

SILENT MEDITATION

If We Are All Unremarkable Angels

by Anna Elkins

The Remarkables, New Zealand

After a long morning of hiking and getting lost,
I walked to the pebbled edge of the lake to wash my feet.
When I looked up, a toddler with a smile of pure
and fearless joy was running up to me. He stopped
short, bent down to select a stone, and handed it to me,
his face full of a hope so bold it was a knowing—
that I'd think his gift as rich as gems. I smiled back.
Like he had bowed to choose his gift, I bowed to accept it.
I held the stone in my open palm to give it proper honor,
loving not just the gift but how it came after the thought
to give. He'd approached me empty-handed, found
what he needed just when he needed it—nothing
planned or stockpiled, as would be my way.
I said, Thank you, and put the stone in my pocket.
He ran back to his father, mother, sister.
A beauty suffused the whole family. Maybe
they were angels. Maybe we all take turns playing
angel. Maybe I did earlier, for another child
who'd come running down the mountain, crying,
Can you help me? I'm lost! So we all are, so often.
And then we're found—someone appears, leads us
back up the path or offers us a talisman of praise,
and once again, we're good enough for now.



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,

~ FEBRUARY 08, 2026 ~ FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY ~

~ 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 *Prelude in C minor from The Well-tempered Clavier, Book Two* J.S. Bach

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Mark McDonough

ENTER THE FLAME & THE WORD

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O Lord, our Lord, how exalted is your name in all the earth!

People: Out of the mouths of infants and children your majesty is praised above the heavens.

Leader: When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

People: what are human beings that you should be mindful of us—mere mortals that you should seek us out?

Leader: Yet, you have made us but a little lower than the angels; you adorn us with glory and honor.

Leader: O Lord, our Lord, how exalted is your name in all the earth!

***HYMN #461** *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rich Grip

**O God who cares for us more than we can imagine,
we pause to confess our wrongdoings.**

We withhold our love, hoard our belongings, and give up hope.

We are not always honest with you and with one another.

In the quietness of our worship, remind us again of your constant love for each of us, the weak, the strong, the poor, the rich, the young, the old. Remind us of your call to share your love with one another.

We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God is good. 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 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 SERMON

CHOIR ANTHEM *Ubi Caritas*

Ola Gjeilo

PRAYER OF PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Jordan (Skip) Dickinson

Our response:

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

HYMN #659 *What Does The Lord Require for Praise*

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Jeremiah 1:4-10; Luke 4:21-30; I Corinthians 13:1-13
Dick Coss

SERMON Who, Me? Rev. Dr. Mark McDonough

OFFERTORY *Honesty* Billy Joel

***DOXOLOGY HYMN #46**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***CLOSING HYMN #670** *All Who Love and Serve Your City*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Fugue in C minor from The Well-tempered Clavier, Book Two*
J.S. Bach

Our thanks to today's scripture reader, Dick Coss;
liturgist, Rich Grip;
acolyte and beadle, Brandon Hiller-DuPont and Sofia Lima;
deacons and ushers, Lee Romano and Marietta and Karl White;
coffee hour hosts, Dotty Thompson and Nora Larsen;
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; for the friends and family of Sandy Cary in the Dorset Church, for our Search Committee; in the Vermont Conference, for the First Congregational Church of Fair Haven, and their pastor, Jane LoBrutto; in the UCC, for everyone working to make a difference in our nationwide climate crisis.

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.

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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Volunteers of **all ages** are invited to serve as acolytes or beadles. This is a meaningful and manageable way to help lead worship, and support is always provided.

Dates needed: February 15, 22; March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; April 5, 12, 19, 26; May 3, 17, 24

If you feel called to serve or would like more information, please contact **Gretchen Lima** at

YOUTH MINISTRY AT THE DORSET CHURCH

F.I.R.E. Youth Group (Ages 11+)

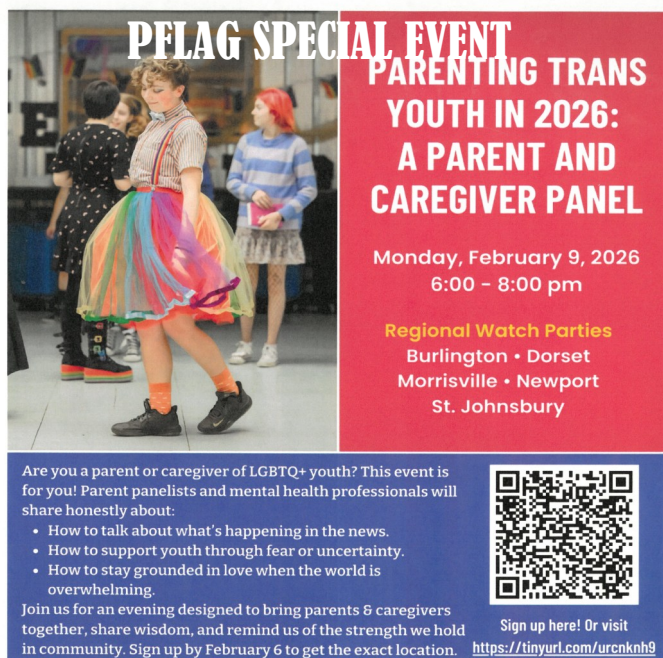
A regional youth group with Dorset Church and other congregations.

Sundays, 2:00–3:30 p.m. at First Congregational Church, Manchester.

Upcoming dates: February 8 & 22, March 8 & 22.

Please Contact Gretchen Lima, text: (973) 900-1485;
email: gretchenlima@aol.com ;church: (802) 362-5548.

PFLAG SPECIAL EVENT
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026
FROM 6:00-8:00 PM
IN THE CHURCH VESTRY



PFLAG SPECIAL EVENT
PARENTING TRANS YOUTH IN 2026: A PARENT AND CAREGIVER PANEL
Monday, February 9, 2026
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Regional Watch Parties
Burlington • Dorset
Morrisville • Newport
St. Johnsbury

Are you a parent or caregiver of LGBTQ+ youth? This event is for you! Parent panelists and mental health professionals will share honestly about:

- How to talk about what's happening in the news.
- How to support youth through fear or uncertainty.
- How to stay grounded in love when the world is overwhelming.

Join us for an evening designed to bring parents & caregivers together, share wisdom, and remind us of the strength we hold in community. Sign up by February 6 to get the exact location.

Sign up here! Or visit <https://tinyurl.com/ureknh9>



UPCOMING MEETINGS

PFLAG today from 2pm-4pm

PFLAG Special Event February 9, 6pm-7pm

Green Team February 11, 11:30am-12:30pm

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

United Church of Dorset & East Rupert
Free Winter Community Supper

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!**

**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.**

*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

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	CFC

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



MANCHESTER COMMUNITY LIBRARY

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, Sandi Hedman, Nora Larsen,
Ellen Leeds,
Chris Lima, 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.), Nora Larsen (Secretary), Henry Chandler
Rev. Jordan (Skip) Dickinson,* (A) Kit Wallace

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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

DIACONATE

Susan Patch-Crandall, Cheryl Gasperetti, Annabelle Liu, Keith Michl,* Liz Schafer,
Pengju Sui, Sid Staunton, Mary True, Lindy Bowden, Lee Romano, Dick Coss, Lynne Welsh

CHANCEL COMMITTEE (Ad hoc committee of Deacons)

Robin Chandler, Lindy Bowden, Ginger Foss

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Elizabeth Karet (A), Nan Leach, Tom Salmon (ex officio), Pengju Sui (A), Roger Squire, Lynne Welsh

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Paula Nassivera* (ex officio) and Gretchen Lima* (A) (Co-Chairs), Don Hiller-Dupont, Ann Honan, Ellen Leeds

FELLOWSHIP

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

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Kris Harvey* (Chair), Betty Hazelton (Secretary), Caroline Sargent (A) (Funeral Coordinator), Candace Parks (Treasurer), Gail Brodie (A), Barbara Urso (A), Richard Urso (A), Sunny Velle, Rose Watrous, Dotty Thompson,
Sara McClintock, Judy Kernodle, Judy Dunn (A), Nan Leach (A)

MISSION COMMITTEE

Richard Urso* (Chair), Sandi Hedman (Trustee Rep.), Janet Chandler (A), 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, Chris Lima,* Tracie Salmon, Sandi Hedman (A), Sue Westin (A), Richard Urso (A)

*Member of the Cabinet (A) Appointed