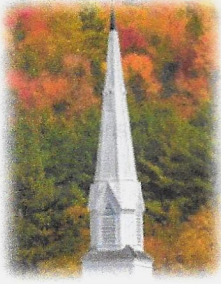


ROXBURY UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, U.C.C.
NEWSLETTER – March April 2021

LIGHTING THE CHURCH

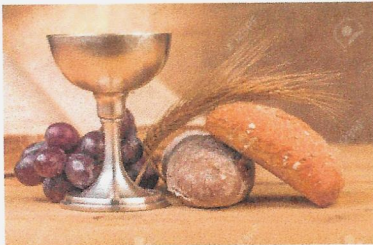
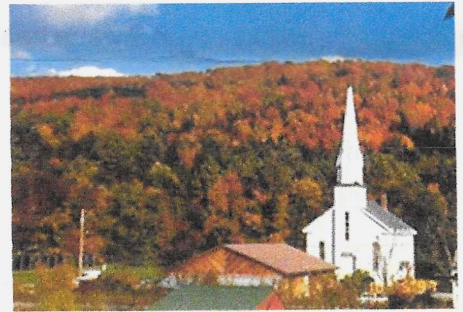


The church is lighted during March and April by Ed Dickinson in honor of all who are sick.

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Most of us are in the age groups that are currently receiving the vaccine shots. I trust you are getting yours! I am hoping we will be able to worship in person on Easter Sunday, April 4. If it is a nice day, perhaps we will gather outdoors on the front lawn. Hopefully, that will be the beginning of our ability to worship in person on Sunday mornings.



DRIVE UP COMMUNION

On March 7, Pastor Sue will be at the church in Roxbury at 11 am to serve you the communion. Drive up, masked, and you will receive the communion elements with an opportunity to have a quick chat.

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

WE RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

In uncertain times, finances are a concern for all of us. The church is no exception. If you are able to, please send your offering to

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



As I write, I can see from my window the beautiful snow-covered Green Mountains. Today the sunshine makes the snow sparkle. With the arrival of March, we begin to feel the draw toward spring. We begin to imagine daffodils peeking up out of the ground, the songs of spring birds, the feel of new grass under our feet.

As the longing for spring arises, so does our hope for renewal and transformation. We are in the season of Lent, that time when we follow Jesus as he walks toward Jerusalem. Perhaps we even feel a little like Peter who protested when Jesus said he would die. It feels like we have been in Lent since arriving there last February! Renewal and transformation have been sadly lacking during a long, exhausting, discouraging, and difficult year.

Finally, there are signs like daffodils and spring birds, that renewal and transformation are on the way: vaccinations to guard us from Covid are progressing; the results of the most recent election offers possibilities for change; we have learned much from which we can benefit during the time of the pandemic.

The past year has offered us the opportunity to reflect upon how much we value community. As we have needed to isolate, it has become clear that we simply cannot live without one another. It turns out that those of us who have been first have come to see how much we need those whom we have treated as last. We find ourselves profusely thanking the mailman, the clerk at the grocery store, the young lady at the drive up at Dunkin, the receptionist and health care workers at our doctor's office, all those who have put themselves at risk to guard our health and provide us with what we have discovered are essential services. Many of us have learned how complicated it is to educate our children and have a deeper appreciation for our teachers and the work they do.

In the midst of overwhelming challenges, we have found ways of making community. Many of us have come to appreciate the technology that allows us to participate with groups and events that happen online. I suspect that, going forward, we will find ways to become hybrid as we continue to use technology during face-to-face meetings and events so that the wider communities we have formed can continue.

Many of us have gained a greater appreciation for family and friends because we have been restricted from being with them in person. I have heard many folks comment that during this pandemic they have reached out to family and friends that they usually just don't think about communicating with.

Churches of all faiths and denominations have learned more about what it means to be church. While we value the buildings that provide us with a physical base, we are clear that the building is not the church. We are.

As we move into the future, perhaps we will eventually become thankful for positive outcomes from this unique time in our lives. "You know you are living a grateful life when whatever happens is received as an invitation to deepen your heart, to strengthen your love, and to broaden your hope. You are living a grateful life when something is taken away from you that you thought was so important and you find yourself willing to say, "Maybe I'm being invited to a deeper way of living. (*Henri Nouwen*)

Pastor Sue can be reached at 802-233-5198 or at sue.church43@gmail.com