

ROXBURY UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, U.C.C.

Newsletter
July/August 2023

LIGHTING THE CHURCH

The church is lighted in July by Tatiana Govoni in loving memory of her father, Antonio F. Govoni MD on the 10th anniversary, and in July and August by Merv Spooner In loving memory of his parents, Arthur and Nellie, his wife Beverly, his wife Sandi, and his housemate, Mary.

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 Wednesday videos are suspended until September when we will pick up again on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

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. If you have fresh produce during the summer the Food Shelf will be glad to distribute any excess that you wish to donate.

FLOODING

Wow! Vermont has sustained so much damage due to the torrential rains in July. I'm sure that, like me, most of you have seen many photos of the devastation. It will take years for many homes, farms, and businesses to recover from the damage.

Three of our U.C.C. churches sustained unprecedented damage: Bethany Church in Montpelier, Barre Congregational Church, and United Community Church of Morrisville. The Vermont Conference is asking if any of us can contribute \$3 to help these three churches. If you are able to do so, you can send your donation to the **Vermont Conference. 36 North Main St, Randolph, VT 05060.**

I want to share with you a letter from the Conference's weekly newsletter, *EKit*, written by our Associate Conference Minister, Paul Sangree:

"It has certainly been a challenging time for so many of us in the Vermont Conference. The historic rain and floods that we experienced earlier in the month damaged so many of our communities, and left roads and businesses and homes and churches ruined. In last week's Ekit, we shared the stories of pastors Leigh McCaffrey in Barre, Becca Girrell in Morristown, and Peter Plagge in Waterbury. I don't know about you, but I was so moved by each of their stories and the ways that they and their churches have sought to be places of refuge and healing for their communities. I have also been moved by the stories of so many other churches in our Conference sending out work crews to assist both neighboring churches and others during this trying time.

"In my own devotional time, I have been reading through Paul's letter to the Galatians. Paul gets quite upset with the Galatian churches for listening to false prophets who tell them that "true" Christians need to be circumcised in addition to having faith in Jesus. Paul reminds them that they are not bound to the law anymore, but they are called to freedom in Christ.

"And then he says in vs. 13-14: "For you were called to freedom...so through humble love be servants of one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one phrase, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Over the next several weeks and months, as over the past couple of weeks, there will continue to be some of us who will be overwhelmed by everything that has happened, and in need of spiritual, emotional, and financial support. May all of us seek to freely and humbly love each other as best as we can, through the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Faithfully yours, Paul"



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Once again, Vermont has been hit by catastrophic flooding. It seems like we have just recovered from tropical storm Irene and here we are again. I have been astonished by the photos of flooding in the most effected communities. The power of water, a basic life necessity of life, is incredible. We have much to continue to learn as we work to recover once again.

We are, indeed, **VERMONT STRONG**! Although we are not always in agreement with each other regarding many of the big issues of our day, we know how to set those disagreements aside and be community for each other when the need is overwhelming.

In the U.C.C. Daily Devotional this morning, Talitha Arnold reminded us that when Jesus saw the people who had come to hear him, he had compassion for their need for food. The disciples got caught up in logistics which seemed overwhelming. Not Jesus! He just cut to the chase saying, "I have compassion for the crowd. If I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way. (Mark 8:1-2)"

That is what I see happening in Vermont right now. Cut to the chase. There are plenty of people in state and local government dealing with logistics and God bless them. Many other families, businesses, and other organizations are finding creative means to help devastated Vermonters at both personal and community levels.

When I become discouraged by the always publicized selfishness to which we too often fall prey, I need to remember that in our hearts where God abides speaking to us and through us, our true humanity lives and that it surges to the fore when needed.

