

faith matters

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



Continuing Testament
Extravagant Welcome
Changing Lives

Vol. 279, Issue 8, September 2021
Church Office, 24 Church Street
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Pastoral Reflections

Rev. David F. Peters, Minister

This past month, Susan and I discovered that her debit card was compromised. We found a series of charges over a three-day period that we did not make. We contacted the bank to report it and got a new card for her. Now we have to put in the time and frustration of having the charges reversed. As of this writing, it has not been going well. We feel like we have been violated. It is a reminder of the undependability of the things that we place trust in.

This is not an unusual story, many of you probably have been through this as well and can relate.

Trust is something that is most strongly felt in its absence. We go through our daily lives trusting in so many things. We drive down the road and see a car coming to a stop sign on a side road. We trust that they will stop and not run out in front of us or crash into us. We trust that the buildings and roads we use have been well engineered and are safe for us. We trust in our leaders to be informed, guide us, and have the greater good in focus and not personal gain or power.

Our dollar bill has “In God We Trust” on it, while a relatively recent addition, it speaks of that greater good, higher power that moves us to think beyond self.

Trust comes into play as we consider the attitude that one has as we begin each and every day. If we begin with an attitude of mis-trust, then we look at every interaction, every encounter with suspicion.

I believe in a God in whom I place my trust. A God who endows me with a faith to put trust “out there” to guide me and to know that even when someday I find myself wanting to be mis-trustful of everything and everyone, God is still constant, trustworthy.

I seek to have our church and its ministries be one on which you can trust. We work off of core values of serving others, with transparent business practices and encourage trusting relationships among its members and those we seek to serve in Christ’s name.

May we continue to be so trusting!

Grace and Peace, *David*

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thank you

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

Tag/Bake Sale

This event took place inside on Saturday, Aug. 14th. It was a cozy event, but everyone had enough room around their rented tables and seemed happy.

The total profit for the church so far is \$1,418. This includes the bake table, church tables, rented tables, and the lunch. There is potential for more \$\$'s, as I have a number of items in a consignment shop in Marbledale.

There are so many people to thank for their hard work. This includes the workers, bakers, donators, buyers, set up people and set down people, sandwich makers, sorters, packer uppers, repacking packaging workers, and others. Know that I love you all and appreciate you always saying, "Yes", when I ask you to help in so many ways. I certainly can't do this alone, especially if we have to be inside due to weather forecasting. In the 17 years of having this event, we have been inside four times. Thank you, thank you, thank you :)

I'll keep you posted.

Sue Stauffacher

Beef Barbecue a Huge Success!!

Those who planned this year's Beef Barbecue on August 28 were unsure what kind of response we would get. The weather had been very humid in the days leading up to the event, COVID-19 were on the rise again but the crowds and their support come out.

We are happy to report that we had planned for 150 meals as in 2019 but this year sold over 216. The income was \$4437.00 with expenses of \$3513.58 for a profit of \$3513.58.

A big thank you to Planning Chair Chris Childs and all who organized, prepared, served and partook of this year's BBQ!

From the Parish Register

Deaths

August 5: **Carol White**, wife of the late Franklin, mother of Frank and Marge, died in Torrington, CT. Burial will be private. Our prayers go out to her family and may she rest in peace.

Memorial Service

August 7: **Mary (Molly) Mernitz Wright**, died May 4, 2021 at age 91 in Augusta ME. A memorial service was held in the Meetinghouse with Rev. Peters officiating. Molly was a minister's daughter, missionary in Japan, minister's spouse, church volunteer and served for a number of years as Church Secretary here. May she rest from her labors in peace.

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

A=Anniversary

- 5 Phil de Vries
- 5 Jay & Dale Pinchbeck (A)
- 8 Ben Steers
- 8 Willy Steers
- 9 Luke Steers
- 11 Ed & Catherine Racz (A)
- 12 Diane Meade
- 12 Brian & Heidi Neff (A)
- 12 Charlie & Sue Stauffacher (A)
- 13 Chris Childs
- 13 Bob & Robin Montesi (A)
- 18 Robin Montesi
- 18 Charlie & Diane Meade (A)
- 21 Elizabeth Kleisner
- 25 Christina Dumas
- 25 Alex Kleisner
- 27 Sue Stauffacher
- 28 David Peters & Susan Zappulla-Peters (A)

mission matters

Daily Bread Food Pantry

After a lengthy discussion with Peter Kent, Daily Bread Food Pantry President, we came up with the following list of items they need and want, and items that they have ready access to so don't need as donations.

YES - items needed/wanted are: cereal (hot and cold), pasta and pasta sauce, canned veggies, soup, common spices and condiments, coffee (instant and ground) flour, Hamburger Helper, cake mixes and frosting, rice (white) and dried beans.

Items that are very popular and selected immediately are: vegetable oil, sugar (white), laundry detergent, and dishwashing detergent. Other popular non-food items are: toothpaste, tooth brushes, hand soap, shampoo, and feminine hygiene products.

NO - Items NOT needed/wanted are: mac & cheese, boxed milk, meat, canned tuna, peanut butter, butter, eggs and stuffing mix.

The food pantry gets items from the CT Food Bank (weekly delivery) that are on the NO list, so it is best to donate items that are on the YES list.

In addition to the items mentioned above, clients receive frozen meat, milk, eggs, and fresh produce each time they visit. Currently three visits per month are allowed, although no-one is turned away without food if they are in need.

On another note, the client distribution days are Tuesday and Friday, 9:30 – 11:00. About 30 people are needed on client distribution days. There is an in-place crew for distribution days, which is held outside. If you'd like to help, there is always the odd job that needs doing.

Donation days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 11:30 – 1:30. If you would like to be a receiver of donations at the Food Pantry, contact Daily Bread's Volunteer Coordinator Marybeth Alpuche (mbalpuce@aol.com). If you'd like to help, contact Marybeth at 203-482-2931 or simply fill in the short form at <https://www.dailybreadfoodpantry.com/volunteer-application>.

Our church has been wonderful at donating, so keep donating - it goes to help those that may be food insecure.
Sue Stauffacher

Shelter Breakfast Ministry

With the pandemic and the overnight shelter in New Milford on a hiatus, the breakfast has been suspended for the foreseeable future. If you are willing to help out when they resume, please speak with Charlie Meade, coordinator. The breakfasts normally are served each Saturday and Sunday by teams from our congregation or affiliated with the Church.

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 **three** 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 860-354-1274 if you are interested.

**Next Loaves & Fishes opportunity is
Wednesday, September 22, 2021**

Cash for Causes

Retail Gift Cards

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



Mindful Meditation

Our host, Charlie Stauffacher, invites you to join with us as we gather on Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m., in the Church Library or via Zoom, online.

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 answer your questions or contact you by email with instructions for online access.

Confirmation Class to hold Orientation Session

On Sunday, September 19 at 11:45 a.m. those interested in being in the Confirmation Class and their parents are invited to attend an orientation session after worship in the Chapel Library.

Confirmation is a education and exploration program open those youth at least in grade 9. The program involves monthly class sessions with an adult mentor from the congregation as well as occasional sessions with the Minister. There is a curriculum to follow to guide the discussion in the areas of Christian faith, life and practice.

The program leads up to Confirmation Sunday on Pentecost Sunday, June 5, 2022. Letters will be going out to those who we know of who are of the age that is eligible. For more information, please speak with

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Rev. Peters.

Neighbors in Need Offering Sunday, Sept. 19

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.

Chili to Go 2021



Our 2021 chili event will be Saturday, October 16 in the late afternoon. We will be serving “to go” meals of beef or vegetarian chili, cornbread, coleslaw and brownie. There will be online ordering and payment. All the food will be provided by The Market CT (Bantam & Northville Markets). We will prepare to go bags to fill orders and take the food out to our customers.

SO, please save the date and let your friends and family know!! Watch the October Faith Matters for online ordering details.

If you would like to help plan this event, help in the kitchen or assist outside, please call Charlie Stauffacher 860-488-0162.

Silver Lake News

Dear friends of Silver Lake,
We have amazing news to share with you!

As of January 1st, 2022, we will officially become **Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center.**

Silver Lake is an amazing green place where all kinds of people gather to grow, play, and learn about themselves amidst God's infinite love. In the summer, Silver Lake gathers people at camp. In the fall, winter and spring, Silver Lake gathers people in various kinds of retreats.

We will always be Silver Lake, but the "Conference Center" part was confusing to many people. For example, when a parent goes online to find a camp for their child, Silver Lake might be far down the search list, as the words "conference center" don't mean camp.

Updating Silver Lake's name to include "Camp and Retreat Center" will allow more people to find and attend Silver Lake, and more people at Silver Lake will help keep us strong and vibrant far into the future.

I hope you will join us in celebrating Silver Lake's newest renovation and support YOUR camp and retreat center into the future.

Sincerely,

Rev. Ryan Gackenheimer, Executive for Camps and Retreats, Silver Lake



Silver Lake Conference Center

A Ministry of the Southern New England Conference UCC
223 Low Road | Sharon, CT 06069 | 860.364.5526 | Fax: 860.364.1000
slcc@sneucc.org

church event calendar

Save the Dates

September 12 Homecoming Sunday with Picnic

October 3 World Communion Sunday – Neighbors in Need Offering received

October 16 Chili Dinner

October 17 Laity Sunday

November 7 Daylight Saving Time ends
All Saints Sunday – Dedication of Memorials

November 14 Stewardship Sunday

November 25 A Day of Giving Thanks and Prayer (Thanksgiving)

November 28 Advent 1 (Candle Lighting)

December 1 World AIDS Day

December 4. Christmas Fair

December 5 Advent 2 (Candle Lighting)

December 12 Advent 3 (Candle Lighting)

December 12 Victorian Christmas

December 19 Advent 4 (Candle Lighting)
UCC Christmas Fund Offering
Christmas Caroling

December 24 – Christmas Eve
7:30 p.m. Lessons & Carols
11 p.m. Candlelight Communion

word & sacrament for september 2021

Underlined scriptures are for Lay Readers

Worship is now In-person and on Zoom 10:30 a.m.

September Deacons of the Month: Mark Wolmer & _____

Sunday, September 5

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 125; Mark 7: 24-37

Greeters: **Vail Barrett & Mark Wolmer**

Reader: **Vail Barrett**

Zoom Tech: **Charlie Stauffacher**

Flowers:

Sunday, September 12 *Homecoming Sunday*

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 19; Mark 8: 27-38

Greeters: **Barbara Cover & _____**

Reader: **Barbara Cover**

Zoom Tech: **Charlie Stauffacher**

Flowers:

Sunday, September 19

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 1; Mark 9: 30-37

Greeters: **Mark & Beverly Wolmer**

Reader: **Mark Wolmer**

Zoom Tech: **Barbara Cover**

Flowers:

Sunday, September 25

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 124; Mark 9: 38-50

Greeters: **Phil & Diana de Vries**

Reader: **Phil de Vries**

Zoom Tech:

Flowers:



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.

September: Cover Family
October: Carol Goodwin
November: Sue Stauffacher
December: Meade family
January 2022: Gaila Rossiter

Super Saturday Workshops

The Southern New England Conference, UCC is offering a virtual Super Saturday event on October 2. See the sneucc website or speak with Rev. Peters for more information.



Silverlakeect.org for information



Become a member of the Thomas Canfield Society 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.)

*October Faith Matters Deadline
September 15th*

Plastic Film Recycling

This is the recycling of plastic film. So far, I know that Southbury Stop & Shop has a receptacle by their entrance, and Whole Foods takes it at their customer service desk. I will continue to investigate other drop off options.

Please save your plastic film and recycle it. You will be doing your part to help the environment :)

See examples of plastic film below:

Retail, carryout, produce, newspaper, bread, and dry cleaning bags (clean, dry and free of receipts and clothes hangers)

- Zip-top food storage bags (clean and dry)
- Plastic shipping envelopes (remove labels), bubble wrap and air pillows (deflate)

- Product wrap on cases of water/soda bottles, paper towels, napkins, disposable cups, bathroom tissue, diapers, and female sanitary products
- Furniture and electronic wrap
- Plastic cereal box liners (**but** if it tears like paper, **do not include**)
- Any film packaging or bag that has the How2Recycle Label shown at right

Stay tuned for more info as I get it.

Submitted by Sue Stauffacher

leadership listing

(All 860- unless noted)

Ministers: The Congregation
Moderator: Brian Neff, 354-3177
Clerk: Patricia Fraley, 868-0051
Treasurer: Dawn Collette, (203) 947-1098
Collector: Cathy Racz, 799-0180
Deacons: Mike Wilcox 354-8821
Trustees: Charlie Meade, 354-1274
Stewardship: TBA
Missions: Barbara Biafore, 799-6501
Fellowship: Jeanne Steers, 354-7484
Pastoral Relations: Colby Kalisher 355-8012

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

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



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

Address Service Requested

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NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2021

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)
Sundays 10:30 a.m.