

NEWFANE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

An Open & Affirming Congregation of the UCC



"We are all broken. That's how the light gets in."

—Ernest Hemingway and Leonard Cohen

"I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus."

—Philemon 1:4,5

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 7, 2025 at 10:00 in the Morning

All who are able are invited to stand.

PRELUDE

“Enter Rejoice and Come In”

Bob Hancock, violin

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Maggie Bills

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The Lord invited Jeremiah to go see a potter at work. When the vessel was spoiled in his hand, he remade it into another vessel that seemed good to him.

MANY: The Lord said, just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand.

ONE: The psalmist says how wonderful it is that God searches and knows us, knows when we sit down or rise up, and is acquainted with all our ways.

MANY: For it is God who has formed us, made us in our mother’s womb, and knows all that will occur in our lives, even when it hasn’t happened yet.

ONE: God sets before us life and prosperity, asking that we obey the commandments, love the Lord our God, and choose life.

MANY: God invites us to be blessed, to grow in number, to hold fast to Him and his promises. Happiness comes if we delight in the law of the Lord, and meditate on it day and night.

*** HYMN #551** “As A Fire Is Meant for Burning”

INVOCATION *(unison)*

Dear God, We are imperfect, broken, battered and worn. Still, you see our potential and our beauty. Help us to accept your vision, and to live into your role for us as we are. Amen

*** THE PEACE**

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Maggie Bills

Philemon 1:10-18, 21 | NRSVue

¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might

have him back for the long term,¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me.

²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Luke 14:25-33 | NRSVue

Give up your possessions

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace.

³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dawn Slade

SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

REFLECTION

Chris Terry

COMMUNITY PRAYER

(The sharing of joys and concerns, concluding with the Lord's Prayer; please feel free to use whatever designation for God is personally most meaningful for you—e.g., "Our Father," "Our Mother," "Our Creator," etc.)

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY

"We Laugh, We Cry"

Jennifer and Bob

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*** HYMN #388** "O God In Whom All Life Begins"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

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. Sept. 8	7:00 pm	Al-Anon
Tues. Sept. 9	4:00 pm	Sew Whats
Wed, Sept. 10	10:00 am	Sr Lunch prep
	6:00 pm	Trustees meeting
Thurs. Sept. 11	12:00 pm	Senior Lunch
	5:00 pm	Bible Study (hybrid)
	6:15 pm	Bell Choir Practice
	7:15 pm	Chancel Choir Practice
Sun. Sept. 14	10:00 am	Sunday Worship

Find more church happenings online at newfane.church/calendar

BIRTHDAYS

Marji Wellman –Sept. 7; Ruth Garry – Sept. 10;
Jason Hartnett – Sept. 10; Deb Barry – Sept. 11
Joe Cook – Sept. 11; Jerry Butler – Sept. 12; Iva Yates –
Sept. 12

SPECIAL THANKS TO TODAY'S SERVICE LEADERS

Liturgy, Deaconry, Ministry (*Maggie Bills, Chrisman
Kearn, Dawn Slade, Chris Terry*)

Music (*Jennifer Yocom, Bob Hancock*)

Greeters & Collectors (*Sandi Meyerhoff, Jan Anderson*)

Coffee Hour Host (*Willow Lockwood, Willow Berner*)

Flowers (Ruth Marx)

SEPTEMBER MISSION PARTNER

Winston Prouty Center

ADMINISTRATIVE INFO

Rev. Thew will be in the office this week on **Thursday** (only) 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