

Faith Matters



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

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

Vol. 281, Issue 9, October 2024

Pastoral Reflections

The Reverend David F. Peters, Minister

As October graces us with its crisp air and vibrant fall colors, we are reminded of the beauty of change and the constant blessings that God provides. This month, as we gather for worship, fellowship, and service, we also enter a season of gratitude and reflection.

Celebrating Harvest and Abundance

October has long been associated with harvest—a time to celebrate the fruits of our labor, both in the fields and in our spiritual lives. We are called to take stock of the ways God has worked in and through us throughout the year. Whether it's through the relationships we've built, the ministry work we've been a part of, or the growth in our faith, let us recognize these blessings and give thanks to the Lord for his provision.

Opportunities to Serve

As we prepare for the coming winter months, there are many opportunities to serve those in need. Our church will be hosting several outreach events, including food drives, toy & book collections, and volunteer opportunities with local organizations. Christ calls us to love our neighbors, and October is a wonderful time to embody that love through action. If you feel led to contribute or serve, please reach out to our ministry leaders for ways to get involved.

Reflecting on God's Faithfulness

As the year winds down, we encourage everyone to take time for personal reflection. What has God taught you this year? Where have you seen God working in your life? In moments of stillness, we often find clarity and renewal in our relationship with God. Let October be a month where we not only prepare for the holidays but also take intentional moments to connect with our Creator.

Upcoming Events

1. **Blessing of the Animals** – Join us on October 13 for a community celebration!
2. **Trivia Night** – November 2 at 7 PM. A time of fun and gathers members of the community in our building and to experience the hospitality and warmth here.
3. We also have begun collecting new and gently used toys and books for Daily Bread clients.
4. And we have the on-going collection of nonperishable food items for both the Roxbury Food Bank and Daily Bread in Danbury

As we embrace this new month, may we remain ever mindful of the beauty of God's creation, the power of gratitude, and the joy found in serving others. We look forward to all that October holds for our church community!
Grace and Peace,

David



Upcoming Events

World Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 6

On October 6th we mark and celebrate World Communion Sunday. We acknowledge that we are all interconnected in God's love and care with all humanity. We witness that, as members of the wider church, it is our mission to show forgiveness, share love, and offer financial assistance.

Neighbors in Need Offering

Sunday, October 6

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on Sunday, October 6, is a special offering of the UCC. Your contributions to the NIN special mission offering support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States including the Council for American Indian Ministries. This year there is a special emphasis on Mental Health ministries. If you missed donating to this effective mission program, please know that specially-marked envelopes are on the Opportunity Table and will be received during October.

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

Notice is hereby given of the Semi-Annual Meeting of the Roxbury Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Roxbury, Connecticut, to be held October 13, 2024, at 11:45 a.m. for the purpose of receiving reports of the standing committees of the church and for any other discussion that may arise for the good of the church and its ministries.

The meeting will also be presented live on Zoom, so worshippers that day can just stay connected following worship for the meeting.

All members of the congregation are asked to attend.

Pat Fraley, Church Clerk

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 13 – 1:00 p.m.



1 p.m. on the Church Front lawn.

Bring your pet for a special blessing. Open to the whole community.

Litchfield South Association Meeting

October 15,

6:00 p.m. –

Bridgewater

Congregational Church



The meeting will be held at the Bridgewater Congregational Church

beginning with dinner in their Friendship Hall at 6:00 p.m. Vespers, a business meeting including election of officers and committee members, and a program becoming a supportive congregation of mental health.

The cost of the meal is \$15.00 per person

There will also be a gluten-free and vegetarian option available.

To register/RSVP, please get in touch with the Office Administrator Ashli Feather at Bridgewater Congregational Church, UCC:

office.bwucc@gmail.com or call 860-354-8283

Laity Sunday

Sunday, October 27

A worship service lead by members of our congregation. If you would like to participate, please speak with Board of Deacons chair, David Lincicome. deacons@roxburychurch.org
FYI: We already have someone signed up to deliver the sermon.

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Caroline Kibbe
- 2 Hailie Collette
- 13 Heidi Neff
- 14 Brian Neff
- 18 Billy Steers
- 19 Rick Heyniger
- 22 Charlie Stauffacher
- 25 Susan Zappulla -Peters
- 27 Matthew & Dawn Collette (A)

Save these Dates for November

Trivia Night

November 2, 7:00 p.m.

Gather your friends or show up and be put on a “wild-card” table and test your knowledge of trivia. Joan Temple and Chris Childs and crew usually have some great themed rounds for all to enjoy. \$75 for a table of 6, or \$12.50 per person, bring your favorite snacks and beverages.



November 9, 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon

Help out around the church properties with clean up, spruce up and repairs. This not only shows a cared-for place, but saves the Church money that can be used to help others in mission programs.

Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast



Saturday, November 16 8-10 a.m.
Fellowship Hall
Come and support our Cub Scout Pack!

Thank You

Thank you to...

...Those who worked on the Tag and Bake Sale
...**David Lincicome** for filling in when Rev. Peters was ill on September 22.
...those who are Refreshment hosts on Sundays.
... **Dale Pinchbeck** who ended her extended term as our Church Treasurer.
...**Pat Fraley** for her continued work on beautifying of the walks and gardens around the Church.
... our **Church Staff** and particularly **Bruce Rossiter**, our custodian for his attention to detail and ensuring a clean and welcoming place.
... **Dawn Collette** who begins her term as Church Treasurer.

Attention College Parents

Many of our young people are away at school and we like to keep in touch with them through the newsletter and e-mail. If one of your adult children has moved to a new address in the past six months, please call the church office to give it to us or email it to david@roxburychurch.org. We feel this is an important on-going work of our congregation.

Mission Matters

Daily Bread Food Pantry

Daily Bread prefers 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, 11:30 - 1:30 and Wednesday, 2:00 – 4:00. If you would like to be a receiver of donations at the Food Pantry, contact Daily Bread's Volunteer Coordinator Karen Pricken (kchristine24@gmail.com). If you would like to help, send Karen an email and tell her what days you are available. She will get back to you with what slots/days are open.

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

Sue Stauffacher

New Books in the Church Library

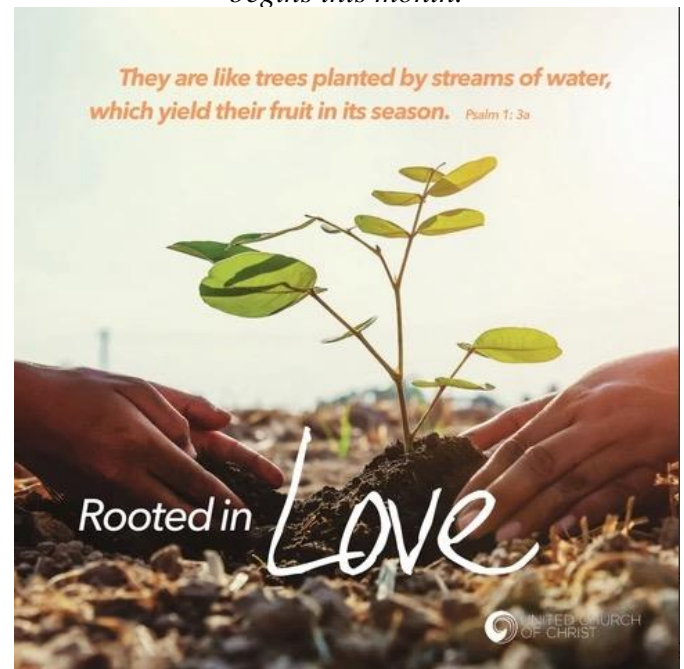
Do you have young children or grandchildren who love listening to you read to them? Check out the children's library in Fellowship Hall! Simply sign your name (first and last, please!) and enter the date on the card in the back of the book and leave the card in the box on top of the bookshelf. Here are some newly added titles to enjoy with your little ones:

Faith Matters October 2024

- ***The Ten Commandments for Children*** by Lois Rock
This book teaches children about the ten commandments and God's love in everyday language and with colorful drawings.
- ***I Talk to God about How I Feel*** by Stormie Omartian
This thought-provoking, honest and encouraging book is beautifully illustrated with characters who bravely show their emotions, including sadness, happiness, loneliness, anger, and anxiety, and reassures them of God's love no matter how they feel.
- ***Picture Word Prayers*** by Mary E. Erickson
This book provides children with a lively introduction to first prayers as well as an ideal start to reading. Enjoy!

Our Stewardship Pledge Campaign Financial Giving

*for the work of the church in 2025
begins this month.*



We will receive financial pledges for 2025 on
November 17th

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.

Another Successful Tag/Bake Sale

A big thank you to all who contributed in any way to the Sept. 7 tag/bake sale. Due to the weather forecast, we held it inside Fellowship Hall instead of outside. It worked out very well, and we discovered a upside to being inside - people were closer to each other physically and they talked to each other a lot. When we are outside, we are farther away from each other, and the friendliness doesn't happen as easily. All good :) Of course, setup outside is way easier.

As I always say, "Even though it's over, it isn't over". Some leftover items go to consignment shops which may bring in more dollars. As of today, we have made \$999.

Thank you again,
Sue Stauffacher

Ways to Support Our Church

Printer Cartridge Recycling means \$\$

Save your empty printer cartridges and deposit them in the bin under the Opportunity Table in Fellowship Hall. They are traded in at Staples who gives us credit in return. A win-win!

Example: this past month we purchased a full case of copy paper and paid for it completely by rewards!

And don't forget **LaBonne's Store receipts**. A collection box is on the Opportunity Table for those as well.

It is simple, easy and it all adds up

Cash for Causes

Retail Gift Cards

The coordinator for this popular program is Susan Zappulla-Peters and an emphasis on the local grocery stores.

It is hoped that you would consider getting in the habit, like some, to purchase your cards on a monthly basis.



NEW: The second Sunday of each Month will be Card Ordering Sunday. Oct 13, Nov 19, Dec 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.
(860-355-8830 zappullapeters@mac.com)*

Word & Sacrament for October 2024

First Sundays = Communion
Third Sundays = Faith Stories - Fourth Sundays = Mission Moments
Deacon of the Month: **David Lincicome** assisted by **Barbara Biafore**
Underlined scriptures are for Lay Reader

Sunday, October 6

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday/ Neighbors in Need Offering
Job 1:1, 2:1-10 and Psalm 26 Mark 10:2-16
Greeters: Barbara Biafore and Carol Goodwin
Reader: **Barbara Biafore**
Fellowship: _____
Zoom Tech: Charlie Stauffacher
Flowers: _____

Flowers: _____

Sunday, October 13

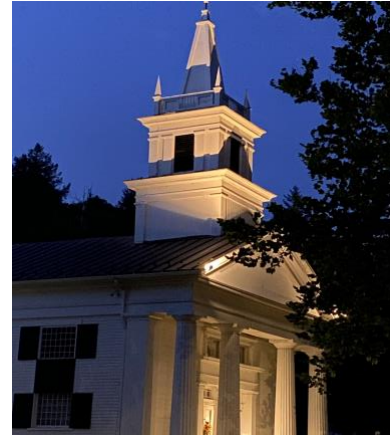
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
Semi-Annual Meeting after worship
Disabilities Awareness Week
Job 23:1-9, 16-17 and Psalm 22:1-15
Mark 10:17-31
Greeters: Patty and Paul Metzging
Reader: **Patty Metzging**
Fellowship: _____
Zoom Tech: Barbara Cover
Flowers: _____

Sunday, October 20

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
Job 38:1-7, (34-41) and Psalm 104:1-9, 35c
Mark 10:35-45
Greeters:
Reader:
Fellowship: _____
Zoom Tech: Charlie Stauffacher
Flowers: _____

Sunday, October 27

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost Laity Sunday
Job 42:1-6, 10-17 and Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)
Mark 10:46-52
Greeters:
Reader:
Fellowship: _____
Zoom Tech: Barbara Cover
Faith Matters October 2024



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.

October 2024: Frank White

In memory of his mother, Carol White

November 2024: Pat Lowe

In memory of loved ones

December 2024: Luanne and Tom Awlasewicz

In memory of their son, Joey

January 2025: Available

February 2025: Available

Advance Dates:

Sat., December 7 Country Church Christmas Fair

Sun., December 15 Victorian (Old Tyme) Christmas Service 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services at 7:30 and 11:00 p.m.

information matters

Faith Matters – Monthly Newsletter

Our church newsletter is mailed monthly to those who subscribe. Or you can pick it up in the Narthex (entrance) or in Fellowship Hall. It is also available at the Roxbury Market.

eFaith Matters – Twice Weekly email

We send out an email each Monday with the latest announcements, prayer requests and an inspirational piece and a Call to Worship on Fridays. Subscribe by sending an email to david@roxburychurch.org.

Church Website

The Church's website, roxburychurch.org, is chock-full of information and events. There are resources for the journey of life as well as pictures of our common life and links to related sites.

Meeting Minutes & Reports Board

This special bulletin board is on the landing just outside the Library / Office area. On it are posted the latest minutes and reports for all committees as well as financial reports.

As always, if you are seeking some information, please ask, as we strive to be as transparent and open as possible.



You can find Roxbury Church on Social Media

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/RoxburyChurch>

YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/RoxburyCyoutube>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RoxburyUCC>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/roxburyucc/>

To Ensure the Word Gets Out...

In the recent past, the Church has send notification that a new edition of Faith Matters, our Church's newsletter has be released and posted on our church's website. We mail out copies to less than a dozen who have requested that.

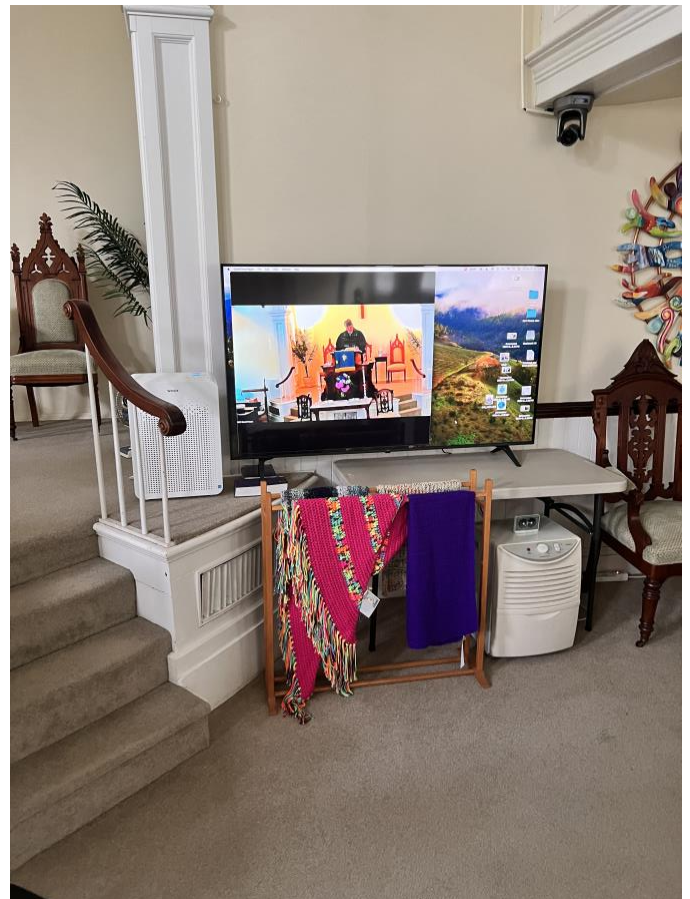
But if you are not on the eFaith Matters email list nor happen to think (or know) to go to our website, you may never know the latest news, information or opportunities from the Church.

So as a trial, we are also emailing a link to all those active members, friends and associate members.

We are committed to be transparent as well as to not hide the great work and ministry of this church under a bushel... hidden from view.

If you do not want a email link for the newsletter, you can simply reply and ask to be unsubscribed.

David



Our Monitor allows congregation members to interact with those joining worship online.



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.

Our Church Operating budget depends in small part to Invested Fund interest Income as well as capital projects around the 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 of 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 advisor. (We have a few within the congregation.)

October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 = 9:15AM Choir Rehearsal = 10:30AM Worship In-person & Virtual = 11:35AM Refreshments = 11:45AM Trustees Meeting	30	1 Rev. Peters Day off = 1:00PM Choir Rehearsal = 3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	2 = 6:00PM Cub Scouts = 7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 65	3 Rosh Hashanah	4	5 = 10:30AM Mindful Meditation
6 = 9:15AM Choir Rehearsal = 10:30AM Worship In-person & Virtual = 11:35AM Refreshments	7	8 Rev. Peters Day off = 3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	9 = 6:00PM Cub Scouts = 7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 65	10	11	12 Yom Kippur = 8:00AM Mens Breakfast = 10:30AM Mindful Meditation
13 = 9:15AM Choir Rehearsal = 10:30AM Worship In-person & Virtual = 11:35AM Refreshments = 11:45AM Pastoral = 11:45AM Semi-Anthony = 1:00PM Blessing of the Altar = 1:00PM Fellowship	14 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples' Day = 9:00AM Daily Bread Food Pantry team	15 Rev. Peters Day off = 3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	16 = 6:00PM Cub Scouts = 7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 65	17	18 Newsletter Deadline	19 = 10:30AM Mindful Meditation
20 = 9:15AM Choir Rehearsal = 10:30AM Worship In-person & Virtual = 11:35AM Refreshments = 11:45AM Mission Meeting	21	22 Rev. Peters Day off = 3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	23 = 6:00PM Cub Scouts = 7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 65	24	25	26 = 10:30AM Mindful Meditation = 2:00PM Baby Shower - Kyla Peters
27 Laity Sunday = 9:15AM Choir Rehearsal = 10:30AM Worship In-person & Virtual = 11:35AM Refreshments	28	29 Rev. Peters Day off = 3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	30 = 6:00PM Cub Scouts = 7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 65	31 Halloween = 7:00PM Roxbury Housing Trust Directors	1 Diwali	2 Day of the Dead = 10:30AM Mindful Meditation = 7:00PM Trivia Night

Church Leadership Listing

(All 860- unless noted)

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

Men's Group: Charlie Stauffacher, 354-1274
Historian: Dale Pinchbeck, 355-4297
Librarian: Joan Temple, 350-0529
Secretary/Newsletter: Luanne Awlasewicz, 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

Church Newsletter Deadline for the November issue: October 20th

The Church Office reserves the right to edit all submissions for content and space.

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

Address Service Requested

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NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2024

Worship – Sundays 10:30 a.m.

Worship In-Person or on Zoom (link on web site) or Facebook Live (fb.com/RoxburyChurch)



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