

## Parable in Which No One Else in the Super 8 Breakfast Lounge Thinks About How This Hotel Might Outlive Us

by Sarah Carson

Maybe the flatbed driver shrinking into the folds of her sweatshirt is only thinking about salting her hard-boiled egg. It could be that the well-dressed family checking their Google maps above the crunch of their overcooked waffles is only thinking about whatever important thing it is for which they have already parted their hair, applied their moisturizers. Surely the man eating alone in the pinched-front sombrero has so many other things to consider, he will not notice the nearby woman in her pajamas pants trying to steady a plate of pastries in the crook of her elbow, whom he has not offered to help balance a bowl of Lucky Charms beneath the spout of the milk. But, woe unto all of us if not for the lady coming now through the corridor, her sleeveless tee aflutter in the light of the vending machines. Who does she not see as she offers to take one of the teeming foam cups another girl attempts to maneuver around a cleaning cart, pauses to let the girl grab the room key from her back pocket. If the woman is not thinking about how much longer the planet can hold us, then why does she bother? *What would I do without you*, the girl asks, as if to say, *What would any of us do if not for the magic accident of other people?*

The United Church of Dorset & East Rupert

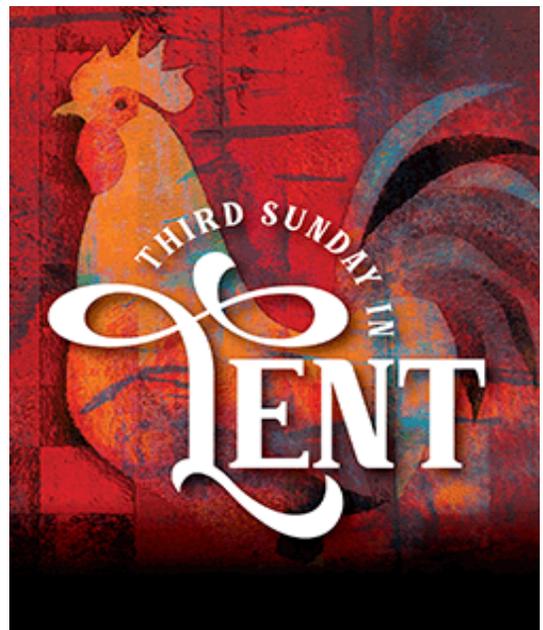
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Office Hours: Monday -Thursday 8-4,  
Friday 8-12



**All people are welcome here**

~ MARCH 8, 2026 ~ THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT ~

~ WORSHIP SERVICE ~

*\*Stand if you are able*

**NURSERY CARE AND CHURCH SCHOOL**

Babies and children are invited, welcomed, and encouraged in worship services. We have worship bags in the narthex filled with activities to use during the worship service, as well as a rocker at the back of the sanctuary for parents with babies and toddlers. Children ages Pre-K through grade 7 are invited to join us downstairs for church school after the children's message.

**INTROIT** *Lenten Voluntary*

Alice Jordan

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Dr. Mark McDonough

**ENTER THE FLAME & THE WORD**

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We gather here in your presence, God.

**People: In our need, and bringing with us the needs of the world.**

Leader: We come to you, for you come to us in Jesus,

**People: and you know by experience what human life is like.**

Leader: We come with our faith and with our doubts;

**People: we come with our hopes and with our fears.**

Leader: We come as we are, because you invite us to be here;

**People: and you have promised never to turn us away.**

**\*HYMN #284** *Gather Us In*

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Al Lindsey

**O Loving God,**

**to turn away from you is to fall,**

**to turn toward you is to rise,**

**and to stand before you is to abide forever.**

**Grant us, dear God,**

**in all our duties your help;**

**in all our uncertainties your guidance;**

**in all our dangers your protection;**

**and in all our sorrows your peace;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: On all whose lives are open to change, from guilt to grace, from darkness to light, God pronounces pardon and grants peace.

**People: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### **PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: Since God has made us the blessed community, the Church, let us greet one another with the peace and joy of Christ. The peace and joy of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*\*RESPONSE #37 Gloria Patri*

**Glory be to God and to the Christ and to the Holy Ghost;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,**

**world without end. Amen. Amen.**

## **TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *God So Loved the World*

John Stainer

**PRAYER OF PASTORAL CARE**

Rev. Jordan (Skip) Dickinson

**Our response:**

God of justice; **hear our prayer**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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 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.**

*\*HYMN #542 Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

## **WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD**

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS** Luke 13:1-9, 31-35

Caren McVicker

**SERMON** The Hopeful Gardener

Rev. Dr. Mark McDonough

**ORGAN OFFERTORY** *Largo on Rock of Ages*

Alice Jordan

**DOXOLOGY HYMN #46**

**CLOSING HYMN #195** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE** *Lord, Have Mercy*

Alice Jordan

The flowers this morning are given by David McAneny and Mary True,  
in loving memory of our mothers, Elizabeth McMahan True and  
Louise Leary McAneny.

Our thanks to today's scripture reader, Caren McVicker;  
liturgist, Al Lindsey;  
acolyte and beadle, Sue Westin and John Pitcher;  
deacons and ushers, Liz Schafer, Sid Staunton, Lee Romano, Keith Michl, and  
Marietta and Karl White;  
coffee hour hosts, Dotty Thompson and Maggie McDonough  
and tech crew, Chris Lima, Patrick Honan, and Puck Bell.

**PRAYER LIST:** Our prayer list is a network of love and faith in the power of prayer. We receive these names from members and friends of our church who hold these individuals up in their own prayer life for God's healing and strength upon them.

**IMMEDIATE NEEDS PRAYER CONCERNS:** Jonathan Dickinson; Sarah Faith Dickinson; Helen Melhado; Ann Troumbley; Meghan Gill; Eric Perry, George VanDelinder; Cathy Condon; Bill A.; Emma Ingison; Auburn; Mark Cassidy; Steve Larsen; Jimmy Weiss; Jeff Duel; Robin Hoag; Spencer March; May; Larry Cochran; Damon Wilder; Bill Childs; Pete Ianacone; Michael; Oliver Bucholt; Donna Harris; Steve and Val Smith; Tom Drunsic; Bella & Baby Enzo; Linda Bushee; Mason; Robert Goepel; Jo, Jeff and Sara; Shelby Baughn; in the Dorset Church, for our Men's Breakfast group; in the Vermont Conference, for the Pittsford Congregational Church, and their pastor, Michael Dwyer; in the UCC, for the David Lawrence Centers for Behavioral Health, based in Naples FL, which recently received a \$41,545 donation from the Naples United Church of Christ to support wellness programs in mental health prevention, education, and skill building.

**LONG-TERM PRAYER CONCERNS:** Craig, Jaxson, and Jacob Smith; Diane; Millie Holland; Michael Chambers; Patrick Denis; Dody Marcotte; Eric Parks; Tim Velie; Kris; Kay Kwasniewski; Robbie Littlewood; Elizabeth LaBerge; Dottie Hinkle; Chip Wilson; Hazel Prouty; James Jankowski; Jameson Gray Pelton; Evelyn Tobin; Cassia Duran; Rich; Bill Wise; George Smith; Jack; Jonathan Dickinson; Judy Dunn; Alan Wiegand.

Dear Church Family,

Lent is here! The Christian Education Committee invites you to use the following resources for this meaningful journey.

During coffee hour throughout Lent, Lenten devotionals will be available in both hard copy and electronic formats, perfect for personal use or to share with a friend, neighbor, or someone who is homebound.

We also have a selection of Bibles on display for you to explore. If you haven't looked at your Bible in a while, this is a wonderful time to revisit it or even discover a new one.

If you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to reach out:

**Gretchen Lima, Christian Educator**

[gretchenlima@aol.com](mailto:gretchenlima@aol.com) • (973) 900-1485

You don't have to wait until Lent begins to start a daily practice. Here are a few electronic devotional resources you can access now:

• **United Church of Christ Daily Devotional**

<https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional>

• **d365 Daily Devotional** — especially meaningful for families with children and youth. Devotions are written by ministers, professors, students, teachers, missionaries, and denominational leaders.

<https://d365.org>

• **The Upper Room** — Perfect for anyone. We will also have hard copies of this devotional available soon.

<https://www.upperroom.org>

Grace and peace, Gretchen Lima and the Christian Education Committee



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Deacons - March 8 @ 11:30am

PFLAG - March 8 from 2-4pm

Search Committee - March 11 @ 5:00pm

**The Dorset Group hosts an open meeting for Alcoholics Anonymous here at the Dorset Church in the vestry every Monday night starting at 8:00pm.**

**All are welcome.**

# SCHOLARSHIP



**THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE** wants to alert the church community that applications for scholarships awarded for the 2026-2027 year are now available. Call the church office at 867-2260 for applications.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 10, 2026.**



# March

Wish List



## Community Food Cupboard

Spring is coming and the mornings are getting brighter. Our goal is to help our families get every day off to a good start! (802.733.8119)



- Breakfast Cereal/Instant
- Oatmeal Breakfast bars
- Pancake Mix & syrup
- Nuts & dried fruit
- Peanut Butter
- Coffee/Tea/shelf-stable milk
- Toothbrushes & toothpaste
- Deodorant

Thank you!  
CFC

**Drop-off locations:** Manchester Town Hall, Shaw's, Manchester Library, Dorset Post Office, Christ our Savior Parish, First Congregational Church, Dorset Church.

# Interfaith Family Event

## At Pastime Pinball

4802 Main St. Manchester Center

Cost \$10 per person

March 22, 2026 from 5:30-7:30

Sponsored by **FIRE** (the combined youth group of Bennington Co)



For more info contact:  
[revborror@fccmanchester.org](mailto:revborror@fccmanchester.org)  
[imeans-koss@outlook.com](mailto:imeans-koss@outlook.com)



## Truth and Justice Vermont

### *In Defense of Our Constitution*

Visit our website:  
***truthjusticevt.org*** for news and information about defending our constitution and working with empathy to relieve the suffering of the mistreated, marginalized, and oppressed.

Cards on the table.  
Secrets in the shuffle.

# THE GIN GAME

by D.L. COBURN  
A Staged Reading  
Directed by Josh Bond

Elizabeth Karet & Tom Stevens

**THE DORSET PLAYHOUSE**

Friday, March 13, 2026 • 7:30 PM  
Sunday, March 15, 2026 • 2:00 PM

\$10 Suggested Donation at the Door

**TICKETS: dorsetplayers.org | 802-867-5777**

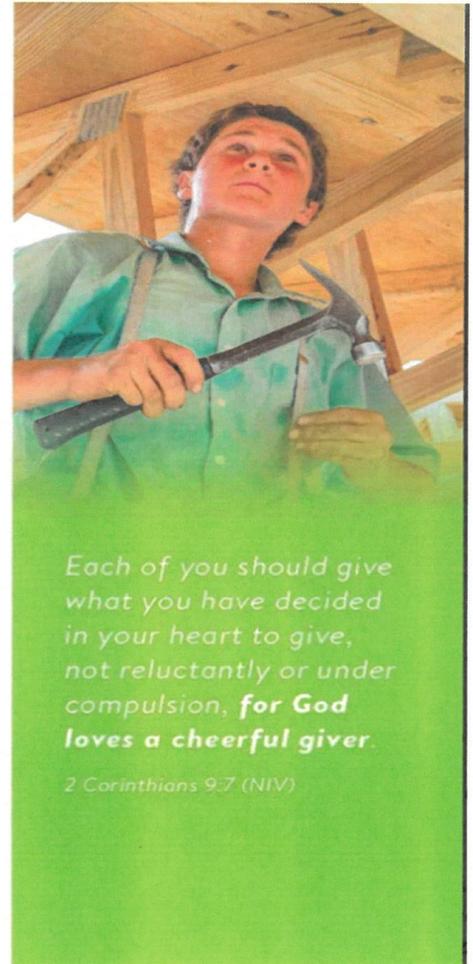
Presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. ®

**COLLECTION DATE IS MARCH 15, 2026**

**Your offering helps rebuild from disaster, feed the hungry, provide clean water to the thirsty, empower the oppressed, and restore hope.**

Orfelina works with families in the northern regions of Honduras to help them understand how to transform their families and communities through agriculture. The list of things she does is mindboggling: Checking on local farmers' harvest. Monitoring water projects. Teaching the women in the community how to prepare more nutritious meals for their families. Chatting up community leaders for support. Running workshops for things like creating organic fertilizers and sprays.

But Orfelina doesn't just work with farmers and their families, she supports and encourages them. Visiting them in their homes. Bringing God's light to everyone she meets. And all of this is made possible through your giving to One Great Hour of Sharing. Because of your giving, projects like these and thousands more around the world are changing lives. Transforming communities. And spreading God's light. Be the Light. Give to One Great Hour of Sharing.



Four members of our congregation are involved with Rutland Neighbors, a welcoming space for the those who are homeless or live in poverty. Mary True and Jacki Becker serve food there a couple times a week. Jacki, Jen Parent, and Cheryl Gasperetti will participate in the organization's first-ever Sleep Out on March 20. Jacki, Jen, and Cheryl will brave the elements and sleep outdoors to raise money for the organization. Years back, Jacki and Cheryl took part in a Sleep Out for Burlington's Spectrum Youth and Family Services. That organization raised \$265,000 that year. Jacki and Cheryl raised close to \$4,000, thanks in part to many members of the Dorset Church. With all the funding that's being cut for programs such as this, these ladies feel compelled to help. If you'd like to make a donation, see one of the participants or go to <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/rutlandneighborsincp2p/team/1021104/>. Their team's name is Merck Mommas.



## CHURCH DIRECTORY 2026

**PASTOR** ..... Rev. Dr. Mark McDonough\*  
**PASTORAL ASSISTANT** ..... Rev. Jordan (Skip) Dickinson  
**PASTORAL COUNSELOR** ..... Rev. Steve Longley  
**OFFICE MANAGER** ..... Kimberly Perkins  
**BOOKKEEPER/MANAGER'S ASSISTANT** .... Leslie Mazzucco  
**MUSIC DIRECTOR** ..... Tom Salmon  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL COORDINATOR** ..... Paula Mann Nassivera  
**CHRISTIAN ED DIRECTOR** ..... Gretchen Lima  
**SEXTONS** ..... Lynn and Pete Jennings  
**MODERATOR** ..... Al Lindsey\*  
**CLERK** ..... Elizabeth Karet\*  
**TREASURER** ..... Janet Chandler\*  
**MEMBER-AT-LARGE** ..... Lori Hong\*  
**CHURCH DELEGATES** ..... Derry Dickinson, Skip Dickinson, Dick Coss, Kris Harvey  
**MANSE LIAISON** ..... Gay and Roger Squire  
**TRUSTEES**

Phil Peterson\* (Co-Chairs), and Linda O'Leary\* (Co-Chairs), Linda Drunsic, Jack Gilbert, Sarah McClintock (Secretary), Nora Larsen, Ellen Leeds, Joel Ario, Al Lindsey (Assistant Treasurer)

### **BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

Kit Wallace (Chair), Steve Holman, Bruce Welsh

### **INVESTMENT COMMITTEE**

Phil Peterson (Chair, &Trustee Rep.), Julie Citron (Secretary), Sarah McClintock, Martha Eyman

### **STEWARDSHIP**

Joel Ario,\* (Trustee Rep.), Henry Chandler \* (A) Kit Wallace

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Karen Allen (Staff Rep.), Jack Gilbert (Trustee Rep.), Steve Holman, Henry Chandler

### **DIACONATE**

Susan Patch-Crandall, Cheryl Gasperetti,\* Robin Chandler, Sue Westin, Todd Jorn  
Mary True, Lindy Bowden, Lee Romano, Dick Coss, Lynne Welsh Ginger Foss, Barbara Bertram

### **CHANCEL COMMITTEE** (Ad hoc committee of Deacons)

Robin Chandler, Lindy Bowden, Ginger Foss

### **MUSIC COMMITTEE**

Elizabeth Karet (A), Tom Salmon (ex officio), Roger Squire, Liz Schafer

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Paula Nassivera\* (ex officio) and Gretchen Lima\* (A) (Co- Chairs), Ann Honan, Nan Leach, Kelly Gaiotti, Emily Kohler , Ruth Stewart, Donna Fabricius

### **FELLOWSHIP**

Nora Larsen (Secretary), Betsy Olson (Treasurer), Robin Chandler (Vice President),\*  
Linda O'Leary\* (President)

### **HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE**

Kris Harvey\* (Chair) Rose Watrous, Dotty Thompson, Sara McClintock, Maggie McDonough

### **MISSION COMMITTEE**

Sandi Hedman (Trustee Rep.), Michelle Emery, Rev. Jordan (Skip) Dickinson\*

### **GREEN TEAM COMMITTEE** (Ad hoc committee of Mission Committee)

Ellen Maloney (Chair), Sandi Hedman, Nan Leach, Cindy Safier, Caroline Sargent,  
Skip Dickinson, Linda Drunsic, Ann Honan, Candace Parks, Nora Larsen

### **TRUTH AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE** (Ad hoc committee of Mission Committee)

Rich Urso (Chair), Ellen Leeds, Paula Nassivera, Patrick Honan

### **PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Dick Coss (Deacon Rep.), Mary True, Al Lindsey, Lori Hong (Member-at-Large)

### **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Richard Grip\* (Chair), Linda O'Leary, Betsy Olson, Alex Gray, Colleen LaChac, Dick Coss, Sandi Hedman

### **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

Patrick Honan,\* Tracie Salmon

\*Member of the Cabinet      (A) Appointed