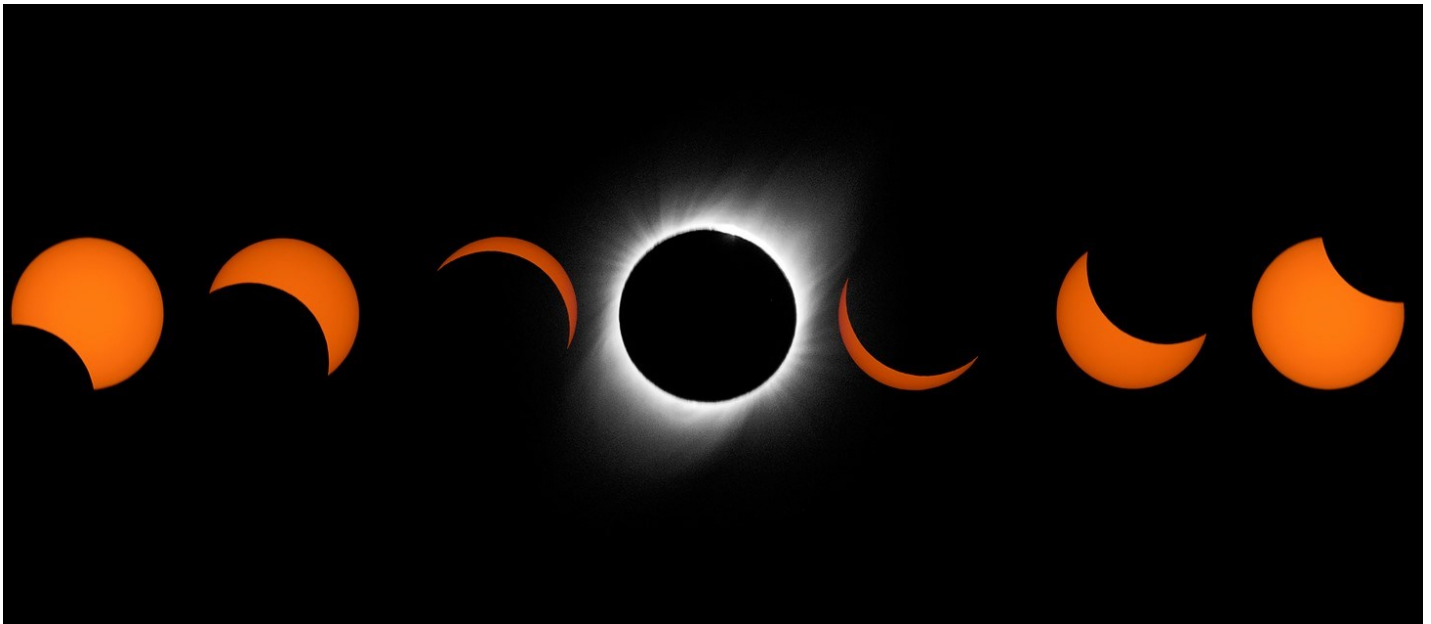
April
2024

It's a once in a lifetime event. Don't miss it!

On April 8th, beginning at 2:14 pm, an eclipse of the sun will be very visible to us here in Vermont! Total eclipse should be from 3:26 to 3:29 - only about 3 minutes of darkness, before the sun starts peeking out on the other side of the moon.

You need to wear protective eye gear to view this rarity but don't miss it! Special glasses are available in town or online.

Get together with friends and family to share this little bit of history, and enjoy the afternoon together!



First Congregational Church of Newfane, VT 802-365-4079

Pastor - Matthew Deen 802-221-8411 newfanepastor@gmail.com

Church Administrator - Billie Stark newfan church@gmail.com

Music Director - Jennifer Yocom jenniferyocom23@gmail.com

Did you know? You can donate to Newfane Church by clicking this online link: <https://newfane.church/donate-now/>

Worship and Spiritual Formation at Newfane Congregational Church, UCC
April 2024

Thursdays April 4, 11, 18, 25 | Bible Study | 5:00 pm
Exploring the passage in focus for the following Sunday |
No childcare available

Sunday, April 7 | Second Sunday of Easter | 10:00 am
Acts 4:32-35 | *Great Power, Great Grace* | Standard Communion Sunday |
Meet in the Sanctuary | No childcare available

Sunday, April 14 | Third Sunday of Easter | 10:00 am
1 John 4:7-21 | *All About Love* (Deb Barry) | Childcare available

Wednesday, April 17 | Open Sanctuary | 5:30pm
A time of self-led quiet contemplation in the sanctuary | No childcare available

Sunday, April 21 | Fourth Sunday of Easter | 10:00 am
James 5:1-6 | *Attack of the Flesh-Eating Riches* | No childcare available

Sunday, April 28 | Fifth Sunday of Easter | 10:00 am
Acts 8:26-40 | *The Passion of Jimmy Davis, Jr.* (Daniel Guerra) |
Childcare available



Moore Free Library &
Robert L. Crowell Art Gallery

Featured at the Crowell Gallery in April :

Area School Children's Exhibit

Library & Gallery Hours: Tues, Weds, Fri 1-5, Thurs 1-6, Sat 10-1

Phone: 802-365-7948

moorefreelibrary@gmail.com

www.moorefreelibrary.org

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"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you,
which you have from God, and that you are not your own?"

—1 Corinthians 6:19

Eastertide greetings, friend,

As I write this (hopefully) brief note, the sun is fully shining on my computer screen. I'm squinting just to see what I'm writing, but I don't care. It's the sun, and it makes me exceedingly happy to sit in its warmth and to feel my soma convert its rays into vitamin D.

Coming as I do from Georgia, well below the 40th parallel, I find myself easily lulled to relaxation when, as if with a seasonal flick of the switch, the sun begins to accompany us for longer stretches of the day. My pores open wider and my UV-starved skin drinks eagerly of this golden abundance. I hear a familiar call and, as I glance out my window, I spy a comfortingly familiar sight—a bright red cardinal perched atop a crabapple tree, belting an ageless, pleasing melody beneath a decadent blue sky. *Hosanna*.

For the brief spell of eternity it took me to notice this lavish scene (I mean to *really* notice it), I forgot about what it was that was troubling me just a moment or so before—an ever-growing to-do list; a sickness afflicting a dear friend; a death that has layered more grief onto an already grieving friend; a news article about 1.1 million Palestinians imminently facing famine; a recent report about all migratory species threatened with extinction, one constellation of many reminders of the ecological crises we face. *Breathe*.

Breath, beauty, and sunshine—these are good medicine. As our beautiful patch of valley continues to thaw, as a greater diversity of bird neighbors and pollinators make more frequent visits, and as our joints and limbs loosen from the cold, may we avail ourselves of every good grace we can.

May we notice more deeply what is happening around and within us. May we move—and still—our bodies to rhythms that please us. And may we remember that our bodies, too, are the Earth, and that there is no greater act of faithfulness than treating them well. For the actual love of God, let's commit to taking gentle care of our somas.

In abundance,
Matthew Deen

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT

With joy and celebration, the Newfane Congregational Church, UCC declares itself to be an open and affirming congregation. We welcome all who seek to follow Jesus to share in the full life and ministry of the church. We value each person as a beloved child of God, and celebrate the diversity God has created. Whatever your age, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, physical, cognitive, or emotional ability, we invite you to grow with us in faith and love. Whoever you are and wherever you are in life's journey, you are most welcome here.

April Missions

Afghan Refugee Support

Newfane and other local Vermont communities are helping to support several Afghan families in the area. These families have many differing needs including but not limited to: transportation, language skills, housing, employment, childcare and family support. Our gifts can make a difference for these families.

Thank you.

Journey Away (through Leland and Gray)

A group of Leland and Gray High School students worked diligently to plan, fund-raise, and ultimately co-lead an educational journey down to New York City and New Orleans last year. The planning of this trip was in tandem with Leland and Gray's Project Based Learning program, a once a week class where students take the reins on teaching, learning, and creating a project. For that trip, Journey Away, students focused on climate disasters in both cities, and gathered oral histories of how floods, hurricanes, and more changed peoples' lives. Another Journey begins April 1st, 2024. This year's group will be heading to Southern States in the U.S., on to Vietnam, and then to France. Wishing them all safe travels.

Senior Lunch Menu for April 11, 2024

On the Menu:

Appetizer: Hummus w/veggies

Main dish: Roast Turkey with stuffing, mashed potatoes & gravy

Sides: Green Salad, rolls, peas, and cranberry sauce

Dessert: Cheesecake



Many thanks to Winnie Dolan and her extraordinary team. We could never do this without all of the shoppers, cooks, cleaners, table setters, servers, dishwashers and the many volunteers who help in many ways that make a big difference

More from the Church Ladies with Typewriters so keep on laughing! - billie

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM.

Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM.

The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church.

Please use large double door at the side entrance.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday:

'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours!'

A note from Billie: If you have items you no longer want or need, please DON'T leave them at the church. We have nowhere to store them, and it costs us to dispose of them. To find a better home for your items, check out Goodwill on Putney Rd. in Brattleboro (next to Staples). Goodwill has a long list of items they will and won't accept. You can find it online and donations to them are tax deductible.

As usual, our book swap shelf is available for you to bring and/or take books.



Ladies Aid is back in business!
 Our first meeting of 2024 will be held on
 April 18th at 10 am in Fellowship Hall

Church Officers: 2023-2024

- Moderator - Linda Bastian 365-0100
- Clerk - Ann Allbee 365-7213
- Treasurer - Travis Shine 365-7681

If you would like to reach a deacon /have need of support, or questions, contact info is here:

- Karen Fontaine (chair) 365-9884
- Debbie Cook 257-0609
- Andi Baker 365-9304
- Diane Bower 365-9205
- Bucky Pelsue 365-7689
- George Newton 464-7672
- Miriam Allbee 380-0799
- Christine Gray 348-7782

For Questions and Concerns regarding the building, grounds, or budget, the Trustees are listed below:

- Doris Knechtel (chair) 348-7829
- Doug Wellman 380-5064
- Steve Cutting 221-4820
- Joe Slater 365-7125
- Ken Bower 365-9205
- Jim Kyle 603-358-3786

April BIRTHDAYS

- Deb Knickerbocker – April 1
- Dwight Decker – April 3
- Mike Kelly – April 4
- Rob Hamm – April 6
- Joan Lyman – April 6
- Chris Petrak – April 7
- Doug Wellman – April 10
- Kim McCormack – April 12
- Zane Akins – April 13
- Ian Harrison – April 15
- Emmy Lou Harlow - April 16
- Meghan Grip – April 20
- Rich Grip – April 20
- Paul Robinson – April 20
- Heather Muscat - April 22
- Cheryl Liston – April 27



Veggie Van Go

Will be in front of the church
 at noon on
Thursday, April 25th

Men's Coffee April 4, 2024

Will meet IN PERSON at
 10 am. in Fellowship Hall.
 Questions?
 Call Bucky Pelsue at
 802-365-7689



April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	April 1st Fools' Day Al-Anon 7 pm	2 Sew What's 4 pm	3	4 Men's Coffee 10 am Bible Study 5 pm Bells 6:15 Choir 7:15	5	6
7 Worship 10 am	8 Total Eclipse Begins 2:15 Al-Anon 7 pm	9 Sew What's 4 pm	10 Sr. Lunch Prep Trustees' Mtg 6 pm	11 Sr. Lunch @ noon Bible Study 5 pm Bells 6:15 Choir 7:15	12	13
14 Worship 10 am	15 Al-Anon 7 pm	16 Linus Quilters 1 pm	17 Open Sanctuary 5:30 -7 pm	18 Ladies Aid 10 am Bible Study 5 pm Bells 6:15 Choir 7:15	19	20
21 Worship 10 am	22 Earth Day Al-Anon 7 pm	23 Sew What's 4 pm	24 Bible Study 5:30 pm	25 Veggie Van Go Noon -1 pm Bible Study 5 pm Bells 6:15 Choir 7:15	26	27
28 Worship 10 am	29 Al-Anon 7 pm	30 Sew What's 4 pm	May 1	2 Men's Coffee 10 am Bells 6:15 Choir 7:15	3	4
5 Worship 10 am	6 Al-Anon 7 pm	7 Sew What's 4 pm	8 Sr. Lunch prep Trustees' Mtg Time 6 pm	9 Sr. Lunch @ Noon Bells 6:15 Choir 7:15	10	11
12 Worship 10 am	13 Al-Anon 7 pm	14 Sew What's 4 pm	15	16 Bells 6:15 Choir 7:15	17	18

NEWS FOR THE STEEPLE IS DUE IN BY NOON ON THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH.

Newfane Church



*An Open and Affirming
Congregation of the UCC*

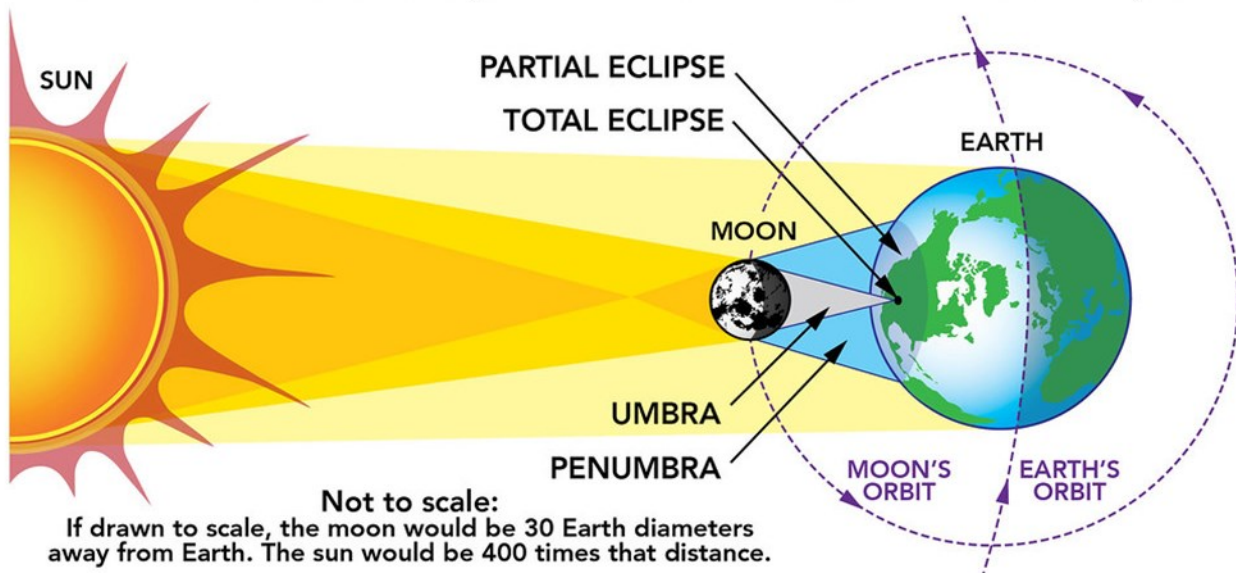
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The 2017 total solar eclipse was the first to touch the "Lower 48" since 1979 and the first to span the U.S. from coast to coast since 1918. Remarkably, another total solar eclipse is coming to North America on April 8, 2024, just seven years after the last one.



Not to scale:

If drawn to scale, the moon would be 30 Earth diameters away from Earth. The sun would be 400 times that distance.