

# *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@roxburychurch.org](mailto:office@roxburychurch.org)

Vol. 279, Issue 8, September 2024

## ***Pastoral Reflections***

Rev. David F. Peters, Minister

### **Coming Home?**

With the coming of September, cooler weather, and conclusion of summer get-aways, we naturally come back to the rhythms of everyday life. School begins, fall and winter preparations begin, pull fall clothes out from the back of the closet to be worn, and other things as well.

One of the traditions / habits is the return for many of coming home back to church. The Roxbury Church is unique as it has been reported to have that family, caring feeling among those who attend. (We have our uneasy moments to be sure as well, but what family doesn't?)



For me as I come off of some time away on vacation, having surgery, and sabbatical, I have been thinking about, if I am coming home, what am I coming home to? What is this place we call Roxbury Church? And why do I need to come back home to this "third place" where we are challenged, empowered, and supported as people living out the spirit and teachings of Jesus?

Now generationally, some come back home because it is what they have always done. It is in the DNA if you will. Their friends, their identity is tied up in our Church. But consider for some it is not so natural, so easy, so necessary...

This goes to heart of what it is to be a church. What do we do and foster here that cannot be done elsewhere in our community? What is the unique purpose of the church. I dare say, if we cannot come up with an answer to this question, especially in this day and age, we might as well close the doors, sell the building and give the proceeds away to other charity.

You may wonder where all the people have gone... they are asking the same question of the church, Where has the church gone? Where do I see their works in the community and beyond? And for some they are not getting a compelling answer...yet. Maybe this should be our focus this year as we come home...

I am committed to walk this path with you and struggle for the answers, will you join me?

Grace and Peace, *David*

## **Progressive Supper** **Saturday, September 28**

A popular tradition here are Roxbury Church.

The Progressive Dinner involves participants traveling to different “stops” to enjoy appetizers, soup and salad, a main course and finally dessert. Each stop will have a different mix of people with everyone coming together at dessert!

Singles as well as couples are invited to enjoy the fun!

Advance registration is required so we can customize each person’s “route.”

See the sign up on the Opportunity Table. You will receive your route the week before by mail.

Questions: please speak with the organizer, David Lincicome.



## **Homecoming Sunday** **September 8 – 10:30 a.m.**



Who says you can't come home?

Join us on Sunday, September 8th at 10:30 a.m. for worship and a time of gathering together

and recommitting to living out the love of God in Roxbury and beyond!

If you haven't been at worship lately, please consider this an invitation to be here this Sunday?

## ***Save the Dates***

- September 7 Tag Sale, 9 a.m. -2 p.m.
- September 8 Homecoming Sunday – Choir begins
- September 28 Progressive Supper
- October 6 World Communion Sunday –  
*Neighbors in Need special offering*
- October 27 Laity Sunday
  
- November 3 All Saints Sunday – A Time of  
Remembrance and Dedication of Memorials  
Daylight Savings Time Ends
- November 10 Stewardship Sunday
- December 1 Advent Begins
- December 7 Country Church Christmas Fair
- December 8 Santa Fund offering received
- December 15 Olde Tyme Christmas 5:00 p.m.
- December 22 Christmas Fund-Veterans of the  
cross offering received / Christmas Caroling
- December 24 Christmas Eve  
7:30 p.m. A Service of Lessons and Carols  
11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service

## ***mission matters***

### ***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.

### **We Need Your 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.

### **New Books - Summer 2024**

Here are three new books recently added to the church library. Why not read one on your porch or in your hammock during the dog days of summer? Simply visit the church library, select your book, and sign the card in the back of the book.

Want to check out what else is available for your reading pleasure? Go here:

<https://www.librarycat.org/lib/RCCChurchlibrary>

If you have questions, contact Joan Temple at

[nonietemple@gmail.com](mailto:nonietemple@gmail.com)

Happy reading!

- ***The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Hare***  
by Charlie Mackesy  
Enter the world of Charlie's four unlikely friends, delight in his drawings, and explore the life lessons that unite us all. This is a one-sitting read that will restore your faith in the goodness of others.
- ***Mostly What God Does: Reflections on Seeking and Finding His Love Everywhere***  
by Savannah Guthrie  
Unspooling personal stories from her own joys and sorrows as a daughter, mother, wife, friend, and professional journalist, the award-winning TODAY show co-anchor and New York Times bestselling author explores the place of faith in everyday life.
- ***A Pilgrimage to Eternity: From Canterbury to Rome in Search of a Faith*** by Timothy Egan  
Pulitzer Prize winning author Timothy Egan takes readers on a thousand-mile pilgrimage through the theological cradle of Christianity, exploring one of the biggest

stories of our time: the collapse of religion in the world that it created.

Several new books have recently been added to the church library for your reading pleasure and inspiration, but more new and vibrant titles are needed. If you would like to purchase a book to share with others, please check out the RCC Library wishlist at: [Check out my list on Amazon](#)

Simply purchase a book of your choice and drop it off at church. Our church librarian will process it and let others know that it has been added to our collection and is ready for check-out. Your generosity will be most appreciated!

### ***Advanced Notice Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting***

On Sunday, October 13, the Church will hold its regularly scheduled Semi-Annual meeting of the congregation. During the meeting, leaders of the church will share the activities of the past 6month, discuss on-going ministries, and hear from the congregation.

### ***Mindfulness Meditation***

Your 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.

## ***A Successful Beef Barbecue!***

We had a very successful Beef Barbecue thanks to great attendance, supportive volunteers and a great community feel that was mentioned numerous times!

We served 230 paying guests plus crew  
Ticket Sales and donations brought in \$4811.00  
Expenses were \$1654.96 For a net profit to the Church of **\$3,156.04**  
(Budgeted amount was \$2,000)

WOW! Thanks to all who worked and especially Chris Childs who organized it all!  
Thanks to Janet and Chris Childs, who donated the bread and David Lincicome who donated the Ice Cream!



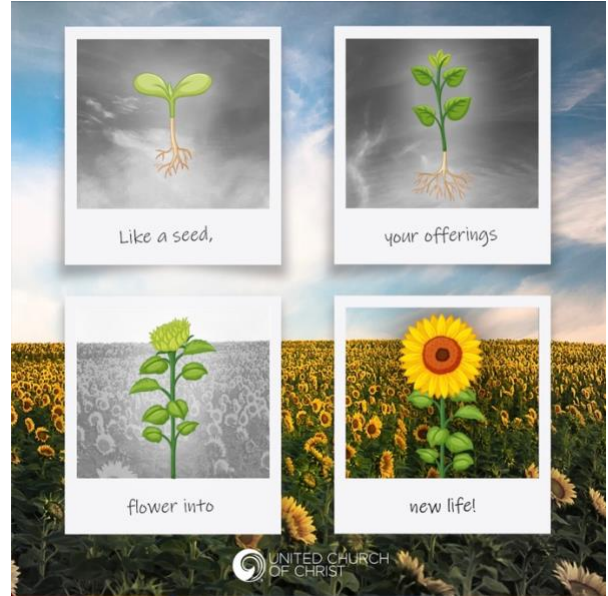
*A view of this year's BBQ*

## ***thank you***

...to **Pat Fraley** for continuing to tend to the flower gardens and walkways.  
...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 those who helped with the annual Beef Barbecue. See the detailed report later in Faith Matters

...**Jim Beckman** (Jim's Welding – Danbury) for fabricating a new firebox for the Corn Cooker.

## ***A Word From Our Stewardship Committee***



Everything we have is given to us by God. A Christian steward serves God out of love and gratitude for these gifts knowing that it's not how much we have but what we do with what we have that is important. Stewardship is an expression of our faith; a way to thank God for blessing us with special gifts. It's based on our need to give something back to God to support Christ's mission. Everything we have is given to us by God. What will you do with all that you have been given?

*(Rev. Lillian Daniel)*

Be watching for the beginning of our Church's Stewardship Campaign and help make a difference in our community and world. We give thanks, share, and New Life emerges!

## ***Newsletter***

The *Faith Matters* newsletter is published each month with a combined summer issue. Please have all material for inclusion in the October issue submitted by September 15. Send your contributions to [office@roxburychurch.org](mailto:office@roxburychurch.org).

# Word & Sacrament for September 2024

Underlined scriptures are for Lay Readers

Worship is now In-person and on Zoom

September Deacons of the Month: Mark Wolmer assisted by Pat Fraley

## Sunday, September 1

*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Food Offering for Daily Bread*

*Song of Sol 2:8-13 and Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9*

*James 1:17-27*

Greeters: Mark & Beverly Wolmer

Reader: Mark Wolmer

Zoom Tech:

Flowers:

Refreshments: Picnic at Apple Lane

## Sunday, September 29

*Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 and Psalm 124*

*Mark 9:38-50*

Greeters: Tracey Cahill & Audrey Ryan

Reader: Tracey Cahill

Zoom Tech: Barbara Cover

Flowers:

Refreshments: Patty & Paul Metzinger

## Sunday, September 8

*Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Prov 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 and Psalm 125*

*Mark 7:24-37*

Greeters: Diana & Phil deVries

Reader: Diana deVries

Zoom Tech: Charlie Stauffacher

Flowers:

Refreshments: Barb & Norm Cover

## Sunday, September 15

*Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Prov 1:20-33 and Psalm 19*

*Mark 8:27-38*

Greeters: Joan Temple & Carol Goodwin

Reader: Joan Temple

Zoom Tech: Barbara Cover

Flowers:

Refreshments: Doris & Chuck Farrell

## Sunday, September 22

*Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Prov 31:10-31 and Psalm 1*

*Mark 9:30-37*

Greeters: Mike Wilcox & Pat Fraley

Reader: Pat Fraley

Zoom Tech: Charlie Stauffacher

Flowers:

Refreshments: Diana & Phil deVries



## 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 March 2024 and beyond – Contact the Church Office.

September Patty Metzinger

*In memory of Anthony & Elizabeth Perrotti*

October: Frank White

*In memory of his mother, Carol*

November Pat Lowe

*in memory of loved ones*

December: Luanne & Tom Awlasewicz

*In memory of Joey Awlasewicz*

January 2025: available

February 2025: available

March 2025 and beyond: available

## 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: September 8

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.

### **Sign up For Citizen's Co-op (\$35/yr.)**

Save money on your oil, propane and electric rates. If 3 do this month, and mention the Church we get \$100!

We are inviting all of our members to pass on the savings and put some money in your pocket!

If 3 people join the Co-op this September and when they do they will send the Church \$100.

And with even more referrals, they will send us more money.

AND with their Referral Program, they will waive the Church's membership fee for the 2025/2026 heating season AND we will be more than halfway to a Lifetime Membership. The Church has been a member for a number of years getting lower cost oil per gallon.

In order to qualify, any new member must mention your name and join before 10/1/24 in order for you to receive credit.

**For flyer send an email to  
meredith@oilco-op.com  
or call 860-561-6011**

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## 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.

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

A=Anniversary

#### September

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



Choir 2024

## Do You Have A Will and Have You Considered Naming the Roxbury Church In It?



A Will gives instructions to your survivors on how to distribute your estate after your death. Your estate is everything you own. Cars, house and other real property, cash stocks, golf clubs, computers, jewelry, and other personal property all constitute your estate. The total often is greater than we imagine, but a Will is necessary and important regardless of the size of the estate. Without a Will, the distribution of your property will be dictated by the laws of your state.

### How Can I include the Roxbury Church?

**Specific amount:** State a specific dollar amount (but make sure you review your Will regularly).

**Gift by percentage:** Give a percentage of a particular asset, or a percentage of your estate.

**Residual bequest:** Give the remainder of your estate after your survivors have received their inheritance.

*Bequests help to provide principal investments from which interest and growth are used to supplement the Church's Operating and Mission Budget.*

While it is suggested that you consult an estate attorney to draw up a will, there are free will websites including <https://www.freewill.com>

If you need more information, please contact the Church Office or your attorney.

# September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30AM Worship In-person &amp; Virtual</li> <li>10:30AM United Worship</li> <li>11:35AM Refreshments</li> </ul>	2 Labor Day	3 Rev. Peters Day off <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:00PM Choir Rehearsal</li> <li>3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)</li> </ul>	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:00PM Cub Scouts</li> <li>7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 65</li> </ul>	5 7:00PM Deacons	6	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00AM CHURCH TAG SALE</li> <li>10:30AM Mindful Meditation</li> </ul>
8 Homecoming Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:15AM Choir Rehearsal</li> <li>10:30AM Worship In-person &amp; Virtual</li> <li>11:35AM Refreshments</li> </ul>	9 9:00AM Daily Bread Food Pantry team	10 Rev. Peters Day off <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)</li> </ul>	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:00PM Cub Scouts</li> <li>7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 65</li> </ul>	12	13	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00AM Mens Breakfast</li> <li>10:30AM Mindful Meditation</li> </ul>
15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:15AM Choir Rehearsal</li> <li>10:30AM Worship In-person &amp; Virtual</li> <li>11:35AM Refreshments</li> <li>11:45AM Council</li> </ul>	16	17 Rev. Peters Day off <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)</li> </ul>	18 Newsletter Deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:00PM Cub Scouts</li> <li>7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 65</li> </ul>	19	20	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30AM Mindful Meditation</li> </ul>
22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:15AM Choir Rehearsal</li> <li>10:30AM Worship In-person &amp; Virtual</li> <li>11:35AM Refreshments</li> </ul>	23	24 Rev. Peters Day off <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)</li> </ul>	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:00PM Cub Scouts</li> <li>7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 65</li> </ul>	26 7:00PM Roxbury Housing Trust Directors	27	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30AM Mindful Meditation</li> <li>5:30PM Progressive Supper – Adult Fellowship</li> </ul>
29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:15AM Choir Rehearsal</li> <li>10:30AM Worship In-person &amp; Virtual</li> <li>11:35AM Refreshments</li> <li>11:45AM Trustees Meeting</li> </ul>	30	1 Rev. Peters Day off <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:00PM Choir Rehearsal</li> <li>3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)</li> </ul>	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:00PM Cub Scouts</li> <li>7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 65</li> </ul>	3 Rosh Hashanah	4	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30AM Mindful Meditation</li> </ul>

## leadership listing

(All 860- unless noted)

**Ministers:** The Congregation  
**Moderator:** Charlie Meade, 860-898-0107  
**Clerk:** Patricia Fraley, 868-0051  
**Treasurer:** Dale Pinchbeck 355-2497/ Dawn Collette 203-947-1098  
**Collector:** Beverly Wolmer 203-405-6795  
**Deacons:** David Lincicome 203-948-2008  
**Trustees:** Brian Neff, 354-3177  
**Stewardship:** TBA  
**Missions:** Charlie Stauffacher 354-1274  
**Fellowship:** Jeanne Steers, 354-7484  
**Pastoral Relations:** Mark Wolmer 203-405-6795

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

### Staff

**Ch. Secretary:** Luanne Awlasewicz, 355 -1978  
**Minister of Music:** Sandra Kleisner, 868-9040  
**Custodian:** Bruce Rossiter  
**Minister:** The Rev. David F. Peters,  
 office: 355-1978 home: 355-8830  
 david@roxburychurch.org





## A Special Opportunity to Share God's Love!

Our Roxbury Food Pantry, based at Christ Church, Episcopal is reporting an upsurge of people seeking food.

Their shelves are emptying and we can help!

They have asked for our Church to donate 4 items:

- Cereal
- Pasta Sauce
- Hearty Soup
- Canned Chicken or Canned Tuna.

We are challenging our congregation this week to pick one or more of these items and drop them off at the church this week (in Fellowship Hall or Meetinghouse Foyer) or at Church on Sunday.

We can do this and help restock the shelves!



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

Address Service Requested

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**Church Newsletter – September 2024**

*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](https://fb.com/RoxburyChurch))

Sundays Worship 10:30 a.m.

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

