

faith matters

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

Church Office, 24 Church Street
Roxbury, Connecticut 06783-1703
Church Office: 860-355-1978
e-mail: office@roxburychurch.org

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. In-person and Virtual

Vol. 280, Issue 4, April 2022

Pastoral Reflections

The Reverend David F. Peters, Minister

We live in a consumer society. We get many choices and are able to shop where we want or feel most comfortable. The same can be said of contemporary church goers. Many times, we each come looking for what affirms our image of ourselves, what makes us feel good or what worked for us in the past. I cannot tell you how many well-meaning suggestions I have received over the past 35 years of what our Church could or should be doing to “be an authentic church” or what we need to or should do to grow or have more money in donations. And these well-meaning suggestions come from all sorts of religious expressions and denominations and traditions.

We want to make “our” church into something else or better, or more popular, or whatever subtle agenda we might have.

And I, or whoever, is the Minister, many times gets to play referee or gatekeeper of the many suggestions, and sometimes they are conflicting.

As an example, take sermons. This is not a big issue here in Roxbury, but I do have some who do not like a biblical text oriented sermon. Telling the story and its background and interesting word plays and history is not what stimulates some. “Tell us stories, tell us how God loves us, how we are all good.” Was the way one of my colleagues put it.

Others, I know, don’t really know the Bible and the stories of the Bible at all. Maybe they are new to church-going, or didn’t pay attention in Sunday School or now that their children are church school

age, they want to be able to talk intelligently and they answer questions that come out of the innocent young mouths. They might not know much beyond, “Do unto others” or treat everyone nicely and with respect. They might be trying to live out Christian virtues but don’t know the why behind it. Some would call this “Bumper sticker Christianity.”



And then there are those (and we are seeing this in the younger generation of my children’s age, who want to know why I need church, can’t I just be nice and live out my life believing in God and not have to participate in another institution that at times is corrupt or hypocritical?

Or someone who needs to be able to have the tools available to discern those who use the bible and Christianity as a weapon or to divide people into us vs. them. The Church universal in the US has gotten a whitewash of bad press over recent years.

From where I am from, everything is a balance. Some days, you will get bible background and others stories that all help you, the person I am grateful about, who spends the time to sit and listen and contemplate how what is said just may be leading you to be a better person, a better Christian, and a better advocate for the Loving God, we profess to worship.

Grace and Peace,

David

Holy Week and Easter at Roxbury Church



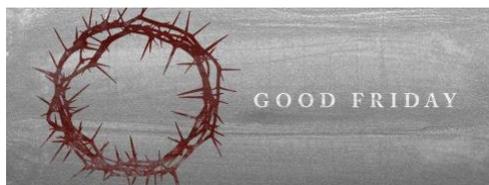
Palm Sunday – April 10, 2022
10:30 a.m.



Maundy Thursday - April 14, 2022

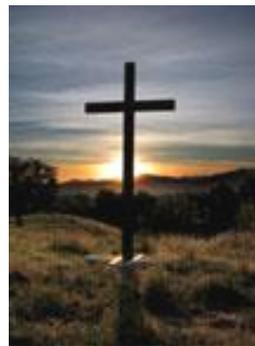
Pot Luck Supper & Tenebrae Service
6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Service of Holy Communion

Every “family” is asked to bring a dish to share.
Readers are needed
please contact Rev. Peters



Good Friday - April 15, 2022

Meetinghouse Open All Day
Resources Available for Reflection and Prayer



Easter Day - April 17, 2022

6:00 am Sunrise Service on Good Hill

Sunrise is at 6:10 a.m.

Easter Breakfast follows in Fellowship Hall

10:30 am Easter Celebration

In person and virtual

Earth Day

April 22, 2021 is Earth Day. Every year Roxbury celebrates Earth Day on the following Saturday. Volunteers are invited to pick up roadside trash, either on the roads where they live, or anywhere they see it. Help keep Roxbury beautiful by helping out on Saturday, April 24.



So Your Minister Can Help / Support You & Yours

If you are hospitalized and desire pastoral support, you or your family should notify our minister of the hospitalization as soon as possible, by calling 860-355-1978. With current federal regulations, clergy are not able to find this information from the hospital.

If you are asked at admission if you have a Church, please say “Roxbury Congregational Church.”

Check out our new logo!

With the permission of the artist, Jeanne Steers, we are using her art piece that hangs on the wall in our meetinghouse as the basis for our new logo.



It was important in designing the logo that it not be about a building, but about people. Each of us in our own way, sharing God's love in our daily lives. We are commissioned as followers of Jesus to be the light in a world that is darkened for many. This logo hopes to embody that call to us.



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

Roxbury Congregational Church invites you to our Welcome Spring



SATURDAY, APRIL 30TH

**Doors open @ 6:30 pm / Trivia starts @ 7:00 pm
at the Roxbury Congregational Church**

Gather your smartest (or just most fun) friends and book a table ASAP!

\$75 per table (Teams of 6 or less)

Checks payable to Roxbury Congregational Church (Payable at the door)
Individual Players are welcome! (You will be on the wildcard teams :)

BYOB (*Bring your own beverages)

* Yes, this means "Adult Beverages" are allowed)

BYOS (Bring your own snacks*)

*Forget the diet, bring carbs to improve your brain power!

**For more information or to reserve your table, contact:
Chris Childs @ 860-355-9067 or email: cchilds287@gmail.com**



Nancy Glover Retires and Elizabeth Kutepov is Hired

This past month, Nancy Glover asked to retire after 10 years as the Church Secretary. We will miss her attention to detail and writer's eye for all the publications here at the Church.

After a short, published search, we have hired Elizabeth Kutepov, a Roxbury resident, along with her husband Andrey and a recent attender of worship and other activities here.

We thank Nancy for a job well done and the many above and beyond things during the height of the pandemic.

And we wish Elizabeth well and patience for everyone including Elizabeth as she learns the ropes. So far, so good!

Steeple Lighting

The Steeple can be lit in loving memory of someone or in celebration for a month. We ask for a donation of \$25 to the Memorial Fund. Contact Rev. Peters to make arrangements.



The upcoming Steeple lighting schedule:

April in loving memory of Bucky Lowe and Tammy Lowe Hinckley by Pat Lowe.

May: Chuck and Doris Farrell, in honor of their grandson, Ben, and those serving in the military.

We still have June & Aug- November open. \$25 – please speak with Rev. Peters. This supports the Church's Memorial Fund.

Peace Candle



You will note the addition of the Ceramic Peace Candle on the Communion Table.

It is the gift of the family of Rev. Des Desmond. He and Nancy received it as a gift while on a sabbatical pulpit exchange in England in 1994. They have gifted it to us to use on Communion Sundays here in Roxbury. May Peace Prevail!

Corned Beef Dinner Another Big Success!

St. Patrick's Day saw a happy stream of customers pulling up in front of the church to pick up their corned beef dinners. The dinners, which were supplied by the Northville Market included corned beef, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, Irish soda bread and shamrock cookies baked by Susan Zappulla-Peters. Over 150 meals were sold with an end-profit to the church of \$1,680.50! We easily could have sold more. Many thanks to co-chairs Chris and Jeanne Steers along with David Peters. Helpers of the day included Bill Steers, Sue Stauffacher, Susan Zappulla-Peters, Anissa Roy, Barb Cover, Patrick Roy, and Chris Childs.

Treasurer's Duties and Bookkeeping Changes

Under the new process approved at the Annual Meeting, the following procedures are in place:

Bills and Reimbursements

If you have a bill or receipt to be reimbursed for Church-related expense, please give it to the Church Office who will record it and pass it on to the bookkeeper. Under no circumstances are members of the church to submit bills directly to the bookkeeper or ask for reports from her. If you have such questions, it is proper to inquire through Charlie Meade, Trustees Chair or the Church Office.

Ukraine Benefit Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, May 7 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Tickets at the door.

Spaghetti with sauce, bread, salad, dessert



Ladies Luncheon Returns!

Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 1 for the annual tradition.

Moms, invite your daughters, Daughters, invite your mom or anyone invite someone who you think of as a mother figure or a daughter you wish you had...

Exact details will be coming out soon.



Save the Date: Rummage/ Bake Sale May 21st.

Our church Rummage/Bake sale will be held on Saturday, May 21, from 9:00 - 2:00. May is getting closer, so please start putting aside your clean unwanted clothing and household items. We take gently-used clothing, linens, garden items, plants, small furniture, etc. If you are undecided, you may call Sue

Stauffacher at 860-354-1274 before 7:00 p.m. to ask.



Clothing donations **MUST** be either on hangers or folded in boxes. Clothing in garbage bags or plastic grocery bags will **NOT** be accepted.

We will be taking items for the sale beginning Monday, May 16. The earlier in the week, the better for us workers so we don't have a last-minute crunch. The parking lot door will be open all week.

At 1:30, we offer a \$5 bag sale - everything you can fit into a paper grocery bag for \$5.

I know many of you just love to bake, so please plan to bake for the sale. Some people come just for our wonderful baked goodies :) We offer free coffee all day.

More info to come. Sue

Thomas Canfield Society Established

To celebrate and honor those who chose to remember the Roxbury Church in their estates, the Church is establishing the Thomas Canfield Society. The Society is named after Rev. Thomas Canfield, the first minister of the Roxbury Congregational Church from 1743-1795.

Your gift can create a lasting legacy.

For over 200 years people like you have been making bequests and life income gifts that have helped generations of church people just like you, share God's love to the Roxbury community and the wider world. Perhaps this congregation has made a difference in your life, provided important support and comfort to a neighbor or friend, or inspiration that led you to change your life.

The initial members of the Society include:

Emma Schmidli
Mabel Bernhardt Smith
Ruth Johnson
Gertrude E. Caveness
Clark Makinson
Marian Skedgell
Mary Elizabeth Peck
Elizabeth "Betty" Blyn

Now you can honor that gift with one of your own. By your charitable financial plans including the church, you can make a difference in the future of the church. With that planned gift, you can become a member of the Thomas Canfield Society. Note: if you wish to not have your name included in the society, while living or deceased, that will be honored.

Types of Planned Gifts

Gifts through your will
Appreciated Stock
Charitable Remainder Trust
Gifts of Life Insurance.

For more information, please contact the Church Office

Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center

223 Low Road, Sharon, CT
860-364-5526

Summer Conferences - 2022

Registrations are now open!

Conferences fill *fast!* - So plan now or you may not be able to attend when or what you desire!

Learn more about summer camp at Silver Lake, view the 2022 summer brochure, and look through the upcoming sessions at <https://www.silverlakect.org/summercamp>

The Summer Conferences feature week-long sessions for those entering grades 4-12 in the fall. Also, there are Family Camps- half-week sessions!

Silver Lake provides life-changing experiences of God's love in creation!

Speak with Rev. David with any questions as well to apply for a grant from the Church to go towards the cost of a session at Silver Lake!

The Camp is American Camping Association certified.



Silver Lake is a camp and retreat center of our Southern New England Conference, UCC. Each year it hosts and sponsors Summer Camp sessions, Local Church retreats, family retreats, and family day outings "in God's backyard!"

for more information about Silver Lake: go to silverlakect.org

Silver Lake 2022 Open House

May 15, 2021 1-5 p.m.

A visit to Silver Lake before camp is the best way for a first time camper (conferee) to know what to expect — you might even run into a new friend who will be in the same conference this summer! We'll provide the cookies, you bring your questions. See you there!

"We are so excited to kick off the summer by welcoming families to Open House," said Rev. Ryan Gackenheimer, Executive Director. "This event is the best way to get a feel for what it's like to be a camper at Silver Lake for a week this summer."

Silver Lake Conference Center, 223 Low Road, Sharon, CT, is the outdoor ministry program of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ. For more information, email slcc@silverlakect.org, call 860-364-5526, or visit www.silverlakect.org.



Star Island
Isles of Shoals, NH

An island off the coast of Portsmouth, Star Island, NH is a wonderful week-long time of renewal and enrichment for adults and youth alike.

Their vision is to create on Star Island an environment that frees all who come to renew spiritually, explore matters of consequence, and gain knowledge about the world as it might ideally be.

For more information and register for Summer 2022 Conferences, go to their website starisland.org.

For questions speak with Charlie & Sue Stauffacher or Nancy Desmond. Church Scholarships are available, see Rev. Peters.

www.starisland.org

From the Church Register.

March 27, 2022 **Ethan Wyatt Rodgers**, son of **Clay and Emma (Homberg) Rodgers** born February 25, 2020 in Washington, DC was baptized by Rev. Peters. Godparents were **Ruth Homberg and Cody Rodgers**.

Ethan is the grandson of **Peter and Lynn Homberg**.

Date Set for Memorial Service and Celebration of Life for Sarah Johnson

The services for Sarah, who died on February 14, age 42, will be on

Saturday, May 21, 1:00 p.m. at the Apple Lane Pavilion. It will include a pot luck meal as she asked.



Sarah attended youth groups here and also was a summer staff member at Silver lake for 3 summers.

In the meantime, please keep her family and many friends in your prayers.

personal stories of God's presence in their lives as a way of explaining their faith to newcomers. Pilgrims along the journey have always shared stories with one another about their experiences. We are our stories. We cannot fully know one another without sharing. The psalms represent someone's testimony at the time of writing. The entire New Testament is the individual writer's testimony of their experience of Jesus Christ and the transformative power of God.

"Testimony reminds us of where we have been, helps us see where we are and directs us toward unanticipated paths." (*Christianity For the Rest of Us*, Diana Butler Bass, p.139)

Guidelines for Sharing:

We ask that it be a personal testimony about how your faith has shaped you and how it guides your life.

We want it to be a way for people to get to know you a little better.

3-5 minutes in length

Delivered as part of worship

We put time aside during worship on the 3rd Sunday of each month for sharing Faith Stories.

If you are willing, please speak with Rev. Peters.



Congratulations to Rachel Crossley on her engagement to AJ Lorenzetti.

Rachel is the daughter of Cheri and Brian Crossley

Rev. Peters and the Board of Deacons invite you to consider sharing your faith story.

Christian tradition has long included the sharing of faith stories. People in the early church shared their

2022 Calendar

All events listed are tentative as of 4/1/2022

April 10	Palm Sunday	
April 14	Maundy Thursday Pot Luck Supper & Communion Service 6:30 p.m.	Hall
April 15	Good Friday	
April 17	Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 6:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. worship	
April 23	Roxbury Earth Day clean-up	
April 24	Silver Lake Award Celebration and Fundraiser	Farmington
April 30	Trivia Night 7:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
May 1	Ladies Luncheon, 12 noon location and cost to be announced	
May 6	Red Cross Blood Drive 12 – 6 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
May 7	Ukraine Benefit Spaghetti Supper 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
May 8	Mother's Day	
May 14	Spring Church Work Day 9-12	
May 15	Long River Concerts – 3:00 p.m. \$30	Meetinghouse
May 21	Rummage/Bake Sale, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	
June 5	Pentecost Sunday -	
June 5	Strengthen the Church Offering	
June 12	Rite of Confirmation	
	Spring Church Picnic after worship	
June 17, 18, & 19	Art at the Meetinghouse	Fellowship Hall
June 19	Father's Day	
	Choir and Music Appreciation Day	
July & August	Worship time is at 9:30 a.m. Rev. Peters on Vacation (July) and Sabbatical (Aug)	
August 27	Beef Barbecue 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Church grounds
September 10	Tag Sale, 9 a.m. -2 p.m.	Church grounds

Mother's Day Cards to Go on Sale April 24.

The Mission Committee is once again selling Mother's Day cards to support Church World Services' Blanket Program. Each \$10 colorful Mother's Day themed card supports a gift to someone in need. A blanket can



be used for warmth, shelter, carrying goods to market as well as sheltering young children. Our congregation has a long and generous history with this program. Watch for the table with the cards for sale after worship on Sundays, April 24, May 1 and May 8.

Father's Day Cards – Tools of Hope, will be on sale beginning May 29th.

Word & Sacrament for April 2022

Underlined scriptures are for Lay Readers

Sunday, April 3

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Psalm 126:

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

Greeters: Chuck & Doris Farrell

Reader: Jerry Smith

Zoom Tech: Barbara Cover

Fellowship: Elizabeth Kutepov

Sunday, April 10 Palm Sunday

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Palm/Passion Sunday

Cash for Causes Card Day

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Luke 19:28-40

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 22:14-23:56

Greeter: Nancy & Dick Callahan

Reader: Nancy Callahan

Zoom Tech: Charlie Stauffacher

Fellowship: Barbara Cover

Sunday, April 17 Easter

Faith Story Sunday

Acts 10:34-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

John 20:1-18

Greeters: Carol Goodwin & Barbara Biafore

Reader: Barbara Biafore

Zoom Tech: _____

Fellowship:

Sunday, April 24

Second Sunday of Easter

Psalm 118 14-29,

Revelations 1:4-8

John 20:19-31

Greeters: Jan & Bill Steers

Reader: Bill Steers

Zoom Tech: _____

Fellowship: Jeanne & Chris Steers

2022 Flower Calendar

The 2022 Flower Calendar is posted in Fellowship Hall. If you have a particular day/date on which you would like to place flowers on the altar, please add your name to the calendar or call the church office. Please write clearly and add any memorial or celebratory dedication you wish printed in the bulletin.

So Your Minister Can Help / Support

If you are hospitalized and desire pastoral support, you or your family should notify our minister of the hospitalization as soon as possible, by calling 860-355-1978. If it is a pastoral emergency, please call his cell 203-770-6721. With the new federal regulations, he is not able to find this information from the hospital.

May Faith Matters Deadline:

April 15th.

Email submissions to: office@ roxburychurch.org

Church Office Hours:

Thursdays & Fridays

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Easy Ways You can Support Roxbury Church



Cash 4 Causes Card Program awakens from the Pandemic Slumber...

The popular program is back with a new coordinator and an emphasis on the local grocery stores.

Susan Zappulla-Peters 860-355-8830
(zappullapeters@mac.com) has taken over for Heidi Neff, who spearheaded the program from its beginnings.

It is hoped that you would consider getting in the habit, like some, to purchase your cards on a monthly basis

We would like to have the second Sunday of each Month be Card Ordering Sunday. We would like to have a set day so it is easy to remember to order and easy for the processing... Next Date: April 10

The concept is simple.

- You buy the card at the face value (ex. \$100) and we purchase a cash card from the store.
- They charge approx. 5% less and the church keeps the difference.
- You spend the same amount, but by using the card, your Church gets a 5% benefit!!

We work primarily with Stop & Shop, Big Y and Shop Rite cards

Contact Susan directly or speak with her on Sundays after worship. She will try to have a few cards for the different stores with her.

LaBonne's Receipts

A continuing thank you to everyone who contributes LaBonne's receipts to the church. This has been an on-going source of revenue to add to our mission funds. Please save your receipts and place them in the wooden box on the table in Fellowship Hall. Questions to Sue Stauffacher at 860-354-1274.

Recycling Printer Cartridges

Drop off your used ink and toner cartridges at Church and we recycle them at Staples for store credit. Use the box in Fellowship Hall or the closet across from the Men's bathroom.



AmazonSmile

Do you shop on Amazon.com? If so, eligible purchases can generate 0.5% back to our church. Go to smile.amazon.com to find out more! There is also a link on the eFaith Matters emails and the church's website: roxburychurch.org

Supporting Third World Artisans



SERRV Shop

Looking to buy a unique gift and help others at the same time? Try SERRV! Our shop is open each Sunday after worship in Fellowship Hall with affordable jewelry, handicrafts, candles, tea, soup mixes and so on. Questions? Speak with Susan Zappulla-Peters. 355-8830.

April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 OGHS Offering - 9:15 AM Choir - 10:30 AM Baptism Ethan Rogers - 10:30 AM Worship - 11:30 AM Refresh- - 3:00 PM Long River	28	29 David Peters' day off - 9:00 AM Kitchen rental all day - 4:00 PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	30 - 6:00 PM Cub Scouts - 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	31	1 April Fools' Day	2 Beginnin...Ramadan - 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation
3 - 9:15 AM Choir - 10:30 AM Worship - 11:30 AM Refresh- ments - 11:40 AM Confir- mation Class	4	5 David Peters' day off - 9:00 AM Kitchen rental all day - 4:00 PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	6 - 6:00 PM Cub Scouts - 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	7 - 7:00 PM Deacons	8	9 - 8:00 AM Mens Breakfast - 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation
10 Palm Sunday - 9:15 AM Choir - 10:30 AM Worship - 11:30 AM Refresh- ments	11 - 9:00 AM Daily Bread Food Pantry team	12 David Peters' day off - 9:00 AM Kitchen rental all day - 4:00 PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	13 - 6:00 PM Cub Scouts - 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	14 Maundy Thursday - 6:30 PM Pot Luck & Service	15 Newsletter Deadline Passover Good Friday	16 - 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation
17 Easter - 6:00 AM Sunrise Service - 6:30 AM Breakfast - 9:15 AM Choir - 10:30 AM Worship - 11:30 AM Refresh-	18 Tax Day David Peters' day off	19 David Peters' day off - 9:00 AM Kitchen rental all day - 4:00 PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	20 - 6:00 PM Cub Scouts - 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	21	22 Earth Day	23 - 9:00 AM Earth Day Clean Up - 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation
24 Orthodox Easter - 9:15 AM Choir - 10:30 AM Worship - 11:30 AM Refresh- ments - 2:00 PM 2022 Sil- ver Lake Award	25	26 David Peters' day off - 9:00 AM Kitchen rental all day - 4:00 PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	27 - 3:00 PM Loaves & Fishes Meal - 6:00 PM Cub Scouts - 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	28	29	30 - 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation - 7:00 PM Trivia Night

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leadership listing

(All 860- unless noted)

As of 2/13/22

Ministers: The Congregation

Moderator: Brian Neff, 354-3177

Clerk: Patricia Fraley, 868-0051

Treasurer: Dale Pinchbeck 355-2497

(Bill or reimbursement requests:
treasurer@roxburychurch.org)

Collector: Beverly Wolmer 203-405-6795

Deacons: Mike Wilcox 354-8821

Trustees: Charlie Meade, 354-1274

Stewardship: Brian Neff 354-3177

Missions: TBA

Fellowship: Jeanne Steers, 354-7484

Pastoral Relations: Pat Fraley

Men's Group: Charlie Stauffacher, 354-1274

Historian: Dale Pinchbeck, 355-4297

Librarian: Joan Temple, 350-0529

Secretary/Newsletter: Secretary, 355-1978

Minister of Music: Sandra Kleisner, 868-9040

Custodian: Bruce Rossiter

Pastor: The Rev. David F. Peters,

office: 355-1978 home: 355-8830

cell for emergencies: 203-770-6721

david@roxburychurch.org

Roxbury Congregational Church, UCC
24 Church Street
Roxbury, CT 06783
USA
Address Service Requested

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NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2022

Worship – Sundays 10:30 a.m. in person & online

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!

