

**ROXBURY UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, U.C.C.  
NEWSLETTER – May June 2021**

**LIGHTING THE CHURCH**



The church is lighted in May/June by Roxanne Pike for the Neun family.

If you would like to light the church, please contact Claire Chomentowski at 485-7779.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

We have resumed in person worship at our usual time – 11:00 AM on Sunday mornings. Those of us who attend regularly have all received both vaccine shots. We are singing again! On May 2 we also resumed our practice of a coffee hour following worship. It is good to be back to seeing each other face to face! Please come prepared to be masked and socially distanced when that is necessary.

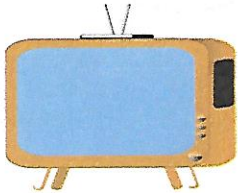


**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL, PLEASE SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO PASTOR SUE AT [sue.church43@gmail.com](mailto:sue.church43@gmail.com).**

**LOOKING INTO THE SUMMER MONTHS**

In the months to come we will explore how we worship, where we want to concentrate our concerns and mission. We have learned much during this time of isolation about what it means to be community. There is much to consider as we move forward. Please join us as we move into the future. We will continue to observe the Governor's guidelines regarding Covid safety.

## WEDNESDAY VIDEO SERIES



We are ready to resume our Wednesday Video time. During May and June, we will gather on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month – May 12 & 26. June 9 & 23. Rich Smith has agreed to help us search out videos that will stimulate our hearts, minds and spirits. If you have a suggestion, please contact Rich.



**In uncertain times, finances are a concern for all us. The church is not exception. If you are able to, please send your offering to**

**Roxbury Union Congregational Church, UCC  
PO Box 314  
Roxbury, VT 05669**

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

As we approach Pentecost, we have been reading from John's Gospel – Jesus' last discourse with his disciples. It covers several chapters and is probably a collection of what Jesus said and taught over the years of his time with them. He begins with that statement we often hear read at funerals – "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me." He told them of the Advocate, the Spirit of Truth (whom we know as the Holy Spirit) who would be with them. He offered them a new commandment – "that you love one another as I have loved you." He declared them to be his friends with whom he had shared all that he heard from his Father. He told them that he would soon be leaving them and, finally, he prayed for them.

Jesus' prayer as recounted in John's gospel contains the words that appear on the UCC logo – "THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE." He went on to say, "I speak these things in the *world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.*"

I love the fact that Jesus prayed for the disciples and I understand that his prayer is meant to include us! He spoke this prayer on the night that he was betrayed, knowing that he would soon be nailed to a cross. Such suffering! Yet Jesus' prayer, with its warnings about the difficulties that being in the world, but not of the world would mean to those who would (and do) follow him in the days to come, is spoken *so that we may have his joy made complete in us.*

The past year has presented a challenge for us in ways that we never anticipated; challenging us to find that joy even in the midst of the pain and suffering that Covid-19 created. Were you able to find that joy? Were there days when the joy and the suffering existed within you at the same time? I hope so!

As our lives increasingly begin to return to something that we used to call normal, it is time for us to look at where we found and continue to find joy. I suspect that joy most often comes from Creation itself. I know that is true for me. I am blessed to see our beautiful Green Mountains from the windows of my apartment. That view and being able to walk outside helped me to find joy during the past year. Another source of joy has come from finding the many ways that we could continue to be in community. Thank God for Zoom, for email and for the USPS!

As we move into whatever our new normal will like, I hope we will continue to find joy even in the midst of suffering; that we will continue to let Creation speak to us and within us and in doing so, remember to honor and work to save our mother Earth; that we will continue to find community in many and different ways and in doing so, remember the preciousness of our connections to all of life.

May God continue to bless us, to sustain us, share our griefs and to dance with us in joy. AMEN.

Pastor Sue can be reached at 802-233-5198 or at [sue.church43@gmail.com](mailto:sue.church43@gmail.com)