

March 2025

# The Visitor

MELVIN VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

P.O. Box 233

476 Governor Wentworth Highway

Melvin Village, NH 03850

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*“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”*

Jeremiah 29:13

A few weeks ago, a group of college students came to Sentinel Lodge for retreat. The group was the Fellowship of Catholic University Students. They enjoyed their time of retreat so much one guest commented Saturday afternoon “I wish we could stay longer.” Sunday morning we woke up to snow and the group leader asked if 12 of the guests (who were not comfortable driving in the snowy weather) could stay one more night. We did a quick pivot and the retreat continued.

Sunday afternoon the group rested by the fire and enjoyed time of fellowship together. It was unplanned, but sweet. It made me think of the verse in Jeremiah 29:13. *You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.* This unplanned time was unwrapped like a present and what was a distraction or delay became additional time alone with God and in fellowship with believers.

As we enter the season of Lent in preparation for Easter, I encourage you to seek the Lord with all your heart. We seek the Lord when we spend time with Him. Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving help in the purposeful seeking.

**Prayer:** Carve out intentional time with God

*When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Matthew 6:6*

**Fasting:** Give up something to the Lord.

*“The kind of fasting I want is this: remove the chains of oppression and the yoke of injustice, and let the oppressed go free. Share your food with the hungry and open your homes to the homeless poor.” Isaiah 58:6*

**Almsgiving:** Give charity to someone in need.

*“When you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Matthew 6:3-4*

Seeking God begins with time with God. It begins with starting our day in prayer, as we seek daily bread through time alone with Him. Choosing God by giving up something (favorite food, social media or entertainment) as a sacrifice of praise! Fasting is as simple as sitting in silence at the same time each day and meditating on a verse of scripture. Seeking God is also about putting others first. Seeing the needs of others, having compassion and helping to meet the need.

I hope you will take purposeful time to seek Him, especially this Easter season.

Blessings,  
Pastor Kevin

## **March Sundays**

March 2nd Pastor Kevin Everything in love

[1 Corinthians 16:13-14](#); John 13:15

March 9th Betsey Vinton Gratitude

March 16th Betsey Vinton The Wilderness

March 23rd Dan Bisson

March 30th Pastor Kevin Take up your cross

Matthew 16:21-28

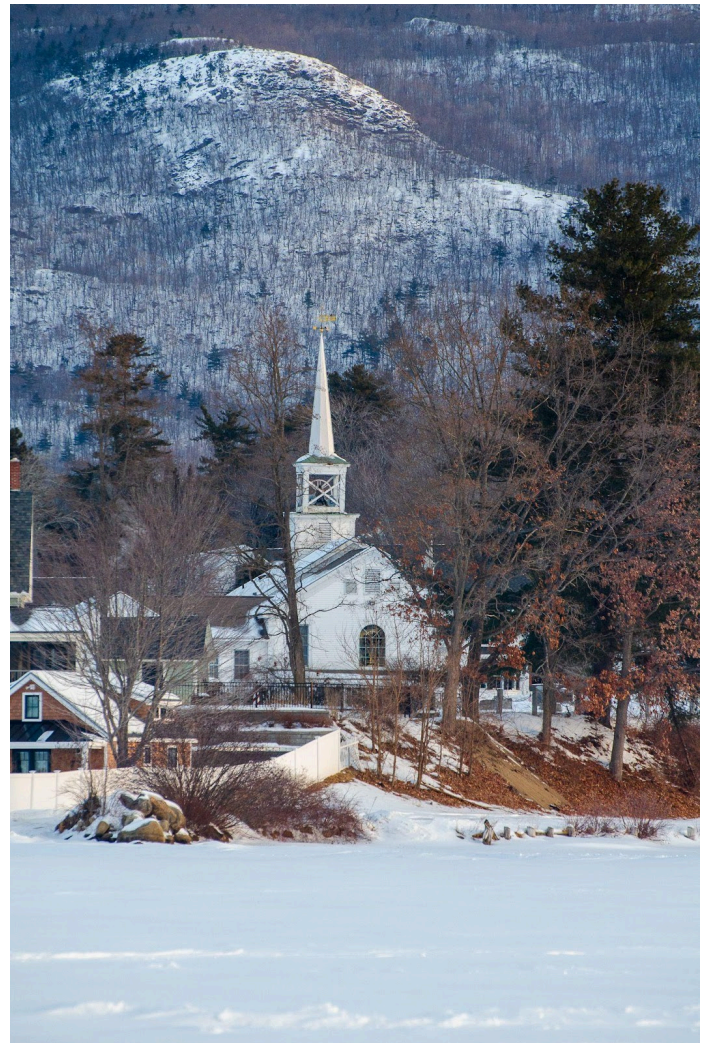


Photo from Matt Barnard

## FROM MUSIC

*I love March partly because it contains half of my joke repertoire:*

*Q: What is the only day of the year that is an imperative?*

*A: (it's in the calendar)*

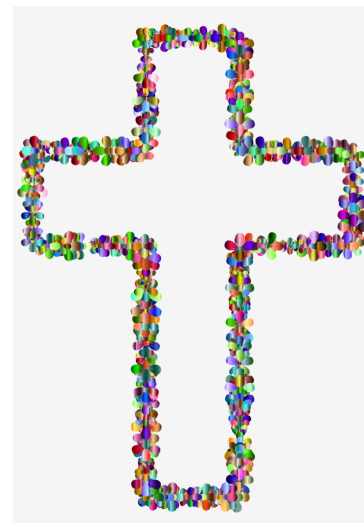
*There is also March Madness (I don't know what that is) and St. Patrick's Day (so much history, so much good music!). And, overall, there is so much progress through the winter, and the blessed assurance that the world turns despite humans (so far!) and this daily turning reminds us of the beauties of the cosmos: the world turns! we stay on it!*

*Here is some of a hymn that appears especially in March but always suits. It is called St. Patrick's Breastplate. It's a translation of a Gaelic poem, St. Patrick's Lorica, which is a magical protective shield. The editors of our old hymnal chose to place some of this prayer on Page I, if you have one at home. Here is some more:*

*I bind unto myself today  
The strong name of the Trinity,  
By invocation of the same  
The Three in One and One in Three.*

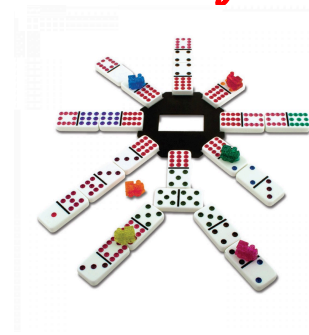
*I bind unto myself today  
The virtues of the star lit heaven,  
The glorious sun's life giving ray,  
The whiteness of the moon at even,  
The flashing of the lightning free,  
The whirling wind's tempestuous  
shocks,  
The stable earth, the deep salt sea  
Around the old eternal rocks.*

*Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me.  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and  
stranger.*



*Peggy*

## *Mexican Train Game Night*



**All Aboard!**

Game night on **March 11th** at 6pm will be a very special Mexican Train game night. This game of dominos is very easy to learn so beginners and pros alike are welcome to join.

**73<sup>rd</sup> Fair & Auction Planning Meeting! –  
Tuesday April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6 PM to 7 PM**



– This first planning meeting will be held in the Gribbel Room at the church and will last no longer than one hour. The date of the 2025 Fair & Auction has been set and will be held on Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup>. Anyone and everyone are encouraged to get involved in Melvin Village’s biggest fellowship event of the year. You could be part of the planning team. Bring new ideas to the table and/or reinforce the traditions that are important to keep. Would you like to be a booth chairperson or simply a willing worker? Do you have a knack for article writing and publicity; or simply wearing a smile – and a safety vest - to help with parking on the day of the event? If you have no idea what role you’d be willing and able to take on – that’s ok – come to this first meeting and let’s get the planning underway! Questions? Reach out to Nickie Hunter ([nickie.hunter@gmail.com](mailto:nickie.hunter@gmail.com)) or Debi Lynch ([lynchkg124@gmail.com](mailto:lynchkg124@gmail.com)) –Come be part of the fun and join us on Tuesday April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6 PM to 7 PM

**FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE:**

*The Worship Committee thanks all who participate in Sunday worship as a Worship Leader or Usher. The signup sheets for April, May, and June are now on the clipboards in the Gribbel Room, please add your name to fill the openings.*



**March Deacon  
on Call**

**Karyn Vander  
Hey**



**The Spring Visitor will be a  
combined April/May issue.**

**Please submit your articles by**

**Apr 15, 2025**



## Financial Snapshot As of January 31, 2025

	2025 Full Year Budget	2025 Jan YTD Actual	Percent of Full Year Budget
Member Pledges, Plate Offerings, Donations	\$150,428	\$17,693	12%
Other Income <sup>1</sup>	\$76,069	\$465	1%
Total Income	\$226,497	\$18,158	8%
Total Expenses	\$226,497	\$15,125	7%
Surplus / (Deficit)	\$0	\$3,033	

- <sup>1</sup>Other Income includes interest, trust distributions, and Fair & Auction
- Pledges and other donations are above expectations for this time of year.
  - Expenses are on budget. The result is a year-to-date surplus of \$3,033.

## "MVCC Luncheon at The Village Kitchen"



**The next luncheon will be March 27th at Johnsons in New Durham. 12pm. A sign up sheet will be in the Gribbel room.**

### FROM OUR FAMILY & YOUTH COORDINATOR:

**"Tips for encouraging children to love God's word**

**March:** Set aside specific time to engage in the Bible with children.

We set aside time during the day to do all kinds of important things; to eat, sleep, make our beds, do homework, and the list goes on. By setting aside special time, it creates a routine that helps kids mature into larger responsibilities. In the same way, it is important to dedicate time daily to read the Bible in order to establish healthy habits that will grow with children. Older kids may want to do this activity alone, but younger children benefit from reading out-loud to parents or younger siblings.

Don't forget to lead by example. Set aside time in your day to be in God's word, too!

Blessings,

Abbi Van Brunt

Family and Youth Coordinator"

## March Celebrations:

### Birthdays:

- 3/2 Ani Hastings
- 3/3 Cindy Barnard, Duke Southard, Beth Williams
- 3/5 Joyce Munsey
- 3/9 Ben Tessier
- 3/10 Chris Burnett, Ali Reed, Anna Smith
- 3/13 Jim Craigue
- 3/16 Kerry Lynch
- 3/17 Gary Tepe
- 3/19 Eileen Gil
- 3/22 Susan McKenna

### Anniversaries:

- 3/23 Mark & Dianne Larson



REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY  
 (See Genesis 37:3-36) 06-18-2001  
 I'M SORRY MR. JOSEPH, WE MISPLACED YOUR COAT ... PERHAPS YOU COULD DESCRIBE IT FOR US

## **2025 Easter Flower Order Form**

**6" Easter Lily - \$17.00**

**8" Spring blooming bulb pots (Daffodil, Hyacinth, Tulips) \$14.00 each**

**Name:**

**In loving memory of:**

**In celebration of:**

**Easter Lily:**

**Daffodil:**

**Hyacinth:**

**Tulip:**

**Orders are due by April 1, 2025.**

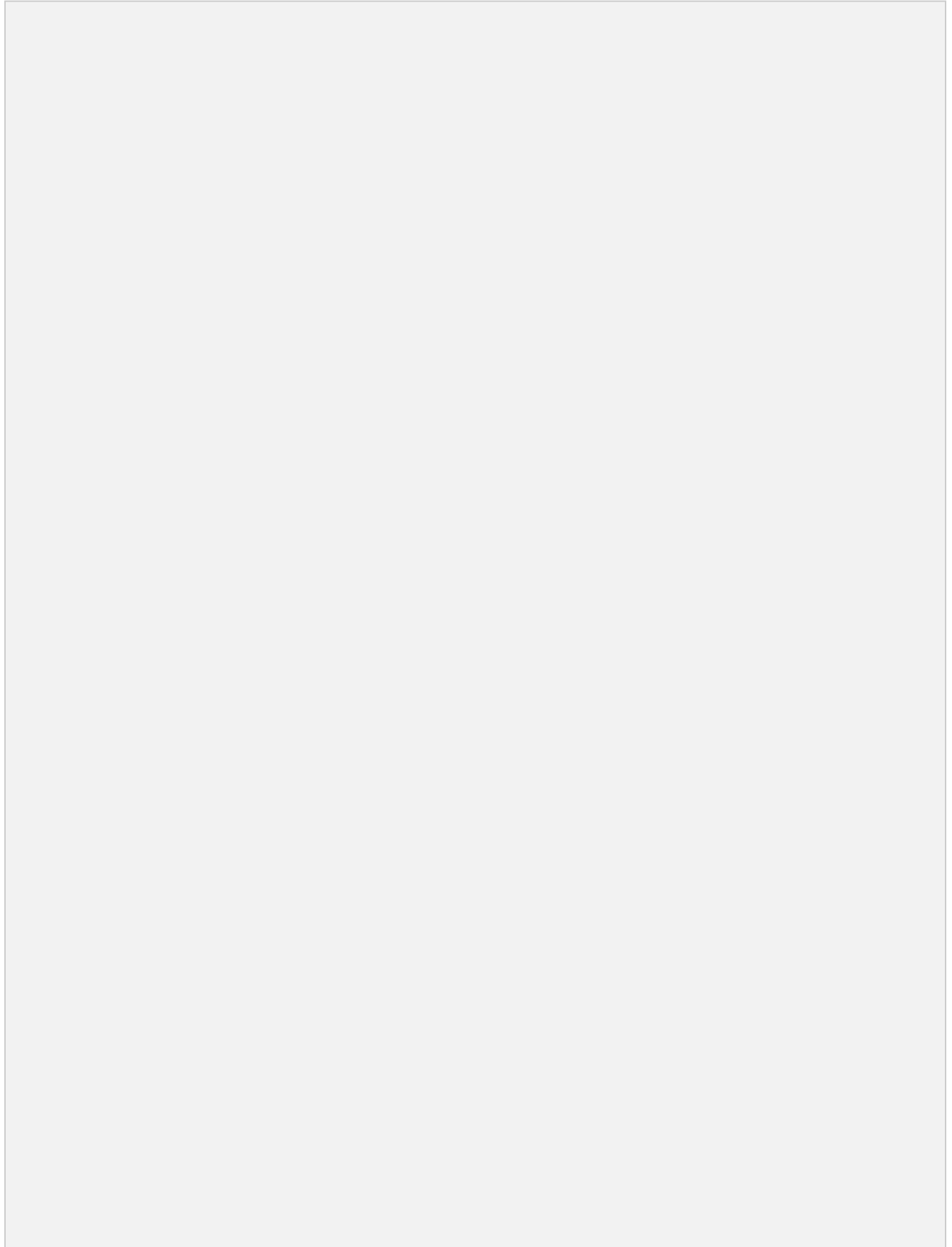
**Please make a check out to MVCC and leave it at the church office or mail to: Sonya Lapar**

**PO Box 602**

**Wolfboro, NH 03894**



## March 2025 CALENDAR





**THE MARCH VISITOR**

MELVIN VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

P.O. Box 233

476 Governor Wentworth Highway

Melvin Village, NH 03850

U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Non-Profit  
Permit # 1  
Melvin Village,  
NH 03850

**MVCC MISSION STATEMENT**

*To provide the best environment for young and old together to grow  
and experience the richness and generosity of Christ.*