

ROXBURY UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, U.C.C.

NEWSLETTER – January February 2021

LIGHTING THE CHURCH

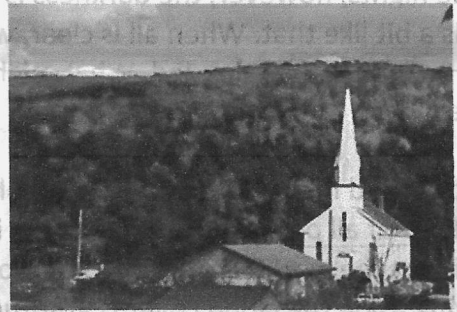


The church is lighted during January and February in loving memory of Tom Chomentowski by Linda and Michael LaPerle and by Merv Spooner in loving memory of his wife, Sandy.

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

At this time, we are not meeting for face-to-face worship. We continue to observe the advice of our governor and Vermont Department of Health. Each week Pastor Sue sends worship materials both by email and USPS. If you would like to receive those materials, Pastor Sue's contact information is at the end of this newsletter. We will resume face-to-face worship as soon as it is advisable to do so.



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

BOOK STUDY

I miss not only seeing all of you at worship, but also those other times we have traditionally been together. Like for our Wednesday video group. I would love to find a way to do a book study. It may that the best way to

do that presently is to read and comment by email. The book I am suggesting is "My Grandmother's Hands." If you are interested, send me an email or give me a call.

Here is what Amazon has to say about the book:

"In this groundbreaking book, therapist Resmaa Menakem examines the damage caused by racism in America from the perspective of trauma and body-centered psychology.

The body is where our instincts reside and where we fight, flee, or freeze, and it endures the trauma inflicted by the ills that plague society. Menakem argues this destruction will continue until Americans learn to heal the generational anguish of white supremacy, which is deeply embedded in all our bodies. Our collective agony doesn't just affect African Americans. White Americans suffer their own secondary trauma as well. So do blue Americans—our police.

My Grandmother's Hands is a call to action for all of us to recognize that racism is not only about the head, but about the body, and introduces an alternative view of what we can do to grow beyond our entrenched racialized divide.

Resmaa Menakem, MSW, LICSW, is a therapist with decades of experience currently in private practice in Minneapolis, MN, specializing in trauma, body-centered psychotherapy, and violence prevention.

ASH WEDNESDAY

This year Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17. Pastor Sue will be at the church for drive-by imposition of ashes that day from 3 PM to 5 PM. Ashes will be distributed using a q-tip to maintain Covid safety.



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

It is dreary and cold as I write this message on January 6, Epiphany. Yet my heart is light as I thank God for the gift of Light that we recognize, honor and worship today.

John's Gospel opens with these words: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

Darkness does not overcome light. On a clear night, the darker it becomes, the more clearly we are able to see the grand display of stars, planets, and moon. Sometimes it takes darkness in order for us to actually see light.

Some nights, however, the darkness is enhanced by cloud cover and we cannot see that grand display. I think life is a bit like that. When all is clear, we can easily differentiate between darkness and light, but often our ability to discern is clouded. What might cloud your ability to see the light? Fear? Anger? Discouragement? Loneliness?

Go back and reread the words from John's Gospel. "What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." The Christ-light is alive in the world. Darkness cannot overcome it. Neither can cloud cover. Perhaps one of the best means for moving aside the cloud cover is gratitude.

Thank you, Holy One, for your light that is a deep and constant part of our world. Thank you for the many ways that light shines. Thank you for the many people who carry the light and let it shine in their lives. May we, too, be light-bearers that others may find and respond to the Light of the World.

Pastor Sue can be reached at 802-233-5198 or at sue.church43@gmail.com. (Please note this is a changed email address and update your contacts list.)