

NEWFANE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE UCC



“You either walk inside your story and own it, or you stand outside your story and hustle for your worthiness.”

—Brené Brown

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 23, 2025, AT 10:00 IN THE MORNING

All who are able are invited to stand.

PRELUDE “My Lord What a Morning” *African American Spiritual*

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jason Hartnett

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: *Friends, today we have a hard but holy task—opening up fully to the One in whose name we gather.*

MANY: We open our senses to God and to new possibilities.

ONE: *When the bitterness of life becomes overwhelming, when heavy questions roil and writhe within us, when the future is clouded by uncertainty or grief, may we bear our hearts faithfully to God.*

MANY: In our lives, our communities, and our world, we bring our whole selves to our relationship with God.

ONE: *Opening ourselves to deeper intimacy with God means recognizing that God favors the raw and righteous rage of their beloveds to a false and superficial reverence.*

MANY: We offer God our willingness to speak truthfully to them, in order to feel truly content with them!

*** HYMN #373 “Change My Heart, O God”**

INVOCATION *(unison)*

Beloved God, we repent of our habit of stifling our grief, of repressing our complaints, of holding back our longings in order to appease a false image of you. In doing so, we trust that you desire a real relationship with us rather than one in which we hide the parts of ourselves we think will upset or

disappoint you. By this trust, we affirm our love for you and ourselves. Be now with us, O God. Amen.

*** THE PEACE**

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Jason Hartnett

Job 23 NRVSV updated edition

¹ Then Job answered:

² "Today also my complaint is bitter;

his hand is heavy despite my groaning.

³ Oh, that I knew where I might find him,

that I might come even to his dwelling!

⁴ I would lay my case before him

and fill my mouth with arguments.

⁵ I would learn what he would answer me

and understand what he would say to me.

⁶ Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power?

No, but he would give heed to me.

⁷ There the upright could reason with him,

and I should be acquitted forever by my judge.

⁸ "If I go forward, he is not there;

or backward, I cannot perceive him;

⁹ on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him;

I turn to the right, but I cannot see him.

¹⁰ But he knows the way that I take;

when he has tested me, I shall come out like gold.

¹¹ My foot has held fast to his steps;

I have kept his way and have not turned aside.

¹² I have not departed from the commandment of his lips;

I have treasured his words in my bosom.

¹³ But he stands alone, and who can dissuade him?

What he desires, that he does.

¹⁴ For he will complete what he appoints for me,

and many such things are in his mind.

¹⁵ Therefore I am terrified at his presence;

when I consider, I am in dread of him.

¹⁶ God has made my heart faint;

the Almighty has terrified me.

¹⁷ If only I could vanish in darkness,

and thick darkness would cover my face!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dawn Slade

COMMUNITY RESPONSE

SERMON

Thew Deen

JOYS & CONCERNS

COMMUNITY PRAYER

(Concluding with The Lord's Prayer| Our Father; debts)

INVITATION TO GIVE Stewarding God's Love

OFFERTORY "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

Setting by Stephen P. Johnson

Chancel Choir with Bob Hancock, violin

* **DOXOLOGY** *(See inside back cover of the hymnal)*

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

* **HYMN #502** **"Be Thou My Vision"**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE **Who Can Retell?** *Trad. Palestinian folk song*

WELCOME, NEW FRIENDS & VISITORS!

We're glad you're here and hope you find our services meaningful. Please introduce yourself and ask questions so we can properly greet you!

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Mon. March 24	7:00 pm	Al-Anon
Tues. March 25	4:00 pm	Sew Whats
	6:15 pm	Bell Choir Practice
	7:15 pm	Chancel choir practice
Thur. March 27	5:00 pm	Bible Study

Find more church happenings online at
newfane.church/calendar.

BIRTHDAYS

Kathy Stover – March 24; Betty Ann Nelson* – March 27

**recently deceased*

SPECIAL THANKS TO TODAY'S SERVICE LEADERS

Liturgy, Deaconry, Ministry (*Jason Hartnett, Cheryl Liston,
Thew Deen*)

Music (*Jennifer Yocom, Chancel Choir*)

Greeters & Collectors (*Doug & Marji Wellman*)

Fellowship & Coffee Hour (*Ann & Roger Allbee*)

MARCH MISSION PARTNER

AIDS Project of Southern Vermont

ADMINISTRATIVE INFO

Rev. Thew will be in the office this week on Tuesday and Thursday from 12 to 4pm. Our administrator is at church from 9am–3pm Tuesday through Thursday. Reach out to schedule an appointment.

CONTACT INFO

Church Phone: 802-365-4079

Pastor | Rev. Thew Deen: thew@newfane.church

Administrator | Mike Hutcheson: admin@newfane.church

Music Director | Jennifer Yocom:

jenniferyocom23@gmail.com