

UNITED CHURCH OF DORSET AND EAST RUPERT, U.C.C.



Mission Statement

The mission of this open and affirming Church is to instill in its congregation the consciousness of the presence of God in each individual person, to worship God, to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, to celebrate the Sacraments, and to teach and encourage the application of Christian values individually and collectively. The Church community strives to exemplify responsible stewardship of God's creation and to render loving service to all humankind in the search for righteousness, justice and peace.

Article 2, Constitution & By-Laws of the United Church of Dorset and East Rupert

REV. DR. JAMES H. GRAY, PASTOR

JANE A. LOBRUTTO, LICENSED MINISTER/ADMINISTRATOR

LESLIE MAZZUCCO, BOOKKEEPER/ADMINISTRATOR'S ASSISTANT

THOMAS SALMON, MUSIC DIRECTOR

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WORSHIP SERVICE ~ FEBRUARY 5, 2023 ~ FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

SILENT MEDITATION *The greatest achievement was at first and for a time a dream. The oak sleeps in the acorn, the bird waits in the egg, and in the highest vision of the soul a waking angel stirs. Dreams are the seedlings of realities.* -James Allen

PRELUDE *Be Thou My Vision* – Slane/ Matt Hyzer, arr.

WELCOME

ENTER THE ‘FLAME’ AND THE ‘WORD’

Acolyte, Dan Zimmerman Beadle, Sofia L.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Praise the Holy One! Be in awe of God.

P: *Happy are those who delight in the Holy One’s presence!*

L: Fear no evil. Keep your heart firm. Be secure in God!

P: *Happy are those who arise for what is right and just for all.*

L: God protects those who delight in the Holy One’s power! Come, let us worship God together this day.

HYMN: *Go Down, Moses*

1. *When Israel was in Egypt’s land, let my people go;
Oppressed so hard they could not stand, let my people go.*

(refrain)

Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt’s land; tell old Pharaoh to let my people go.

2. *The Lord told Moses what to do, let my people go;
To lead the children of Israel through, let my people go. (refrain)*

3. *They journeyed on at his command, let my people go;
And came at length to Canaan’s land, let my people go. (refrain)*

4. *Oh, let us all from bondage flee, let my people go;
And let us all in Christ be free, let my people go. (refrain)*

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

L: The Lord be with you. **P:** *And also with you.* **L:** Let us pray.:

ALL: *We gather as a community to worship you, O God, in spirit and in truth. May we resist empty actions; as we come together to receive your grace and be transformed, healed and renewed. Feed us this day, O Lord and we come to your table of remembrance as one family in Christ’s name we pray. Amen.*

*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.*

*GLORIA PATRI #35

*Glory be to the Father
and to the Son, 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 YOUNG

CHOIR ANTHEM *Down to the River to Pray* – Sheldon Curry, arr.

PRAYER OF PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Jordan (Skip) Dickinson

Our response: ***O God of all creation, be our hope and trust.***

HYMN *In the Bleak Midwinter*

- 1. In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*
- 2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*
- 3. Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.*
- 4. What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 2:13-16

Dick Coss

SERMON

Rescuing Jesus

Rev. Dr. Jim Gray

OFFERTORY *Be thou My Vision* Slane/Paul Manz, arr.

DOXOLOGY #46 *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN (CH) #393 *Once Bread, One Body*

WORDS OF INVITATION

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *Most loving God, we confess that we have seen much pain without being moved to compassion. We have begged forgiveness from others, while hoarding our own charity. We have gathered our own tranquility at the expense of peace of others and creation. Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy upon us. Amen.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LITANY OF PREPARATION

L: God be with you.

P: *And also with you.*

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: *We lift them up to God.*

L: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

P: *It is right to give God praise and thanks.*

L: Therefore, with all the communion of saints we praise,

P: *Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of Your glory.*

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *(It is our tradition to partake in unison.)*

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** *We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we may experience Christ and receive his gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.*

***CLOSING HYMN** (CH) # 183 *We Meet You, O Christ*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *If God Himself Be For Me* - Durrow/Dale Wood, arr.

*Our thanks to Nora Larsen for the flowers this morning
In loving memory of her mother, Doris Ibbetson
Who would have celebrated her 101st birthday this week.*

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: Ann Healy; Stephanie & Steven Blake; Gary Wilkins; Sofia; Dan Pinsonault; Sandy Cary; Noemi; Elizabeth LaBerge; Chase Birkheimer; Jonny D.; Darlene Brown; Karen Statler; Nancy; Tom Brass; Eric Stevenson; Carol and Neil Groty; Cathy Linde; Jim Ameden; Robbie Littlewood; Isabella Wassick; Karen De Mascio; Pam LaCoste; Theo Cherry; Carl Hedman; Nicole, Cari Komline; Linda and Dick Buswell; Wenda Amee; Jacqueline Denis; Annie Bancroft & Sarah Faith D.; Cindy Dunham; Brian Bean, Bob West, Norman Ameden, Gregory Sargent, Kate Hill, Gerald Jones; Josh Diego; and in the Dorset Church, for Craig Herbert, our Naylor and Breen Project Manager for updating our vestry; in the Vermont Conference for the Brandon Congregational Church; and in the UCC for **Create Playspace** with the President, Rev. John Dorhauer, general minister and president wanted to see exactly how interactive and inclusive Mission Central's technology could be. So he is inviting the wider church into Mission Central over the course of the next four months—creating “play space” in a series of discussions around issues that matter.

LONG-TERM PRAYER CONCERNS: Pastor Falane; Tom Shanahan; Naweedullah; Mustafa; Desiree Hazelton; Brian, Amanda, Sophie and Benjamin Krauss; Patricia Bono; Dottie Hinkle; Miles, Dan and Leigh Krauss; Martha Bowen; David Parsons; Amber Lundberg; Bob & Joann Jesberg; Linda Webster; Chip Wilson; Joe Crawford; Linda Sargent; Matthew Hill; Bentley Lewis; Richard Krauss; Hazel Prouty; Ronald Lamb; Toni-Ann Pearsall; Deb Sharp; Ken and Carol Shippey; James Jankowski; Mary Abbott Ludki; Tyler Kennedy; McKenzie Cahill; Rand Snyderman; Chris Waker; Pat Oltman; Shelly Krauss and Hershel; Marcus Noble; Ched Evans; Barbara West; Claire; Vern James; Jameson Gray Pelton; Maryann Dellinger; Sarah Quinlan; Ginny & Jim Lucas; Toddy Quinlan; Jennifer H.; Debbie Michota; Kimberly & Michael White; Judy Dunn; Evelyn Tobin; Cassia Duran; Charlie Thompson; Emily Metcalf; Reeve & Essie Cantus; Chris Willis; Julia Pitcher; Calder; Jennifer Cready; Rich; Chris C.; Liz LaVigne; Linda Bushee; Joe V.; Kyle; John Bordner; Mark Miksis; Grace Wise; Shirley Simpson; Fergus Cochran; Monroe Parks; Dody Daly; Amy Dunn; Douglas White; Mary Buchmayer; Doris Chartrand; Sue Bamford; George Smith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

W A R N I N G

The members of the United Church of Dorset and East Rupert are hereby warned to meet in the church vestry on **Sunday, February 12, 2023** at approximately 11:30 AM to transact the following business:

1. To act on the annual reports of the officers and committees of the church as prepared.
2. To act on the proposed operating budget for 2023 as submitted by the trustees.
3. To elect church officers and committee members for 2023.
4. To consider any other business which may properly come before the meeting.

MEALS ON WHEELS OF BENNINGTON COUNTY is seeking a volunteer to assist with delivering meals to 3 clients in Rupert. This volunteer would meet someone in Manchester once a week, on Mondays, and then drive the meals to the clients residing in Rupert.

Reply-To: Lenora Volkmer at lvolkmer@svcoa.net

MEALS ON WHEELS is also seeking local drivers for the Bennington area.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in assisting with either of these opportunities, please let me know. ****these volunteers must have a background check completed if they have not already done so.**** Reply-To: Lenora Volkmer at lvolkmer@svcoa.net

PLEASE HELP US KEEP THE CHURCH BEAUTIFUL The **2023 flower chart** is hanging on the furnace room door. Please sign up to provide flowers for the altar.

FAITH INNSIDE began on **Friday, January 13th at 9:30 AM.—BUT THERE IS STILL TIME TO JOIN THE GROUP.** Rev. Gray has ordered , *Starry Messenger: Cosmic Perspectives on Civilization* by Neil deGrasse Tyson for the study this winter. The books are \$18.00 each. Please call the office to reserve your copy at 802-867-2260

HOLD THE DATE! THE ANNUAL MEETING will be held on **Sunday, February 12, 2023 at 11:30 AM.**

BENNINGTON COUNTY OPEN ARMS—is looking for someone to help the six refugee families with filing their taxes. Please contact Richard Urso at 201-310-4944.Thank you.

MOCKTAIL PARTY SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2023 SHOW AND MOVIE TUNES

Come and join us for canapés, Hors d'oeuvres with Shirley Temple mocktails before we “*Shuffle off to Buffalo*” (the Sanctuary) for an hour of Broadway Show and Hollywood Movie Tunes—What better way to begin your Saturday evening among friends as we listen to the choir entertain us all. **We will begin at 5:00 PM .**

RENOVATION WILL BEGIN IN THE VESTRY ON FEBRUARY 6TH . THIS MEANS THAT THE KITCHEN AND THE ENTIRE VESTRY WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL THE JOB IS FINISHED. We will do our best to make arrangements for coffee hours, annual meeting and any other events to be held in the upper room. The entire process should take about two months. Volunteers would be appreciated to help move the containers of items from the vestry and kitchen to the pod which will arrive very soon. If you are willing to help out just call the office to let us know.

COFFEE HOUR will be held in the **UPPER ROOM** during renovations to the vestry and kitchen. Light refreshments and beverages will be provided. Two Hospitality Committee members and two co-hosts are needed each week to set-up co-hosts are needed each week to set-up, serve, and clean-up. Donations of cookies are welcome and if you don't bake, help us to clean up afterwards. Many hands make light work and you can sign-up in the office. Please help us to continue this important ministry of hospitality.

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2 (NIV)

Thanks from your Hospitality Committee

SAVE THE DATE! The grocery shopping trips are back! Save on gas, groceries and carbon emissions all at once. **On Thursday, February 23, at 9 am** those wanting to shop at Aldi's in Bennington will board the church bus in the church parking lot. Bring your bags and a list! The new bus is bigger than the old one so bring a friend if you like.

RESERVATIONS should be made through the office at 802-867-2260.



**UNFORTUNATELY
DUE TO OUR RENOVATION OF THE VESTRY
OUR LAST FREE COMMUNITY SUPPER
PLANNED FOR MARCH 23RD
HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

**IF ALL GOES WELL
AND THE RENOVATION IS COMPLETED ON TIME
WE WILL RESCHEDULE A FREE SPRING SUPPER
AND ENJOY OUR UPDATED SURROUNDINGS**

CHURCH DIRECTORY 2022

PASTOR.....Rev. Dr. James H. Gray*

LICENSED MINISTER/ ADMINISTRATOR.....Jane A. LoBrutto*

PASTORAL ASSISTANTRev. Jordan (Skip) Dickinson

BOOKKEEPER/ADMINISTRATOR'S ASSISTANT Leslie Mazzucco

MUSIC DIRECTORTom Salmon

SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR..... Paula Mann Nassivera

MODERATOR.....Lori Hong*

CLERK..... Linda O'Leary*

TREASURER.....Andrew Longacre*

MEMBER-AT-LARGE..... Al Lindsey*

CHURCH DELEGATES.....Kris Harvey, Joel Ario, Nora Larsen, Holly Ross

MANSE LIAISONGay and Roger Squire

TRUSTEES

Julie Citron, Martha Eyman, Kit Wallace, Patrick McGuire, Steve Holman,
Lori Hong, Sandi Hedman, David Chandler*, Scott Stewart

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Scott Stewart, Trustee Rep.; Steve Holman, Bruce Welsh

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Andrew Longacre, Treasurer; Ellen Maloney, Scott Stewart, Chair, (Trustee Rep.) Phil Peterson

STEWARDSHIP

Karen Allen, Jack Gilbert, Bill Bridges (A), Rev. Jordan (Skip) Dickinson* (A),
Lori Hong, (Trustee Rep.), Jane LoBrutto

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Karen Allen, Staff Rep., Steve Holman, Trustee Rep., Al Lindsay, Henry Chandler

DIACONATE

Robin Chandler, Angie Florence, Ginger Foss, Keith Michl, Shawn Hazelton*, Co-Chair; Stacy Meszaros,
Karl White, Sue Westin, Secretary; Merrick Counsell, Ellen Leeds*, Co-Chair; Dan Zimmerman, Lynne Welsh

CHANCEL COMMITTEE (Ad hoc committee of Deacons)

Robin Chandler, Lindy Bowden and Ginger Foss

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Lee Romano, Peter Davis, Steve Holman, Elizabeth Karet*, Tom Salmon (ex officio)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Paula Nassivera*, Chair (ex officio); Ellen Leeds, Gretchen Lima, Tom Salmon, Youth Leader (ex officio),
Annabelle Liu, Heather McGuire, Kelly Gaiotti

FELLOWSHIP

Derry Dickinson*, Chair; Ginny Longacre, Secretary; Linda O'Leary*, Vice Chair; Betsy Olson, Treasurer

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Nora Larsen*, Chair; Betsy Olson, Judy Dunn, Betty Hazelton, Secretary, Caroline Sargent, Funeral Coordinator;
Dotty Thompson, Candace Parks, Treasurer; Luella Parks; Gail Brodie (A), Linda Drunsic (A), Nan Leach (A)

MISSION COMMITTEE

Janet Chandler, Martha Eyman, Daniela Stewart*, Chair, Cheryl Gasperetti,
Jen Parent (A), Rev. Jordan (Skip) Dickinson (A)

GREEN TEAM COMMITTEE (Ad hoc committee of Mission Committee)

Ellen Maloney, Chair; Nancy Faesy, Bill Bridges, Sandi Hedman, Nan Leach, John Pitcher, Caroline Sargent,
Ginny Longacre, Skip Dickinson, Candace Parks, Tom Salmon, Nora Larsen, Ellen Leeds

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

David Chandler, Trustee Rep.; Merrick Counsell, Deacon Rep.
Al Lindsey, Member-at-Large; Roger Squire and Peter Davis, Pastor Reps.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Linda O'Leary, Betsy Olson, Richard Grip, Alex Gray, Colleen LaChac, and Dick Coss

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Merrick Counsell, Rob Gaiotti, Jane LoBrutto (Admin), Leslie Mazzucco (A), Tom Salmon (A) Sue Westin

SEXTON.....Lynn and Pete Jennings

*Member of the Cabinet (A) Appointed