faith matters



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

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

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. In-person and online

Vol. 281, Issue 4, April 2024

Pastoral Reflections

The Reverend David F. Peters, Minister

I was recently reminded of a conversation a friend had with his son a number of years ago. His son comes into the kitchen and threw the car keys on the counter. My friend asked him, "How long has the light been on in the car dash?" "Oh, for a while," he replied. My friend then related that he had one of those "circle of life moments." He heard



coming out of his mouth, the involuntary words of his departed father." He went on to give a presentation of the purpose of these lights and what one should do when they saw them come on. It reminded him of a lecture that he received many years before. It said he ended it with the statement "that those lights are there for a reason. Pay attention!" He hoped that there was no damage to the car so he wouldn't have to pay an arm and a leg to repair it.

I began to think that my friend probably was taken aback by this and that he could conceive of the day when this son would give the same lecture to their child. A circle of life if you will.

There is nothing new under the sun for the bodily vehicles that we use while we travel here on earth. And if we are honest, we too ignore the warnings and alarms within us all the time. Physical fatigue comes, and instead of slowing down, cutting back, or God forbid, taking a nap, we down another cup of coffee or an energy drink hoping to buy just enough of an artificial turbo boast to push us back into our routine for a little while longer. Or we feel a sustained anxiousness living within us, and rather than attending to it by pausing to breathe, or seeing a counselor, or practicing mindful meditation, we double down, betting on a slot machine refreshing our social media feed to suddenly raise our emotional reserves and temporarily out of our prolonged funk. Or perhaps our partner points out our emotional unavailability and we grow defensive or rationalize away their assessment in an attempt to avoid admitting that we been sedated by a daily toxic cocktail of bad news, outrage, and cultivated worry.

As we go about our lives, living as compassionate Christian persons, we might want to be constantly mindful and sensitive to: the wounds of the world and the wounds we sustain attending to them. They are very good and noticing the first, not so much so the second.

The Buddhist monk Thih Nhat Hanh writes, "We do so much, we run so quickly, the situation is difficult, and many people say, 'Don't just sit there, do something.' But doing more things may make the situation worse. So, you should say, 'Don't' just do something, sit there.' Sit there, stop, be yourself first, and begin from there."

As I have been preaching about, we live in confusing times with a lot of news and worry coming at us. It is in these days that we need to pay attention to the "warning lights" and give ourselves permission to stop and take Faith Matters – April 2024

care of it. I feel that is one of the roles of the church in these days... to help us look for those warnings and encourage us to pay attention.

Grace and Peace,

David

An Update from your Board of Trustees

At their February meeting, the Trustees elected Brian Neff as the Chair of the Board. Among other topics covered, Ann update on the remediation following the flooding this past year. A proposal from an agency of the US Department of Agriculture is having the Roxbury Brook dredged and new rock put in. It also calls for the brook to be widen on the north side. While there are some issues raised by the Roxbury Board of Selectmen and our Trustees, the Trustees have decided to hold off with bridge replacement behind the church until we have more information. The Trustees also approved the purchase of a new iMac computer to replace the out of date one used for Zoom and Facebook Live on Sundays. They also approved the investing of some of the Memorial Funds into a CD with Union Savings Bank to generate more interest than a passbook

Men's Group Breakfast

To Meet in a different place for April



The Men's Group Breakfast, is open to all men of the congregation and community, as invited to join them on Saturday, April 13 at 8:00 a.m.

If you need more information, contact Charlie Stauffacher or Charlie Meade.



Earth Day Roadside Cleanup April 20 9a.m. – 12 noon

Our church, and the town of Roxbury, is sponsoring a town-wide road cleanup on Saturday, April 20, to honor Earth Day. We will be handing out plastic garbage bags, vests, and plastic gloves at the Transfer Station between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 a.m. Folks can pick up trash on a road of their choice. They can bring it to the Transfer Station whenever it works for them to do so.

There are some roads that are particularly needy of this clean up, one of them being Wellers Bridge Road. It is a tricky one so be careful. It is better if it is done by more than one person.

If you will not be at the Transfer Station between the designated times, just ask Sue Stauffacher for bags and gloves and she will give them to you at a mutually-convenient time.

If you would like to help distribute bags and gloves between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, please let Sue know. It helps to have more than one person doing it.

You may call Sue at 860-354-1274, anytime before 7:00 p.m. to volunteer or with questions.

account.

Welcome New Church Members!



Harry & Rachel Gerowe 187 Transylvania Road Woodbury CT 06798 (203) 266-4170 hgerowe@gmail.com



Paul & Patty Metzing 329 South St Roxbury CT 06783 Patty cell (914) 500-3302 patriciametzing19@gmail.com



Stanley L. Pasquale 582 Dewey St 3rd floor Bridgeport CT 06605 (203) 612-0018 stanpasquale@optimum.net

Steeple Lighting

The Steeple can be lit in loving memory of someone or celebration for a month. We ask for a donation of \$25 to the Memorial Fund. Contact Rev. Peters to make arrangements.



The upcoming Steeple lighting schedule:

<u>April:</u> Barbara Cover - in memory of Ken Cover & Dan Went

May: Paul Metzing - in memory of his parents, William and Aida

July: available August: available

<u>September:</u> Patty Metzing - in memory of Anthony and Elizabeth Perrotti

October: available
November: available

<u>December</u> Awlasewicz family in memory of Joey

If you would like to light the Church Steeple for a month in memory or honor of someone, contact Rev. Peters. We ask for a \$25 donation to be made to the Memorial Fund

New Books in the Library - April 2024

Looking for an inspirational story? Need a prayer to lift your spirits? The church library has lots of

needs! Stop by the library and check one out today. Just sign your name on the card in the back of the book and leave it in the box.



Here are some books that were recently added to the collection:

The *New York Times* bestseller, "The In-Between" was recently donated to the church library by Sue Stauffacher. Described as "tender and transformative," this book recounts the impactful experiences of a hospice nurse and offers wisdom and comfort to those dealing with loss while simultaneously providing inspiration for how to live more fully now.

The Church Library Reading Challenge Continues!

Roxbury Congregational Church Library

2024 READING CHALLENGE



Church Librarian, Joan Temple reminds you of the Church Library Reading Challenge. It is easy, look for a book from the Church Library, read it, and mark your score sheet. The challenge is running all year.

You get to discover all the wonderful titles in the Church Library collection!

Find the information sheets and scoresheet in the Church Library.

Some of the titles in the Reading Challenge are on the top of the Children's Library shelves in Fellowship Hall. Check it (them) out!

Corned Beef Dinner Results

St. Patrick's Day saw a happy stream of customers pulling up in front of the church to pick up their corned beef dinners. The dinners, which were supplied by the Northville Market included corned beef, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, Irish soda bread, and shamrock cookies baked by Susan Zappulla-Peters. 149 meals were sold with an end-profit to the church of \$861. Many thanks to co-chairs Chris and Jeanne Steers. Helpers of the day included David Peters, Susan Zappulla-Peters, Norm Cover, Patty Metzing, Vail Barrett, and Mike Wilcox. A big thank you to Susan Zappulla-Peters for baking the cookies, and to Northville Store for cooking the corned beef.

We look forward to another sale next St. Patrick's Day!

Helpers Needed to set up and serve a luncheon for Clergy

Thursday, April 25th, our Church is hosting 25 clergy from across the Litchfield South Association as it has a session of Clergy Boundary Training.

This class on clergy ethics is required of all clergy every 5 years.

It will begin at 9 am and go until early afternoon.

I am looking for a couple of people (2-3) to help in the following ways that day:

- 1. Set up a coffee/ tea bar for their arrival with small snacks
- 2. Set up a table for sandwiches, salad, and chips as well as drinks.
- 3. One person will need to pick up the pre-ordered sandwiches at The PO on the Green in Washington.
- 4. Clean up afterward.

If you are willing to help out, please speak with Rev. Peters.

This is a great opportunity to have Roxbury Church SHINE!



April Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 4 Mark Kibbe
- 5 Luanne Awlasewicz
- 9 Kyla Peters
- 12 Nadia Racz
- 14 Chuck & Doris Farrell (Anniv.)
- 15 Janet Childs
- 18 Robin Montesi
- 22 Cathy Racz
- 28 Mike & Dottie Wilcox (Anniv.)

Save the Date: Rummage/ Bake Sale June 29th 9 am - 2 pm

Our church Rummage/Bake Sale will be held on Saturday, June 29 from 9:00 - 2:00. June is getting closer, so please start putting aside your clean unwanted clothing and household items. We take gently-used clothing, linens, garden items, plants,

small furniture, kitchen items, working small appliances, etc. If you are undecided, you may call Sue Stauffacher at 860-354-1274 before 7:00 p.m. to ask.



Clothing donations MUST be either on hangars or folded in boxes. Clothing in garbage bags or plastic grocery bags will NOT be accepted. We will be taking items for the sale beginning Monday, June 24. The earlier in the week, the better for us workers so we don't have a last-minute crunch. The parking lot door will be open all week.

At 1:30, we offer a \$5 bag sale - everything you can fit into a paper grocery bag for \$5. We provide the bags.

Many of you just love to bake, so please plan to bake for the sale. Some people come just for our wonderful baked goodies:) Also, please volunteer to be a helper as this is a team effort. We offer free coffee all day. More info to come as June draws closer.

Mother's Day Cards to Go on Sale April 21 after worship

The Mission Committee is once again selling Mother's Day cards to support Church World Services' Blanket Program. Each \$10 colorful Mother's Day-themed card supports



a gift to someone in need. A blanket can be used for warmth, shelter, carrying goods to market as well as sheltering young children. Our congregation has a long and generous history with this program. Watch for the table with the cards for sale after worship on Sundays, April 21, 28, May 5, and May 12

<u>Father's Day Cards</u> – Tools of Hope, will be on sale beginning June 2nd.

So, Your Minister Can Help / Support You & Yours

If you are hospitalized and desire pastoral support, you or your family should notify our minister of the hospitalization as soon as possible, by calling 860-355-1978. With current federal regulations, Rev. Peters is not able to find this information from the hospital until the following day.

If you are asked at admission if you have a Church, please say "Roxbury Congregational Church."

From the Church Register.

Births

Matthew Calvin Collette, born March 29, 2024 at Yale New Haven Hospital to Emma (Beaulieu) Collette and Zackary Collette, DVM The proud grandparents are Dawn and Matt Collette.

Deaths

Former member, **Stephen Adams**, died March 14 at home, age 86. Our sympathies to his wife, **Denise**.

Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center

223 Low Road, Sharon, CT 860-364-5526

Summer Conferences - 2024
Registrations are now open!

Conferences fill fast! - So plan now or you may not be able to attend when or what you desire! Learn more about summer camp at Silver Lake, view the 2024 summer brochure, and look through the upcoming sessions

at https://www.silverlakect.org/summercamp The Summer Conferences feature week-long sessions for those entering grades 4-12 in the fall. Also, there are Family Camps- half-week sessions!

Silver Lake provides life-changing experiences of God's love in creation!

Speak with Rev. David with any questions as well to apply for a grant from the Church to go towards the cost of a session at Silver Lake!



Silver Lake is a camp and retreat center of our Southern New England Conference, UCC Each year it hosts and sponsors Summer Camp sessions.

Local Church retreats, family retreats, and family day outings "in God's backyard!"

for more information about Silver Lake: go to silverlakect.org

Silver Lake 2023 Open House May 19, 2023 1-5 p.m.

A visit to Silver Lake before camp is the best way for a first-time camper (conferee) to know what to expect — you might even run into a new friend who Faith Matters – April 2024 will be in the same conference this summer! We'll provide the cookies, you bring your questions. See you there!

"We are so excited to kick off the summer by welcoming families to Open House," said Rev. David Camphouse, Director of Outdoor Ministries. "This event is the best way to get a feel for what it's like to be a camper at Silver Lake for a week this summer."

Silver Lake Conference Center, 223 Low Road, Sharon, CT, is the outdoor ministry program of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ. For more information, email slcc@silverlakect.org, call 860-364-5526, or visit www.silverlakect.org.



Star Island is this wonderful place 10 miles out in the ocean from Portsmouth, NH in the Isles of Shoals. It is a conference center owned by the Star Island Corporation related to the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Church. It is all-inclusive and there are programs for all ages. There are 2



weeks for those from UCC congregations like ours.

For more information about the week-long residential programs, go to: https://starisland.org/program/sg1/.

Brochures are in Fellowship Hall.

For questions speak with Charlie & Sue Stauffacher or Rachel and Harry Gerowe.

Church Scholarships are available, see Rev. Peters.

Thomas Canfield Society Ensuring a solid financial future For Roxbury Church

Three years ago, to celebrate and honor those who chose to remember the Roxbury Church in their estates, the Church is establishing the Thomas Canfield Society. The Society is named after Rev. Thomas Canfield, the first minister of the Roxbury Congregational Church from 1743-1795.

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 share God's love with 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. If so, we encourage you to remember the Church in your will.

The Members of the Society include:

Emma Schmidli
Mabel Bernhardt Smith
Ruth Johnson
Gertrude E. Caveness
Clark Makinson
Marian Skedgell
Mary Elizabeth Peck
Elizabeth "Betty" Blyn
Susan Stauffacher
Robert Curtis

Now you can honor that gift with one of your own. Through your charitable financial plans including the church, you can make a difference in the future of the church. With that planned gift, you can become a member of the Thomas Canfield Society. Note: if you wish to not have your name included in the society, while living or deceased, that will be honored.

Types of Planned Gifts
Gifts through your will
Appreciated Stock
Charitable Remainder Trust
Gifts of Life Insurance.

Advanced Church Calendar

please contact the Church Office

Conserving the Church's Precious Energy and Financial Resources

Trustees along with the Church Staff have worked hard to put in place measures to conserve energy and financial resources here at the Church and the Parsonage.

One way that you can help is the handling of the Thermostats in Fellowship Hall. The Thermostats (2) that control the heat in the Hall have preset time zones for heating. These settings roughly correspond to the activities that occur here. If you adjust the thermostat to a different setting and then press the HOLD button.

The new temperature stays at that setting until the RUN (Schedule) button is pressed. (constantly night and day)

On a recent Sunday, the heat was turned up and the HOLD button was pressed.

Normally the staff or the last person in the building does not check the thermostats assuming that the schedule would return the heat setting to a normal lower setting when no one is using the building.

It wasn't until later, by chance, that someone entered the building and noted the warm Hall. It was only then that it was discovered that someone turned the heat up and pressed HOLD.

This could have been wasteful and financially expensive because no one was scheduled to be in the building until late Tuesday afternoon.

Moral of the Story: If you turn up the heat, you normally do not have to press HOLD unless it is for a longer than normal time.

If you do - please be responsible for pushing the RUN button when you leave. Thanks!

As an old mentor once said, "The energy you waste is not yours!"

May 5	Ladies Luncheon – The Marketplace – Woodbury	Fellowship Committee				
	Long River Concert – 3:00 p.m.					
May 10	Blood Drive 12-6	Brooke Wheeler				
May 11	Spring Church Work Day 9-12	Trustees				
May 12	Mother's Day					
May 19	Pentecost Day – wear Red					
-	Strengthen the Church offering received					
June 2	Father's Day Card sales begin	Mission Committee				
June 8	Art Show Drop off	Art Show Committee				
June 14,15,16	Art at the Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall	Art Show Commitee				
June 16	Father's Day					
	Choir and Music Appreciation Day	Sandy & David				
June 29	Rummage and Bake Sale 9-2	Sue Stauffacher				
July & August Worship time is at 9:30 a.m.						
Rev. Peters is on Vacation (July) and Sabbatical (August)						
August 31	Beef Barbecue 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Chris Childs and Comm.				

Word & Sacrament for April 2024 <u>Underlined</u> scriptures are for Lay Readers

Sunday, April 7	Sunday, April 21		
Second Sunday of Easter	Fourth Sunday of Easter		
Sacrament of Holy Communion	Acts 4:5-12		
Psalm 133	Psalm 23		
1 John 1:1-2:2	1 John 3:16-24		
John 20:19-31	John 10:11-18		
Greeters: Barbara Biafore & Carol Goodwin	Greeters: Patty & Paul Metzing		
Reader: Barbara Biafore	Reader: Patty Metzing		
Zoom Tech: Barbara Cover	Zoom Tech: Barbara Cover		
Fellowship:	Fellowship: Patty & Paul Metzing		

Sunday, April 14				
Third Sunday of Easter	Sunday, April 28			
Acts 3:12-19	Fifth Sunday of Easter			
Psalm 4	Acts 8:26-40			
1 John 3:1-7	Psalm 22:25-31			
Luke 24:36b-48	1 John 4:7-21			
Greeter: Vail Barrett & David Lincicome	John 15:1-8			
Reader: Vail Barrett	Greeters:&			
Zoom Tech: Charlie Stauffacher	Reader:			
Fellowship:	Zoom Tech: Charlie Stauffacher			
1	Fellowship:			

Roxbury Congregational Church challenges you to join us for our Spring



TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday April 27th, 2024

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 for up to six - or \$15 per person

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

Giving Electronically to Support the Work of Roxbury Church



Roxbury Church Giving Scan with your phone and give.

Or – go to https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z252/home

Easy Ways You Can Support Roxbury Church



The Cash 4 Causes Card Program is easy, safe, and makes an impact!

Susan Zappulla-Peters 860-355-8830 (zappullapeters@mac.com) coordinates and places the orders for these gift cards/

It is hoped that you would consider getting in the habit, like some, to purchase your cards every month

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: April 14h

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 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 ongoing 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.

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.

May Faith Matters Deadline: April 19th.

Email submissions to office@ roxburychurch.org 2024 Flower Calendar

The 2024 Flower Calendar is posted in Fellowship Hall. If you have a particular day/date on which you would like to place flowers on the altar, please add your name to the calendar or call the church office. Please write clearly and add any memorial or celebratory dedication you wish printed in the bulletin.

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Easter = 6:30AM Sunrise Service on Good Hill = 9:15AM Choir Rehearsal = 10:30AM Worship In = 11:35AM Refresh	April Fools' Day	David Peters' day off = 1:00PM Choir Rehearsal = 3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	3	=7:30PM Jesus Christ Superstar	5	= 10:30AM Mindful Meditation
9:15AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30AM Worship Inperson & Virtual 11:35AM Refreshments	= 9:00AM Daily Bread Food Pantry team	David Peters' day off Eid al-Fitr = 3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	10	=7:00PM Deacons	12	=8:00AM Mens Break- fast =10:30AM Mindful Meditation
= 9:15AM Choir Re-	School Vacation	16	17	18	19	20
+ 10:30AM Worship In- person & Virtual = 11:35AM Refresh- ments	Tax Day	David Peters' day off = 3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)		Newsletter Deadline		=9:00AM Earth Day Roadside Cleanup =10:30AM Mindful Meditation
= 9:15AM Choir Rehearsal = 10:30AM Worship Inperson & Virtual = 11:35AM Refreshments = 11:45AM Mission Meeting	Earth Day Passover	David Peters' day off 3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	=3:00PM Loaves & Fishes Meal	= 9:00AM LSA Bound- ary Training = 7:00PM Roxbury Housing Trust Direc- tors	26	= 10:30AM Mindful Meditation = 7:00PM Trivia Night
= 9:15AM Choir Rehearsal = 10:30AM Worship Inperson & Virtual = 11:35AM Refreshments = 11:45AM Trustees Meeting	29	David Peters' day off 3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	1	2	= 12:00PM Hall & Kitchen use Sr. Project Ashton Hodge	= 10:30AM Mindful Meditation

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leadership listing

(All 860- unless noted)

As of 4/4/24

Ministers: The Congregation

Moderator: Charlie Meade 860-898-0107

Clerk: Patricia Fraley, 868-0051 Treasurer: Dale Pinchbeck 355-2497

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: Sue Stauffacher

Pastoral Relations:

Men's Group: Charlie Stauffacher, 354-1274

Historian: Dale Pinchbeck, 355-4297

Librarian: Joan Temple, 350-0529 Secretary/Newsletter: Secretary,

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 cell for emergencies: 203-770-6721

david@roxburychurch.org

Church Office Hours

Secretary: Thursday and Friday 9:30 - 12:30 Rev. Peters: M, W, Th, & F: 9:30 - 12:30 or by

appointment

Roxbury Congregational Church, UCC 24 Church Street Roxbury, CT 06783 USA Address Service Requested

faith matters

The Roxbury Congregational Church A Congregation of the United Church of Christ "We Are a Community Seeking to Share God's Love!"



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

NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2024

Worship – Sundays 10:30 a.m. in-person & online

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

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



