

**The Congregational Church of Rupert
1786 Meeting House
March 15, 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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Organist
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*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

Announcements

Call to Worship

We gather in the presence of the Lord, our Shepherd, who walks beside us with love and care. We call upon God trusting in Gods protection, goodness and mercy.

Unison Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. ³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. ⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

***Hymn ##252 (New Century Hymnal – Black) Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us**

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., Tracy & family, Don L., Chris Steel, Jack Westrate, Jessica, Oliver, John Jahanian, Alex & Setsu Carter, Andy and Ginny, Yacov Afiley, Sam and Changwa Koo, Jeanne DeYcaza, Kim Lockwood Schaniel, Meghan Bailey. 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

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord, so live your life as children of light. ⁹Light produces fruit that consists of every sort of goodness, justice, and truth. ¹⁰Therefore, test everything to see what's pleasing to the Lord, ¹¹and don't participate in the unfruitful actions of darkness. Instead, you should reveal the truth about them. ¹²It's embarrassing to even talk about what certain persons do in secret. ¹³But everything exposed to the light is revealed by the light. ¹⁴Everything that is revealed by the light is light. Therefore, it says, *Wake up, sleeper!^[a] Get up from the dead,^[b] and Christ will shine on you.^[c]* (Footnotes Isaiah 26:19, 60:1)

Contemporary Epistle When You Gonna Wake Up? Written by Bob Dylan

God don't make no promises that He don't keep
You got some big dreams, baby, but in order to dream you gotta still be asleep
When you gonna wake up, when you gonna wake up
When you gonna wake up and strengthen the things that remain?
Counterfeit philosophies have polluted all of your thoughts

Karl Marx has got ya by the throat, Henry Kissinger's got you tied up in knots
When you gonna wake up, when you gonna wake up
When you gonna wake up and strengthen the things that remain?
You got innocent men in jail, your insane asylums are filled
You got unrighteous doctors dealing drugs that'll never cure your ills
When you gonna wake up, when you gonna wake up
When you gonna wake up and strengthen the things that remain?
You got men who can't hold their peace and women who can't control their tongues
The rich seduce the poor and the old are seduced by the young
When you gonna wake up, when you gonna wake up
When you gonna wake up and strengthen the things that remain?
Adulterers in churches and pornography in the schools
You got gangsters in power and lawbreakers making rules
When you gonna wake up, when you gonna wake up
When you gonna wake up and strengthen the things that remain?
Spiritual advisors and gurus to guide your every move
Instant inner peace and every step you take has got to be approved
When you gonna wake up, when you gonna wake up
When you gonna wake up and strengthen the things that remain?
Do you ever wonder just what God requires?
You think He's just an errand boy to satisfy your wandering desires
When you gonna wake up, when you gonna wake up
When you gonna wake up and strengthen the things that remain?
You can't take it with you and you know that it's too worthless to be sold
They tell you, "Time is money," as if your life was worth its weight in gold
When you gonna wake up, when you gonna wake up
When you gonna wake up and strengthen the things that remain?
There's a Man up on a cross and He's been crucified for you,
Believe in his power that's really all you got to do.
When you gonna wake up, when you gonna wake up
When you gonna wake up and strengthen the things that remain?

John 9 (NRSVUE) A Man Born Blind Receives Sight

⁹ As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We^[a] must work the works of him who sent me^[b] while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ When

he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus^[c] to be the Messiah^[d] would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a

person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Spiritual Blindness

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”^[e] ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir?^[f] Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord,^[g] I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

Hymn #547 (NCH Black) Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Homily

Jesus Gonna Make You Well

Rev. Dr. Steve Berry

Gabriel's Mother's Highway Ballad #16 Blues lyrics by Arlo Guthrie

Woke up this morning with my head in
my hand
Come on, children, come on
The snow was falling all over the land
Come on, children, come on
I don't know but I've been told
Come on, children, come on
That the streets of heaven have all been
sold
Come on, children, come on

Chorus:

**Come on, children, all come home
Jesus gonna make you well
Come on, people, now its time to go
Go to where a man can dwell**

Well the sun come up while I wrote this
song
Come on, children, come on
To remind me well that it won't be long
Come on children come on

Chorus

Come on, Gabriel, blow that thing
Come on, children come on

All God's children got to dance and sing
Come on, children come on
All God's children got to sing and shout
Come on, children, come on
There ain't nobody 'round bound to kick
you out
Come on, children, come on
One of these days we'll all be there
Come on, children, come on
Seeing those wheels way up in the air
Come on, children, come on

Come on everybody now what's it worth
Come on, children, come on
To make a heaven out of this earth
Come on, children, come on

Chorus

Moses gonna make you well
You know even Daniel's gonna make you
well
Jesus gonna make you well
Mm, mm, gonna make you well

Benediction

Postlude: (It is our custom to remain seated during the Postlude)

Jeff Linebeck



News

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

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 that supports our community with healthy produce from: Yoder Family Farm, Shed Light Farm, The Larson Family Farm, Someday Farm, Earth-Sky-Time Farm, and other local farms.

Check out - Things Hidden: The Life and Legacy of Rene Girard www.youtube.com@thingshiddenmovie. Steve Berry Associate Producer. There is also a conversation with director Sam Sorich, Steve Berry and host Jamie Gage produced at GNAT Early last year

Calendar

March

17 St. Patrick's Day "Faith an' Begorra!" ❁

20 SPRING ARRIVES!! 🌱

28 Healing Ancestral Trauma with Louise Schneider 10-2pm

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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