

**The Congregational Church of Rupert
1786 Meeting House
March 22, 2026**



Everyone is Welcome Here!

Mission of the Congregational Church of Rupert

The mission of CCR is to seek to follow Jesus' teachings in his Sermon on the Mount, and to practice the words of Micah by living justly, by being kind and compassionate while walking with God in all humility.

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Pastor and Teacher
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Jeff Linebeck

Organist

Polly Lathrop, R.N. BSN

Parish Nurse

*signifies you should stand if you are able, bold signifies congregation speaks in unison.

Prelude

Jeff Linebeck

Welcome to the Historic 1786 Rupert Meeting House:

Call to Worship

In the name of the triune God: the Creator, the Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Our help is in the name of the Holy One, who made heaven and earth.

Praise the Lord

The Lord's name be praised!

***Hymn #70 (New Century Hymnal – Black) God Is Here! Verse 1,2**

Confessional Psalm Reading Psalm 130 (KJV) Waiting for Divine Redemption

Prayer of Confession

Out of the depths we cry unto thee, O Lord.

² Lord, hear my voice: let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.

³ If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?

⁴ But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.

⁵ We wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.

⁶ My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning.

Lord have mercy upon us and forgive our iniquities.

Assurance of Pardon

³¹“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant ³³This is the covenant I will make ...,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” Jeremiah 31:31, 33-34

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

*Pastoral Prayer (In your mercy. **Lord, hear our prayer**)*

Please keep the following in Prayer: Val, Elizabeth, John, Carolyn B., Diane L., Ed B., Don L Tracy & family, Chris Steel, Jack Westrate, Jessica, Jamie, Oliver, John Jahanian, Alex & Setsu Carter, Andy and Ginny, Yacov Afiley, Sam and Changwa Koo, Jeanne DeYcaza, Kim Lockwood Schaniel, Meghan Bailey, Hayden. Those suffering with cancer and other diseases. Those who have lost loved ones in 2025 and 2026. We thank God for hearing our prayers and for granting us and those for whom we pray peace. Amen

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen.

Offertory

Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below, Praise God above, Ye Heavenly Host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen
(Tune: Old Hundredth from “Genevan Psalter”, 1551)

Dedication

Scripture

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

The Valley of Dry Bones

37 The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. **2** He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. **3** He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” **4** Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. **5** Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath^[a] to enter you, and you shall live. **6** I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath^[b] in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

7 So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. **8** I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. **9** Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath:^[c] Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath,^[d] and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” **10** I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

11 Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ **12** Therefore prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. **13** And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. **14** I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

Romans 8:6-11 (NRSVUE)

6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. **7** For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed, it cannot, **8** and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. **10** But if Christ is in

you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through^[e] his Spirit that dwells in you.

Hymn #283 (NCH Black) Spirit of the Living God

John 11:1-45 (NRSVUE) The Death of Lazarus

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus,^[a] “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus^[b] was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸ The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹ Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them.” ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” ¹² The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.”^[c] ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin,^[d] said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus^[e] had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.”²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life.^[f] Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never

News/Calendar

◀ Please bring nonperishable food to church to be donated to the CCR Sharing Shelf ▶

News

Upcoming Meetinghouse Events 2026

All are Welcome

◆ ◆ Check rupertchurch.org for dates/times ◆ ◆

Alcoholics Anonymous Every Thursday 7pm

(On hiatus until April 2026)

In 2026 the Congregational Church of Rupert will be celebrating its 240th year of existence. For some years we have been working to revitalize this historic 1786 Rupert Meeting-house – which is the oldest meetinghouse in Vermont in continuous operation. We are raising funds to redo our kitchen and to make our restrooms ADA compliant. Our mission is to be a healthy place for all people in our community and surrounding area. We are deeply grateful to all of you who have contributed to help us keep our doors open. We gladly accept donations for our Abundant Harvest Sharing Shelf Program of healthy food distribution, our Warming Fund to keep people warm for the winter and our CSA which supports our community with healthy produce from the: Yoder Family, Shed Light, Larson Family, Someday, Earth-Sky-Time Farms, and other local farms.

Calendar

March

20 SPRING ARRIVES!! 🌸

28 Healing Ancestral Trauma with Louise Schneider 10-2pm

April

..1Passover begins at sundown

2 Maundy Thursday

3 Good Friday

Would you like to make a gift to the 1786 Meeting House?

Scan the QR Code or enter the website address below to be taken to a website where you can make a donation to help keep Vermont's oldest continuously operating Congregational Church in going into the 21st Century and/or help us meet our renovation goals. Thank you!



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