

**The Congregational Church of Rupert
1786 Meeting House
March 1, 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.

Steven E. Berry DD, DMin.
drsteveberry@icloud.com

Pastor and Teacher
802-733-6522

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:

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.

Praise the Lord

The Lord's name be praised

***Hymn #14 (Pilgrim Hymnal) The God of Abraham Praise**

Psalms 121 (King James Version) Read Responsively

121 I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

² My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.

³ He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

⁴ Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.

⁶ The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

⁷The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.

⁸The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

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

Please keep the following in Prayer: 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. 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

Genesis 12:1-4 (Common English Bible)

Abram's family moves to Canaan

12 The Lord said to Abram, "Leave your land, your family, and your father's household for the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you,
those who curse you I will curse;
all the families of the earth
will be blessed because of you."

⁴ Abram left just as the Lord told him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran.

Romans 4:1-5 (Common English Bible)

Abraham's faith was credited as righteousness

4 So what are we going to say? Are we going to find that Abraham is our ancestor on the basis of genealogy? ² Because if Abraham was made righteous because of his actions, he would have had a reason to brag, but not in front of God. ³ What does the scripture say? *Abraham had faith in God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.* ⁴ Workers' salaries aren't credited to them on the basis of an employer's grace but rather on the basis of what they deserve. ⁵ But faith is credited as righteousness to those who don't work, because they have faith in God who makes the ungodly righteous.

John 3:1-17 (Common English Bible)

Jesus and Nicodemus

3 There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a Jewish leader. ² He came to Jesus at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could do these miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him."

³ Jesus answered, "I assure you, unless someone is born anew,^[a] it's not possible to see God's kingdom."

⁴ Nicodemus asked, "How is it possible for an adult to be born? It's impossible to enter the mother's womb for a second time and be born, isn't it?"

⁵ Jesus answered, "I assure you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it's not possible to enter God's kingdom. ⁶ Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Don't be surprised that I said to you, 'You must be born anew.' ⁸ God's Spirit^[b] blows wherever it wishes. You hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. It's the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

⁹ Nicodemus said, "How are these things possible?"

¹⁰ "Jesus answered, "You are a teacher of Israel and you don't know these things?¹¹ I assure you that we speak about what we know and testify about what we have seen, but you don't receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you don't believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Human One.^[c] ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One^[d] be lifted up ¹⁵ so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.¹⁶ God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. ¹⁷ God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him isn't judged; whoever doesn't believe in him is already judged, because they don't believe in the name of God's only Son.¹⁹ "This is the basis for judgment: The light came into the world, and people loved darkness more than the light, for their actions are evil. ²⁰ All who do wicked things hate the light and don't come to the light for fear that their actions will be exposed to the light. ²¹ Whoever does the truth comes to the light so that it can be seen that their actions were done in God."

Footnotes: a) John 3:3 Or from above b) John 3:8 Or wind c) John 3:13,3:14 Or Son of man

Hymn # 605 (NCH Black) As Moses Raised the Serpent Up

Homily

Big Questions

Rev. Dr. Steve Berry

Communion

Hymn # 474 (NCH Black) I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me

Benediction

Postlude:

Jeff Linebeck

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



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 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.

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 Early last year.

Calendar

March

3 Purim – Jewish holiday where Queen Esther saves them from destruction

8 Daylight Saving Time Begins - **SPRING AHEAD: DON'T BE BE LATE FOR CHURCH!!!**

14 π Pi Day – Eat some pie!

15 Beware!

17 St. Patrick's Day "Faith an' Begorrah!" 🍀

20 SPRING ARRIVES!! 🌱

29 Palm Sunday Hosannah!

April

..3 Good Friday

5 EASTER He is risen! He is Risen indeed!



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!



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