

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



ROXBURY UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, U.C.C.
Newsletter May/June 2022

LIGHTING THE CHURCH

Claire Chomentowski lights the church during June in loving memory of Justin Bushey and his mother Kathy Yates.

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.

WEDNESDAY VIDEO SERIES

Our video group continues to meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 5 to 6 PM. No masks required. Please contact Rich Smith if you have recommendations for movies and/or documentaries.

RUMMAGE SALE

For the first time in several years, Roxbury is holding its traditional July 4 celebration – on Sunday, July 3. The church will hold its traditional rummage sale on that day from 9 AM to 3 PM. Please bring your gently used items to the church after June 21. Call Claire (485-7779) to make sure the church is open.

We will have on display a beautiful quilt made by Susan D'Amico. Raffle tickets will be available. The raffle will happen later in the summer.

FOOD SHELF

The food shelf is open from 12 to 1 PM every Wednesday. Many thanks to all who volunteer, especially Linda and Barb, helping to serve the members of our community.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

This spring we have been talking about what it means to be community, God's community. We recognize with deep sorrow that, for the most part, we have forgotten just what that means. We see it in all parts of our society. Most clearly we see it in the horror of gun violence that continues to be so prevalent in our news.

Recently I posted on Facebook the following:

"Here's what CNN's 5 Things reported on today. Shooting, North Korea, Ukraine, January 6, Baby Formula." Each one of those reports has to do with our lack of ability to be in community and how that plays out as violence.

I am not only saddened by the proliferation of violence; I am angry! It is frightening to read the news each day. Truthfully, I can only stomach so much of it. This is not how God means for us to live. What I find especially upsetting is that a large number of our Christian brothers and sisters subscribe to and support our lust for guns, our denigration of anyone who is different – different skin color, different religion, different sexuality. You can name the list as well as I can.

How does one justify supporting violence in the face of Jesus' words to us – his new commandment (that actually sums up all of the other commandments) – "I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. John 13:34"

It is time for us to speak against violence. It is time for us to demand that our leaders enact laws supporting gun safety. I grew up in a family of hunters. I don't want to see the guns they use taken away from them. When my children and grandchildren began to hunt, they first had to take a course, with a parent, on gun safety. This included lessons about being safe in the woods. Guns in our home are always kept lock with ammunition kept separately. This is part of what gun safely means to me.

Please don't talk to me about the 2nd Amendment. We have badly abused that amendment in ways our forebears could never have predicted.

When shootings happen and lives, often our children's lives are lost, we are told that It is not the time to talk about gun safely legislation. It is time for thoughts and prayers. I will never deny that thoughts and prayers are necessary. But if it is not time to talk about gun safely in the face of unspeakable violence, when is the right time?

My dear friends, we are all children of God; created in God's image; given the ability to choose to follow life or death. Did you notice that in our Creation story, God said about creation, "It is good. It is very good." God did not say, "It is Perfect. No need to improve upon it." Instead God gave us minds, hearts and spirits, and a role as those will partner with God in moving creation forward, closer and closer to the community that God has always dreamed and to which God calls us. That community includes all creation, all life, without distinction or discrimination. May it be so.