

# *faith matters*

The Roxbury Congregational Church  
A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Continuing Testament  
Extravagant Welcome  
Changing Lives



Church Office, 24 Church Street  
Roxbury, Connecticut 06783-1703  
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Vol. 278, Issue 4, April 2020

## ***Church Notes During a Time of Social Distancing***

### ***Worship & Fellowship***

Greetings from the Roxbury Church! We have missed seeing you in person but please know that you are loved and cared for during these days.

We live in extraordinary times. I, along with many of my clergy colleagues, have had a crash course on distance worship and organizational continuity. Many of you have watched our services online on Sundays. Each week brings a new twist and change as we continually evaluate and refine how we bring the community together on Sunday mornings. Watch for more changes in the weeks to come. Please be patient with us and give us grace as we experiment and seek to remain connected to you and provide the support, peace and connection to God that we all desire and appreciate. We are proving that we can be the church in new ways. The church is more than just a building, it is people.



The worship service particulars will be adjusted to reflect this change of going to online. We will be using Zoom for this. Refer to the church website for this. Other changes will be that opening words and prayers will not be in unison or responsive in nature. We may have lay readers who can read from their homes to add to the experience. Sandy and I will sign in and “broadcast” from our homes.

After worship, I am excited that we will have the opportunity while on Zoom to have a “Virtual Coffee Hour”. Have your favorite hot beverage ready and we can check in with your fellow members, catching up on the latest news, what is helping during these days of social isolation. I am reminded of the words last week of Gov. Andrew Cuomo of NY: “Be Socially Distanced, but Spiritually Connected.”

### ***Technology***

One of the learnings that your staff has had, is that we not make the assumption that everyone is connected with technology or that we are all proficient with using Facebook or Zoom or even have email! So we have sent out a church wide mailing to those who we do not have an email for to keep them in the loop. We have moved online worship to the Zoom platform which not only simulcasts on Facebook, but also allows phone dial-in for those who want to listen but either can't or don't want to watch a video.

### **Christian Nurture**

We are looking at ways to have times of Christian Nurture for our children and adults. No plans to announce but we are working on this as well. Note that there are bible study resources for home study on the Church's website.  
[www.roxburychurch.org](http://www.roxburychurch.org)

### **Fellowship & Check-in**

On Wednesday mornings at 11:00 a.m., I am going to offer a Fellowship and check-in time on Zoom. Details will be sent out in the Monday eFaith Matters.

### **Committees**

Committee meetings including Council, Deacons, Trustees and Mission will move to the online platform.

### **Outreach**

The Deacons and I are reaching out to members to check in and offer any assistance that might be needed. We ask that you consider doing the same with fellow church members and neighbors particularly, the older and health compromised population. If you do, please mention that you are calling as a fellow church member. It is important that you bring that perspective and the church's sincere concern.

### **Holy Week & Easter**

It has become apparent that we will not have public worship at the church during Holy Week or on Easter morning. Preliminary plans are to have the Easter Sunrise service on line and it to be available for others to play back at whatever time they get up that morning.

### **Building Use**

The building remains closed for all gatherings, meetings and programs for the foreseeable future.

### **Resources**

An important and Helpful Note:  
The best source of up to date church information is either the church's Facebook Page  
([www.facebook.com/RoxburyChurch](https://www.facebook.com/RoxburyChurch))

Or the church's webpage:

[www.roxburychurch.org](http://www.roxburychurch.org).

Our conference also has a variety of resources including Resources for Children, Youth & Families as well as outreach ideas on their website, [www.snecc.com](http://www.snecc.com)

The staff continues to work although some remotely. They are available by phone or email.

David Peters [david@roxburychurch.org](mailto:david@roxburychurch.org) Cell for urgent matters: 203-770-6721

Sandy Kleisner [sandy@roxburychurch.org](mailto:sandy@roxburychurch.org)

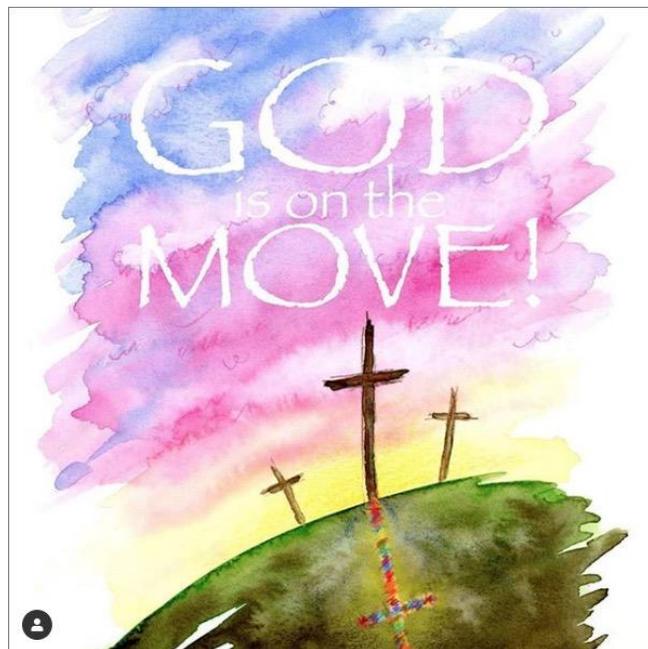
Diane Meade [diane@roxburychurch.org](mailto:diane@roxburychurch.org)

Nancy Glover [office@roxburychurch.org](mailto:office@roxburychurch.org)

Bruce Rossiter

Please note that both Sandy and I are getting a lot of emails, calls and demands upon our time. So please be patient and we will get back to you. Remember that God loves us and is with us in all seasons of life. We will get through this with patience, love and grace.

You all remain in my prayers,  
Peace, *David*



*Happy Easter!*

## ***A Prayer For These Days...***

O, God,  
by necessity,  
we have learned,  
how love can be shown,  
even when the doors of our church buildings,  
are closed.

Yet,  
O, God,  
in times like these,  
the doors of our minds,  
the doors of our hearts,  
the doors of our waking up to our being one  
people,  
the doors of our waking up to our  
interconnections,  
the doors of our waking up to our  
interdependence,  
the doors of our waking up to our shared  
responsibilities,  
the doors of our waking up to caring for one  
another and all life,  
on this one home we share, the earth...  
these doors, thank God,  
are opening.

Keep them open, God.  
Keep them open.  
Amen.

## ***Daily Bread Food Pantry***

***Donating Food, Gift Cards, Money:*** We expect our weekly supermarket donations of food to plummet in the weeks to come as stores struggle to compete with rapidly increasing demand/purchasing by fearful consumers.

Most needed food items include: rice, beans (dried or canned), chicken noodle soup, pasta, tuna fish, peanut butter, breakfast cereal, canned tomato sauce (for pasta) and canned vegetables and fruit. The pantry will be open to receive donations on Mondays and Fridays between 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

## ***Rummage Sale Coming!***

***The dates may change, but it will happen!***

*From Sue Stauffacher*

***NEW - Friday, May 15th, 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 16th, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.*** are the dates of this year's Rummage/Bake sale.

I'm trying something new this year. Many churches have more than one day for their sales.

They report that this is profitable in that they get more people, sell more stuff, and have less left over. Sounds good to me, so we'll try it and see how it goes. Of course, it means more workers, such as cashiers, baggers, etc. Please say yes when I ask you to help.

Last year we changed how we accept clothing. Clean, good condition clothing must be brought either on hangers or folded in boxes. It worked well, better quality clothing and less of it as we won't take anything in plastic bags or garbage bags. This makes it much easier for our workers and will ensure the quality and selection of donations. Also, clothing donations will not be accepted after 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 14th. This time could change if we run out of room.

Other items we would love to receive are household/kitchen items, garden equipment, tools, small furniture, small appliances, books in good condition (novels sell the best), linens in good condition, etc. Please be sure everything is clean and in working condition. We do not accept electronics, TV's, exercise equipment, sports equipment, baby equipment, textbooks, luggage, computers older than 5 years or non-working items.

You may bring your items beginning Sunday, May 10th after church. Early in the week is better for our workers. Nothing will be accepted after 3:00 p.m. Thursday, May 14.

Please bake as people love our bake table goodies.

If you have questions, please call Sue Stauffacher at 860-354-1274 before 8:00 p.m. There will be a signup sheet on the Opportunity Table just waiting for you to volunteer your time.

Thank you, *Sue*

## **April Birthdays & Anniversaries**

- 3 Bill Jayne  
4 Mark Kibbe  
9 Kyla Peters  
12 Nadia Racz  
14 Chuck & Doris Farrell  
15 Janet Childs  
17 Barbara Hunicke  
18 Robin Montesi  
22 Cathy Racz  
28 Mike & Dottie Wilcox

## **Offerings & Pledges**

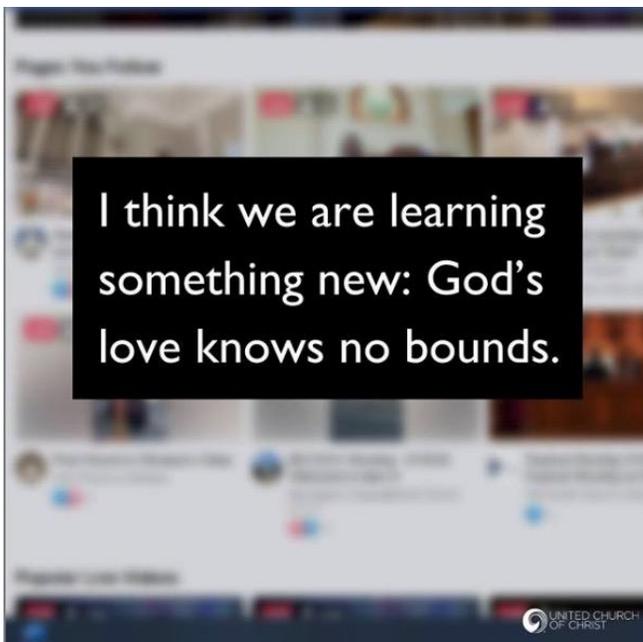
It's vital that we keep our financial stability while the church building is closed. If you normally give on Sundays by way of the collection plate, please consider mailing in your donations, pledges or gifts or, even better, set up an automatic electronic deduction through your bank.

## **Ongoing**

Shelter Breakfasts at St. John's in New Milford  
Meal Serving at Loaves & Fishes

## **Deacons of the Month**

April: Mike Wilcox & Pat Fraley  
May: Ray Fitch & Diane Meade



*“Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you. I will uphold you...” Isaiah 41: 10*

## **Leadership Listing**

(All 860- unless noted)

Ministers in the World: The Congregation  
Moderator: Brian Neff, 354-3177  
Clerk: Patricia Fraley, 868-0051  
Treasurer: Cathy Racz, 799-0180  
Collector: Heidi Neff 354-3177  
Deacons: Michael Wilcox 354-8821  
Trustees: Charlie Meade, 354-1274  
Stewardship: Colby Kalisher, 355-8012  
Missions: Barbara Biafore, 799-6501  
Fellowship: Jeanne Steers, 354-7484  
Pastoral Relations: Colby Kalisher 355-8012

Men's Group: Charlie Stauffacer 354-1274  
Youth Group: Barb Cover, (203) 788-5823  
Historian: Dale Pinchbeck, 355-4297  
Librarian: Joan Temple, 350-0529  
Secretary/Newsletter Editor: Nancy Glover ,  
355 -1978  
Minister of Music: Sandra Kleisner, 868-9040  
Custodian: Bruce Rossiter  
Pastor: The Rev. David F. Peters,  
office: 355-1978 home: 355-8830  
david@roxburychurch.org

# The Easter Story



Most of the crowd spread their coats on the road ahead of Jesus, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.  
Matthew 21:8



Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests and asked, "How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?" And they gave him thirty pieces of silver.  
Matthew 26:14-15



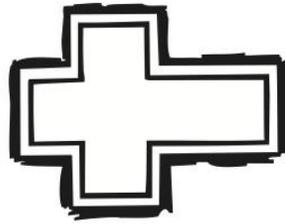
As they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread and asked God's blessing on it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take it and eat it for this is my body."  
Matthew 26:26



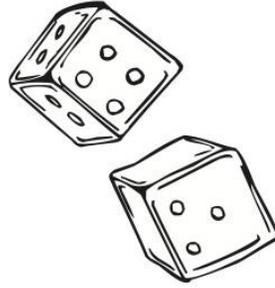
Peter declared, "Even if everyone else deserts you, I never will." "Peter," Jesus replied, "the truth is, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times."  
Matthew 26:33-34



He went on a little farther and fell face down on the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will, not mine."  
Matthew 26:39



Then the soldiers nailed him to the cross.  
Mark 15:24a



They gambled for his clothes, throwing dice to decide who would get them.  
Mark 15:24b



He isn't here! He has been raised from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying.  
Matthew 28:6



Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a long linen cloth. He placed it in his own new tomb, which had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a great stone across the entrance as he left.  
Matthew 27:59-60



The soldiers made a crown of long, sharp thorns and put it on his head, and they put a royal purple robe on him.  
John 19:2

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Address Service Requested

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**NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2020**

Worship – Sundays 10:30 a.m.  
Join Us On-line! See our website  
Church School with Nursery

**“We Are A Community Seeking To Share God’s Love!”**

*No Matter Who You Are, or Where You Are On Life’s Journey, You Are Welcome Here!*