

SILENT MEDITATION

In Praise of Donkeys

by Angela Alaimo O'Donnell

What does a donkey know of consciousness?
The sweet taste of carrots, the soft caress
of a child who loves him, if he is blessed
to be owned by those who know his worth.
One of the innocent creatures of earth
who eats no meat, who sheds no blood,
he walks in peace, through field and mud.
Though burdened by human wish and want,
he does not begrudge it. He is a fount
of patience, pilgrim who knows the way
without a map. He does not stray
from the righteous path. Night and day
he is the self he's meant to be,
dear body he inhabits but can't see.



~ WORSHIP SERVICE ~ SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 ~ FIFTEENTH 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 *Ein feste Berg ist unser Gott*

Johann Gottfried Walther

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Mark McDonough

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The God of heaven has made a home on earth;

People: Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

Leader: The highest in all creation lives among the least;

People: Christ journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.

Leader: Come now all who thirst

People: and drink the water of life.

Leader: Come now all who hunger

People: and be filled with good things.

Leader: Come now all who seek

People: and be warmed by the fire of love.

***HYMN #711** *O Day of Peace That Dimly Shines*

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Al Lindsey

Faithful God, we confess that we have not always been faithful to you.

Your requirements of us have been to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Yet, we too often conform to the lower standards of our world and forget the demands of your call to us.

Steadfast God, give us the strength to be the people you have created and called us to be: a holy people abounding in steadfast love and justice.

MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Friends, hear and receive the Good News: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Amen.

***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

SPECIAL MUSIC *Mariano*

Robert Earl Keen

PRAYER OF PASTORAL CARE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our response:
God of justice, **inspirit us.**

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.

HYMN #342 *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 12:1-3; I Corinthians 12:4-13, 27

Elizabeth Karet

SERMON Detoxing our Souls

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *The Church's One Foundation*

Paul Bunjes

***DOXOLOGY #46**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***COMMUNION HYMN #393** *One Bread, One Body* (verse 1)

Taize hymns during distribution #391, 392

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: . . . Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever proclaim the glory of your name:

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

***CLOSING HYMN #65** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: Deep peace of the running wave to you,
deep peace of the flowing air to you,
deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
deep peace of the shining stars to you,
deep peace of the Son of peace to you.

People: Amen.

POSTLUDE *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott (fughette)*

Johann Pachelbel

The flowers this morning were given by Liz Schafer,
dedicated to those individuals and their families who struggle with bipolar disorder
and other mental illnesses.

Our thanks to today's scripture reader, Elizabeth Karet;
liturgist, Al Lindsey;

to Clarissa Lennox for her beautiful artwork on today's bulletin cover;
deacons and ushers, Cheryl Gasperetti, Sue Crandall, Lynne Welsh, Barbara
Bertram, and Marietta and Karl White;

coffee hour hosts, Nora Larsen and Judy Kernodle;
tech crew, Chris Lima, Patrick Honan, Puck Bell, and Jade Lilith-Streeter.

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: Sylvie; Tony White; Katherine Buchmayr; Betsy Olson; Jennifer Salmon; Cindy O'Leary; Staff Sargent Houston Wood and family; Stephen and Maria Cummins; Betty Hazelton; Kurt Silberschmidt; Gretchen Lima; Scott Wallace; Luella Parks; Oliver Fox Buckner; Angel May Kalenquin; Ann Troumbley; Eric Perry; Cathy Condon; Emma Ingison; Mark Cassidy; Jimmy Weiss; Jeff Duel; Robin Hoag; Damon Wilder; Howard Day; Robby Littlewood; Tom Drunsic; Jim Goodwin; Donna Tonic; in the Dorset Church, for our choir; in the UCC, for the Living Water Season of Creation, a Pacific Conference of churches.

LONG-TERM PRAYER CONCERNS: Larry Cochran; Marianne Bacon; Jonathan Dickinson; Sarah Faith Dickinson; 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; Elizabeth LaBerge; Dottie Hinkle; Chip Wilson; Hazel Prouty; James Jankowski; Jameson Gray Pelton; Evelyn Tobin; Shelby Baughn; Cassia Duran; Rich; George Smith; Jack; Judy Dunn; Alan Wiegand; Steve and Val Smith.



The Church Office will be closed on Thursday, September 10, as Leslie is on vacation, and Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day.

DORSET CHURCH
Rally Sunday 2026
Ministry Fair
Sunday, September 13, 2026
Following worship in the Vestry

Everyone is invited, young, old and in between! Invite your friends and neighbors.

Not to be missed!!
Special coffee hour
Willoughby's will provide donuts.

Enjoy good fellowship!	Sunday School sign up!	Cornhole & other outdoor games	Make new friends!
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United Church of Dorset & East Rupert
113 Church Street, Dorset, VT 802-867-2260



Aldi's Bus Trip
Friday, September 11.
Meet at the Dorset Church
at 9:00 a.m.
Call 867-2260
to reserve your spot!

Search Committee Update

While most committees of the church took a little break this summer, our Pastor Search Committee has continued to meet regularly, reviewing profiles, watching sermons (so many sermons) and conducting interviews. You'd be impressed with how much we can pack into a 90 minute interview. New profiles continue to arrive, and are given prayerful discernment by each committee member. Then as a group, we decide on the next steps. We are proud to work so closely with such dedicated, collaborative church members. Your continued prayers and support are greatly appreciated.

Joel Ario & Linda O'Leary,
Search Committee Co-chairs

Dear Church Family and Leaders of the Dorset Church,

On Sunday, September 13, during coffee hour, the Christian Ed Committee will kick off the upcoming school year with Rally Sunday. This year we are again adding a Ministry Fair into the mix. During coffee hour we will provide yummy Willoughby's donuts and fruit salad.

Ways you can get involved:

1. Set up a table and recruit someone to be available to greet and answer questions regarding the ministry that you are representing.
2. Lend us your corn hole set. We'd like to offer this fun outside activity again this year.
3. Help us set up on Saturday, September 12 from 10– 11.
4. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for worship and Rally Sunday.

If you have not already signed up, I encourage you to do so by calling 802-287-0123. or email me at paulamnassivera@gmail.com

INQUIRERS CLASS

Rev. Mark is offering two classes for those who would like to join the church, and those who may not want to commit to becoming a member but want to learn more about the beliefs and ministries of the Dorset church. The first class will be **October 4** after worship and is designed to answer your questions about the history, beliefs, vision, organizational structure of a congregational church, and how it is similar to or different from other denominations.

The second class will be **October 25** after worship and will feature several leaders of the church from the Cabinet, Deacons, and Trustees, who will speak about the many ministries of the church and help you find a place to participate. Do you like to sing? We can get you started with the choir. Want to learn more about Kid's Summer Lunch? We can connect you with the leaders of that ministry. Want to help offer hospitality for funeral lunches? We can get you signed up with our Hospitality Committee. Looking for a book study to help deepen your faith? We'll get you on the list for the next study.

If you would like to participate in either or both classes, please contact the church office (802) 867-2260 or email officemanager@dorsetchurch.org to sign up.

World Communion Sunday is October 4, 2026.

World Communion Sunday is coming up, and we want to celebrate the beautiful diversity of our community. We are looking for people to recite the Lord's Prayer in different languages. Would you be open to sharing your beautiful skill? If so, please contact the office to sign up. 802-867-2260.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Fellowship Fall Meeting, September 11 @ 11:30

Deacons, September 13 @ 11:30

PFLAG, September 13 from 2-4

Trustees, September 15 @ 3:30

Cabinet, September 20 @ 11:30

The Dorset Group hosts an open meeting for Alcoholics Anonymous here at the Dorset Church in the vestry every Monday at 8:00pm.

All are welcome.

The Dorset Church Quilters will begin a new quilt on September 15. The Quilters meet weekly on Tuesdays from 9-12 in the church Vestry. Come and sip tea, work at your own pace, and enjoy others' company. All are welcome. Please call Barb Bertram at 508-654-2991 for more details.



THE BLESSING OF THE PETS
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
9:30AM

UNITED CHURCH OF DORSET & EAST RUPERT



ALL PETS ARE WELCOME

The United Church of Dorset & East Rupert
143 Church Street, Dorset, VT 05251
PO Box 263
802-867-2260
dorsetchurch@gmail.com,
www.dorsetchurch.org,
Office Hours: Monday -Thursday 8-4,
Friday 8-12

All people are welcome here



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), Dotty Thompson, Sara McClintock, Maggie McDonough, Judy Dunn, Betty Hazelton, Nora Larsen, Judy Kernodle; Nan Leach, Caroline Sargent, Gail Brodie, Candace Parks, Rich Urso, Barbara Urso, Sunny Velie

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