

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. 280, Issue 5, May 2024

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

Pastoral Reflections

The Reverend David F. Peters, Minister

May has arrived! The other day Susan and I were walking around the Parsonage grounds looking at flowers that were starting to bloom and what work we need to do to get them to come into its full potential of beauty.

As we walked Susan was pointing out the various Hostas that are spreading and maybe we need to transplant them and spread them out. Then she pointed out one little Hosta leaf sprouting out from between all other plants. It was hard to notice unless Susan pointed it out. It got me to reflect about that budding plant.

It got me to think about how in the midst of all the other plants, almost unnoticed, was a plant working and striving to be whole, to make a place in the world as creation of God.

We see many times great achievements celebrated all around. Acceptances to college, the promotion, the new job, personal achievements of fame, etc...



But for some, it is like that little Hosta plant stalk, unnoticed most times, striving and working to just get above the surface. We may strive some days just to lift our heads from the pillow, or get out of bed,

or move around for the day. And for this others may not even notice, and maybe even care...

But today, I want to celebrate those small victories. As our denomination's motto goes, "Not matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!" I understand that the impetus for this motto was to be a church that is inclusive of people who may feel that they don't have it all together faith-wise or that they come from a history of discrimination because of sex, race or sexual orientation. And I agree with that, but I would expand it further to include the idea that we have not all arrived at the place that has it all together. I work to have a church community that celebrates that everyone is on a journey. We may be able to get ourselves out of bed most mornings and even on a Sunday, come to the church to worship together with others. But I want you to know that I and I hope the congregation sees and acknowledges that everyone one of you is valued and that we celebrate the small (and large) victories that make acknowledge and up your life.

I seek to know each of you and your challenges as well as your victories. If I need to be reminded, please do so because I value you for who you are no matter where you are on life's journey.

Grace and Peace,

David

A piece of family news: It looks like our daughter, Kyla, her fiancé' Sean, and our grandson, Archer are moving from California to Connecticut in June. They will be staying with us for a short time while they look for a suitable rental nearby. Susan and I are very happy and can't wait!

Men's Breakfast- Saturday, May 11

All men of the Congregation and community are invited to come to the Monthly Men's Breakfast on the Second Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. This month it will be on May 11. We invite the men to come join us before the Spring Clean-up!

Spring Church Cleanup– May 11

We are blessed to have a fine building and property and it shows! To have that, we need to take care of it and keep everything clean, neat and well taken care of. On Saturday, May 11 beginning at 9:00 a.m. you are asked to come by and take on one of the many jobs of different skill levels. The Work List includes:

Raise the beginning portion of the front walkway.

Clean the A/C condensers (5)

Putting away the snow shovels and sand barrels.

Change the air filters throughout the building

The Boy Scouts will be a lot of the outside tasks like picking up branches and twigs.

Wash interior windows and woodwork

Your efforts help to keep operational costs down.

Trivia Night

On Saturday, April 27, we had a full house for the Community Trivia Night! Quizmaster, Joan Temple and her team did a great job with the questions and the organizer / MC Chris Childs led the group gathered through the winning answers as well as the groans of a wrong answer. We had the 50/50 raffle again with the winner, generously turning the winning share back to the church and knowing that they "won."

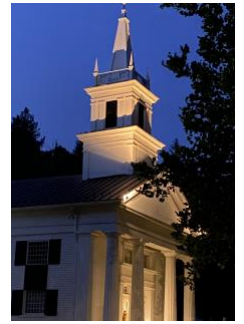
It continues to be a wildly popular event for the wider community bring a majority of people from Roxbury as well as Woodbury, Southbury and Washington.

The event had a profit of great fellowship, spirit and over \$1700.

The planning team is hoping to have the next edition of Trivia Night! In late July. Watch for the announcement.

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.



May: Patty Metzger – in memory of her mother, June Kluepfel

June: Paul Metzger - in memory of his parents, William and Aida

July: Gaila Rossiter – in memory of her husband, Peter

August: available

September: Patty Metzger - in memory of Anthony and Elizabeth Perrotti

October: available

November: available

December: Awlasewicz family in memory of Joey

Mother's Day Cards are on Sale

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 such as a blanket which can be used for warmth, shelter, carrying goods to the 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.

THIS MOTHER'S DAY,



Blanket the World with Love!
cwsblankets.org/mothersday

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

4 Jacob Collette
19 Autumn Collette
19 Rebecca Mulhare
25 Charlie Meade
27 Pat Fraley

Ladies Luncheon May 5

Mark your calendar for noon, Sunday, May 5 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...

At The Marketplace - Woodbury \$35

Reservations Required: Jeanne Steers
jsteers@me.com or 354-7484



Rummage/ Bake Sale June 29 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Our church Rummage/Bake Sale will be held on Saturday, June 29 from 9:00 - 2:00. June 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, kitchen items, working small appliances, etc. If you are undecided, you may call Sue Stauffacher at 860-354-1274 before 7:00 p.m. to ask.



Making a Difference

Church World Service Hygiene Kits

The Mission Committee is challenging the congregation to put together 30 Hygiene Kits for distribution in areas

of need following a natural disaster and in place of war, violence and unrest.

The kits contain - 1 hand towel measuring approx.. 15" X 28" to 16" X 32" (no finger tip, bath, dish towel or microfiber)

- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb removed from the package
- One finger nail or toe nail clipper removed from the package
- One bath size bar of soap in the wrapper
- 1 toothbrush in the package
- 10 standard size band-aids

Please speak with Barbara Biafore, project coordinator to volunteer.

Clothing donations **MUST** be either on hangars 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 Sunday, June 23. 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. We provide the bags.

Many of you just love to bake, so please plan to bake for the sale. Some people come just for our wonderful baked goodies :) Also, please volunteer to be a helper as this is a team effort. We offer free coffee all day. More info to come as June draws closer.



News from our Mission Partner – Simply Smiles

A guiding principle of Simply Smiles is to

provide bright futures by empowering the communities we are privileged to work with. The transfer of ownership and operations of our children's village to the Lakota people exemplifies our dedication to that commitment and aligns with our values of sustainability, self-determination, and respect for Indigenous sovereignty.

The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe is now positioned to be one of the few tribal nations with their own Native child welfare program.

Transferring a "turnkey" child welfare facility to the Tribe marks the pinnacle in our 15-year partnership. We want to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who supported the monumental effort to create our first-of-its-kind children's village on the Reservation. Your time, hard work, unwavering dedication, and incredible generosity have made this leap forward possible for the Cheyenne River Sioux community.

The journey to create the Reservation Children's Village took us into uncharted territory, challenged us, and demonstrated the power of genuine partnership with a community in need. While this marks the successful end of one chapter, it also is the beginning of the next one for Simply Smiles. We will carry forward the strength gained and lessons learned as we continue to provide bright futures and redefine how society's most vulnerable children are cared for.

The Roxbury Church went to LaPlant, SD CRST On 5 different occasions, as well as once to their site in Mexico.

While our in-person participation on the CRST in SD is now ending, we still will support Simply Smiles as one of our beloved Mission Partners. We are hoping to have Bryan Nurnberger come and speak during worship in late June.

The Thomas Canfield Society

Minister of the Roxbury Congregational Church
from 1743-1795

Individuals who left or will be leaving a legacy to the Roxbury Congregational Church through their Invested Funds.

Emma Schmidli
Mabel Bernhardt Smith
Ruth Johnson
James Kling
Jerry B. Allford
Gertrude E. Caveness
Clark Makinson
Marian Skedgell
Mary Elizabeth Peck
Elizabeth "Betty" Blyn
Susan Stauffacher
Robert Curtis

As of May 2024

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, shared 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.

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.

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 - 2024

Registrations are now open!

Conferences fill *f a s t!* - 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 2024 summer brochure, and look through the upcoming sessions at <https://www.silverlakeect.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 **AND was recently named one of the best Summer Camps in the US by Newsweek Magazine!!** Congratulations!!



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 silverlakeect.org

Silver Lake 2024 Open House

Sunday, May 19, 2024, 1-5 pm

Silver Lake staff, counselors, and deans are ready to introduce you to camp!

Take a walking tour, see the cabins and other buildings, find out where the Freds (bathrooms) are, and check out the ropes courses and the waterfront.

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

Feel free to arrive and leave anytime between 1 and 5 p.m.

We will be giving walking tours of camp periodically throughout the afternoon, with the last tour starting at 4 p.m.

AND here is another Summer Experience for Adults and older teens...



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 2024 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

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING



May 19, 2024

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

Strengthen the Church is one of the 5 UCC Special Offerings each year. The Roxbury Church has been supportive of all 5 offerings over the past years.

We encourage you to support Strengthen the Church!

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."



Upcoming Schedule of Special Events

- May 5 CWS Mother's Day card sale
Ladies Luncheon
Long River Concert – 3:00p.m.
- May 11 Spring Church Work Day 9-12
- May 12 Mother's Day
- May 19 Pentecost – wear Red
Strengthen the Church offering received
- June 2 Father's Day Card sale
- June 8 Art Show Drop off 10-4
- June 9 Father's Day Card sale
- June 14, 15 & 16 Art at the Meetinghouse
- June 16 Father's Day
Choir and Music Appreciation Day
- June 29 Rummage & Bake Sale 9-2
- July & August Worship time is at 9:30 a.m.
Rev. Peters on Vacation (July)
Sabbatical (Aug)
- August 31 Beef Barbecue 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- September 1 United Worship with Episcopal
Church Apple Lane pavilion
- September 7 Tag Sale, 9 a.m. -2 p.m.
- September 8 Homecoming
- October 6 World Communion Sunday
– *Neighbors In Need special offering*
- October 20 – Laity Sunday

American Flag Cases for Church Member Veterans

In celebration of Memorial Day this month and through generous donations of funds for wood and the craftsmanship of Chuck Farrell, we are offering to veteran church members only, a flag box.



This will be on a limited basis. If you are interested, please speak with Chuck. Thank you Chuck!

Word & Sacrament for May 2023

Underlined scriptures are for Lay Readers

John 3:1-17

Sunday, May 5

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48

Psalms 98

John 15:9-17

Greeters: Bill & Dariel Curren

Reader: Dariel Curren

Zoom Tech: Barbara Cover

Refreshments: Susan Zappulla-Peters

Sunday, May 12

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalms 1

John 17:6-19

Greeter: Barbara Biafore & Joan Temple

Reader: Barbara Biafore

Zoom Tech: Charlie Stauffacher

Refreshments:

Sunday, May 19

Pentecost Sunday – Sacrament of Baptism

Mental Health Sunday

Acts 2:1-21

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Greeters: Diana & Phil deVries

Reader: Diana deVries

Zoom Tech: Barbara Cover

Refreshments:

Sunday, May 26

Trinity Sunday

Isa 6:1-8

Psalms 29

Greeters: Chris & Janet Childs

Reader: Chris Childs

Zoom Tech: Charlie Stauffacher

Refreshments:

2024 Flower Calendar

The 2024 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.

Easter 2024 Flowers Donated by

Barbara & Norman Cover in memory of Loved Ones

Patricia Fraley In memory of Loved Ones

Rachel and Harry Gerowe in celebration of Family

Remy Shaber & family in memory of Alice & David Shaber

Carol Goodwin In memory of Loved Ones

Patricia & Paul Metzger in memory of Loved Ones

David & Susan Zappulla-Peters In memory of Loved Ones

Michael & Dottie Wilcox in memory of Loved Ones

Ones

June Faith Matters Deadline: May 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

Coordinator Susan Zappulla-Peters 860-355-8830
(zappullapeters@mac.com)

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: May 12**

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.

Recycling Printer & Toner 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.

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.

Thomas Canfield Society Members

The following is the current listing of the members of the Thomas Canfield Society. They have remembered the Roxbury Church in their will. We are most grateful for their generosity. They include:

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.

leadership listing

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 ■ 9:15AM Choir Rehearsal ■ 10:30AM Worship In-person & Virtual ■ 11:35AM Refreshments ■ 11:45AM Trustees Meeting	29	30 David Peters' day off ■ 3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	1 ■ 6:00PM Cub Scouts ■ 7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 65	2	3 ■ 12:00PM Hall & Kitchen use Sr. Project Ashton Hodge ■ 5:00PM Community Dinner	4 ■ 10:30AM Mindful Meditation
5 Cinco de Mayo Orthodox Easter ■ 9:15AM Choir Rehearsal ■ 10:30AM Worship In-person & Virtual ■ 11:35AM Refreshments ■ 12:00PM Ladies Luncheon ■ 3:00PM Long River	6	7 David Peters' day off ■ 1:00PM Choir Rehearsal ■ 3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	8 ■ 5:30PM Michael Banner Talk ■ 6:00PM Cub Scouts ■ 7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 65	9	10 ■ 12:00PM Blood Drive	11 ■ 8:00AM Mens Breakfast ■ 10:30AM Mindful Meditation
12 Mother's Day ■ 9:15AM Choir Rehearsal ■ 10:30AM Worship In-person & Virtual ■ 11:35AM Refreshments	13 ■ 9:00AM Daily Bread Food Pantry team	14 David Peters' day off ■ 3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	15 ■ 6:00PM Cub Scouts ■ 7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 65	16	17	18 Newsletter Deadline ■ 10:30AM Mindful Meditation
19 ■ 9:15AM Choir Rehearsal ■ 10:30AM Worship In-person & Virtual ■ 11:35AM Refreshments ■ 11:45AM Council	20	21 David Peters' day off Red Nose Day! ■ 3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy) ■ 6:00PM LSA Spring meeting	22 ■ 3:00PM Loaves & Fishes Meal ■ 6:00PM Cub Scouts ■ 7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 65	23	24	25 ■ 10:30AM Mindful Meditation
26 ■ 9:15AM Choir Rehearsal ■ 10:30AM Worship In-person & Virtual ■ 11:35AM Refreshments	27 Memorial Day	28 David Peters' day off ■ 3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	29 ■ 6:00PM Cub Scouts ■ 7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 65	30 ■ 7:00PM Roxbury Housing Trust Directors	31	1 ■ 10:30AM Mindful Meditation

(All 860- unless noted)

As of May 1, 2024
 Ministers: The Congregation
 Moderator: Charlie Meade 898-0107
 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: Brian Neff, 354-3177
 Missions: Charlie Stauffacher
 Fellowship: Jeanne Steers, 354-7484
 Pastoral Relations: Mark Wolmer, Joan Temple,
 Barb Cover
 Stewardship: Sue Stauffacher 354-1274

Men's Group: Charlie Stauffacher, 354-1274
 Historian: Dale Pinchbeck, 355-4297
 Librarian: Joan Temple, 350-0529

Staff

Custodian: Bruce Rossiter
 Secretary/Newsletter: Secretary,
 Luanne Awlasewicz 355-1978
 Minister of Music: Sandra Kleisner, 868-9040
 sandy@roxburychurch.org
 Pastor: The Rev. David F. Peters,
 office: 355-1978 home: 355-8830
 cell for emergencies: 203-770-6721
 david@roxburychurch.org

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faith matters

The Roxbury Congregational Church
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"We Are a Community Seeking to Share God's Love!"

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Roxbury, Connecticut 06783-1703

NEWSLETTER – May 2024

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**