

faith matters

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

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



Vol. 278, Issue 8, September 2020



Pastoral Reflections

The Reverend David F. Peters,
Minister

If there's one thing to have faith in this year, it's that everything's up in the air and that everything's different. For the first Sunday in September we will be moving back to our normal 10:30 a.m. worship time. This will be the third and last of our outdoor in-person worship services. They've gone pretty well with a few hiccups on the technical end, but we worked through them. We welcomed among us online our neighbors from the United Church of Christ, Southbury which was pretty great for us and them as well.

We had some special music with Corinne Brewer who provided guitar music for the services as well as a welcome break for Sandy Kleisner as she readies her lesson plans for the beginning of school. Everyone has done well with the mask wearing, hand sanitizing and social distancing. And our regional numbers for the COVID-19 virus have remained low. Thank God and all of you!

Sunday, September 13th will be our annual Homecoming Sunday observance. Traditionally it was a time to get everyone back from summer lazy days and vacation time and back into the habit of

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

church worship attendance and all the programs and activities that we have offered.

This year, Homecoming Sunday will be a welcoming back into our Meetinghouse, our first time back since March 8th! You'll find our pews marked off and other visual cues from other public places. While it will be good to be back in the Meetinghouse, we have also experienced that God is not solely to be found in the wooden 1838 walls on Church Street. God is also in the streets, villages, cities, and beyond!

I think what we missed most was the human interaction with one another. It's being with other people that helps to make life feel "normal."

We're in the midst of finding out together what the new "normal" is going to look like. I don't have a crystal ball so I can't predict what it will be.

These days, we have to be guided by faith as we move out and forward into the unknown. All I know is that God is present with us as we move into these new days. We move ahead in faith.

On a personal note, I want to say thank you for the your grace as we've moved through these last six months. They've not been easy and at times, they've been overwhelming. You've told me to do what's best and allowed me to experiment and at times fail. But I believe we have been faithful in these days and stronger for the future because of it.

With Gratitude and love,

David

thank you

Many thanks to our substitute preachers who filled in for Sunday worship this summer during Rev.Peters's vacation: Rev. Walter Pitman, Rev. Samuel Dexter, Rev. Cheryl Anderson and Mr. David Lincicome. Special thanks to Charlie Stauffacher for acting as Zoom Master for our internet worship services.

Thanks to Corinne Brewer who substituted for Sandy, giving her some vacation time, on August 23 and 31 and to soloists Pam Gerlach and Nicole Unterborn.

Thanks to an anonymous donor, we were able to have the handicap ramp to Fellowship Hall scraped and painted by Cullen Painting Service of New Fairfield.

From Silver Lake Conference Center (a ministry of the Southern New England Church of Christ, our year-round outdoor ministry in Sharon CT):

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued support of Silver Lake. Even though we are not gathering in person this summer, Silver Lake is continuing to provide impactful programs and experiences to our community. Because of folks like you, we are changing lives. Thank you!

Ruth Choate,

Administrator & Registrar

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| 5 | Phil de Vries |
| 5 | Jay & Dale Pinchbeck (A) (1964) |
| 8 | Ben Steers |
| 8 | Willy Steers |
| 9 | Luke Steers |
| 11 | Ed & Catherine Racz (A) (1994) |
| 12 | Diane Meade |
| 12 | Brian & Heidi Neff (A) (1983) |

- | | |
|----|--|
| 12 | Charlie & Sue Stauffacher (A) (1992) |
| 13 | Chris Childs |
| 13 | Bob & Robin Montesi (A) (1980) |
| 18 | Robin Montesi |
| 18 | Charlie & Diane Meade (A) (1982) |
| 25 | Christina Dumas |
| 27 | Sue Stauffacher |
| 28 | David Peters & Susan Zappulla-Peters
(A) 1985 |

Parish Register

Baptism

August 30, 2020: Tucker Henry Swanson, son of Zachary and Kimberly (Evans) Swanson, born February 22, 2020 in Danbury was baptized during outdoor worship at the church by Rev. Peters.

Marriages

May 30, 2020: Rachel Jane Prager and Brian Lawrence Messinger were married by Rev. Peters at the Nasterwich Meadow on Wellers Bridge Rd.

June 6, 2020: Jenna Lynn Downs and Matthew Martin Rebillard were married by Rev. Peters at the Hill Church in New Preston.

July 18, 2020: Sarah Jannette Clark and James Hunter Curren were married by Rev. Peters at the home of the groom in Roxbury.

July 25, 2020: Emma Morrison Beaulieu and Zachary Michael Collette were married by Rev. Peters on the Grounds of Westover School in Middlebury.

Funeral

August 27, 2020: David T. Daniel, 96, of Southbury, died August 18, 2020, a member of United Church of Christ, Southbury. A graveside service was held in Meriden, CT with Rev. Peters officiating.

News from Conference Minister

June 29, 2020

Dear Members of the Southern New England Conference:

Grace and peace to you in these days of summer and pandemics.



I am writing to let you know that I have resigned my position as Bridge Conference Minister of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ.

My resignation is effective July 31, 2020.

It has been a privilege and a blessing to work as one of your Bridge Conference Ministers. I have been gratified to be a part of the formation of our new Conference and working diligently to establish a vision and four core values that I believe holds us together as a Conference. As I depart, I give thanks for Don Remick and Marilyn Kendrix and the entire staff team that during this time of great challenge have remained diligent in their respective ministries.

I have worked in the Conference setting for 23 years. Beginning as a Regional Minister in Connecticut, serving as the Conference Minister of Florida and Connecticut and now as one of your Bridge Conference Ministers, I have seen

significant changes in this form of ministry over these decades of ministry. While there is much to celebrate and recognize over the years the highlight for me has been the building of deep and abiding relationships with pastors and leaders, with churches and Associations. My life has been blessed by the challenges and the joys that have unfolded during this time.

My next part of the journey is my call to serve as the Director of Philanthropy for the United Church of Christ. I will be a part of the OPTIC Team of the national setting (Office of Philanthropy, Technology, Identity and Communication). I will begin my ministry in the national setting on September 1st. I will carry out my responsibilities from a home office here in Connecticut. Please know that I will be prayerfully supporting the Southern New England Conference over the months and years to come. As you live the love and justice of Jesus and as you make disciples, live justly, adapt and innovate and build partnerships there is hope and promise in what you will do together.

I invite your prayers as I move into this time of transition. May God's Spirit abide with all of us. May we all live the love and justice of Jesus.

Faithfully,



Rev. Kent J. Siladi
Bridge Conference Minister

Worship in the Coming Weeks

Sunday, September 6 will be the last Sunday Worship on the front lawn of the Chapel at 10:30 a.m. This service will also be virtual on our Zoom Channel as well as Facebook Live.

You are asked to bring your own chair. You must wear a mask and sit socially distanced (min. 6 feet) from one another. We ask that you not shake hands, hug, or be closer than 6 feet from those who are not from your household.

The church will not be open for restroom use. (We cannot clean between uses). The Handicap bathroom will be available for emergency use only.

We will not be singing hymns or having responsive readings.

There will be no social hour afterwards.

We ask that you nod or wave to greet one another and air hugs are encouraged.

Please respect church leadership by preventing them from being in a position to enforce these guidelines.

The current plan is for the church to gather for worship back in the Meetinghouse on Homecoming Sunday, September 13 at 10:30 a.m. The space has been designated for social distancing and the same guidelines for interacting will apply. Virtual worship will continue as well.

Sharing our Faith Stories

Members of the congregation are invited to share their faith stories during worship on the third Sunday of each month. By articulating our own experience we invite other people to reflect on their own faith journey and recognize God's presence in their lives.

To prepare a faith story, start by answering the following questions:

- How do I experience God's presence in my life?
- How does the church, or this particular congregation, help me to recognize God's presence in my life?
- How do I live out my faith, my call to ministry, in my daily life?
- How did I get to this point on my faith journey?

Faith Stories are 3-5 minutes in length.

If you feel called to share your story, please contact Rev. Peters.



Blessing of the Animals

*Sunday, October 4
1:00 p.m.
on the front lawn.*

*Bring your pet(s)
to the front lawn of the church
to receive a blessing.
All of God's creatures need
and deserve a blessing!*

Upcoming calendar



**Join us on Sunday Mornings
Physically Distanced – Spiritually Connected**

September 13	Homecoming Sunday	10:30 a.m.
October 4	World Communion Sunday Neighbors in Need Offering	10:30 a.m.
October 11	Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting	12:00 p.m.
November 1	All Saints Sunday – Dedication of Memorials Daylight Saving Time Ends	10:30 a.m.
November 15	Stewardship Sunday	10:30 a.m.
November 26	Thanksgiving – A Day of Thanks and Prayer	
December 24	Christmas Eve Services	

*October Faith Matters
Church Newsletter Deadline for the October issue:
September 15th*

ongoing

Mindfulness Meditation Group

The Mindfulness Meditation Group continues to meet online using Zoom most Saturdays at 10:20 a.m. and outside the church, physically distanced on occasion. Please contact Charlie Stauffacher at 860-354-1274 for more information.

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

Our Stewardship Pledge Campaign

for 2021 begins October 4



Stewardship Sunday is November 15
Watch for details!

Prayer Shawls & Squares



Prayer Shawls are always welcome!

The Prayer Shawl Ministry, begun here in 2009, has involved a number of people knitting on their own schedule in their own homes. Each Prayer Shawl or Square is prayerfully crafted into a warming gift, given to a person in need, ill, lonely, bereaved or on a special occasion.

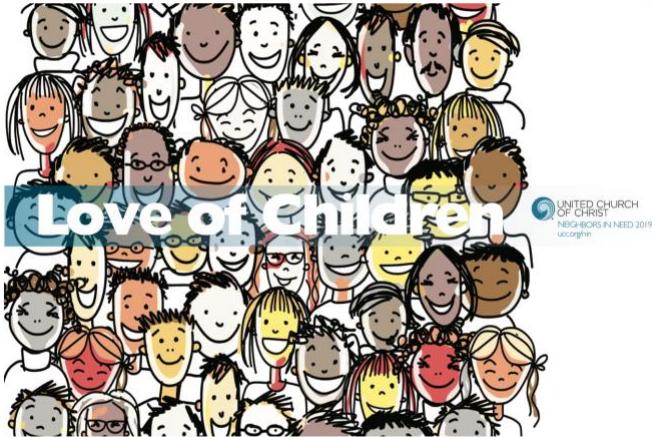
Pocket Prayer Squares are a portable and unisex version of the Prayer Shawl. There are Pocket Prayer Squares available in Fellowship Hall for you to take for yourself, a friend or to be distributed at a special occasion

If you know of someone who may like receiving a prayer shawl and is yet to receive one, please fill out a request form on the Opportunity Table in Fellowship Hall, or speak with Jan Steers.

If you are interested in creating a Prayer Shawl, or Square, please speak with Jan at 860-354-7210. There are easy-to-use patterns available. We are in need of a couple of Prayer Shawls at this time to increase our inventory.

mission matters

Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering



Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

Our Church, like most UCC congregations, will receive the NIN offering on **October 4, 2020** as part of their World Communion Sunday observance.

There will specially marked envelopes for your use and gifts will be on your financial statements.

Daily Bread Food Pantry

The Daily Bread Food Pantry team distributes food the second Monday of the month from 9 a.m. until noon. If you would like to help or have questions, please speak with Sue Stauffacher at 860-354-1274.

The number of households visiting Daily Bread has increased enormously. It has been 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.

Shelter Breakfast Ministry

If you can help 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

Help serve the evening 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 **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.

Word & Sacrament for September 2020

Deacons of the Month: Colby Kalisher and Mark Wolmer

Underlined scriptures are for Lay Readers

Sunday, September 6 OUTDOORS AND VIRTUAL

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 149

Matthew 18:15-20

Greeters:

Reader:

Flowers:

Sunday, September 13 Homecoming Sunday INDOORS AND VIRTUAL

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 114

Matthew 18:21-35

Greeters:

Reader:

Flowers:

Sunday, September 20 Indoors and Virtual

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Matthew 20:1-16

Greeters:

Reader:

Flowers:

Sunday, September 27 Indoors and Virtual

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Matthew 21:23-32

Greeters:

Reader:

Flowers:

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. With the federal HIPPA regulations, he is not able to find this information from the hospital.

Cash for Causes – PLUS!

Retail Gift Cards

Through a fundraising program called Scrip, we can purchase gift cards for grocery, department stores, gas stations, restaurants, hotels, home improvement stores and more. Simply purchase the cards and use them instead of cash, checks or credit cards. A percentage of the purchase price of the cards is returned to our church.

This program is an expansion of the one already in place for Stop & Shop, Shop Rite and Big Y. You can still purchase cards for them, but all of the other retailers as well. If there are retailers you visit regularly, why not have pre-paid cards in your wallet? It makes “cents”!

A complete listing of participating retailers is posted in Fellowship Hall, or can be found on Scrip's website: shopwithscrip.com. If you would like to create an account to place orders online, please use Enrollment Code 8F15BD7143454 to link the account to RCC. For payment, you have the option to sign up for PrestoPay (similar to PayPal), or write a check to RCC.

Orders will be placed each Monday and the cards will be available for distribution the following Sunday. Orders *must* be prepaid.

As always, feel free to contact Heidi Neff at 860-354-3177 or heidineff@sbcglobal.net, with any questions you may have.

Please contact Heidi Neff at 860-354-3177 or heidineff@sbcglobal.net.

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 church's website: roxburychurch.org

Work Projects around the Church Buildings and Grounds

We are grateful to those who have been helping out around the Church buildings and grounds in these days. We are not going to be able to have a Work Day this spring, so we have listed the jobs on the Church's Home page with a sign up.

We are grateful for the projects begun: Raking out and mulching, and planting in the side garden as well inside tasks.

We are in need of person(s) to pick up branches and sticks on the church front lawn and deposit them on the brush pile behind the barn. Please let Rev. Peters know if you can help.

Looking for ways to be helpful and share God's Love?

- Make a phone call to a neighbor, someone who is older or lives alone to check in on them.
- When at the store, pick up some items for either Daily Bread or the Roxbury Food Pantry. They can be dropped off at Christ Church Parish House Wed. or Fri. mornings. Or for Daily Bread inside the front door of the church. Daily Bread has double the number of clients now.
- If you are healthy and willing to help others with running errands, or some other need, please email Rev. Peters at david@roxburychurch.org.

Contacts:

- For Pastoral Concerns: Rev. David Peters
- For Worship Concerns: Deacon Chair: Mike Wilcox
- For Building issues: Charlie Meade
- Borrowing tables or chairs: Call Church Office and leave a message 355-1978 X2



Don't just make a plan, make a difference!

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.

Your church budget is supported, much like major universities, by using interest and appreciation from their invested funds. This is only possible because of the foresight of generous people like you adding to the Invested Funds of the Roxbury Church.!

Types of Planned Gifts

Gifts through your will

The Roxbury Congregational Church can be named as a beneficiary in your will and you can specify an outright gift of cash, securities, real estate or tangible personal property. If your estate is subject to the federal estate tax, a charitable bequest can save significant tax dollars.

Appreciated Stock

By making a gift of stock you receive an income tax deduction and eliminate the capital gains tax.

Charitable Remainder Trust

You can use under-performing appreciated assets to create steady income for the rest of your life. You

receive a significant charitable deduction and the capital gains tax is eliminated. Your trust can be professionally managed.

Charitable Lead Trusts

A charitable lead trust can enhance your ability to make larger current gifts to the Roxbury Congregational Church and you can preserve assets for your family while still supporting the church. You can also reduce your taxable income and your estate tax.

Gifts of Life Insurance.

This can be done either by purchasing a new life insurance policy or by contributing a policy which you currently own, but no longer need.

Roxbury Congregational Church can be designated as the beneficiary of the policy, while you retain the right to change the beneficiary at a later date and otherwise retain ownership of the policy.

Benefits

- Tax advantages are substantial, especially on appreciated securities and properties.
- Total income, estate and capital gains tax savings and the probate expenses savings can come close the amount transferred.
- Many giving options can assure you of income for the rest of your life.
- Your assets remain in your control during your lifetime.
- You can modify your gift to a particular agreed-upon purpose.
- While unrestricted gifts allow the church to allocate funds to areas of greatest needs, we can also help you direct your giving to the areas where you have the greatest passions.

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.)

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 ■ 6:00 AM Shelter Bkst ■ 9:30 AM Baptism – Tucker Swanson ■ 9:30 AM Worship	31	1	2 ■ 7:00 PM Deacons	3 ■ David Peters' day off	4 ■ David Peters' day off	5 ■ 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation
6 ■ 6:00 AM Shelter Bkst ■ 10:30 AM Worship – Outdoors	7 Labor Day	8	9 ■ David Peters' day off	10	11 ■ 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast ■ 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation	12
13 Homecoming Sunday ■ 6:00 AM Shelter Bkst ■ 10:30 AM Worship – Indoors	14 ■ 9:00 AM Daily Bread Food Pantry team	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 ■ David Peters' day off	17	18 Rosh Hashanah ■ 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation	19
20 ■ 6:00 AM Shelter Bkst ■ 10:30 AM Worship – Indoors ■ 11:45 AM Church Council	21	22 ■ 3:00 PM Loaves & Fishes Meal	23 ■ David Peters' day off	24	25 ■ 8:30 AM SNEUCC Online Mtg ■ 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation	26
27 ■ 6:00 AM Shelter Bkst ■ 10:30 AM Worship – Indoors	28 Yom Kippur	29 ■ David Peters' day off	30 ■ 7:00 PM Deacons	1	2 ■ 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation	3

Page 1/1

Leadership Listing

(All 860- unless noted)

Ministers: The Congregation
Moderator: Brian Neff, 354-3177
Clerk: Patricia Fraley, 868-0051
Treasurer: Cathy Racz, 799-0180
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: Pat Fraley, 868-0051

Men's Group: Charlie Stauffacher, 354-1274
Youth Group: Barb Cover, (203) 788-5823
Historian: Dale Pinchbeck, 355-4297
Librarian: Joan Temple, 350-0529
Secretary/Newsletter: Nancy Glover, 355-1978
Minister of Music: Sandra Kleisner, 868-9040
Custodian: Bruce Rossiter
Pastor: The Rev. David F. Peters,
 office: 355-1978 home: 355-8830
 david@roxburychurch.org

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

Address Service Requested

faith matters

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



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

NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2020

Worship – Sundays 10:30 a.m.

In-Person and on Zoom (on web site) & Facebook Live (fb.com/RoxburyChurch)

“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!