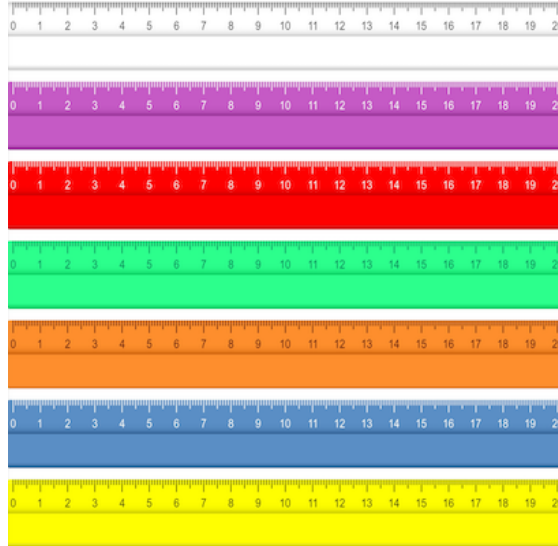


NEWFIELDS' COMMUNITY CHURCH
(United Methodist, Unitarian Universalist, United Church of Christ)
June 26, 2022 9:30am



“How do we Measure ‘Right’ Relationships?”

WELCOME

The Newfields' church is an ONA church. This means we are Open and Affirming and chose to practice the full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, non-binary persons in the church's life and ministry.

PRELUDE: “Interlude” written by Mark Hayes

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** (ONE - Regular Print; **MANY - Bold Print**)

Come join the circle for Jesus is calling...

God calls us into the circle of visions and dreams where all are welcome and included

Look around and see who's here, look at all the faces

God has called us here to celebrate the wideness of God's community and grace.

Let us worship the God of justice for all times and places together. Let us pray...

***OPENING PRAYER:**

God we hear your voice calling out to us, reminding us to do one thing:

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.

As we gather in this place and time open our hearts to the breadth and width of Your vision for the church.

Awaken in us a dream larger than we have dreamed before; a dream of a place and time where all are welcome and included.

We pray in the name of Jesus who taught us about the wideness of your grace and taught us to pray words like these...

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION/ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The house of our God is not just for the holy, or the wise, or those who fit in
But often we have tried to limit access to God's house in many ways.

Sometimes we have done it on purpose, sometimes purely by accident.

But still we have shut the doors, leaving others outside.

For the times we have not lived out your call to inclusivity forgive us,
Open our eyes and hearts to the needs of those who wait by the door.

...time of silent prayer...

The God who calls us together welcomes one and all, sinner and saint, old and young. When
we stray from God's Way we are forgiven and given a new start.

We rejoice in the wideness of God's grace and love. Amen

***OPENING HYMN:**

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

Chalice # 487

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING:

"Genesis 2:18-23"

(red bible pg. 2; blue pg OT)

ONE: This is the word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON:

"How do we Measure 'Right' Relationships?"

Rev. Cheryl Stromski

READING OF THE NEWFIELDS' ONA COVENANT

"The Flames of Love"

by Kimi Floyd Reisch, 2021

We light the flame of commitment,
To stand with and work to create change,
Until all know they are beloved.

We light the flame of survival,
Grateful for our lives,
Remembering in love those lost along the road.

We light the flame of change,
Committing to recenter toward love,
In hearts, in minds, in our world.

We light the flame of hope,
Loving each other, building community,
even when it is uncomfortable.

We light the flame of knowledge,
Following the path of justice,
Justice that is love embodied.

We light this flame of radical love.
To speak out for those who have been silenced.
Those who have been rejected for who they love.
Those who have been persecuted for who they are.
Those who have been bullied for daring to be bold.
Those who have been othered and forced into the margins.
Those who have been lonely.
Those who have been hurt.
Those who are still hurting.

We light this flame as
a people committed,
we are survivors.
we will change the world,
until no one lives without hope,
until no one lives without justice.
We light this flame and pledge that
In love, with love, and through love,
All things are possible.

God of Love, Fiery Pillar, based on an ancient Celtic Prayer by Kimi Floyd Reisch, 2021

As we kindle the fire of change, we pray that the flames of God's inclusive love set fire to the world. We pray that no envy and malice, no hatred or fear, may smother these flames. May the spark of God's love light the love in our hearts, that they may burn brightly through the day. May the flames of love warm those who are lonely, those who feel rejected, those who feel cast out because of who they are or who they love. May these flames, flames of radical love, flames of the Open and Affirming movement, guide them here, guide them home into the arms of love.

HYMN:

"When, in Awe of God's Creation"

Chalice #688

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**...Our Father/Mother 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

GRATITUDE AND DEPARTURE

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***DOXOLOGY:**

Chalice #46

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above you heavenly host. Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

***COMMUNAL BLESSING: "God Be With You till We Meet Again"**

Chalice # 434

***BENEDICTION**

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR:

The family of Virginia Simpson upon her passing, the victims, family and community of those in the Buffalo shooting and the school shooting in Uvalde, TX. Marty and his family, Abigale, Joshua, Ian, those caught in the violence of the Ukrainian/Russian war. Transgender/nonbinary Americans who face legal obstacles in their quest to live with the same freedoms and opportunities most of us take for granted.

HAPPENINGS IN OUR COMMUNITY

COFFEE HOUR - right after church today. If you would be willing to host a coffee hour, please see Nancy Taylor. Thank you!

CLIMATE DIALOGUE - 1st Wednesday of each month; July 6, in the sanctuary.

SECOND SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS 5:00-7:00 PM: The Deacons and Trustees will be offering three outdoor Sunday gatherings this summer. Please join us and bring your family and friends.

July 10 Ice Cream Social with games and music

August 7 Fire Pit with s'mores and games and music

Sept. 11 Rally Day/Welcome Back Sunday with cook out, music, and games.

OFFERING OPPORTUNITY - Your generosity makes our ministry to and within this community possible. Thank you for your support. Donation boxes are located in the back of the sanctuary and in the narthex.

Pastor: Rev. Cheryl Stromski (Sherry) she, her, hers
603-772-3707 (home); 603-828-5234 (cell/text)

Cheryllynne02@msn.com

Office hours: Thursday 12:00-4:00

Call or email to set up an appointment

