

## SILENT MEDITATION

### **Underground**

by Peter Meister

*A tree is not a forest. On its own, a tree cannot establish a consistent local climate. It is at the mercy of wind and weather. But together, many trees . . .*

—Peter Wohlleben, *The Hidden Life of Trees*,  
translated by Jane Billingham

Friends, Meeting. Twenty or thirty of us.  
Taking your seat you could mistake us for  
twenty or thirty travelers on a bus,

a London tube, an Amtrak car. Unless  
you still prefer—need—to help your neighbor.  
Friends Meeting. Twenty or so of us.

Chatty wren. Never been told, I guess,  
filibustering's not exactly kosher.  
Twenty or thirty riders on a bus,

each unique with a common focus.  
Taking a seat you could believe we were  
a Quaker Meeting. Maybe thirty of us.

The Pope would fit right in. He's one of us,  
finding the face of God everywhere.  
Twenty or thirty mortals on a bus.

Roots, we are learning, have an urge to nourish  
their neighborhood. Find and feed each other.  
Twenty or thirty people on a bus.  
Friends Meeting. Couple dozen of us.

**The United Church of Dorset & East Rupert**

**143 Church Street, Dorset, VT 05251**

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**802-867-2260**

**[dorsetchurch@gmail.com](mailto:dorsetchurch@gmail.com),**

**[www.dorsetchurch.org](http://www.dorsetchurch.org),**

**Office Hours: Monday -Thursday 8-4,**

**Friday 8-12**

**All people are welcome here**



~ WORSHIP SERVICE ~ JULY 26, 2026 ~ NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~

## **NURSERY CARE AND CHURCH SCHOOL**

Babies and children are invited, welcomed, and encouraged in our worship services. Worship bags filled with activities are available in the narthex for use during the service, and a rocker is located at the back of the sanctuary for parents with babies and toddlers. A small nursery area downstairs in the Vestry, with a livestream of the service, is also available for parents who wish to stay with their children. Children in Pre-K through grade 7 are invited to join us downstairs for church school following the children's message.

**PRELUDE** *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me* Traditional Spiritual/Mark Hayes, arr.

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS** Rev. Dr. Mark McDonough

## **WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Creator of the world, eternal God,

**People: we have come from many places for a little while.**

Leader: Redeemer of humanity, God-with-us,

**People: we have come with all our differences, seeking common ground.**

Leader: Spirit of unity, go-between God,

**People: we have come on journeys of our own, to a place where journeys meet.**

Leader: So here, in this sanctuary, let us take time together,

**People: for when paths cross and pilgrims gather, there is much to share and celebrate.**

**\*HYMN #528** *Give Thanks*

### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Joel Ario

Loving and generous God, you desire that we live fully,  
yet we confess we are reluctant to open our hands, our hearts,  
and our minds to receive all you have to give us.

Scrambling for scraps, suspicious and resentful of those who  
expose us to their poverty and ask us to share, we miss the feast  
of living thankfully and generously.

Forgive us.

May your grace spill over into our lives. And may we receive your  
gifts with grateful wonder and share our abundance with joy.

## **MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news!

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone;

a new life has begun.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Know that the Spirit of the risen Christ inspires you and rejoices.

### **\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: Since God has made us the blessed community, the Church, let us greet one another with the peace and joy of Christ. The peace and joy of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

### **\*RESPONSE #36 *Gloria Patri***

## **PRAYER OF PASTORAL CARE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Rev. Jordan (Skip) Dickinson

**Our response:**

Restore us again, **O God of our salvation.**

## **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.

## **SPECIAL MUSIC *Here's One***

Traditional American Spiritual/Mark Hayes, arr.

## **WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** I Corinthians 12:4-14; Galatians 5:1, 13 & 14 Liz Schafer

**SERMON** The Bonds of Freedom

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**OFFERTORY** *What a Friend We Have In Jesus*

Charles C. Converse/ Mark Hayes, arr

## DOXOLOGY #46



Use this QR

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN #452 *Here I Am, Lord*

### \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Mark McDonough

POSTLUDE *Revive Us Again*

Traditional American Spiritual/Mark Hayes, arr.

The flowers this morning are given by Julie Easton.  
Our thanks to today's scripture reader, Liz Schafer;  
liturgist, Joel Ario;  
deacons and ushers, Sue Crandall, Robin Chandler, and  
Marietta and Karl White;  
coffee hour hosts, Betty Hazelton, Pam Gilbert, and Sarah McClintock;  
tech crew, Chris Lima, Patrick Honan, Eliza Olrich, and Puck Bell.

**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:** Staff Sargent Houston Wood and family; Stephen Cummins; Betty Hazelton; Kurt Silberschmidt; Gretchen Lima; Peter Salmon; Master SGT Ryan Bowles; Scott Wallace; Luella Parks; Ellen Maloney; Jonathan Dickinson; Sarah Faith Dickinson; Oliver Fox Buckner; Angel May Kalenquin; Ann Troumbley; Meghan Gill; Barbara Gill; Eric Perry; Cathy Condon; Emma Ingison; Mark Cassidy; Jimmy Weiss; Jeff Duel; Robin Hoag; Larry Cochran; Damon Wilder; Howard Day; Pete Ianacone; Donna Harris; Marianne Bacon; Robby Littlewood; Tom Drunsic; Linda Bushee; Mason; Jim Goodwin; Donna Tonic; friends and family of Douglas Zeher; in the Dorset Church, for our church staff; in the Vermont Conference, for the Congregational Church of Rupert, and their pastor, Rev. Dr. Steve Berry; in the UCC, for participants of "Over the Edge" who will rappel 255 feet over the roof of a building to raise funds for Adoption Network Cleveland.

**LONG-TERM PRAYER CONCERNS:** George Bush; Norma O., Bill Auperlee, Craig Jaxson, and Jacob Smith; Diane; Millie Holland; Michael Chambers; Patrick Denis; Dody Marcotte; Eric Parks; Tim Velie; Kris; Kay Kwasniewski; Robbie Littlewood; Elizabeth LaBerge; Dottie Hinkle; Chip Wilson; Hazel Prouty; James Jankowski; Jameson Gray Pelton; Evelyn Tobin; Shelby Baughn; Cassia Duran; Rich; George Smith; Jack; Jonathan Dickinson; Judy Dunn; Alan Wiegand; Steve Larsen; Steve and Val Smith.

## Hello From Sunday School!

Since Summer Sunday School is only in its second year, we're trying out a short monthly post to keep our congregation up to date on "just what are our children doing in church school this summer?" Well, the answer is plenty!

Our classroom has been full of activity with our summer theme "Seeing God in Nature." We are truly blessed to have so much expertise among us. Longtime congregation member and artist John Pitcher led us in a two-week Nature Journaling workshop. He brought in several of his amazing field journals and nature paintings to show us how he captures the details of wildflowers and leaves. Then we passed out journals and colored pencils to the kids for exploring and drawing their own. We found hosta leaves, a six-legged spider, and red impatiens (hmmm, guess where?).

For these midsummer weeks in July, our environmental expert and SS assistant Ann Honan is leading a workshop on birds in the Bible and birds around us. Come check out our classroom, which is full of sticks and grass, birch bark, horsehair, vines, and moss for our bird nest building activity. We continue to be amazed at how quickly the birds build them and how each nest is such an intricate and sturdy home for their eggs to safely hatch. What a beautiful world God has given us!

"Praise the Lord from the Earth" - Psalm 148:7

## Hatha Yoga Class

Join us upstairs at the Dorset Church on Saturday mornings from **8:30–9:30**, August 8 through September 12. This free, mixed level class welcomes both beginners and experienced practitioners. Please bring a mat and any props you enjoy using.

Questions? Contact **Desiree Hensel** at **812-606-6078** or [hensenursinged@gmail.com](mailto:hensenursinged@gmail.com).

## UPCOMING FUNERALS

Sherrie Baker - Saturday, August 1

@ 12:00

Arthur Ward Gilbert - Monday, August 3

@ 10:00



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Hospitality, August 25 @ 10:00

No Cabinet Meetings July & August

No Deacons Meeting July & August

The CaringBridge Official Website is a free online website for sharing health updates with family and friends, in one place. Our dear friend Gretchen Lima uses this site for sharing her health news. If you would like to follow Gretchen in her journey, please go to [CaringBridge.org](http://CaringBridge.org), look for Gretchen's name, and click on the link.

**Our Vote is our Voice!**  
The ***Truth and Justice Committee*** invites you to join us as we continue our Midterm postcard writing campaign on Thursday, July 30, at 5 pm. Midterms are fast approaching and this is our best opportunity to make meaningful change! Meet us at church to personalize and send postcards supporting candidates who stand for our values for Senate and House races. All are welcome to write with us or take postcards to send from home. We're also accepting donations for postage!



**Aldi's Bus Trip**  
**Friday, July 31, 2026**  
**Meet at the Dorset Church**  
**at 9:00 a.m.**  
**Call 867-2260**  
**to reserve your spot!**

GMALL Presents – REUNION: Ordinary Lives Viewed Up Close

Tuesday, July 28 from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm in the Arkell Pavilion at Southern Vermont Arts Center

**Green Mountain Academy is excited to present the screening of *REUNION: Ordinary Lives Viewed Up Close* in partnership with the Southern Vermont Arts Center. As the Niskayuna High School Class of 1962 approaches their 80th year, *REUNION* offers a heartfelt reflection on aging, legacy, and resilience. Through candid interviews with ten classmates, the film looks back on lives lived, impacts made, and what it means to grow older with purpose. Blending memory with hope, *REUNION* captures a generation still looking forward – with curiosity, gratitude, and a quiet determination to leave a lasting mark on the time they have left. There will be a talk back with producer Bob Van Degna after the screening. Tickets are \$20 per person. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call our office at 802-867-0111 or visit [greenmtnacademy.org](http://greenmtnacademy.org).**



United Church of Dorset & East Rupert

**Free** Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Wednesday August 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:00

**Menu**

Roast turkey

Mashed potatoes

Stuffing

Gravy

Glazed carrots

Spring green peas

Cranberry sauce

Assorted desserts

Gluten-free available

All are welcome for a **free** dinner.

Bring your family and friends.

*This is community dinner; we hope to see you there!*

143 Church Street, Dorset

Call for reservations: 802-867-2260

## Summer Raffle 2026

The Summer Raffle this year features a painting by Terry Lindsey and a quilt made by the Dorset Church Quilters.

“Windowsill Peony” is donated by the artist, Terry Lindsey, owner of Tilting at Windmills. Thanks to Terry for her generous participation in the annual raffle, year after year. “Orange Blossom” is this year’s quilt made by the Dorset Quilters:

Elizabeth Karet, Barb Bertram, Ellen Leeds, Maggie McDonough, Kit Wallace, Robin Chandler, Judy Dunn, Mary True, Maripat Barlow-Layne, Lucy Norman, and Ginny Longacre.

Raffle Tickets for both painting and raffle are available during coffee hour, or from one of the quilters. Tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5.

Drawing will take place at the Summer Supper, August 5. Happy Summer 2026!

## Northshire Seniors BBQ

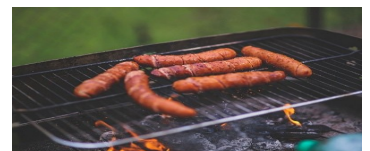
**Monday, August 10 ' @ 12:00 pm**

After the BBQ at noon, we will be entertained by the BBQers Barbershop Quartet singing songs to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of our country. Please dress in your best patriotic colors and plan on joining us.

The Eagles staff will provide a summer barbecue lunch which includes hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, coleslaw, and potato salad. Dessert will be ice cream cake. Please make your reservations by calling Sally at 802-375-9780. Your portion of the cost will be \$6 with Northshire Seniors paying the rest. You can pay at the door. Call before August 5th to reserve your meal. Our seating is limited to 60 guests.

We will have a **book exchange table**. Bring a book or two and take a book or two. Let's limit it to books you think others might enjoy!

**When you come, bring a friend!** We are always looking for new ideas and new faces. Northshire Seniors is a group that serves anyone over 55 and living in the Northshire area.



## CHURCH DIRECTORY 2026

**PASTOR** ..... Rev. Dr. Mark McDonough\*  
**PASTORAL ASSISTANT** ..... Rev. Jordan (Skip) Dickinson  
**PASTORAL COUNSELOR** ..... Rev. Steve Longley  
**OFFICE MANAGER** ..... Kimberly Perkins  
**BOOKKEEPER/MANAGER'S ASSISTANT** .... Leslie Mazzucco  
**MUSIC DIRECTOR** ..... Tommy Salmon  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR** ..... Paula Mann Nassivera  
**SEXTONS** ..... Lynn and Pete Jennings  
**MODERATOR** ..... Al Lindsey\*  
**CLERK** ..... Elizabeth Karet\*  
**TREASURER**..... Janet Chandler\*  
**ASSISTANT TREASURER** ..... Al Lindsey  
**MEMBER-AT-LARGE** ..... Lori Hong\*  
**CHURCH DELEGATES** ..... Derry Dickinson, Skip Dickinson, Dick Coss, Kris Harvey  
**MANSE LIAISON** ..... Gay and Roger Squire

### TRUSTEES

Phil Peterson\* (Co-Chairs), and Linda O'Leary\* (Co-Chairs), Linda Drunsic, Jack Gilbert, Sarah McClintock, Nora Larsen, Ellen Leeds, Joel Ario, Julie Citron

### BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Kit Wallace (Chair), Steve Holman, David McAneny, Scott Welsh, Scott Russell, Eric Emery

### INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Phil Peterson (Chair, & Trustee Rep.), Julie Citron (Secretary), Sarah McClintock, Martha Eyman, Janet Chandler

### STEWARDSHIP

Joel Ario\*, Nora Larsen (Trustee Rep.), Henry Chandler \* (A) Kit Wallace

### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Karen Allen (Staff Rep.), Jack Gilbert (Trustee Rep.), Steve Holman, Henry Chandler

### DIACONATE

Susan Patch-Crandall, Cheryl Gasperetti, Robin Chandler\*, Sue Westin, Todd Jorn  
Mary True (co-chair), Lindy Bowden, Lee Romano, Dick Coss, Lynne Welsh (co-chair), Ginger Foss, Barbara Bertram

### CHANCEL COMMITTEE (Ad hoc committee of Deacons)

Robin Chandler, Lindy Bowden, Ginger Foss

### MUSIC COMMITTEE

Elizabeth Karet, Tommy Salmon (ex officio), Roger Squire, Lynne Welsh (A)

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Paula Nassivera\* (ex officio), Ann Honan, Ruth Stewart, Kelly Gaiotti, Emily Kohler

### FELLOWSHIP

Nora Larsen (Secretary), Betsy Olson (Treasurer), Robin Chandler (Vice President),\*  
Linda O'Leary\* (President)

### HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Kris Harvey\* (Chair) Rose Watrous, Dotty Thompson, Sara McClintock, Maggie McDonough

### MISSION COMMITTEE

Sandi Hedman, Michelle Emery, Rev. Jordan (Skip) Dickinson\*, Janet Chandler, Richard Urso (Chair)

### GREEN TEAM COMMITTEE (Ad hoc committee of Mission Committee)

Ellen Maloney (Chair), Sandi Hedman, Nan Leach, Cindy Safier, Caroline Sargent,  
Skip Dickinson, Linda Drunsic, Ann Honan, Candace Parks, Nora Larsen

### TRUTH AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE (Ad hoc committee of Mission Committee)

Rich Urso (Chair), Ellen Leeds, Paula Nassivera, Patrick Honan

### PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Dick Coss (Deacon Rep.), Lori Hong (Member-at-Large)

### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Richard Grip\* (Chair), Linda O'Leary, Betsy Olson, Alex Gray, Colleen LaChac, Dick Coss, Sandi Hedman

### COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Patrick Honan\*, Tracie Salmon, Sue Westin

\*Member of the Cabinet      (A) Appointed