

NEWFANE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

An Open & Affirming Congregation of the UCC



“The person who loves their dream of community will destroy community, but the person who loves those around them will create community.”

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
August 31, 2025 at 10:00 in the Morning

All who are able are invited to stand.

PRELUDE “Medley of In Humility & Jesus Once of Humble Birth”
Arr. Danielle Isaacson

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS Christine Gray

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: *Beloved of God, we gather where Jesus once sat at table, teaching that the banquet of heaven is for all—neighbor and stranger, friend and outcast.*

MANY: We come to be reminded that God’s table has no place of honor but the joy of belonging.

ONE: *Here, the lowly are lifted, the weary are given rest, and the humble are hosts of grace.*

MANY: We come to learn again the way of Christ: hospitality without measure, generosity without expectation.

ONE: *In this house, the bent are straightened, the silenced lifted, the weary given rest.*

MANY: Here we will not hoard blessing or restrict grace.

ONE: *Today, we not only hear the Word but also share our own—our hopes, our longings, our honest reflections as a community of faith. For in checking in with one another, we practice the art of listening and the courage of dreaming.*

ALL: Come, let us worship the God who gathers us, who makes us one body, who calls us to a feast of welcome and possibility.

*** HYMN #593** “Lord, Speak to Me”

INVOCATION *(unison)*

Gracious God, You set a table where no one is turned away, where the humble are honored and the forgotten find a place. As we reflect together this day, attune our hearts to Your Spirit. Help us to name with gratitude what is working, to discern with honesty what needs tending, and to imagine with courage what we might yet become. Shape us into a community that bears Your welcome, embodies Your love, and follows Christ’s way of humility and joy. Amen.

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Christine Gray

Luke 14:1, 7-14 NRSVue

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. ⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and

say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place.¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you.¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid.¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

Fifth-Sunday Check-In Prompts

We're reflecting as a community on where we find ourselves as a church. This is an opportunity to check in with ourselves as a community and to share honestly what we feel this church is and could be. To help guide our thinking, I offer the following three prompts:

- **What's working?:** What are our ministries and programs doing well? What's helping us to connect with Spirit and find meaning and purpose in our lives?

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

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|----------------|----------|----------------------|
| Mon. Sept. 1 | 7:00 pm | Al-Anon |
| Tues. Sept. 2 | 4:00 pm | Sew Whats |
| Thurs. Sept. 4 | 10:00 am | Monthly Coffee |
| | 5:00 pm | Bible Study (hybrid) |
| Sat. Sept. 6 | 1:00 pm | Ken Lemire Memorial |
| Sun. Sept. 7 | 10:00 am | Sunday Worship |

Find more church happenings online at newfane.church/calendar

BIRTHDAYS

Jillian Grip – Aug. 31; Brianah Hall – Sept. 3;
Roberta Dunham – Sept. 5; Marji Wellman –Sept. 7

SPECIAL THANKS TO TODAY'S SERVICE LEADERS

Liturgy, Deaconry, Ministry (Christine Gray,
Karen Fontaine, Thew Deen)

Music (Jennifer Yocom, Willow Michelle Berner)

Greeters & Collectors (Deb Barry)

Coffee Hour Host (You, our joyful potluckers)

Flowers (Ruth Marx, Ann Allbee)

AUGUST MISSION PARTNERS

Townshend Food Shelf
Valley Village (formerly Valley Cares)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFO

Rev. Thew will be in the office this week on **Thursday** (only) from 2 to 6pm. 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