

Faith Matters

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



Continuing Testament
Extravagant Welcome
Changing Lives

Vol. 280, Issue 7, July/August 2023
Church Office, 24 Church Street
Roxbury, Connecticut 06783-1703
Church Office: 860-355-1978
e-mail: office@roxburychurch.org

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Pastoral Reflections

Rev. David F. Peters, Minister

At several times in the Gospels, Jesus steps back from the crowds when some of his disciples think he should be responding to the urgent needs around him.

At the beginning of Mark, Jesus woke up early in the morning, before sunrise, and went off to a solitary place to pray (Mark 1:35). Simon and other disciples frantically searched for Jesus. When they found him, they informed him that everyone was looking for him. Jesus then decided to leave that place and go somewhere else (1:36-38).

Matthew 17 tells us that after spending six days with all the disciples, Jesus retreated to the top of a mountain with Peter, James and John, where the transfiguration took place. Afterward, Jesus returned to the crowds below and healed a boy who was demon-possessed.

Jesus' example provides helpful guidance to us who feel like they are caught in an endless cycle of busyness. What if getting away is essential to moving forward in ministry?

After the summer months, when everyone returns to their regular schedules, we will more than likely resume our busy routines. Some times this routine gives us cover to not ask the most important question for the church today... "What is the church, why do we do what we do and what makes us distinctive from other social service or community organization?"

During my time away on vacation and sabbatical, this church is never very far from my thoughts, for you are more than an organization or small business, you are a gathering of God's people, come together, to seek to share God's love; with each other, our community and the wider world. People I care about.

I would encourage you to consider these summer days to think about what makes this church different from the other organizations going good works and when you come up with some possibilities, ask yourself, "What am I going to do to make sure this church remain vital and vibrant, sharing God's love?"

Grace and Peace, *David*

Thank You

... 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 Service's "tools of Hope" program.

... to our choir members who have been rehearsing and singing each Sunday during the school year.

...to our Lay Readers and Zoom Techs – helping to have Sunday worship go smoothly and ensuring that our church community stays fed and connected.

...to Pat Fraley and David Lincicome who have been tending to our Church flower gardens.

... to everyone who helped with our Art at the Meetinghouse 18th Annual Juried Art Show June 16-18 The planning team was headed by Charlie Meade. Over 130 works of art were shown and sales of 26 pieces added over \$9,300 to our church budget.

.....to our organizers, benefactors, the Art Show team, our Judge, Deborah Chabrian, our guests and those who purchased works. A portion of the works sold benefits the ministries of our church.

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.

Fellowship / Coffee Hours

We need volunteers to set up simple ice tea, ice water and lemonade each Sunday during July/August. If you are willing, please contact Jeanne Steers – 354-7484

From the Parish Register

Birth

June 13, 2023: **Callen Ryder Josefson**, son of Michael and Erin (Britton) Josefson born in Danbury, CT.

Baptism

June 25, 2023: **Emilia Claire Paskalides**, daughter of **Matthew Lewis Paskalides & Eleanor Curren Paskalides**, born February 18, 2023 in New York, New York was baptized by Rev. Peters in the Meetinghouse. Godparents are James Curren & Nicole Paskalides. Grandchild of William and Dariel Curren.

Funerals

June 11, 2023: **George David Erdtmann**, died August 15, 2022 in Charlottesville, VA, age 57. A memorial service was conducted by Rev. Peters in the Orzach Preserve of the Roxbury Land Trust.

June 24, 2023 **Steven Williamson**, 75, died December 25, 2022 in Roxbury. A Funeral was conducted in the Old Roxbury Cemetery with Rev. Peters, officiating.

Marriage

June 30, 2023: **Lauren Henson** and **Tony Pina** were married by Rev. Peters at the Lounsbury House in Ridgefield.

Loaves and Fishes

Serving the Meal at Loaves and Fishes on the fourth Wednesday of each month beginning at 3:00 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 **two** servers each month to prepare the meal and clean up afterward. Usually out by 6:00 p.m at the latest. Please speak with Mike Wilcox at 860-354-8821 if you are interested.

**Next Loaves & Fishes opportunity is
Wednesday, July 26, 2023**

New Books in the Church Library

Reviews excerpted from Goodreads.com

Joan Temple, Church Librarian

The Apostles' Creed: A Guide to the Ancient Catechism by Ben Myers

The Apostles' Creed has united Christians from different times, places, and traditions. It proclaims eternal truths for life today. We believe them, we recite them, but do we build our lives on them? Ben Myers shows us what about the Christian faith is so counter-cultural, and what truths embedded in the Apostles' Creed we've come to assume, when really they should amaze us and earn our allegiance unto death.

Reaching for the Invisible God by Philip Yancy
Honest and deeply personal, here is straight talk on Christian living for the reader who wants more than pat answers to life's imponderables.

On the Brink of Everything: Grace, Gravity and Getting Old by Parker J. Palmer

Drawing on eight decades of life -- and his career as a writer, teacher, and activist -- Palmer explores the questions age raises and the promises it holds. "Old," he writes, "is just another word for nothing left to lose, a time to dive deep into life, not withdraw to the shallows."

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

Financial Gifts are much appreciated as well.

Checks can be made out to RCC and Daily Bread in the Memo.

Summer Matters

Worship & Preachers

While Rev. Peters is on vacation and sabbatical from July 1- August 24, we have lined up some wonderful worship leaders. We hope that you will take advantage of their insights and perspectives.

July 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30: Rev. Walter "Scooter" Pitman of Sharon, CT, retired Pastor, most recently Pastor of the United Church of Christ, Southbury.

August 6 Rev. Patricia Nicholas

August 13 to be announced

August 20: David V.C. Lincicome, Deacon, university professor, and ombudsman extraordinaire! former neighbor of the Church, now living in Southbury.

August 27: Rev. David Peters returns.

Worship will be a combination of in-person and virtual via Zoom starting at 9:30 a.m. Facebook streaming of worship will return in September.

Regular 10:30 a.m. worship time will resume Sunday, September 4,

Sunday, September 10 we will have United Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion at the Apple Lane Pavilion. There will be a picnic following. We ask everyone to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Sunday, September 17 will be Homecoming Sunday with the Choir returning.

Music during the Summer

If you would like to share your music during the months of July and August during worship, please contact Sandy. skleisner@charter.net

Summer Contacts

For pastoral emergencies, please contact David Lincicome, Deacons Chair at 203-948-2008. He will triage emergencies and pastoral responses (Rev. Peters will make himself pastorally available for funerals.)

For building concerns, please contact Tom Farrell (203-948-2833) or Bill Steers (203-948-7573)

For worship matters, David Lincicome, Deacon Chairperson (203-948-2008).

For office matters, Luanne Awlasewicz 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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

July

A=Anniversary

2	Howie White
4	Bill Steers
6	Vicki Cover
12	Bill & Jan Steers (A)
12	Vail Barrett
17	Sara Jane Bird
19	Colby Kalisher
22	Mike Wilcox
22	Doris Farrell

August

5	Diane "Cha Cha" Kansas
12	Henry Neff
17	Andrew Chin
17	Jerry Smith
18	Rev. David Peters
20	Chris & Janet Childs (A)
21	Mark Wolmer
26	Kimberly Steers
26	Frank White
28	Mark & Beverly Wolmer (A)

Other Ways of Supporting



Cash 4 Causes Card Program

We work primarily with these grocery stores:
Stop & Shop, Big Y and Shop Rite

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

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: July 9** It is hoped that you would purchase your cards on a monthly basis

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 that difference. You spend the same amount, but by using the card, your Church gets a benefit!!
- Contact Susan directly or speak with her on Sundays after worship.

LaBonne's Receipts

A continuing Thank You to everyone who contributes LaBonne's receipts to the church. Please save your receipts and place them in the wooden box on the table in Fellowship Hall.

Recycling Printer Cartridges

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

Annual Beef Barbecue

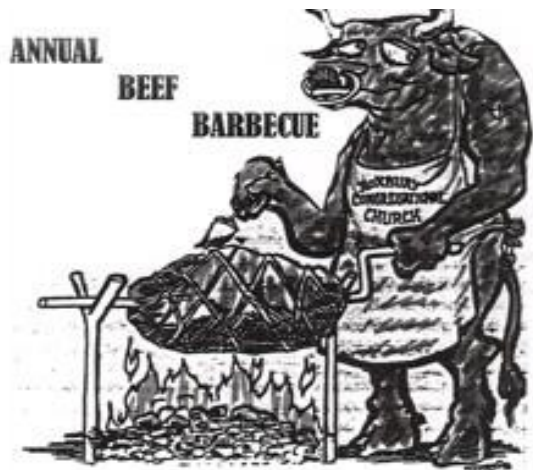
Roxbury Congregational Church
24 Church St (Rt 317) Roxbury

Saturday, August 26, 2023
5:00 to 7:00 PM rain or shine

Tentative PRICE: Adults: \$20.00
Sr. Citizens: \$18 10 & under: \$10.00
5 and under: free
Takeout Available

Tickets available at the door

Slow Roasted Local Beef Local Corn
Baked Potato ~ Bread Cole Slaw. Dessert ~
Beverage



drawing by Billy Steers

Note: We will need helpers to make this another successful event!

Please speak with Chris Childs and let him know you would like to help. 355-9067

Community Tag Sale /Bake Sale **September 9th**

Our church is holding its 19th annual tag/bake sale on Sat., Sept. 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It will be on the front lawn unless it rains, in which case it will be inside. Pray for a nice day!

You may rent a table for \$25 or a space (bring your own table) for \$20. Since we have less room inside than outside (in case of rain), it is on a first-come, first-serve basis.



Please reserve early as your payment holds your space. If you don't have enough "stuff" to rent a table, you may donate your treasures to the church table where the profits go to the church. You may do that during the week beginning Tuesday, Sept. 5th.

If you love to bake, we'd love to have your goodies for our bake table. A light lunch will be available.

For information and sign-up, call Sue at 860-354-1274 before 7:00 p.m.

Useful Web Links:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/RoxburyChurch

YouTube:

<https://tinyurl.com/RoxburyCyoutube>

Twitter: www.twitter.com/RoxburyChurch

Instagram: www.instagram.com/roxburyucc

Online Giving: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z252/home>

Guestbook: <https://tinyurl.com/brhsphen>

Linktree: <https://linktr.ee/RoxburyChurch>

Litchfield South Association, UCC

<https://litchfieldsouthreg.wixsite.com/litchfieldsouth>

Southern New England Conference, UCC

sneucc.org

United Church of Christ ucc.org

Word & Sacrament for July / August 2023

Underlined scriptures are for Lay Readers

Worship is now In-person and on Zoom

July and August Worship time is 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Peters on Vacation (July) & Sabbatical (August 1- 25)

July Deacons of the Month: Jan Steers assisted by David Lincicome
August Deacons of the Month: Charlie Meade assisted by Chris Childs

Sunday, July 2 *Rev. Walter Pitman*

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 22:1-14 and Psalms 13

Rom 6:12-23

Matt 10:40-42

Greeter: Carol Goodwin and Ray Fitch

Reader: Ray Fitch

Zoom Tech:

Flowers:

Refreshments:

Sunday, July 9 *Rev. Walter Pitman*

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 and Psalms 45:10-17

Rom 7:15-25a

Matt 11:16-19, 25-30

Greeter: Carol Goodwin and Barbara Biafore

Reader: Barbara Biafore

Zoom Tech:

Flowers:

Refreshments:

Sunday, July 16 *Rev. Walter Pitman*

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 25:19-34 and Psalms 119:105-112

Rom 8:1-11

Matt 13:1-9, 18-23

Greeters: Chris Childs and Janet Childs

Lay Reader: Chris Childs

Zoom Tech:

Flowers:

Refreshments:

Sunday, July 23 *Rev. Walter Pitman*

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 28:10-19a and Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24

Rom 8:12-25

Matt 13:24-30, 36-43

Greeters: Charlie and Sue Stauffacher

Reader: Charlie Stauffacher

Zoom Tech:

Flowers:

Refreshments:

Sunday, July 30 *Rev. Walter Pitman*

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 29:15-28 and Psalms 105:1-11, 45b

Rom 8:26-39

Matt 13:31-33, 44-52

Greeters: Bill and Jan Steers

Reader: Bill Steers

Zoom Tech:

Flowers:

Refreshments:

Sunday, August 6 *Rev. Patricia Nicholas*

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 32:22-31 and Psalms 17:1-7, 15

Rom 9:1-5

Matt 14:13-21

Greeters:

Reader:

Zoom Tech:

Flowers:

Refreshments:



Sunday, August 13

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 37:1-4, 12-28 and Psalms 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b

Rom 10:5-15

Matt 14:22-23

Greeters:

Reader:

Zoom Tech:

Flowers:

Refreshments:

Sunday, August 20 *David Lincicome*

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 45:1-15 and Psalms 133

Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matt 15: (10-20), 21-28

Greeters:

Reader:

Zoom Tech:

Flowers:

Refreshments:

Sunday, August 27 *Rev. David Peters*

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ex 1:8-2:10 and Psalms 124

Rom 12:1-8

Matt 16:13-20

Greeters:

Reader:

Zoom Tech:

Flowers:

Refreshments:

September Faith Matters Deadline
August 15th

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.

Steeple Lighting

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



We are now signing up Steeple Lightings for February 2024 and beyond – Contact the Church Office.

July: Samantha Steinis

In memory of Rosemary Ermini

August: Patricia Lowe

*In memory of Bucky Lowe
& Tammy Hinckley*

September: Luanne Awlasewicz

In memory of Diane Meade

October: Jeanne Steers

*In memory of Roger & Claudette
Guillemette*

November Cheryl and Dick Ayer

In memory of her father, Roger

December: Luanne & Tom Awlasewicz

In memory of Joey Awlasewicz

January 2024: Lynn & Bill Fichtel

In memory of Barbara McClendon

Save the Date!

All events listed are tentative as of 6/1/2023

July & August Worship time is at 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Peters on Vacation (July) and

Sabbatical (August through August 24)

August 26 Beef Barbecue 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Church grounds

September 9 Tag Sale, 9 a.m. -2 p.m.

Church grounds

September 10 United Worship with Episcopal

Church at Apple Lane with Picnic 10:30 a.m.

October 14

Progressive Supper

This Summer ...

Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center

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

Summer Youth Conferences - 2023

Registrations are now open!

Registration is still open. There are openings!

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 scholarship 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



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 2023 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



Become a member of the Thomas Canfield Society by making a planned gift from your will 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.)

Reasons to Consider Joining a Church (or staying a member...)

By Rev. Sharad Yadav

As I try to remember why the (heck) I do this for a living, here is a handful of reasons, dear friends, to consider joining a church:

1. To join a church is to commit to a social circle you do not get to choose and can therefore show you whether your spirituality is (bogus) or not
2. Joining a church is a way of practicing - among a small group of people over a significant period of time - what you'd like the world to be like
3. To join a church is to live in rebellion against the neoliberal and capitalist forces which are brainwashing you into making your consumer desire the center of the world, reducing all your experiences of the world (including all the people in it) to instruments and resources.
4. Joining a church is to organize your life around a time to confess your limitations, culpability and imperfections together with other people so that you can get used to receiving divine forgiveness and hope in response to your honesty.

5. To join a church is to resist all traditional loyalties to state, party, culture, family or affinity in an act of loyalty to a group that transcends all natural categories

6. Joining a church organizes your financial priorities around supporting an inclusive community for vulnerable people . . . that you actually have to live with.

7. To join a church is to cultivate an environment unlike your home, work or play where your life is not measured according to any other purpose or goal than to discover and enjoy your own humanity.

8. Joining a church is a way of maintaining healthy skepticism about human knowledge and capacities in the language of divine mystery.

9. To join a church is to cultivate an imagination for how your unique talents and creative potential can be offered on purpose for love instead of money
10. Joining a church is a life lesson in how to deal with (not-so-nice people) without retaliating, dehumanizing or running away (in the desperate hope of not becoming an a (not-so-nice person yourself.))

Leadership Listing

(All 860- unless noted)

Jerry Smith 781-789-7823

As of 6/1/23

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 354-7210

Stewardship: Brian Neff 354-3177

Missions: Charlie Stauffacher 354-1274

Fellowship: Jeanne Steers, 354-7484

Pastoral Relations contact:

Men's Group: Charlie Stauffacher, 354-1274

Historian: Dale Pinchbeck, 355-4297

Librarian: Joan Temple, 350-0529

Staff

Custodian: Bruce Rossiter

Secretary/Newsletter: Secretary, 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

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

Address Service Requested

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Newsletter – July / August 2023

We Are A Community Seeking to Share God's Love!

Worship in-person & on Zoom (link on church website) or Facebook Live (fb.com/RoxburyChurch)

Summer Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

Annual Beef Barbecue – Saturday, August 26, 5-7 p.m. – A Community Event!

No Matter Who You Are, or Where You Are on Life's Journey, You Are Welcome Here!

