

ROXBURY UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, U.C.C.

NEWSLETTER – January February 2022

LIGHTING THE CHURCH

The church is lighted during January by Rich and Boo Smith in honor of his parents, Jim and Barbara Smith, and in February by Rich and Boo Smith in honor of her parents, John and Mary Slany.

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

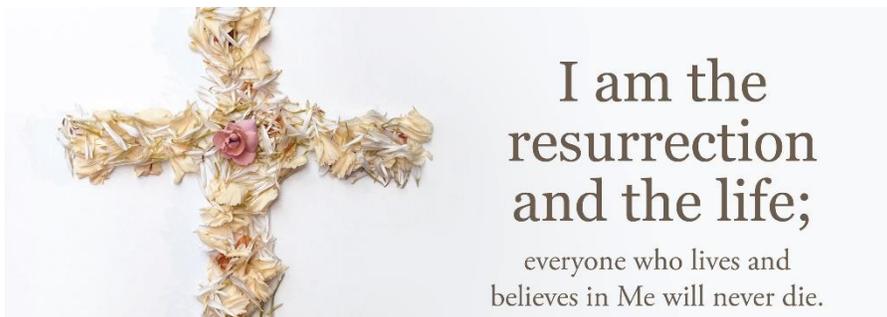
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL, PLEASE SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO PASTOR SUE AT sue.church43@gmail.com.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

The recommendations for handling Covid continue to change, it seems like, from minute to minute. We continue to worship in person. We are presently asking that people be masked. We are not serving coffee or food after worship in order to maintain the integrity of masking.

WEDNESDAY VIDEO SERIES

Our video group continues to meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. At this time, we are asking that attendees wear masks. Please contact Rich Smith if you have recommendations for movies and/or documentaries.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd. This year we will once again offer drive-by ashes. Pastor Sue will be at the church from 3 to 5 PM ready with ashes and blessings.

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(from Claire Chomentowski)

O.K., I'll say it: This has been *The Winter from Hell* for the Roxbury Church - except that the extreme temperatures have typically headed in the opposite direction. One weekend, the fuel line froze twice (two calls into White's) and the following weekend - though the bathroom was mercifully still functioning - the water trickling from the faucets in the kitchen began to pool in the sinks, and when hair dryer and space heater treatments failed, it slowly began to sink in: there were frozen pipes in unreachable places.

That's when I decided to call my guardian angel, who is always reachable, and whose name happens to be Ralph. Ralph always dispenses good advice. So, I was surprised when he couldn't advise me on who to call to remedy the problem, and even more surprised to find him later that day in the church kitchen, crowbarring the trap door open and lowering himself into the crawl space (a space so small that no one but a guardian angel could fit). He was determined, with the help of his sidekick, Carmie, to get to the bottom of our problem, and I had no doubt he would, because if there's one thing I've learned about Ralph, it's that he can't sleep till a problem he's tackling has been solved.

Another thing I've long known about Ralph: his love for my husband Tom was/is legendary. And when, after several days and many hours spent cutting and thawing those underground pipes, he stopped at my house to report his success, (refusing, of course, to accept any money) he cited Tom as a motivating factor.

Some people light the church steeple to memorialize a loved one; Ralph lowers himself into a dark, frigid, unfamiliar space and probes the bowels of an old church, navigating his way like a valiant Jean Valjean in the Parisian sewers, but instead of evading the authorities, he is undertaking a mission of mercy, honoring Tom with not only his expertise and ingenuity, but also with his generosity of spirit, and his abiding love. Thank you, Ralph.

(from Pastor Sue)

Our deepest thanks go to Ralph and Carmie for rescuing us! I can offer you no greater example of Beloved Community than this. It is, in the long run, all about relationships – with God, with

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our neighbors, with ourselves.

Over the years I have seen Beloved Community demonstrated many times when the church has had a need that seemed difficult and even insurmountable, and that need was met by the generosity of the church's friends and neighbors. I think this is what Jesus meant when he came to tell us about the Good News of God's unending love for us and for all of Creation, calling us to live in Beloved Community, God's Community right now.

When love is demonstrated it is always an expression of God's Community, the place where we are meant to live, a place that is always home. Thank you, again, Ralph and Carmie for showing us how it works.

