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 10, November 2021

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

Pastoral Reflections

The Reverend David F. Peters, Minister

Gratitude

A friend of mine used to tell me that each morning when he arises, one of the first things he does is "choose your attitude." He finds that this discipline helps with keeping his day framed by a certain way of looking at the events, people and sometimes, situations that comes his way. I have been doing this for a number of years.



If I forget to stop and choose my attitude, I can easily find myself dragged down by the things that come my way in any given day. My life is not unlike many of yours, just with a different setting. I may have people come in with problems or situations looking for advice or a sympathetic / pastoral ear. There can be a crisis or two or in rare cases, more. Add in the mundane paperwork and planning that a minister has to complete and one can easily get dragged in a certain direction. And there are the days when someone lets us know that I or our Church have made a difference in their life, someone reaches out to ask if I would baptize their child, officiate at their wedding, or at the funeral of their loved one. There are days when God's Spirit moves, I believe, and everything falls into place, or a great idea comes to the fore.

In choosing my attitude, I make it a habit to choose Gratitude as my attitude to go through each day. With that, both those days that are can be called good and bad, are set in Gratitude. That not only makes the hard days easier to handle but also, I feel, helps us to enjoy the good days with a measure of humility. For good days, I believe, come as a gift of grace from God.

Maybe with our choosing of an attitude of gratefulness, we can better handle our daily lives in "normal" times as well as pandemic ones.

May you have a meaningful Thanksgiving full of gratitude for our gifts as well as the company of friends and family.

With Gratitude and Love,

Davíd



Saturday, November 6 Pick up in front of the Church from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

> Purchase meals online at roxburychurch.square.site

\$15 per meal includes Chili Cornbread and Coleslaw - made by Northville Market and Brownies

To help or questions: speak with Charlie Stauffacher (354-1274) or Steve Ross

thank you

To members of the congregation who organized and led worship for Laity Sunday on October 18. They included **Mike Wilcox, David Lincicome, Vail Barrett (preacher), Sue Stauffacher, Pat Fraley,** and **Mark Wolmer.**

To **Sue Stauffacher** and the **Food Pantry Team** who faithfully bring our food donations to Danbury and staff the food pantry on the second Monday of every month. To everyone who contributes food and staples, especially during the cold winter months.

To **Mike Wilcox** and volunteers who have been preparing and serving the monthly meal at Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen in New Milford.

To **Frank White** for his pro bono work cleaning gutters, trimming bushes and such.

Celebrating Generosity

From David Wright, son of **Molly Wright**: In memory of Molly Wright, please accept this gift to the church from her children and grandchildren. As you know, my mother moved a lot in her life! But the church in general, and the Roxbury UCC in particular, was always her home. Thanks for being such a great, caring community for mom.

From the Estate of Betty Blyn:

We are most grateful for the generosity of the late **Betty Blyn** who, as a member of the Thomas Canfield Society, remembered her church in her last will and testament. This week, we received a check for \$100,000. The funds will be deposited in accordance with the established Trustee policy. A 10% tithe will be set aside for a mission project outside our church, and the remaining amount will be split between the Investment Fund and the Capital Reserve Fund.

If you want to become a member of the Thomas Canfield Society, named for Roxbury's first minister and for those who have or intend to remember this Church in their will. please speak with the Minister.

We welcome Susan Stauffacher as the Society's newest member!



ends Sunday, November 7 at 2 a.m. Don't forget to set clocks back one hour! All Saints Sunday November 7



On November 7th, we'll be observing the feast of All Saints during worship. In many Protestant churches like ours, the emphasis of this festival is on the ongoing sanctification of the whole people of God. We use this opportunity to give thanks to God for the ordinary, holy lives of believers in this and every age, especially those who have died in the past year. So, during worship, we'll be reading the names of people who have died that we'd like to give thanks to God for.

Please let me know if you have the name of someone you'd like included in worship. (I've already included the names of everyone who died in 2020 and 2021 where I officiated the funeral/memorial service.)

You also will be offering an opportunity during worship to come forth silently and light a candle in memory of someone and place it in a sand-filled pot. This ritual has been meaningful for others and we thought it was a good idea.

On Sunday, November 7, we will pause and remember the saints of the church particularly those who received the ministry of our church this past year, as well as those saints for us in our lives. We will also note and dedicate those memorial gifts the church received in the past year.

In Remembrance and Memorials ~ November 2020- November 2021

Each All Saints Sunday, on the first Sunday in November we pause and recognize that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. People who have or continue to bear witness to the love of God in the world and in our lives. We specifically remember those who have died in the past year. The Church Members who died or those who received the ministries of this church during this past year: *= church member

Marvin Clark, Jr. Donald H. Blyn Peter L. Rossiter* Elaine Matschke* Elizabeth M. Blyn* Ronald Roncarti Louise A. "Susie" Miller M. Sargent Desmond Molly Wright* Kenneth L. Cover Muriel E. Cummings Ruth Piersall Jay Pinchbeck* Donna Nelson Ocif We honor their memory and lift up their families in prayerful support.

> <u>Memorial Gifts Received</u> Beverly Lineweber David Peters, Sr. M. Sargent Desmond Kenneth Cover Molly Wright Loved ones

Memorial Gifts can be made at any time to the church. Write "memorial" and the person's name on the memo line.

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Merlin Temple
- 8 Jay Pinchbeck
- 16 Ray Fitch
- 17 Henry & Jean Neff (A)

- 18 Chris Steers
- 20 Ray & Patricia Fitch (A) (2011)

We know it is still Fall... but the Christmas season will be here before you know it,



and that means our hugely popular **Country Church Christmas Fair** on Saturday, December 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

We need your help...

- If you have decorations suitable for decorations on a hand-made wreath...

- If you have items of value that would be good in our Silent Auction...

- or a good or service that you can donate a gift certificate for...

- If you can purchase items to make up a Gift Basket along a specific theme...

- If you have items that could go in the Nice Twice (see next page).

If you have any of these items, please put them aside and bring them to the church beginning November 14. There will be specially marked tables for them in Fellowship Hall.

Also, we need helpers to put the tent out in front of the Chapel for Twice Nice on Sunday Nov.28 after worship.

For more information about the fair, please contact Charlie Meade, Planning Team leader

Nice Twice

Our Christmas Fair is coming right up on Saturday, Dec. 4th. I am asking you to start gathering items for Nice Twice. These would be items that you don't need/want anymore that would be appropriate for Nice Twice (think tag sale). We only ask that everything be clean and working. Please hold your donations until after church on Sunday, November 28th.

We take household items that are clean and in working condition, kitchen items, small appliances, garden items, toys, puzzles, Christmas items, books (not textbooks), etc.

We don't take clothing, electronics, exercise equipment, sports equipment, luggage, computers, TV's, baby equipment, text books, and large furniture. If you are unsure, please ask or call Sue Stauffacher, 860-354-1274, prior to 7:00 p.m.

If you would like to be a helper the week prior to the Fair, and if you'd like to work the day of the Fair, please let me know. I need and love my helpers U.Thank you, Sue

Can you Sponsor a Gift Basket?

Each year for the year we have a number of very nice gift baskets. We are hoping to offer this again this year at the Fair.

Would you be willing to supply the items for such a basket? Our elves will take the items and wrap them in a basket, ready for sale on December 4. Possible baskets themes include: Christmas decorations: Starbucks Coffee: Baking: Gardening: Picnic: Bath & Body Works: Photo Frames: Yankee Candle: Woman Basket Movie basket with popcorn etc... Girl Craft Kits: have 3 items Boy Craft Kits: have 2 items Hallmark Stonewood Kitchen (pancake mix/syrup, jellies) Dunkin Donuts (coffee, mugs, k-cups) Family-time basket (games, book, snuggly blanket) K-cup basket (assortment of coffees) Tea (assortment of teas, mugs)

<u>Car (ice scraper, car blanket, travel mug)</u> <u>Tools (misc. Craftsman tools)</u>

Items can be left (marked in a bag) on the specially marked table in Fellowship Hall. Questions: Heidi Neff 354-3177.

Stewardship for 2022

The Stewardship Committee of Brian Neff and Mike Wilcox along with Rev. Peters has decided to have our Stewardship Campaign kickoff later than in past years. To remove the pressures of Christmas giving, Stewardship Campaign letters will be sent out the week after Christmas expecting pledging to take place during January ending on Sunday, January 9th. If you desire, for financial reason to make an actual financial contribution during the last week of 2021 for tax purposes, we encourage yo to do that. Otherwise, we ask that you receive the solicitation and place it on the top of your pile, pray about what you will give to the work of your church for 2022 and make it as soon as you can.

We will be offering an online pledging option so if you don't want to fill out a form and then mail it back, you can do that. Each letter will have a selfaddressed, stamped envelope included.

Be watching for your letter the first week of Christmastide!

Sharing our Faith Stories

Members of the congregation are invited to share their faith stories during worship on the <u>third</u> <u>Sunday of each month</u>. By articulating our own experience we invite other people to reflect on their own faith journey and recognize God's presence in their lives. <u>Next opportunity will be November 21st</u>. 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.

Parish Register *Funerals:*

October 16, 2021: Muriel E. Cummings, died October 10, 2021 in Woodbury, CT, age 66. She was the daughter of the late Donald and Marian Cummings. A funeral service was held at the Carpino Funeral Home, Southbury with Rev. Peters officiating.

November 1, 2021: Ruth Piersall, died on October 27, 2021 in New Milford, CT, age 88. A graveside service was held in Center Cemetery in New Milford with Rev. Peters, officiating.

<u>November 6, 2021</u>: Donna Nelson Ocif, died on October 19, 2021 in Middlebury, CT, age 79. She is the mother of Melissa (Ocif) Erdtmann. A graveside service was held in New Milford Center Cemetery with Rev. Peters officiating.

Daily Bread Food Pantry

The Daily Bread Food Pantry is having a <u>special</u> <u>Thanksgiving distribution</u> on Monday, Nov. 22, from 12:30 - 3:30. <u>They need extra volunteers to</u> <u>help with this</u>. If you'd like to be part of this amazing event, please contact Sue Stauffacher, 860-354-1274 and she will sign you up.

It has been a really long time since our team has worked at the food pantry due to the pandemic, and we are excited to get back there. It may be outside, so we need to dress appropriately.

All the big items are in place such as turkeys, produce, pies, etc. but they do need items like stuffing, cranberry sauce, applesauce and other food items that go with a turkey dinner. Bring the needed items to church asap so we can get them to Danbury in time. Label your bags for this special event.

For more information or to volunteer for this special event, contact Sue Stauffacher 860-.354-1274

Loaves and Fishes

Help serve the evening Meal at Loaves and Fishes on the <u>fourth</u> 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.

Church Generator Progress

The whole-building electric generator has arrived on site and the Trustees are working to secure all the permits and approvals for installation. The generator will be able to provide power to run the entire church including heat or air conditioning. It will be located between the Chapel and the Parsonage and fueled by propane gas.



Mindfulness Meditation Group

The Mindfulness Meditation Group meet Saturdays at 10:20 a.m. in the Chapel Library and outside the church, physically distanced on occasion. Please contact Charlie Stauffacher at 860-354-1274 for more information.

Mindfulness, according to Jon Kabat-Zinn, is "Paying attention in a particular way: on purpose, in the present moment and non-judgmentally."

Mindfulness meditation helps people deal with the stress of work or family, or simply the anxiety of living in these troubled times. Some people come to mindfulness practice to help with mental clarity and focus or to improve their sleep. It has been shown to be effective in preventing and treating depression, increasing body satisfaction, and reducing implicit age and racial bias.



We Count on Generous & Supportive People! We need YOU!

Please remember while we can't pass the plate for offering on Sundays, your offering to God of your resources - money and labor are still needed, particularly in these days.

For financial offerings, please mail your check into the church or sign up for electronic giving by speaking to Rev. Peters.

To give through our Church Website: roxburychurch.org/give You can make it a one-time gift or set up repeating donations here.

An Easy Way to Support YOUR Church

The *Cash for Causes Program* is easy and only costs you the time it takes to see Heidi Neff and purchase a cash card. No EXTRA money!!

Example your \$100 gets you a full-value \$100 card - (church gets a %).We have cards available most Sundays or in a few days for: Stop and Shop-6%, Big Y-6%, ShopRite-6%.Major Retailers including: LL Bean-16%, TJ Maxx & HomeGoods-7%, Home Depot-4%, Cabellas-11% Gap / Old Navy-14% and Restaurants, grocery stores across the country...and many more.

See the Kiosk in Fellowship Hall for a complete listing and contact Heidi Neff 860-354-3177 to

purchase your card. There is also an online way to purchase and make repeated purchases easy. Also Stew Leonard's Cash Cards are available from Ray Fitch only.

Did you know...

• There are resources for Children on the Church's website

(www.roxburychurch.org/nurture) Looking for bible study resources? Just go to the Church's website and click on NURTURE

We have resources for Mental Health on the church's website? click on NURTURE

information matters

A few ways to be informed about the life of your church here in Roxbury:

Faith Matters

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

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 chockfull 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.

Facebook

Our church's presence in social media is on facebook.com/roxburychurch Here you will find another source of information and news as well as shared topics of religious and spiritual interest.

Meeting Minutes & Reports Board

This special bulletin board is on the landing just outside the Office Library 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.

church event calendar

Save the Dates

November 6 Chili Dinner To-Go, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

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

November 13 –Men's Group Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Trivia Night 7:00 p.m.

November 20 – Church Work Day – 9 a.m. - Noon

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

November 28 Advent 1 (Candle Lighting)

December 4 Christmas Fair 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

December 5 Advent 2 (Candle Lighting)

December 12 Advent 3 (Candle Lighting)

December 12 Victorian Christmas 5:00 p.m.

December 19 Advent 4 (Candle Lighting) UCC Christmas Fund Offering Christmas Caroling 12:00 noon

December 24 – <u>Christmas Eve</u> 7:30 p.m. Lessons & Carols 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion

January 6, 2022 - Epiphany

January 9 Stewardship Sunday for 2022

Roxbury Congregational Church Welcomes You Back To Join Us For



on

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH

Doors open @ 6:30 pm / Trivia starts @ 7:00 pm at the Roxbury Congregational Church

Gather your smartest (or just most fun) friends and book a table ASAP!

\$75 per table (Teams of 6 or less) Checks payable to Roxbury Congregational Church (Payable at the door) Individual Players are welcome! (You will be on the wildcard teams :)

> BYOB (*Bring your own beverages) * Yes, this means "Adult Beverages" are allowed)

BYOS (Bring your own snacks*) *Forget the diet, bring carbs to improve your brain power!)

For more information or to reserve your table, contact: Chris Childs @ 860-355-9067 or email: cchilds287@gmail.com

Word & Sacrament for November 2021

First Sundays = Communion - Second Sundays = Children's Sermon Third Sundays = Faith Stories - Fourth Sundays= Mission Moments

Deacons of the Month: David Lincicome & Chris Childs

Underlined scriptures are for Lay Readers

Sunday, November 7

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost All Saints Sunday Psalm 127, Mark 12: 38-44 Greeters: Phil & Diana deVries Reader: Diana deVries Flowers: Refreshments: Susan Zappulla Peters

Sunday, November 14

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost <u>Psalm 16</u>, Mark 13: 1-8 Greeters: **Chris Childs &** Reader: **Chris Childs** Flowers: **Dale Pinchbeck** Refreshments:

Sunday, November 21

Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost/ Thanksgiving Sunday Psalm 93, John 18: 33-37 Greeters: Joan Temple & Reader: Joan Temple Flowers: Sue Stauffacher mem.Tanner Gray Refreshments:

Sunday, November 28

First Sunday of Advent <u>Psalm 25:1-10</u>, Luke 21: 25-36 Greeters: **Dick & Nancy Callahan** Reader: **Nancy Callahan** Flowers: Refreshments: **Barb Cover**

Santa Fund 2021

This year we will be collecting hats, mittens and scarves for the needy families of New Milford. There will be a basket in the narthex to place them in before December 6 when they will be delivered to New Milford Social Services. Please speak with Diana deVries or Heidi Neff with questions.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry, begun here in 2009, has involved a number of people knitting together once a month at the monthly meeting at church, or by themselves. Each Prayer Shawl 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.

We are in need of some more Prayer Shawls to have on hand, there are easy to use patterns available. When you create one, be sure to let the church office know and we can bless it during worship and have it ready when the need arises.

If you know of someone who may like receiving a prayer shawl and yet to receive one, please speak with Rev. Peters.

For help with creating Pocket Prayer Squares, please speak with Jan Steers, 860-354-7210.



Our United Church of Christ Camp and Retreat Center, in nearby Sharon, CT. www.silverlakect.org

Upcoming Events at "The Lake" Christmas at the Lake December 4 Family Day 10 - 4 Dec. 10-12 Overnight Retreat for those in grades 4-6, and 7& 8

For details go to silverlakect.org

Note as of 1/1/2022 Silver Lake will be known as Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center.

Church Master Calendar

Because the church is busy, and use of the buildings by community groups has also increased dramatically, we have posted a master calendar of activities in the Church Library. Before you schedule a meeting or change a date, please check this calendar to be sure the space will not be occupied at the time.

And please write your meeting on the calendar, or remove it if your plans change

Roxbury Congregational Church Relational Covenant:

Every one of us is an essential part of our church community. We will open our hearts and minds to one another. We will let God's love flow through us. We will focus on God's word. We will speak honestly and respectfully. We will speak to principles rather than personalities. We will seek to do God's work.

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 the church's website: roxburychurch.org

Used Toner Cartridges & LaBonne's Receipts

The church has been collecting used toner cartridges to return to Staples for church credit. It started out being \$3 for each cartridge, now it is \$2. Since 2008, we've returned 960 cartridges! They only take 10 per month, and sometimes I have more than that, so I keep the extra ones in my car waiting for the new month to appear.

That is a lot of credit dollars for the church, so keep those cartridges coming. There is a box for them in the coat closet in fellowship hall.

On another note, don't forget to bring in those LaBonne's receipts for their Cash for Charities Rebate Program. There's a box for them in Fellowship Hall.

November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Halloween = 6:00 AM Shelter Bkst = 10:30 AM Worship In-person & Virtual = 11:30 AM Refresh- ments = 11:45 AM Fair plan-	1	2 David Peters' day off Election Day = 4:00 PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	3 =6:00 PM Cub Scouts =7:00 PM Boy Scouts	4 Diwali = 7:00 PM Deacons	5	6 = 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation = 4:30 PM Chili Dinner
7 DaylightSavingTimeEnd = 6:00 AM Shelter Bkst = 10:30 AM Worship In-person & Virtual = 10:30 AM Commu- = 11:30 AM Refresh- = 11:40 AM Confirma-	8 = 9:00 AM Daily Bread Food Pantry team	9 David Peters' day off = 4:00 PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	10 =6:00 PM Cub Scouts =7:00 PM Boy Scouts	11 Veterans Day	12 = 12:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive 1-6	13 = 8:00 AM Mens Break- fast = 9:00 AM Fall Church Work Day = 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation = 7:00 PM Trivia Night
14 = 6:00 AM Shelter Bkst = 10:30 AM Worship In-person & Virtual = 11:30 AM Refresh- ments	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 David Peters' day off = 4:00 PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	17 =6:00 PM Cub Scouts =7:00 PM Boy Scouts	18	19	20 = 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation
21 = 6:00 AM Shelter Bkst = 10:30 AM Worship In-person & Virtual = 11:30 AM Refresh- ments = 11:45 AM Church Council	22	David Peters' day off = 4:00 PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	24 = 3:00 PM Loaves & Fishes Meal = 6:00 PM Cub Scouts = 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	25 Thanksgiving	26	27 = 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation
28 First Sunday of Advent = 6:00 AM Shelter Bkst = 10:30 AM Worship In-person & Virtual = 11:30 AM Refresh- ments	29 Hanukkah	30 David Peters' day off = 4:00 PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	=6:00 PM Cub Scouts =7:00 PM Boy Scouts	= 7:00 PM Deacons	3	4 = 9:00 AM Country Church Christmas Fair = 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation

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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: Brian Neff and Mike Wilcox 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

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NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2021

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!



