

**The Congregational Church of Rupert
1786 Meeting House
February 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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Pastor and Teacher
802-733-6522
Organist
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

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

People: Praise the Lord

The Lords name be praised!

***Hymn #4 (New Century Hymnal/Black) Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You**
Contemporary Epistle

The Light of One Small Candle

There is not enough darkness in all the world to put out the light of one small candle... In moments of discouragement, defeat or even despair, there are always certain things to cling to. Little things usually: remembered laughter, the face of a sleeping child, a tree in the wind – in fact, any reminder of something deeply felt or dearly loved. None is so poor as not to have many of these small candles. When they are lighted, darkness goes away and a touch of wonder remains.

~ Arthur Gordon in A TOUCH OF WONDER~

Sung Response: This Little Light of Mine

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

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

Please keep the following in Prayer:

Please keep the following in Prayer: Prayer: Val, Elizabeth, John, Carolyn B., , Diane L., Tracy and family, Don L., Chris Steel, Jack Westrate, Jessica, Jamie, Oliver, John Jahanian, Ed B., Alex and Setsu Carter, Andy and Ginny, Yacov Afiley, Jeanne DeYcaza, Jim Bound. Those suffering with cancer and other diseases. Those who have lost loved ones in 2025. Those who are traveling. 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

Isaiah 58 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

False and True Worship

58 Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side.

³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. ⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.” If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹ The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden,

like a spring of water whose waters never fail.

¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

1 Corinthians 2 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

Proclaiming Christ Crucified

2 When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

The True Wisdom of God

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the

world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. ¹³ And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

Matthew 5:13-20 (The Message)

Salt and Light

¹³ “Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You’ve lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ “Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

Completing God’s Law

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ “Don’t suppose for a minute that I have come to demolish the Scriptures—either God’s Law or the Prophets. I’m not here to demolish but to complete. I am going to put it all together, pull it all together in a vast panorama. God’s Law is more real and lasting than the stars in the sky and the ground at your feet. Long after stars burn out and earth wears out, God’s Law will be alive and working.^{c19-20} “Trivialize even the smallest item in God’s Law and you will only have trivialized yourself. But take it seriously, show the way for others, and you will find honor in the kingdom. Unless you do far better than the Pharisees in the matters of right living, you won’t know the first thing about entering the kingdom.

Hymn #531 (NCH/ black) God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

Homily Repairing and Restoring Rev. Dr. Steve Berry

***Hymn # 489 (NCH/Black) I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say**

Benediction

Postlude:

Jeff Linebeck

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



Upcoming Meetinghouse Events 2026

Check rupertchurch.org for dates/times of upcoming events including farm events, educational and music programs

Alcoholics Anonymous Every Thursday 7pm
(On hiatus until April)



In 2026 the Congregational Church of Rupert is celebrating its 240th year of existence. For some years we have been working to revitalize this historic 1786 Rupert Meetinghouse – 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 the Yoder Family Farm, Shed Light Farm, The Larson Family Farm, Someday Farm, Earth-Sky-Time Farm, and other local farms.

**Please help us continue our ministry by making a gift to the
Congregational Church of Rupert, Vermont**



Scan the QR Code or enter the website address below to be taken to a website where you can make a donation. Your gift will also help us keep Vermont's oldest continuously operating Meetinghouse going and enable us to meet our renovation goals. **Thank you!**

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=YLMN3FCHGXP2Y&source=qr

Check out - Things Hidden: The Life and Legacy of Rene Girard

www.youtube.com@thingshiddenmovie . Steve Berry is the Associate Producer. There is also a conversation

with director Sam Sorich, Steve Berry and host Jamie Gage produced at GNAT television.

February 21 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

A WINTER GATHERING OF OUR CHURCHES
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026
9:00 AM—2:00 PM

Tentative Schedule for the Day

9:00 Gather and fellowship

9:15 Opening Prayer and Worship

9:30 Plenary Session and Discussion groups

“Models for being Church
in a Post/Problematic Christian times”

11:00-First elective slot

12:00 Lunch

1:00 - Second Elective Slot

1:50 -Closing prayer

Electives

Flaming the Fire-discerning
your gifts and callings

How to effectively lead meetings

Practices for Lent-personal and corporate

