

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

The First Sunday in Lent  
February 22, 2026

**We Gather to Worship God**

**Prelude**

**Lighting the Altar Candles** **9:30 a.m.**

**Welcome**

**Threshold Moment** (*introducing Lent and “The Way” series*)

**Gathering Music** (on song sheet): “**We are a Wilderness Wandering People**”

We are a wilderness wandering people  
on a journey of the soul.  
May we find our destination  
in our longing to be whole.  
Our Holy God is calling to us.  
With Jesus by our side  
may compassion be our compass;  
may the Spirit be our guide,  
on The Way,  
on The Way,  
on The Way.

**Opening Prayer: “Prayer for the Path” (in unison)**

God of the Pilgrimage,  
be with us on The Way.

At times, we don't know if we are on the path  
you would have us travel.  
How do we know the direction for our lives?  
We come seeking your guidance,  
as Jesus showed us to do.  
Help us to be at home even in our wanderings,  
knowing that you are ever with us.  
Amen.

## Hymn # 622      “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

## Scripture Reading      Psalm 1

## **Choir Anthem – “Hope of the World,” arr. by Lloyd Larson**

## Discipleship for All Ages:

“What is the scariest road you have ever been on?”

## **Hymn for All Ages (on song sheet) “Guide My Feet, While I Run This Race”**

## Introduction to Scripture

*Rev. Dr. Cynthia Biggar*

## Scripture Reading      Luke 4:1-13

## **Sermon**      “The Way Through The Wilderness”

## Prayers of the People

## A prayer for getting out of our own way

### *A moment of silent reflection*

### Prayer Response (sung by David Myers-Wakeman):

Meet me in the stillness, Lord  
Be the air I breathe  
Meet me in the stillness, Lord  
Free me to receive

## Prayers for Others Along the Way

Sharing of Joys and Concerns  
Prayer Response:

Meet me in the stillness, Lord  
Be the air I breathe  
Meet me in the stillness, Lord  
Free me to receive

**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.

**Offering Our Gifts and Ourselves to 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** *offered by Minister*

**Our Faith in Action (Church Announcements)**

**\*Hymn # 489 “Bless Now, O God, Our Journey”**

**Responsive Benediction**

The Creator God filled you with breath,  
inviting you to this journey called Life.  
**We will follow on The Way.**

Jesus, our Guide, showed us what it means  
to make a new way with Love.  
**We will follow on The Way.**

The Spirit gives us strength to move forward  
with Courage and Compassion for all we meet.  
**We will follow on The Way.**

May this week be filled with opportunities to choose  
good over evil; humility over pride;  
and loving God over loving the things that do not last.  
May it be so. Amen.  
“Buen Camino!”

## **Postlude**

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

\* Those who are able may stand.

#### Staff

Intentional Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Cynthia Biggar  
Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper: Lyn Glasscock

Music Director: David Myers-Wakeman

Organist: Peter Dickson

Organist: Jesse Myers-Wakeman

Sexton: Mark R. H. Heath

Treasurer: Lois Knight

Church Phone: 829-3644

Church e-mail: [nyarmouthccucc@gmail.com](mailto:nyarmouthccucc@gmail.com)

Church Website: <http://nyccucc.com>

Maine Conference Website: [www.maineucc.org](http://www.maineucc.org)

YouTube: [youtube.com/c/nyccucc](https://youtube.com/c/nyccucc)

Note: This service is recorded and streamed on YouTube.

If you are not receiving church emails and would like to, please send an email to [nyarmouthccucc@gmail.com](mailto:nyarmouthccucc@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 at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1301940>.

**THIS WEEK\***

Today - 10:30 am, Coffee Hour

Monday – February 23<sup>rd</sup> - Rental in Fellowship Hall at 5pm

Tuesday, February 24th – Tuesday Gals at 10am

Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> – Choir Rehearsal at 6:30pm

Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> – Discipleship at 1pm

Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> – Rentals in FH from 9:30-11:30am and Sanctuary 2pm-5pm

**IN OUR PRAYERS\***

**Congregation & Community:** Sheila Babcock, David and Michelle Bickford, Terri Bickford, Candy Burgess, Sandra and Vince Golonka, Steve Quentel, Lori Martin and Kaitlin Quentel, Holly and Charles Slonina, Susanellen Stearns.

**Wider World:** People recovering from natural disasters in the U.S. and around the world, Black Mountain Orphanage; Peace in Ukraine, Gaza, and elsewhere. Peace within ourselves, our families, our communities, and our world.

\*Please submit items for the Church Calendar or the Prayer List to Lyn Glasscock by Tuesday in order to be included in the bulletin. Thank You. Note: Hymns and songs are licensed under One License #A-73187 and CCLI #48404708