

***First Congregational Church***  
United Church of Christ  
3 Gray Road, North Yarmouth, Maine 04097  
Organized in 1806



**The First Sunday in Lent  
Maine School of Ministry Sunday  
Black History Month  
February 26, 2023 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

**The First Sunday in Lent  
February 26, 2023 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

**Welcome. We pray that you may be blessed through our worship and fellowship today.**

\* Indicates: Please stand if you are able.

Note: Hymns and songs are licensed under One License #A-73187 and CCLI #48404708

**We Gather to Worship God**

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.  
Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle.

**Psalm 32:8-9**

**Prelude**

**All Sing: God welcomes all! Strangers and friends!**

**God's love is strong! And it never ends!**

Words: John L. Bell; Music: Trad. South African, transcribed by  
John L. Bell at the Sunrise Hospice, Themba. © 2008, GIA/Iona  
Community / WGRG

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

**Psalm 32:1-2, 6-7**

Pastor: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

People: **Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

Pastor: Therefore, let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;  
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

People: **You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.**

**\*Hymn**

***Great Is Thy Faithfulness***

**CH # 86**

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; Music: William M. Runyan, 1923

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided –  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

**Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided –  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with then thousand beside!**

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided –  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

**\*Prayer of Confession (in unison)**

**Psalm 32:3-5a**

**While I kept silence, my body wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.  
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.  
Then I acknowledged my sin to you; I did not hide my iniquity;  
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.”**

## Silent Prayer

### Words of Assurance

Psalm 32:10b-11

Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.  
Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

### \*Passing the Peace

### Time with God's Children

Genesis 2:15-17

### Scripture Readings

Old Testament

Genesis 3:1-7 (NRSV)

New Testament

Romans 5:12-19 (CEV)

### Choir Anthem

*Hope of the World*

arr. Lloyd Larson

### The Good News: *Instant Gratification*

Matthew 4:1-11

### \*Hymn *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

CH # 180

Words: Claudia F. Hernaman, 1873, alt

Music: Adapt. From John Day's English Psalter, 1562

**Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,  
Teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.**

**As you with Satan did contend, and did the victory win,  
O give us strength in you to fight, in you to conquer sin.  
And thro' these days of penitence, and thro' your passion tide,  
For evermore, in life and death, O Christ with us abide.**

**Abide with us, that through this life of doubts and hope and pain,  
An Easter of unending joy we may at last attain!**

### Prayers of the People

### **The Lord's Prayer (in unison)**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

### **The Worship of God in Tithes and Offerings**

God gives good things to us, so let us give good things to God. May our resources be used to testify to the goodness of God.

### **Offertory**

#### **\*Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

#### **\*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)**

**Thank you, God, for blessing us with gifts to share, so that good works can abound. We offer our gifts gladly. May what we give be used to meet the needs of all. Amen.**

#### **\*Hymn**

***I Shall Not Be Moved***  
African-American Spiritual

**CH # 615**

**I shall not be, I shall not be moved.  
I shall not be, I shall not be moved;  
like a tree planted by the water, I shall not be moved.**

- 1. When my cross is heavy, I shall not be moved,  
when my cross is heavy, I shall not be moved;  
like a tree planted by the water, I shall not be moved.**
- 2. When my burden's heavy, I shall not be moved,  
when my burden's heavy, I shall not be moved;  
like a tree planted by the water, I shall not be moved.**
- 3. If my friends forsake me, I shall not be moved,**

**if my friends forsake me, I shall not be moved;  
like a tree planted by the water, I shall not be moved.**

**\*Charge & Benediction**

May God, who created time and space, bless our Lenten journey to deepen our spirits. May Christ, who showed us the way of love, grant us profound joy along the way. May the Holy Spirit, who guides our steps, lead us into such simplicity of faith and honesty of spirit that we may be strengthened in temptation and renewed in grace. Amen.

**Postlude**

**We Go Forth to Serve God and Our Neighbors**

## Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Paul A. Day  
Administrative Assistant: Lyn Glassock  
Organist: Peter Dickson  
Organist: Jesse Myers-Wakeman  
Choir Director: David Myers-Wakeman\*  
Sexton: Mark R.H. Heath  
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Church Website: <http://nyccucc.com>  
Maine Conference Website: [www.maineucc.org](http://www.maineucc.org)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/c/nyccucc](http://youtube.com/c/nyccucc)

Note: This service was recorded and streamed on YouTube.

If you are not receiving church emails and would like to, please send an email to [nyarmouthcucc@gmail.com](mailto:nyarmouthcucc@gmail.com) asking to be added to the list. Like the NYCC FB page and you will be notified of what is happening there, too!

Offerings can also be made online through Tithely at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1301940> or text "Give" to 833-751-0314



The Maine School of Ministry (MESoM) is a regional theological education catalyst within the United Church of Christ, devoted to the call to ministry in this place. MESoM works with students discovering a path to pastoral ministry, and those practicing congregational leadership. Programs combine classroom learning and core ministry competencies, offering theological education for the life of the church. By promoting and cultivating a culture of call, adding academic resources and mentorship, we affirm God’s gifting and guidance in every generation – including toward more remote or rural congregations. Over its first decade, MESoM has affirmed students on their way to authorized ministry (lay or ordained) in the various associations of the Maine Conference.

Checks may be made out to “Maine Conference UCC”; put “MESoM General Fund” or “MESoM Scholarship Fund” in the memo line. Gifts may also be made on-line at <https://www.maineucc.org/giving/>; designate the gift for MESoM.



*Voice Your Hopes  
Shape the Future*