

SILENT MEDITATION



Perfect Sense

by Kathleen L. Housley

*There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole.*

There came a child once
who sang God's peace,
a potent "all is well,"
though nothing was,
piped in a small voice
in the middle of a dark night
with no promise of dawn.
Too young to read,
she sang songs by heart
mixing up tunes and words,
adding nonsense sounds
as gleeful as odes to joy,
with grace notes that made
dirges pirouette;

such as her muddle
about the meaning of balm,
thinking it an explosive
that turned into medicine
"to make the wounded whole,"
which made perfect sense
surpassing the wisdom
of those who could read
and knew better, except
there was nothing better
than bomb becoming balm
and soldier becoming healer
in the song of a child whose
every word meant peace.



All people are welcome here

The United Church of Dorset & East Rupert

143 Church Street, Dorset, VT 05251

PO Box 263

802-867-2260

dorsetchurch@gmail.com, www.dorsetchurch.org,

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

~ FEBRUARY 15, 2026 ~ TRANFIGURATION ~

~ 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 *Praeludium III* (Well-tempered Klavier, Book II)

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Mark McDonough

ENTER THE FLAME & THE WORD

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The God of heaven has made a home on earth,

People: Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

Leader: The highest in all creation lives among the least,

People: Christ journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.

Leader: Come now all who thirst

Leader: and drink the water of life.

Leader: Come now all who hunger

People: and be filled with good things.

Leader: Come now all who seek

People: and be warmed by the fire of love.

HYMN #2 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Judy Dunn

Holy God,

your grace startles us; it is more than we can imagine.

Again and again you reach out to us, offering love without boundary, and mercy without exception.

Forgive us for making you too small,

for thinking that you are only our God,

for believing that we have you all figured out.

Expand our vision and enlarge our hearts,

that we might grow in love and understanding,

and more nearly follow Jesus our Savior. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news!

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone;
a new life has begun.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Know that the Spirit of the risen Christ inspirits you and rejoice.

*PASSING OF 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.

*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.

*RESPONSE Gloria Patri #36

CHILDREN'S CHOIR ANTHEM *Follow the Way of Love*

Son Treasure Island

PRAYER OF PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Jordan (Skip) Dickinson

Our response:

Hear us, O God, your mercy is great

HYMN #526 *The Gift of Love*

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Exodus 24:12-18; Matthew 17:1-8

Steve Holman

SERMON *This Side of Glory*

Rev. Dr. Mark McDonough

CHOIR OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Ave Verum Corpus*

W. A. Mozart

*DOXOLOGY HYMN #46

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

CLOSING HYMN #517 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Fuga III* (Well-tempered Klavier, Book II)

The flowers this morning are given by Garry DuFour
in loving memory of Renee Nicole Good and Alex Jeffrey Pretti who were
murdered in Minneapolis by ICE agents.

Our thanks to today's scripture reader, Steve Holman;
liturgist, Judy Dunn;
acolyte and beadle, Sofia Lima and Pada Bednar;
deacons and ushers, Mary True, David McAneny, Sue Crandall, and
Marietta and Karl White;
coffee hour hosts, Kris Harvey, Judy Dunn, and Betty Hazelton;
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: 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; Linda Bushee; Mason; Robert Goepel; Jo, Jeff and Sara; Sandi Hedman; Ellen; in the Dorset Church, for all our committees as they re-set for the new year; in the Vermont Conference, for the First Congregational Church of Hubbardton; in the UCC, for Rev. Jennifer Sowell who was nominated to serve as the next Associate General Minister, Love of Church.

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; Sandy Cary; 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; Sandra Hazelton Pratt, Amanda Williams.

Funeral Service for Sandy Cary will be held on Saturday, February 21 at 11:00am in the Sanctuary.



ASH WEDNESDAY

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 - The United Church of Dorset & East Rupert, 143 Church Street, Dorset, VT

Ashes to Go available in the parking lot from 7:30am-8:30am. Recognizing the busy schedules of so many and the preference of many not to drive at night, Rev. Mark will stand at the entrance to the church parking lot and offer ashes to go. To receive the imposition of ashes, simply drive to the church entrance, roll down your window, and Rev. Mark will mark you with ashes and give you a blessing. You can also receive ashes at 8:45am in the upper chapel room of the church. Everyone is welcome.

BIBLE STUDY

For our Bible study we will read *The Bible Speaks to You*, by Robert McAfee Brown. In this study we will learn how the Bible was written and how we can read the Bible with deeper understanding and application to daily life. The classes will be held Wednesdays, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., February 25 through March 25. The classes will be in person and via zoom. They will also be recorded and made available on the church's website. Copies of the book are available in the church office for \$10.00.

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.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Cabinet: February 15, 11:30am-1:30pm

Trustees: February 17, 3:30pm-5:30pm

Stewardship: February 18, 8:00am-9:00am

Hospitality: February 19, 10:00am-11:00am



SAVE THE DATE!

SOUTHWEST ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

A WINTER GATHERING OF OUR CHURCHES

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026

9:00 AM—2:00 PM

AT THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MANCHESTER

THEME:

“The Being and Doing of Church for Troubled Times”

The newly formed Church subcommittee of SWACOM is sponsoring this year's winter meeting with a focus on ways the churches of the association can better serve and resource each other.

Lunch will be provided

Please RSVP by February 17th to:

office@fccmanchester.org

*The Dorset Players and Kitchens of Vermont
present the Twenty-First Annual*

One Act Festival

Friday, February 27 ~ 7:30

Saturday, February 28 ~ 7:30

Sunday, March 1 ~ 2:00



Tickets Available at www.dorsetplayers.org Or 802-867-5777

Show Sponsor: Kevin O'Toole, Attorney at Law

Dear Church Family,

Lent is just a few weeks away! The Christian Education Committee invites you to begin preparing for this meaningful journey.

During coffee hour in the coming weeks — and 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 will 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 • (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

Free Winter Community Supper

**United Church of Dorset &
East Rupert**

Thursday, February 19, 2026

5:30 to 7:00

Menu

Roast pork loin w/ gravy

Corn chowder

Buttered noodles

Spring green peas

Sauerkraut with apples

Broccoli with lemon

Assorted desserts

Gluten free available

All are welcome to this Free community

dinner

143 Church Street, Dorset VT

Bring your family and friends!

We hope to see you there!

An Irish Celebration

The Northshire Seniors are taking reservations for a bus trip on Tuesday, March 10. We will be attending the Log Cabin Theater for a St. Patrick's Day Show with Dee Reilly & Irish Step Dancers. Menu is corned beef & scrod. Cost is \$89/person. We leave from the Catholic Church parking lot in Manchester at 9:15am. Contact Linda O'Leary for further information or to sign up at 802-779-1314. 



February



Wish List

Community Food Cupboard

Will you be our Valentine? February can be pretty cold and bleak around here so Valentine's Day is a great opportunity to brighten up the winter with a warming gift from the heart and a bright splash of red or pink! (802.362.0057)

-  Canned Salmon or Tuna
- Ketchup
- Strawberry Jelly & Peanut Butter
- Marinara Sauce & Pasta
- Tomato Soup
- Instant Oatmeal
- Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate
- Shampoo, Soap, Body Wash



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



TAX PREPARATION

9 - 11 AM

Every Friday

Feb 6 - Apr 10

**with AARP
TaxAide**



By appointment only.

Visit mclvt.org for more information.

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, Kris Harvey, Steve Longley

MANSE LIAISON Gay and Roger Squire

TRUSTEES

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

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Kit Wallace (Chair), Steve Holman, Bruce Welsh

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Phil Peterson (Chair, &Trustee Rep.), Julie Citron (Secretary), Janet Chandler (Treasurer), Ellen Maloney, Scott Stewart

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 Weston, Todd Jorn

Mary True, Lindy Bowden, Lee Romano, Dick Coss, Lynne Welsh Ginger Foss, Barbara Bertrum

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, Ellen Wright, Kelly Gaotti, Emily Kohler

FELLOWSHIP

Ginny Longacre (Secretary), Betsy Olson (Treasurer), Derry Dickinson,* Linda O'Leary*

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

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

MISSION COMMITTEE

Sandi Hedman (Trustee Rep.), Michelle Emery, Lisa May, 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.), 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, Sandi Hedman (A),

*Member of the Cabinet (A) Appointed