

faith matters

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



Continuing Testament
Extravagant Welcome
Changing Lives

Vol. 279, Issue 7, July/August 2022
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Pastoral Reflections

Rev. David F. Peters, Minister

I have used this space to not provide another sermon each month, but a reflection that will build up this community of faith so that it can remain vital and vibrant in the future. It sometimes is a soft subject, and other times, it is more instructive in tone. This will be one such time.

I am concerned like most of you, about the state of our society and the polarized nature of it. In times past, if someone had a differing opinion, we understood that and knew that a healthy community has different opinions. More recently I, and I imagine many of you, have had to wrestle with internal conflicts of bias against others who do not share our views, be they political, social, or religious. I believe that the beauty of our country is that we are free. Free to have differing opinions and views, just as we have differing cultures, upbringings and life experiences.

One thing to bear in mind though is that freedom is held in tension with that diversity and the rights of others for freedom, safety, and inclusion. The word “all” is included in the Constitution for a reason. I would like to believe that the writers were influenced by their Christian heritage.

We have come to the point, I believe, that we need to relearn the basis for civil conversation. I want to share some that I found and would invite you to read, ponder, and include when you are having those difficult conversations with others.

1. Try and reach a shared understanding rather than "win the argument".
2. Clarify with others to make sure I genuinely understand their perspective.
3. Endeavor to avoid committing logical fallacies in support of my claims.
4. Attempt to account for my own biases and try to be intellectually humble.
5. Try to be reasonable, rational, and create coherent arguments.
6. Refrain from personal attacks, sarcasm, and mean-spiritedness.
7. Use the 'Principle of Charity' to see the merits of others' points of view in the best light.
8. Remain genuinely receptive to changing my mind if presented with compelling arguments or evidence.



I will work on it, and I invite you to do the same. Have a blessed summer!

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 insuring that our church community stays fed and connected.

... to our Confirmation mentors this year: Barbara Cover, Diana deVries, and Susan Zappulla-Peters.

... to everyone who helped with our Art at the Meetinghouse 17th Annual Juried Art Show June 17-19 The planning team was headed by Charlie Meade. Over 130 works of art were shown and sales added to our church budget.

.....to our organizers, benefactors, the Art Show team, our Judge, Linda West, 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.

September Faith Matters Deadline
August 15th



Confirmands with Phil deVries – June 12, 2022

From the Parish Register

*New Members through the Rite of Confirmation
On Sunday, June 12, 2022:*

*Autumn Collette
Hailie Collette
Lindsay Mulhare
Welcome all !*

mission matters

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 860-354-8821 if you are interested.

**Next Loaves & Fishes opportunity is
Wednesday, July 28, 2021**

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:

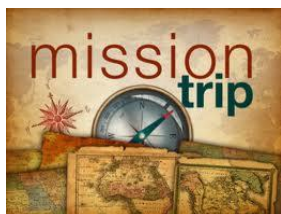
Non-perishables: canned tuna, peanut butter, black beans, kidney beans, rice, pasta, tomato sauce, canned fruit, canned vegetables

Financial Gifts are much appreciated as well.

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

Interested in Going on A Mission Trip?

All Ages with the Bridgewater Church
July 31- August 5 (adults can choose length
of stay)
In Philadelphia.



If interested, Contact
Rev. Abby Gackenheimer
860-354-8283
or Candy Smith 203-947-
6675.

summer matters

Music

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

Worship & Preachers

While Rev. Peters is on vacation and sabbatical from July 1- August 25, we have lined up some wonderful worship leaders. We hope that you will take advantage of their insights and perspectives.

July 3, 10, 17, 24, & 30: Rev. Walter "Scooter" Pitman of Sharon, CT, retired Pastor, most recently Pastor of the United Church of Christ, Southbury.

August 7 David V.C. Lincicome, Deacon, university professor, and ombudsman extraordinaire! former neighbor of the Church, now living in Southbury.

August 14: Rev. James Robertson of Watertown, retired Pastor, most recently Associate Pastor at the First Congregational Church of Watertown. Jim has also been Moderator of the United Church of Christ nationally and currently is a Partner in the law firm of Carmody, Torrance, Sandak, & Hennessey based in Waterbury.

August 21: David V.C. Lincicome

August 28: 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, with United Worship 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 11 will be Homecoming Sunday with the Choir returning.

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

Contacts

For pastoral emergencies, please email Rev. Robyn Gray at the First Congregational Church in Washington. Her email is pastor.robyn@firstchurchwashingtonct.org She checks her email often and will get back to you a.s.a.p. (Rev. Peters will make himself pastorally available for funerals.)

For building concerns, please contact Tom Farrell (203-948-2833) or Chris Steers (203-948-0553)

For worship matters, Mike Wilcox, Deacon Chairperson (860-354-8821).

For office matters, Elizabeth Kutepov 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



Mindful Meditation Continues for Summer

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.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

A=Anniversary

July

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
28 Dick & Nancy Callahan (A)

August

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

church event calendar

Community Tag Sale /Bake Sale Coming Up

Our 19th annual Community Tag/Bake Sale is on Saturday, September 10, 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. It is on a first-come, first-serve basis so please reserve early. Your payment holds your space. If you don't have enough items to rent a table yourself, you may donate items the week prior to the sale for the church tables.

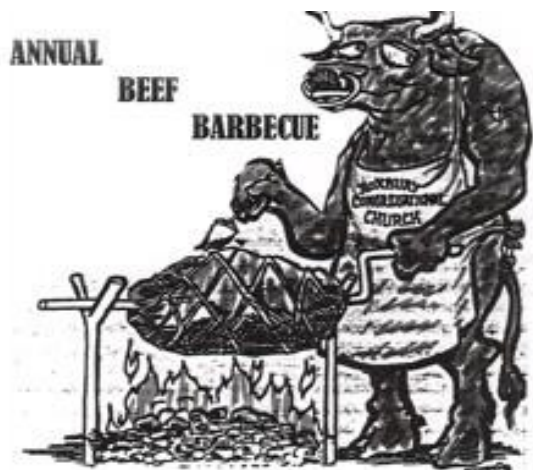
If you love to bake, we'd love to have your goodies for our bake table. A light lunch will be available.

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



ANNUAL BEEF BARBECUE

Roxbury Congregational Church
24 Church St (Rt 317) Roxbury



drawing by Billy Steers

Saturday, August 27, 2022
5:00 to 7:00 PM rain or shine

Tentative PRICE: Adults: \$20.00 Sr. Citizens: \$17
10 & under: \$10.00
5 and under: free
Takeout Available

Tickets available at the door

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

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

word & sacrament for july/august 2022

Underlined scriptures are for Lay Readers

Worship is now In-person and on Zoom

July- August 9:30 a.m. Worship time

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

July Deacons of the Month: Jan Steers & David Lincicome

August Deacons of the Month: Chris Childs

Sunday, July 3 *Rev. Walter Pitman*

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 5:1-14 Psalms 30

Isa 66: 10-14 and Psalms 66:1-9

Gal 6:(1-6), 7-16

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Greeter: Barbara Biafore

Reader: Barbara Biafore

Zoom Tech:

Flowers:

Refreshments:

Sunday, July 24 *Rev. Walter Pitman*

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Hos 1:2-10 and Psalms 85

Col 2:6-15 (16-19)

Luke 11:1-13

Greeters: Joan Temple

Reader: Joan Temple

Zoom Tech:

Flowers: **Don Wheeler** (In memory of Father, Harold Wheeler from his children)

Refreshments: Joan Temple

Sunday, July 10 *Rev. Walter Pitman*

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 7:7-17 and Psalms 82

Deut 30:9-14 and Psalms 25:1-10

Col 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

Greeter: H. Vail Barrett

Reader: Jerry Smith

Zoom Tech: Jerry Smith

Flowers:

Refreshments:

Sunday, July 31 *Rev. Walter Pitman*

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Hos 11:1-11 and Psalms 85

Gen 18:20-32 and Psalms 138

Col 2:6-15 (16-19)

Luke 11:1-13

Greeters:

Reader:

Zoom Tech:

Flowers:

Refreshments:

Sunday, July 17 *Rev. Walter Pitman*

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8:1-12 and Psalms 52

Gen 18:1-10a and Psalms 15

Col 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

Greeters: David Lincicome & Mark Wolmer

Lay Reader: David Lincicome

Zoom Tech:

Flowers:

Refreshments:

Sunday, August 7 *David Lincicome*

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Isa 1:1, 10-20 and Psalms 50:1-8, 22-23

Gen 15:1-6 and Psalms 33:12-22

Heb 11:1-3, 8-16

Luke 12:32-40

Greeters:

Reader:

Zoom Tech:

Flowers:

Refreshments:

Sunday, August 14 *Rev. James Robertson*

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isa 5:1-7 and Psalms 80:1-2, 8-19

Jer 23:23-29 and Psalms 82

Heb 11:29-12:2

Luke 12:49-56

Greeters:

Reader:

Zoom Tech:

Flowers: **Don Wheeler** (In memory of Mother, Marion Wheeler from her children)

Refreshments:

Sunday, August 21 *David Lincicome*

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Jer 1:4-10 and Psalms 71:1-6

Isa 58:9b-14 and Psalms 103:1-8

Heb 12:18-29

Luke 13:10-17

Greeters:

Reader:

Zoom Tech:

Flowers:

Refreshments:

Sunday, August 28 *Rev. David Peters*

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Jer 2:4-13 and Psalms 81:1, 10-16

Sirach 10:12-18 or Prov 25:6-7 and Psalms 112

Heb 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Greeters:

Reader:

Zoom Tech:

Flowers:

Refreshments:



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.

During July it will be lighted in loving memory of loved ones by Janice and William Steers
August is lit by Katherine and Bruce Smith
In memory of loved ones.

We are now signing up Steeple Lightings for January 2023 and beyond – Contact the Church Office.

Scam Alert

Scams are all about in these days. Especially among kind, generous people like you!

Some of these scams have an email being received from the minister or other church official looking for help or donations particularly by buying gift cards. Neither the Roxbury Congregational Church, its officers nor Rev. Peters will seek contributions in this way. If ever in doubt, do not click on any links and if you want, phone Rev. Peters if you have any questions. Sad that we have to even put this warning out there.

Summer 2022 – Silver Lake Camp

There are still openings for 1-week residential camp experiences.

Go to silverlakect.org for more information.

Scholarships available – contact Rev. David

Silver Lake Golf Tournament:



Wednesday September 14
Manchester Country Club – Manchester, CT
\$175 per golfer. Includes Greens Fees, Lunch, Dinner and Beverages.



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.)

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.

leadership listing

(All 860- unless noted)

Ministers: The Congregation
Moderator: Brian Neff, 354-3177
Clerk: Patricia Fraley, 868-0051
Treasurer: Dale Pinchbeck 355-2497
Collector: Beverly Wolmer 203-405-6795
Deacons: Mike Wilcox 354-8821
Trustees: Charlie Meade, 355-1584
Stewardship: TBA
Missions: Charlie Stauffacher 354-1274
Fellowship: Jeanne Steers, 354-7484
Pastoral Relations: Pat Fraley 868-0051

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

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NEWSLETTER – JULY/AUGUST 2022

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 Worship 9:30 a.m.

Annual Beef Barbecue – Saturday, August 27 – A Community Event!

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

