

faith matters

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

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

Vol. 281, Issue 4, April 2023

Pastoral Reflections

The Reverend David F. Peters, Minister

Much has been made as of late about the truth. As we have all experienced in our lives, truth has been challenged. What we have come to rely on as truth becomes questioned in the wake of someone disputing our conviction of what is true and what is false. What you read, listen to, or talk to can in absence of scientific fact, skew how you organize your life and upon what you place the foundation of family, society, and even faith.

Truth can be something that can be proven scientifically, measured, observed, or calculated. In other circumstances, truth is something strongly believed. In the realm of faith, we can know the truth that Jesus is our Savior, our Redeemer, and God's son. Can we prove it? Not exactly. Sure, I have seen where academics have gone and proven their existence by looking at mathematical formulas, medical evidence, and observable phenomenon.

In politics, this has played out for all to observe in recent months. Evidence and first-hand testimony are contrasted with the claim that that is not the truth. And a system built on trust, honor, and truthfulness shatters our worldview and the very foundation upon which we live our lives.

Amid all this foundation-shaking, it is no wonder that as nearly every institution of society is rocked by challenge, scandal, and mistrust. Left in the rubble are people, like you and me with confusion, depression, and at times hopelessness.

In the next few days and weeks, we will have to decide about the truth for us, our faith, and our lives.



With Holy Week and Easter, we are asked to affirm a truth that is not provable or calculated. It is based on the testimony of those early people of faith, who upon witnessing the events and the people surrounding and following Jesus, have come to make the declaration that This is indeed the Messiah and that He has Risen from the Dead (after 3 days no less)

And if that was the end of it, it would prove to be a wonderful story, a tale, or inspire us and be a model of how we should live and care for one another. But much like that heart-warming Hallmark movie, after a while, we forget the details and maybe life moves on with other crises and voices calling for our attention and the original story fades into the background and maybe even forgotten.

The great part of this truth is that God does not leave us alone. God even gives us an "advocate" the Holy Spirit, to keep it fresh so that the truth might continue to shine through.

More on this next month, Until then,
Happy Easter and may God's Blessing continue to be upon you as you live and be a blessing to others.

Grace and Peace,

David

Holy Week and Easter at Roxbury Church

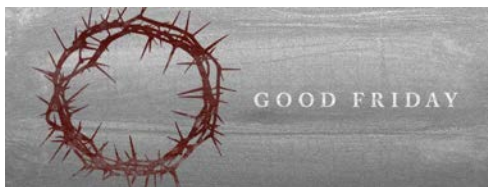


Palm Sunday – April 2
10:30 a.m.



Maundy Thursday - April 6
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 7
Meetinghouse Open All Day
Resources Available for Reflection and Prayer



Easter Day - April 9
6:30 am Sunrise Service on Good Hill
Sunrise is at 6:25 a.m.
Easter Breakfast follows in Fellowship Hall

10:30 am Easter Celebration
In-person and virtual

Men's Group Breakfast
To Meet in a different place for April



The Men's Group Breakfast, is open to all men of
the congregation and community, as invited to join
them on Saturday, April 8 at 8:00 a.m.
Each month.

For April only, they will meet at Johanna's
Restaurant on the Green in New Milford.
If you need more information, contact Charlie
Stauffer or Charlie Meade.

Earth Day – April 22

April 22 is Earth Day. Every year Roxbury celebrates Earth Day by cleaning up our beautiful town. 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 22. See Sue Stauffacher for more information.



Steeple Lighting

The Steeple can be lit in loving memory of someone or 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 Ray and Barbara Hunicke by Jan and Bill Steers.

May: is open for sponsorship

June: lighted in celebration of family and loved ones by Karen (Lineweber) Bailey

July: in loving memory of Shepaug Guidance Counselor Rosemary Ermini by Samantha Steinis.

August: open for sponsorship

If you would like to light the Church Steeple for a month in memory or honor of someone, contact Rev. Peters. We ask for a \$25 donation to be made to the Memorial Fund.

Save the Date: Rummage/ Bake Sale May 20th 9 am - 2 pm

Our church Rummage/Bake sale will be held on Saturday, May 20, from 9:00 - 2:00. We take gently-used clothing, household items, small working appliances, linens, garden items, plants, small furniture, etc. We do not take exercise equipment, computers, luggage, baby cribs, electronics, and textbooks. If you are undecided, you may call Sue Stauffacher at 860-354-1274 before 7:00 p.m. to ask and to volunteer.



Items may be dropped off beginning Monday, May 15 through Thursday, May 18. The door into Fellowship Hall will be unlocked all week.

Clothing donations **MUST** be clean and in good condition. Items must be either on hangers or folded in boxes. Clothing in garbage bags or plastic grocery bags will **NOT** be accepted.

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.

Thank you, Sue

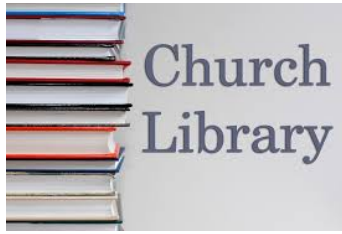
NOTICE – FAIR WARNING ARE THOSE YOUR DISHES OR SERVING PLATES IN THE CHURCH KITCHEN?

When the Rummage Sale happens on Saturday, May 20, any unclaimed plates, dishes or serving plates or flower vases will be sold at the Rummage Sale.

These items are on the metal rolling rack...

New Books in the Library - April 2023

Looking for an inspirational story? Need a prayer to lift your spirits? The church library has lots of books to meet your needs! Stop by the library and check one out today. Just sign your name on the card in the back of the book and leave it in the box.



Here are some books that were recently added to the collection:

- • ***The Walk*** by Paul Evans
What would you do if you lost everything--your job, your home, and the love of your life--all at the same time? When it happens to Seattle ad executive Alan Christoffersen, he's tempted by his darkest thoughts but then decides to take a walk, heading for the farthest point on his map: Key West, Florida. The people he encounters along the way, and the lessons they share with him, will save his life.
- • ***Help Thanks Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*** by Anne Lamott
Author Anne Lamott writes about the three simple prayers essential to coming through tough times, difficult days, and the hardships of daily life.
- • ***A Bookshop in Berlin*** by Franoise Frenkel
This is the memoir of a Jewish bookseller on a harrowing fight for survival across Nazi-occupied Europe.
- • ***Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People*** by Nadia Bolz-Weber
Tattooed, angry, and profane, Nadia Bolz-Weber, a former standup comic turned pastor, asks, "What if that person you've been trying to avoid is your best shot at grace today?"
- • ***Survival Lessons*** by Alice Hoffman
One of America's most beloved writers shares her suggestions for finding beauty in the world even during the toughest times.

Thomas Canfield Society Established

Two years ago, 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 share God's love with 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. If so, we encourage you to remember the Church in your will.

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. Through 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.

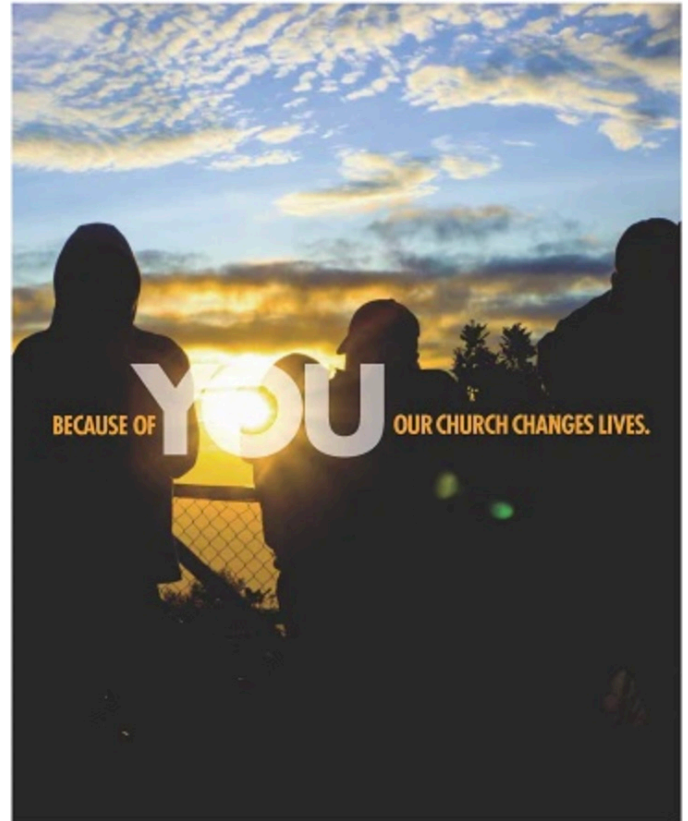
Types of Planned Gifts

Gifts through your will
Appreciated Stock
Charitable Remainder Trust
Gifts of Life Insurance.
For more information,
please contact the Church Office

Corned Beef Dinner Results

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 160 meals were sold with an end-profit to the church of \$365. The lower profit came from fewer meals sold and higher costs per meal from Northville. Going into the fewer meals could be that March 17 fell on a Lenten Friday, there was another Corned Meal serviced at lunchtime in town, and the Library had an event overlapping. Many thanks to co-chairs Chris and Jeanne Steers along with David Peters. Helpers of the day included Bill Steers, Susan Zappulla-Peters, Barb Cover, Chuck Farrell, Mike Wilcox, Vail Barrett, and Chris & Janet Childs.

We look forward to another sale next St. Patrick's Day!



Do You Have a Matching Grant Program at Work?



Does your Employer participate in a Matching Grant program? If so, be sure to contact them so that they can match your donations to Roxbury Church.



April Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

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, Rev. Peters is not able to find this information from the hospital until the following day.

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

Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center

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

Summer Conferences - 2023

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 2023 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](https://www.silverlakect.org)



Silver Lake 2023 Open House May 21, 2023 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. David Camphouse, Director of Outdoor Ministries. “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.



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 to 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.

Births

March 2, **Emeline Ann** and **Adara Jane Flechter** were born to Lindsey (Hodge) and Peter Flechter in Wilmington, DE; Grandparents are Cory and Beth Hodge of Landenburg, PA, Great Grandparents are Bud and Joy Hodge of Roxbury. They join brothers, Uriah age 4, and Micah age 2.

Marriage:

March 26: **Kimberly McCleary and Evan Neukom** were married by Rev. Peters at Sherman Park, Roxbury, CT.

Funerals / Memorial Services

March 18, 2023: **Brian Charles Davis**, died March 13, 2023, age 57, in Woodbury, CT.

A Memorial Service was held at Munson-Lovetere Funeral Home in Woodbury with Rev. Peters officiating.

March 22, 2023: **Rev. Dr. Mark A. Horton**, died March 3, 2023 age 76 in Green Valley, AZ, A graveside committal service was conducted at Cemetery in Roxbury with Rev. Peters officiating. Rev. Horton has been a summer preacher in years past and was formally the Protestant Chaplain at Western CT State University.

Mother's Day Cards to Go on Sale April 23.

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 23, 30 May 7, and May 14

Father's Day Cards – Tools of Hope, will be on sale beginning May 23rd.



Faith Stories – 3rd Sunday during Worship

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 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 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.

Advanced Church Calendar

April 6	Maundy Thursday Pot Luck Dinner and Tenebrae 6:30 p.m.	Fellowship
April 9	Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m. (6:24 a.m. sunrise) Breakfast 10:30 Worship	Fellowship
April 22	Earth Day – Community Cleanup	
April 23	CWS Mother's Day card sales begin	Mission Committee
May 5	Blood Drive 12-6	Brooke Wheeler
May 7	Ladies Luncheon – location to be announced Long River Concert – 3:00 p.m.	Fellowship Committee
May 13	Spring Church Work Day 9-12	Board of Trustees
May 14	Mother's Day	
May 20	Rummage & Bake Sale 9-2	Sue Stauffacher
May 28	Pentecost Day – wear Red Strengthen the Church offering received	
June 4	Father's Day Card sales begin	Mission Committee
June 16, 17 & 18	Art at the Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall	Charlie Meade & Comm.
June 18	Father's Day - Guest Mission Speaker Choir and Music Appreciation Day	
July & August	Worship time is at 9:30 a.m. Rev. Peters is on Vacation (July) and Sabbatical (Aug)	Deacons
August 26	Beef Barbecue 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Chris Childs and Comm.

Word & Sacrament for April 2023

Underlined scriptures are for Lay Readers

Sunday, April 2 Palm Sunday

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Palm/Passion Sunday

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Matt 21:1-11

Greeters: Barbara Biafore & _____

Reader: Barbara Biafore

Zoom Tech: Charlie Stauffacher

Fellowship: Tom & Chris Farrell

Sunday, April 30

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47

Psalms 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

Greeters: _____ & _____

Reader: _____

Zoom Tech: Charlie Stauffacher

Fellowship: _____

Sunday, April 9 Easter

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

John 20:1-18

Greeter: Jerry Smith & _____

Reader: Jerry Smith

Zoom Tech: Barbara Cover

Fellowship: Fellowship Committee

Sunday, April 16

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalms 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

Greeters: _____ & _____

Reader: _____

Zoom Tech: Charlie Stauffacher

Fellowship: _____

Sunday, April 23

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

Greeters: _____ & _____

Reader: _____

Zoom Tech: Barbara Cover

Fellowship: _____

2023 Flower Calendar

The 2023 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 at 203-770-6721. With the new federal regulations, he is not able to find this information from the hospital.

May Faith Matters Deadline: April 20th.

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



The Cash 4 Causes Card Program is easy, safe, and makes an impact!

Susan Zappulla-Peters 860-355-8830
(zappullapeters@mac.com) coordinates and
places the orders for these gift cards/

It is hoped that you would consider getting in the
habit, like some, to purchase your cards every
month

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 9th

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 ongoing 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.

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 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
LENT 5 ■ 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal ■ 10:30 AM Worship ■ 11:35 AM Refreshments ■ 11:45 AM Trustees ■ 3:00 PM Long River Concert		David Peters' day off ■ 3:30 PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	■ 6:00 PM Cub Scouts ■ 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	■ 7:00 PM Roxbury Housing Trust Directors		April Fools' Day ■ 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation
Palm Sunday ■ 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal ■ 10:30 AM Worship ■ 11:35 AM Refreshments		David Peters' day off ■ 3:30 PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	Passover ■ 6:00 PM Cub Scouts ■ 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	MAUNDY THURSDAY ■ 6:30 PM Pot Luck & Service ■ 7:00 PM Deacons	Good Friday	■ 8:00 AM Mens Breakfast ■ 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation
Easter ■ 6:30 AM Sunrise Service ■ 7:00 AM Easter Breakfast ■ 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal ■ 10:30 AM Worship ■ 11:35 AM Refreshments	■ 9:00 AM Daily Bread Food Pantry team	David Peters' day off ■ 3:30 PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	■ 6:00 PM Cub Scouts ■ 7:00 PM Boy Scouts			■ 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation
Guest Preacher Orthodox Easter ■ 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal ■ 10:30 AM Worship ■ 11:35 AM Refreshments ■ 11:45 AM Council		Newsletter Deadline David Peters' day off Tax Day ■ 3:30 PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	■ 6:00 PM Cub Scouts ■ 7:00 PM Boy Scouts		Eid al-Fitr	Earth Day ■ 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation
■ 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal ■ 10:30 AM Worship ■ 11:35 AM Refreshments		David Peters' day off ■ 3:30 PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	■ 3:00 PM Loaves & Fishes Meal ■ 6:00 PM Cub Scouts ■ 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	■ 7:00 PM Roxbury Housing Trust Directors		■ 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation
■ 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal ■ 10:30 AM Worship ■ 11:35 AM Refreshments		David Peters' day off ■ 3:30 PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	■ 6:00 PM Cub Scouts ■ 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	■ 7:00 PM Deacons	Cinco de Mayo ■ 1:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive	■ 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation

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leadership listing

(All 860- unless noted)

As of 3/26/23

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: David Lincicome 203-948-2008

Trustees: Bill Steers, 203-948-7573

Stewardship: Sue Stauffacher

Missions: Charlie Stauffacher, 354-1274

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,

Luanne Awlasewicz 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

Church Office Hours

Secretary: Thursday and Friday 9:30 – 12:30

Rev. Peters: M, W, Th, & F: 9:30 -12:30 or by appointment

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

faith matters

The Roxbury Congregational Church
A Congregation of the United Church of Christ
“We Are a Community Seeking to Share God’s Love!”



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

NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2023

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!



Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST