

faith matters

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



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**We Are A Community
Seeking To Share God's Love!**



Pastoral Reflections

The Reverend David F. Peters, Minister

During these days I have one theme driving me each day as I serve you as the Minister of the Gospel: *Don't violate their Trust.* I feel your trust with every fiber of my being and I don't dare threaten it. You trust my discretion, my confidentiality and my educated judgement. You allow me to make some decisions about our church life in conjunction with our elected church leadership. I read and listen and consulted about how best to conduct distanced worship as it is my strong desire that you still feel spiritually connected as a church.

I don't want to threaten that trust as we look to begin in-person worship again. The last thing that I want is for you to doubt that I have your best and safe interests at heart. So I will err on the cautious side and safe side. Along with many of you, I am itching to get back together but I know that this is not the right time yet. So we will carry on with Zoom and Facebook Live and virtual office visits and the Thursday Mystery Church Tours. However, I will need a break and July is going to be my vacation. (I have postponed my planned August sabbatical month to a later date.)

This will be on the longer side, but I do hope you'll read it. (A tip of the hat to Jonathan Chapman for his column on this subject.)

(Continued on next page)

I will be away from July 1 – July 31. During that time, in an effort to recharge and renew, I'm asking for your help.

Please don't contact me.

I know that sounds harsh, but here's the thing: I love you guys and this church SO MUCH--so much, in fact, that I think about it ALL the time. My mind is constantly running with ideas, follow ups and what-ifs and we - shoulds! The point of a vacation is to take a break from all of that, and the only way to really get a shot at doing just that--taking a break--is to make a hard stop of communication. And this year is going to be worse with COVID-19 around, I will not be able to go out of town and unwind as much as I normally do. So what do I do when around the house... yes, think and plot about church stuff. Not good...

So, help me be better by not texting or calling or FB messaging me about church business. Very often, just in a regular week, I'll get a message that starts "I know it's your day off, but..." Please refrain from sending anything of the sort. It just pulls me right back in which defeats all the hard work we've put in together to make this happen.

I'm sure you're wondering, "But what about emergencies?" I will leave a message on the office phone about emergency coverage. Also, our Church Secretary, Nancy Glover, knows what to do and where to refer folks. Should there be something that does need my immediate attention, she and our Deacon Chair, Mike Wilcox, will make that decision and reach out to me. Theirs are the only calls I'll take.

I know that sounds hard, but I really believe it's for the best.

Here's what will happen and what I need from you:

-Your presence at worship. I have put together a GREAT group of preachers for you each Sunday. Often, I'll hear people say, "Well, if David's not there, I'm not going to go." Don't fall prey to that. You know as well I as do what a special place our church is and how much better our week is when we start it with God. Keep coming. Please look at the schedule of Summer Preacher and Summer Pastoral Emergency Coverage on Page 5. During July and the first three weeks of August at a minimum, we will be worship online only using Zoom with a simulcast on Facebook Live.

-Your understanding that our social media presence will be cut back. Nancy will send out the eFaith Matters (Call to Worship) on Fridays. Our Facebook postings will be minimal, except for Sunday worship, and, hopefully, David's Thursday Mystery Church Tour. While you may see me around town, don't ignore me, but also be mindful of my being, "off."

Finally, I'm going to miss everyone. Seriously. I just love this place and you all. And I'm so grateful for this opportunity that you've afforded me. Thank you.

Have a great summer!

With Love and Appreciation,

David

thank you

...to everyone during these pandemic days, being open and receptive to changes and modifications to worship and meetings.

...to those who have stepped up and been “Caring Connections” toward other members of the congregation.

... to those who have kept current with your pledges. We are healthy financially when all pitch in!

...to everyone who bought Father’s Day cards to benefit Church World Services.

...to Church Treasurer Cathy Racz as she not only stepped into some big shoes, following Beverly Wolmer, but also dealing with the Payroll Protection Program and the increased accounting.

... to Custodian Bruce Rossiter for going the extra mile and conducting a deep clean of the buildings.

...to our neighbor Patrick Roy for his generous donation of cleaning and sanitizing supplies for the church.



RIP Medical Debt Contribution

The Roxbury Church joined other churches of the Southern New England Conference of the UCC in the RIP Medical Debt Campaign this spring. Our church contributed \$250 to the effort which meant that over \$25,000 of medical debt of a family bought and forgiven in southern New England.

God has told you, O mortal,
what is good; and what
does God require of you
but to do justice, and to
love kindness, and to walk
humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8 NRSV

Music Ministry Appreciation Sunday, June 21

*We recognized and thanked our
Choir Members, 2019-2020:*

Vail Barrett, Autumn Collette, Barbara Cover,
Nancy Glover, Bill Jayne, Colby Kalisher,
Sterett Kelsey, David Lincicome,
Dale Pinchbeck,
Charlie Stauffacher, Sue Stauffacher,
Beverly Wolmer, Mark Wolmer.

We thanked Sandra Kleisner for her leadership as
our Minister of Music
and
David Lincicome, our substitute pianist.

Rummage/Bake Sale Update

This year our rummage/bake sale is a moving target. There is a slight chance it can happen in the Fall, based on how the health situation plays out. Otherwise, it will happen in Spring of 2021 if all is well then. I will definitely keep you informed. Safety, of course, is our first concern, both for our workers and the general public.

All that being said, please keep your items ready and growing.

Thank you all for your patience and understanding.

Sue Stauffacher

Mission Matters

A recent note from Village Crest:

*Dear Roxbury Congregational Church Mission Committee,
Sending many heartfelt thanks for your generous donations of coloring books, crayons, puzzle books, magazines, jigsaw puzzles and the like! Wow!! What a treat to have all of these in-room forms of entertainment to offer our dear residents. It's so nice to know there are thoughtful and kind-hearted folks in our community that have our residents' best interest in their minds (and prayers). We are taking one day at a time just like every other citizen and hoping the CDC and DPH give us little bits of freedom soon so that visitors and family members can visit sooner than later – we miss them a lot! From our hearts, thank you for your giving and loving ways. God bless you one and all.*

*Village Crest Nursing Home
New Milford*

Daily Bread Food Pantry

The Daily Bread Food Pantry team distributes food the second Monday of the month (approx. 9 am - 12 noon). We need more volunteers on the list to draw from.

If you are available or have questions, please speak with Sue Stauffacher at 860-354-1274.

The number of households visiting Daily Bread have more than tripled. It has been enormously challenging to keep their shelves stocked.

You can help!

Next time you go to the grocery store, please pick up an extra bag of basic food items and drop them off in the Church Narthex (front doors always unlocked) and leave on the cart there. Our team will bring them down to the Pantry.

Items needed include:

Non-perishables: canned tuna, peanut butter, black beans, kidney beans, rice, pasta, tomato sauce, canned fruit, canned vegetables

(Continued on next page)

(Daily Bread)

Financial Gifts are much appreciated as well. Checks can be made out to RCC and Daily Bread in the Memo.

Shelter Breakfast Ministry

If you are interested in helping prepare breakfast for those who stay in the Homeless Shelter in New Milford, the opportunity is available. We need people to make breakfast beginning at 5:00 am. certain Saturdays and Sundays. Please contact Charlie Meade directly at 860-355-1584 and let him know of your willingness to help.

Loaves and Fishes

Serving the Meal at Loaves and Fishes on the fourth Wednesday of each month beginning at 3:30 p.m. at the Richmond Town Center in New Milford. It is on the Green just north of the Congregational Church. Parking is behind the building. We need **three** servers each month to serve the already prepared meal and clean up afterward. Usually out by 6:00 p.m at the latest. Please speak with Mike Wilcox at 860-354-1274 if you are interested.

**Next Loaves & Fishes opportunity is
Wednesday,
July 22, 2020**

Cash for Causes

Retail Gift Cards

Cash for Causes will be taking the summer off and return in September. We thank Heidi Neff for her dedication to this fundraising program for the church!



Mindful Meditation Continues for Summer

Your host, Charlie Stauffacher, invites you to join with us as we gather on Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m., outside on the lawn, weather permitting, or via Zoom, online if weather isn't conducive.

These sessions are for anyone interested in meditation, whatever experience or lack of experience. Please speak with Charlie at 860-354-1274 so he can let you know what to bring and so he can contact you by email to let you know whether the group will meet in person or on line and how to access the on line meeting.

Thursday Church Tour

Each Thursday, David records a video from a mystery location on the Church campus. Try to guess where he is this week and click on the link below to see and hear about that place and what it could mean for you! Go to our Church's Youtube Channel:
<https://tinyurl.com/RoxburyCyoutube>
which can also be accessed from the Church's website, roxburychurch.org

summer matters

Summer Music

During the summer, while the choir is on break, if you would like to share your music during worship, please contact Sandy.

Summer Worship & Preachers

While Rev. Peters is on vacation from July 1- 31, we have lined up some wonderful worship leaders. We hope that you will take advantage of their insights and perspectives.

July 5: Rev. Walter Pitman of Sharon, CT. “Scooter” retired as Minister from the United Church of Christ of Southbury last year.

July 12: Rev. Samuel Dexter, Director of Pastoral Care - Regional Hospice of Western Connecticut in Danbury, formerly Minister at First Congregational Church of Watertown

July 19: Rev. Cheryl Anderson of Portland, ME. She retired from the First Congregational Church of Washington, CT last April.

July 26: Mr. David Lincicome, our neighbor, former Deacon and occasional guest musician will lead us in worship.

August 2, 9, & 16: Rev. Peters will be back and leading worship online only on Zoom and Facebook Live..

August 23 & 30: If the health numbers remain low and health officials allow it, we will have worship on the front lawn of the church, with Rev. Peters leading. Zoom Worship Will be offered as well as Facebook Live.

Regular 10:30 a.m. worship time will resume (hopefully) Sunday, September 6 with outdoor worship on the church front lawn.

Sunday, September 13 – Homecoming Sunday – planned return to in-person in the Meetinghouse with social distancing measures in place.

No Fellowship / Coffee Hours

Due to an abundance of caution, there will be no fellowship hour for the foreseeable future.

Summer Contacts

For pastoral emergencies, please email Rev. Robyn Gray at the First Congregational Church in Washington. Her email is pastor.robyn@firstchurchwashingtonct.org She checks her email often and will get back to you a.s.a.p.

(Rev. Peters will make himself pastorally available for funerals.)

For building concerns, please contact Tom Farrell (203-948-2833) or Chris Steers (203-948-0553)

For worship matters, Mike Wilcox, Deacon Chairperson (860-354-8821).

For office matters, Nancy Glover will be in the office Thursday and Friday mornings from 9:30 - noon. The church phone and messages will be reviewed at that time ONLY.

Summer Birthdays & Anniversaries

July

- 4 Bill Steers
- 6 Vicki Cover
- 12 Bill & Jan Steers (A) (1958)
- 12 Vail Barrett
- 17 Sara Jane Bird
- 19 Colby Kalisher
- 22 Mike Wilcox
- 28 Dick & Nancy Callahan (A) (1956)

August

- 5 Diane “Cha Cha” Kansas
- 12 Henry Neff
- 18 David Peters
- 20 Chris & Janet Childs (A) (1983)

- 21 Mark Wolmer
- 26 Kimberly Steers
- 28 Mark & Beverly Wolmer (A) (1971)



**Summer 2020 – Silver Lake Camp
Silver Lake – At Home!!**

While the in-person camp is cancelled, the creative staff there has developed a camp at home experience.

<https://www.silverlakect.org/silver-lake-at-home>

A small sampling of the sessions include:

- Virtual JuST Camp 2020
- Week 1: Love God
- Week 2: Love Your Neighbor
- Week 3: Love Yourself
- Week 4: Love Creation

Special Resources:
Parenting in a Pandemic on July 9 – 7 p.m.

Cooking with Chef Lynn on July 9 - FREE

And much more!
There are sessions for those in Grades 4-6, 7-9, and 9-12. All at a low cost!
<https://www.silverlakect.org/silver-lake-at-home>

It all ends with a Jumbo Saturday Bonfire on August 1 - FREE
If you have any questions, contact Jenn Clark, Program Director at jennkc@silverlakect.org

**Silver Lake
Golf Tournament**

The Silver Lake Board of Directors invites you to the 14th Annual Silver Lake Golf Tournament. Please join us for this important fund-raiser on Tuesday, September 22 at The Country Club of Waterbury, One Oronoke Road, Waterbury, CT. Further information is available on line at slcc@silverlakect.org

Silver Lake, in Sharon, CT, has become a sacred place to so many people, young and old, helping to shape future leaders and spirited community-builders everywhere, each summer hosting young people in a vibrant church camp. Their year-round outdoor facility is a ministry of the Southern New England United Church of Christ.

**Greetings from the Deacons Team!
Caring Connections**

Our deacons have been reaching out to church members by way of telephone calls these past couple of weeks. The idea is to say hello and check in to make sure people are ok and to find out if there's anything they need by way of assistance and to let them know the church is here for them and cares about their welfare.

We ask that you consider doing the same, with neighbors, particularly the older and health compromised population.



By making a planned gift to the Roxbury Congregational Church, your generosity will live into the future and help ensure that this tradition, this faith community, continues.

For more information, please contact Rev. David Peters at the Church Office or speak with your financial planning specialist. (We have a few within the congregation.)

A Reminder

Our bills don't take a vacation. The only income our church has is you. Please remember the church when you are paying your monthly bills this summer so we can pay ours! Thank you.

Leadership Listing

(All 860- unless noted)

Ministers: The Congregation
Moderator: Brian Neff, 354-3177
Clerk: Patricia Fraley, 868-0051
Treasurer: Cathy Racz, 799-
Collector: Heidi Neff 354-3177
Deacons: Mike 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: TBA

Men's Group: Charlie Meade 354-1274

Newsletter

The *Faith Matters* newsletter is published only once during the summer, at the beginning of July. Please have all material for inclusion in the September issue submitted by August 15. Send your contributions to office@roxburychurch.org.

*September Faith Matters Deadline
August 15th*

Roxbury Congregational Church, UCC
24 Church Street
Roxbury, CT 06783

Address Service Requested

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NEWSLETTER – JULY/AUGUST 2020

Worship – Sundays 9:30 a.m.

Online July 5 – August 16 – roxburychurch.org

“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!