

faith matters

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

Continuing Testament
Extravagant Welcome
Changing Lives



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

Vol. 281, Issue 1, January 2025

Pastoral Reflections

*The Reverend David F. Peters,
Minister*



As we step into the new year, we are reminded that January is a season of fresh starts, renewed hope, and new opportunities. For many, the arrival of 2025 marks a time of reflection, goal-setting, and re-committing to what matters most. As a church family, this is the perfect time to pause and seek God's guidance for the year ahead.

The Bible teaches us that every new day is a gift from God, filled with His mercy and grace. In Lamentations 3:22-23, we are reminded, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Each day of the new year offers us a chance to experience His faithfulness and to align ourselves with His plans for our lives. In 2025, let us strive to live intentionally with purpose. The Apostle Paul urges us in Philippians 3:13-14 to "forget what is behind and strain toward what is ahead, pressing on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." This year, let us leave behind the mistakes and burdens of the past and press forward toward the goals that God has laid before us. Whether that means growing in our faith, serving others, or simply living with greater love and

compassion, we can trust that God is with us every step of the way.

As a congregation, we are also called to support one another in the journey of faith. The Church is a community, a place where we can encourage and build each other up. Let this year be one in which we grow together in love and unity. Let's actively engage in fellowship, prayer, and service, remembering that we are not called to walk this path alone. Together, we can make a difference in our families, our neighborhoods, and our world. In the coming months, our church will be offering new opportunities to connect and grow spiritually. From Bible studies and prayer groups to outreach projects and mission trips, there will be many ways for us to engage more deeply in our faith community.

May this new year be filled with blessings, growth, and a renewed sense of purpose as we seek to live out God's calling for each of us. Let us enter 2025 with hope, knowing that with God, all things are possible.

Blessings,
David

So Your Minister Can Help / Support

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 the new federal regulations, he is not able to find this information from the hospital directly.

Emergencies: 203-770-6721

thank you

Christmas Fair

Once again, a great success thanks to everyone who helped: organizers, workers, donators, shoppers, cashiers, servers, decorators, those who helped to set up and clean up. Too many to name and we don't want to leave anyone out... We grossed over \$10,000!

Thank you, one and all!!!

Santa Fund

Thanks to **Diana and Phil deVries** for organizing the Santa Fund. Thanks to everyone who donated hats, gloves, scarves and socks to deliver to the New Milford Social Services Agency. We are happy to have helped make Christmas brighter and more enjoyable for many families, thanks to your spirit of giving.

Advent & Christmas Appreciation

Thank you...

- to those who helped decorate the Meetinghouse for the Christmas season including **Bill Steers** and **Rich Wilhelm** for the window candles

-to **Pat Fraley** who cleaned up and put the garden beds to sleep for the winter months.

- to those who read during the Christmas Eve service.

- to those couples, groups and individuals who lit the Advent and Christ Candles

- to **Dale Pinchbeck** for the beautiful Christmas Wreaths on the Meetinghouse and Side doors!

- to **Jeanne Steers and Cathy Racz** for decorating the Fellowship Hall and the Fellowship Committee for organizing the reception for the Olde Tyme Christmas Service on December 15.

- to the choir and soloists who sang so beautifully

- to **Sandy Kleisner** for all the extra efforts to coordinate the Christmas music and rehearse.

-to the **Choir** who put in extra effort during the Advent/ Christmas season. We are so blessed!

- to **Luanne Awlasewicz** for all the behind-the-scenes things that need to happen to have a successful Christmas time.

- to those who donated poinsettias which decorated the Meetinghouse

- to those who generously donated Christmas Eve to the Minister's Discretionary Fund - used to help those in need and for special ministry opportunities.

- thank you to **Bruce Rossiter** for working to have a clean and attractive church. We appreciate all that you do behind the scenes!

- thank you to those who sang after worship standing around a telephone in the Chapel Library as we called a number of people and shared the Christmas spirit.

Also, thanks to David Lincicome who brings the Church and Parsonage garbage and recycling to the transfer station each week.

In-Kind Giving

We are blessed to have a number of businesses who help out the church by the donations of their services or time. We would encourage you to support these businesses as well as all of our church member businesses. They include:

Earth Artist Excavation (Roxbury Garage – Sparky Lowe and son) who plow our snow from our parking lot.

Kevin Dumas CPA – who oversee our financials
Frank & Howie White – who mows our lawns and cleans up debris and number of odd jobs around.

Brandon McGuinn for doing tree work around the property.

2025 Offering Envelopes Available

Offering envelopes are available for those who wish to use them. They are in a tray in Fellowship Hall, numbered and with names on them. If you do not see a box with your name, please contact the Church office for yours.

Note from the Treasurer: *please recycle any 2024 envelopes. Do not use them for 2025. Use only the ones for 2025, otherwise, it leads to confusion.*

Light the Steeple

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



2025 Schedule:

January: Linda Gillette, in memory of her daughter Trisha

February: Joan & Mike Temple in memory of his mother, Esther

March: Judy Larson & Joan Temple in memory of their mother, Marian Baslow

April: available

May: available

June: Patricia Mulcahy, in memory of her husband, Ken

July and beyond: available

Parish Register

New Members - December 8, 2024

Tracey Cahill

Audrey Ryan

Alan & Noreen Michener



Welcome Noreen, Alan, Tracey, & Audrey!

Funerals

December 9, 2024: **Cynthia Fournier Hopkins**, died November 29, 2024, age 71 in Roxbury, CT. A Funeral was held at the Roxbury Town Hall with Rev. Peters officiating

2025 Stewardship Campaign

The Stewardship Committee is finishing up its work for 2025 and will be reporting the results to the Trustees so that they can formulate the budget for this year.

If you have not submitted your financial estimate of giving, now it the time to do so. With everyone's support, we can do amazing things in sharing God's love! Pledge forms can be found online or in the Office.

Committee: Sue S., Mike W. & Brian N.

Upcoming January Birthdays

3	Nancy Desmond
4	Brett Kibbe
8	Sandy Kleisner
8	Linda Ross
14	Jessica Dumas
21	Jordan Fredericks
23	Logan Racz
25	Shawn Childs

Annual Meeting February 9

Be sure to mark your calendar for our Annual Meeting coming up on Sunday, February 9. It will begin with a Potluck Luncheon in Fellowship Hall following worship. This is a time we hear the reports of the previous year and the nominees for the various openings for the officers and boards of the church.

Annual Reports Due January 15

The Annual Reports for 2024 for all standing committees and officers of the church are due by January 15. This is an important aspect of our church governance process. The reports need to be received in a timely manner in preparation for the Annual Meeting on February 9.

Please email them to office@roxburychurch.org or mail or hand deliver them to the office. Copies of last year's reports are available in the office if you need them for reference. Thank you!

Nominees Sought

The Nominating Committee is working to identify and contact people to fill vacancies on various boards and committees of the church. If you are called and asked to serve, please consider the request prayerfully. You have been chosen because you have characteristics appropriate to that position.

The boards and committees are important to the mission of our church. Your dedication can make a tremendous impact on the viability of this church. If nominated, please make sure you understand and are willing to undertake the duties of the position. It may be helpful to speak with someone who has already held the position to ascertain what is expected and ensure that your time will be well spent.

The 2025 Nominating Committee includes:
Chris Childs: cchilds287@gmail.com
and Sue Stauffacher susanjsta@yahoo.com

If asked, please consider prayerfully as we strive to fill these positions that expire at the close of February 9th's Annual Meeting.



Mindfulness Meditation Group

Saturday mornings

Stressed? Overwhelmed by the Pandemic?

Then you are invited to the Mindfulness Meditation Group meets Saturday mornings 10:30 a.m. to noon, on Zoom through January.

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 race bias.

Contact Charlie Stauffacher for information at 860-354-1274.

Preview of 2025 Calendar

All events listed are tentative as of 12/27/2024 – Others will be added

January 12	Epiphany Star Gifts
February 9	Annual Meeting
March 5	Ash Wednesday Lent begins
March 9	Daylight Saving Time begins
March 21	Red Cross Blood Drive
March 30	One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
April 13	Palm Sunday
April 17	Maundy Thursday
April 18	Good Friday
April 20	Easter Sunday
May 3	Rummage & Bake Sale 9-2
May 4	Ladies Luncheon
May 10	Spring Church Work Day
May 16	Red Cross Blood Drive
June 8	Pentecost Sunday Church Picnic
June 13-15	Art Show & Sale

Not yet scheduled:

Trivia Nights –, spring, mid-summer
Spring Church Picnic June 8
Beef Barbecue – late August
Tag Sale – Late August/ September

mission matters

Opportunities to Share God's Love...

Food Pantry Donations Needed

Food Pantry donations continue to be needed as we head into the colder seasons. You are encouraged as you do your shopping to fill an extra bag with nonperishable food items for Daily Bread. This Danbury pantry serves many working-poor and the homeless. Your donations can be placed in the basket in Fellowship Hall under the Opportunity Table and are one way to share God's love with the world. There is a list of needed items on the table.

There is a group who work at the food pantry monthly. When someone cannot make it, there are very few backup folks. Please consider volunteering to be a backup person when needed. It is only about three hours per month on the second Monday. Can you spare that? Thank you. Please call **Sue Stauffacher** at 860-354-1274



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**.

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 & Friday with the latest announcements, prayer requests a short devotional piece and upcoming events and opportunities. Subscribe by sending an email to david@roxburychurch.org. Don't Miss Anything!

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.

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.

Word & Sacrament for January 2025

Deacon of the Month: **Barbara Biafore** assisted by **David Lincicome**

First Sunday: Communion – Food Offering

Third Sunday – Faith Story

Fourth Sunday – Mission Highlight

Underlined scriptures are for Lay Readers

Sunday, January 5

Second Sunday after Christmas

Sirach 24:1-12 and Psalm 147:12-20

John 1:(1-9), 10-18

Greeters: Barbara Biafore & _____

Reader: Barbara Biafore

Flowers: Christmas Poinsettias

Zoom Tech:

Refreshments:

Sunday, January 12

First Sunday after Epiphany

Isa 43:1-7 and Psalm 29

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Greeters:

Reader:

Flowers:

Zoom Tech:

Refreshments:

Sunday, January 19

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isa 62:1-5 and Psalm 36:5-10

John 2:1-11

Greeters:

Reader:

Flowers:

Zoom Tech:

Refreshments:

Sunday, January 26

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 and Psalm 19

Luke 4:14-21

Greeters:

Reader:

Flowers:

Zoom Tech:

Refreshments:

2025 Flower Calendar

The 2025 Flower Calendar is now posted in Fellowship Hall. If you have a particular date/dates on which you would like to place flowers on the communion table, please add your name to the calendar. Please write clearly and add any memorial or celebratory dedication you wish printed in the bulletin.

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.

Social Media Links

Facebook: www.facebook.com/RoxburyChurch

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

Instagram: www.instagram.com/roxburyucc

Some Ways You Can Support the Ministries of Roxbury Church

Cash for Causes

Susan Zappulla-Peters is the Coordinator of this fund-raising program for the Church.



All you have to do is pick out which cards you'd like and **Susan** will order them for you. Talk to Susan after worship or call her at 860-355-8830 to get your cards.

Orders are taken on the SECOND Sunday of each month only.

It is simply easy, and it only costs you the time it takes to see Susan and purchase a cash card.
No EXTRA money!!

Example Your \$100 gets you a full-value \$100 card
- (church gets 5 %)
We have cards from
**Stop and Shop,
Big Y
ShopRite**

There are also major retailer's cards available online including: LL Bean-16%, TJ Maxx & Home

Electronic Giving QR Codes



Giving for offering or Memorials

Goods-7%, Home Depot-4%, Cabellas-11% Gap / Old Navy-14% and Restaurants, grocery stores across the country...and many more. For those, you will need to order in advance and contact Susan for details.

See the Kiosk in Fellowship Hall for a complete listing and contact Susan Zappulla-Peters at 860-355-8830 or zappullapeters@mac.com to purchase your card.

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.

Staples Ink and Laser Cartridge Recycling

 Staples.

Recycling made
easy for you



When you recycle your ink and laser cartridges thru the Church, we get credit for future Staples purchases. Each cartridge adds up!



Giving using Venmo

Guestbook

January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 = 9:15AM Choir Rehearsal = 10:30AM Worship In-person & Virtual = 11:20AM Refreshments	30	31 Rev. Peters Day off New Year's Eve = 3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	1 New Year's Day = 6:00PM Cub Scouts = 7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 65	2 = 7:00PM Deacons	3	4 = 10:30AM Mindful Meditation
5 = 9:15AM Choir Rehearsal = 10:30AM Worship In-person & Virtual = 11:20AM Refreshments	6	7 Rev. Peters Day off = 1:00PM Choir Rehearsal = 3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	8 = 6:00PM Cub Scouts = 7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 65	9	10	11 = 8:00AM Mens Breakfast = 10:30AM Mindful Meditation
12 Star Gifts = 9:15AM Choir Rehearsal = 10:30AM Worship In-person & Virtual = 11:20AM Refreshments = 11:45AM Pastoral	13 = 9:00AM Daily Bread Food Pantry team	14 Rev. Peters Day off = 3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	15 = 6:00PM Cub Scouts = 7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 65	16	17	18 Newsletter Deadline = 10:30AM Mindful Meditation
19 = 9:15AM Choir Rehearsal = 10:30AM Worship In-person & Virtual = 11:20AM Refreshments = 11:45AM Church Council	20 Inauguration Day Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21 Rev. Peters Day off = 3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	22 = 6:00PM Cub Scouts = 7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 65	23	24	25 = 10:30AM Mindful Meditation
26 = 9:15AM Choir Rehearsal = 10:30AM Worship In-person & Virtual = 11:20AM Refreshments = 11:45AM Trustees Budget	27	28 Rev. Peters Day off = 3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	29 Lunar New Year = 6:00PM Cub Scouts = 7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 65	30 = 7:00PM Roxbury Housing Trust Directors	31	1 = 10:30AM Mindful Meditation

Church Newsletter Deadline for the February 2025 issue: January 18th

Leadership Listing

(All 860- unless noted)

Ministers: The Congregation

Moderator: Charlie Meade 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

Stewardship: Brian Neff Sue Stauffacher, and Mike Wilcox

Missions: Charlie Stauffacher 354-1274

Fellowship: Jeanne Steers, 354-7484

Pastoral Relations: Barbara Cover, Mark Wolmer, Joan Temple

Men's Group: Charlie Stauffacher, 354-1274

Historian: Dale Pinchbeck, 355-4297

Librarian: Joan Temple, 350-0529

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
david@roxburychurch.org

Joining Us for Worship At Roxbury Church Virtually



This Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
Worship Where You Are At
in -person or if you can not make it - virtually!
You are invited to worship this Sunday.

Bulletin: [LINK](#)

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qdK1MKsus47-A2-vZMJqIyoC4TOqz3t8/view?usp=share_link

(The link remains the same each week) There will be a bulletin posted for each week posted by late Saturday.

Guest Book: [LINK](#)

Online Offering: [LINK](#) or point your smartphone camera at the image:



3 Ways to Join Us For Worship:

1. In-Person worship We are now worshipping in person! Mask-optional for those fully vaccinated (2 shots and boosters)

2. Zoom on your computer, tablet, or smartphone: [Zoom LINK](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/623572023?pwd=SjBxelI1b3BQZmRjTmM3alc0QnE0dz09>

Meeting ID: 623 572 023 Password: 718688

NOTE: We ask that you keep your computer microphone MUTED, except for the virtual coffee hour, or to share a prayer concern or celebration at the beginning of worship. Thanks!

3. Worship Using Facebook Live

[Facebook LINK](#)

(You do not have to have a Facebook Account to watch) Be patient, the FB feed is turned on after prayer concerns and celebrations are shared - for privacy reasons... typically by 10:35 a.m.

www.facebook.com/RoxburyChurch

Prayer List Submissions can be communicated by emailing Rev. Peters, or during the welcome at the beginning of worship. If speaking during the worship, use only first names to protect privacy.

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

Return Service Requested

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
www.roxburychurch.org



NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2025

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

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

Zoom (link on church website) or Facebook Live (fb.com/RoxburyChurch)

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

