

# ***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](mailto:office@roxburychurch.org)

Vol. 280, Issue 7, July/August 2024

## ***Pastoral Reflections***

Rev. David F. Peters, Minister



As we step into the vibrant season of summer, I am reminded of the abundant blessings that surround us in this time of warmth and growth. Summer is a season of renewal, where nature flourishes, and our spirits are lifted by the beauty of creation. It is a time when we can pause, reflect, and fully embrace the gifts that God has bestowed upon us.

In the midst of longer days and sun-kissed evenings, we are reminded of the importance of rest and rejuvenation. Just as God rested on the seventh day after creating the heavens and the earth, so too are we called to find moments of Sabbath rest in our busy lives. Summer provides us with the opportunity to slow down, to savor the simple pleasures of life, and to reconnect with our loved ones and with God.

As we gather for worship in our church community, we are reminded that our faith journey is one of continual growth and transformation. Like the flowers that bloom and the crops that ripen during these warm months, we too are called to nurture our spiritual lives. Let us take time this summer to delve deeper into Scripture, to engage in meaningful prayer, and to seek God's guidance for our lives.

Summer also invites us to embrace a spirit of gratitude. In the abundance of nature's bounty—fresh fruits and vegetables, lush greenery, and clear blue skies—we see God's provision and care for us. Let us give thanks for the nourishment of our bodies and souls, and let us remember those who are in need of our compassion and support during this season.

For many of us, summer is a time of travel and exploration. Whether we journey to new places or stay close to home, let us carry our faith with us wherever we go. May our encounters with different cultures and landscapes deepen our understanding of God's diverse creation and strengthen our commitment to justice and peace in our world.

In the warmth of summer, may we also be mindful of those who are experiencing hardship or sorrow. Let us offer our prayers and support to those who are grieving, struggling with illness, or facing uncertainty. May our acts of kindness and generosity bring comfort and hope to those in need.

As we embark on this season of growth, rest, and reflection, let us give thanks for the blessings of summertime. May we be renewed in body, mind, and spirit, and may we continue to journey together as a community rooted in faith, hope, and love.

Blessings to each of you, *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 those who helped put on another successful Rummage and Bake Sale.

...to our Lay Readers and Zoom Techs – helping to have Sunday worship go smoothly and ensuring that our church community stays fed and connected.

...to Pat Fraley and David Lincicome who have been tending to our Church flower gardens.

...to Chuck Farrell, scraped and painted a good portion of the handicap ramp railings.

...to Katherine Smith & Barb Cover for providing flowers for services this past month.

... to everyone who helped with our Art at the Meetinghouse 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Art Show June 16-18 The planning team was headed by Charlie Meade. A record 183 works of art were shown and the 13 sales provide funds for our budget.

### **Useful Web Links:**

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RoxburyChurch](http://www.facebook.com/RoxburyChurch)

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

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/RoxburyChurch](http://www.twitter.com/RoxburyChurch)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/roxburyucc](http://www.instagram.com/roxburyucc)

Online Giving: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z252/home>

RCC Guestbook: <https://tinyurl.com/brhspben>

Linktree: <https://linktr.ee/RoxburyChurch>

Litchfield South Association, UCC

<https://litchfieldsouthreg.wixsite.com/litchfieldsouth>

Southern New England Conference, UCC

[sneucc.org](http://sneucc.org)

United Church of Christ [ucc.org](http://ucc.org)

### **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

### **New Books in the Church Library**

*Reviews excerpted from Goodreads.com*

Joan Temple, Church Librarian

#### ***The Apostles' Creed: A Guide to the Ancient Catechism*** by Ben Myers

The Apostles' Creed has united Christians from different times, places, and traditions. It proclaims eternal truths for life today. We believe them, we recite them, but do we build our lives on them?

Ben Myers shows us what about the Christian faith is so counter-cultural, and what truths embedded in the Apostles' Creed we've come to assume, when really, they should amaze us and earn our allegiance unto death.

***Reaching for the Invisible God*** by Philip Yancy  
Honest and deeply personal, here is straight talk on Christian living for the reader who wants more than pat answers to life's imponderables.

#### ***On the Brink of Everything: Grace, Gravity and Getting Old*** by Parker J. Palmer

Drawing on eight decades of life -- and his career as a writer, teacher, and activist -- Palmer explores the questions age raises and the promises it holds.

"Old," he writes, "is just another word for nothing left to lose, a time to dive deep into life, not withdraw to the shallows."

## **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.

## **Summer Matters**

### **Summer Contacts**

For pastoral emergencies, please contact David Lincicome, Deacons Chair at 203-948-2008. He will triage emergencies and pastoral responses (Rev. Peters will make himself pastorally available for funerals.)

For building concerns, please contact Brian Neff (860-354-3117) or Bill Steers (203-948-7573)

For worship matters, David Lincicome, Deacon Chairperson (203-948-2008).

For office matters, Luanne Awlasewicz 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

## **Summer Worship & Preachers**

While Rev. Peters is on vacation 7/8-7/31 and sabbatical 8/1-8/22, we have lined up some wonderful worship leaders. We hope that you will take advantage of their insights and perspectives. Service during July & August are at 9:30 a.m.

July 7, (with Communion) Rev. David Peters

July 14: David Lincicome, Deacon, university professor, and ombudsman extraordinaire! former neighbor of the Church, now living in Southbury.

July 21: Rev. Patricia Nicholas of New Milford – retired pastor of New Fairfield Congregational.

July 28: Rev. Peggy Allen of Cheshire – retired pastor of the Milton Congregational Church (Litchfield)

August 4: (with Communion) Rev. Peggy Allen

August 11 Rev. Patricia Nicholas

August 18: Mr. Christopher Cole – seminary student. Member and Chair of the Deacons at the First Congregational Church of Watertown.

August 25: Rev. David Peters returns.

Sunday, September 1 - 10:30 a.m. we will have United Worship with our friends from Christ Church with the Sacrament of Holy Communion at the Apple Lane Pavilion. A picnic will follow. Everyone is asked to bring a side dish or dessert.

Sunday, September 8 will be Homecoming Sunday with the Choir returning.

## **Music during the Summer**

If you would like to share your music during the months of July and August during worship, please contact Sandy. [skleisner@charter.net](mailto:skleisner@charter.net)

## **An Update about the Church Bridge, Parking lot and rear walkway**

The Trustees have been awaiting the completion of the plan and survey being conducted by the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) Prudently, we can not repair the Church Parking Lot and adjacent walkways until the bridge is replaced. While the bridge design and engineering are completed, thanks to Brian Neff, we have to wait for the receipt and acceptance of the final plan by the town officials. NRCS will potentially cover a majority of the cost of remediation of the flooding in the brook.

The plan will set the new height of the sides of the brook and we can then plan for the bridge height. We have been patient and will continue to do so along with our neighbors.

As a temporary solution, Chris Steers has loaned us 2 aluminum staging planks to allow us to walk over to the other side of the brook. Be mindful that this is temporary, is not intended for heavy weight, and does not have side hand holds. Use with caution.

Any questions, please speak with Brian Neff or Rev. Peters.



Become a member of the Thomas Canfield Society by making a planned gift from your will 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.

## **Annual Beef Barbecue**

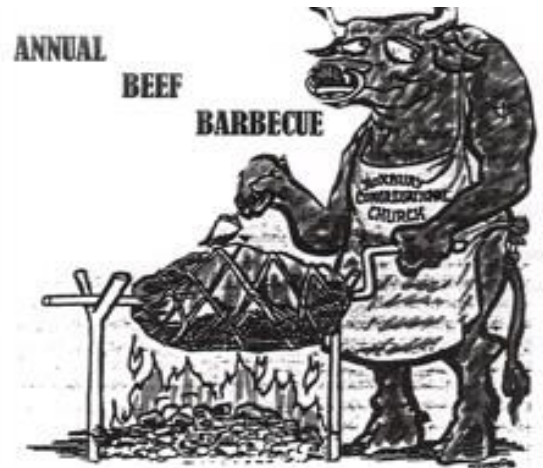
Roxbury Congregational Church  
24 Church St (Rt 317) Roxbury

**Saturday, August 31, 2024  
5:00 to 7:00 PM rain or shine**

*Tentative* PRICE: Adults: \$20.00  
Sr. Citizens: \$18 10 & under: \$10.00  
5 and under: free  
Takeout Available

Tickets available at the door

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



*drawing by Billy Steers*

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. 860-355-9067

**See Sponsorship Opportunities  
on the next page.**

**Roxbury Congregational Church**  
Annual Beef BBQ

Saturday, Aug. 31st 2024

Saturday, Aug. 31st 2024

**BEFF BBQ Wish List - Opportunity to contribute / make a donation towards any items on the List. To sponsor an item, or if you have any questions please contact Chris Childs at [cchilds287@gmail.com](mailto:cchilds287@gmail.com) or at 860 355 9067.**

The Roxbury Congregational Church Beef BBQ Committee has itemized a Wish List of items that are available for anyone to donate to. This will allow us to extend our Fund Raising associated with the Beef BBQ. Thank you for your consideration of this offer.

Items Needed	QTY	Unit	Estimated Price Per Unit or Pound	Total	My GIFT AMOUNT - Please Fill in Amount Willing to Donate
Beef	150	LBS	\$8.00	\$1,200	(6) Donations at \$200 Each
Baguettes	20	Loaves	\$5.00	\$100	Already Donated
Potatoes	230	LBS		\$180	
Cole Slaw Ingredients / All Veggies				\$300	
Corn	300	Ears		\$150	
Beef Marinade				\$30	
Drinks (Ice Tea, Lemonade, Coffee and Condiments, Ice)				\$40	
Mushrooms and Gravy				\$35	
Condiments - Butter, Salt and Pepper, Sugar, Zip Lock Bags				\$40	
Ice Cream	6	GALLONS		\$150	Already Donated
Whipped Cream	12	Cans		\$35	
Hot Fudge				\$50	Already Donated
Desert - Brownies, etc				\$25	
Paper Goods - Cups and Napkins / Foil / Tablecloths, Garbage Bags				\$100	
Charcoal and Fluid	8	Bags		\$120	



## **Community Tag Sale /Bake Sale September 7th**

Our church is holding its 20th annual tag/bake sale on Sat., Sept. 7, 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. Since we have less room inside than outside (in case of rain), it is on a first-come, first-serve basis.



Please reserve early as your payment holds your space. If you don't have enough "stuff" to rent a table, you may donate your treasures to the church table where the profits go to the church. You may do that during the week beginning Tuesday, Sept. 5th.

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 at 860-354-1274 before 7:00 p.m.

## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

### **July**

*A=Anniversary*

- 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
- 

### **August**

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

## **Choir Appreciation**

On Sunday, June 23, during worship, members of the congregation paused to give thanks for the music program of our Church.

After remarks by Rev. Peters, each member was called forward by Minister of Music, Sandy Kleisner and presented with a token of appreciation. After which Sue Stauffacher, on behalf of the whole choir presented Sandy with a gift as well.

### **2023-2024 Choir Members:**

Beverly Wolmer, Mimi Abeles, Dale Pinchbeck, Nance Glover, Sue Stauffacher, Barbara Cover, Patty Metzger, Charlie Stauffacher, Mark Wokmer, David Lincicome, and Vail Barrett.  
Sandy Kleisner - Minister of Music  
**THANK YOU ALL!**

During the next 2 months, we will welcome individuals and groups to sing or play an instrument during the worship services. If you are interested, please speak with Sandy;  
email: [sandra@roxburychurch.org](mailto:sandra@roxburychurch.org)



Underlined scriptures are for Lay Readers  
Worship is now In-person and on Zoom

**July and August Worship time is 9:30 a.m.**

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

August Deacon of the Month: Charlie Meade assisted by Chris Childs

**Sunday, July 7 Rev. David Peters**

*Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*

2 Sam 5:1-5, 9-10 and Psalm 48

Mark 6:1-13

Greeter:

Reader:

Zoom Tech:

Flowers:

Refreshments:

**Sunday, July 14 Mr. David Lincicome**

*Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*

2 Sam 6:1-5, 12b-19 and Psalm 24

Mark 6:14-29

Greeter:

Reader:

Zoom Tech:

Flowers:

Refreshments:

**Sunday, July 21 Rev. Patricia Nicholas**

*Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*

2 Sam 7:1-14a and Psalm 89:20-37

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Greeters:

Lay Reader:

Zoom Tech:

Flowers:

Refreshments:

**Sunday, July 28 Rev. Peggy Allen**

*Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*

2 Sam 11:1-15 and Psalm 14

John 6:1-21

Greeters:

Reader:

Zoom Tech:

Flowers:

Refreshments:

**Sunday, August 4 Rev. Peggy Allen**

*Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost*

2 Sam 11:26-12:13a and Psalm 51:1-12

John 6:24-35

Greeters:

Reader:

Zoom Tech:

Flowers:

Refreshments:

**Sunday, August 11 Rev. Patricia Nicholas**

*Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost*

2 Sam 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 and Psalm 130

John 6:35, 41-51

Greeters:

Reader:

Zoom Tech:

Flowers:

Refreshments:

**Sunday, August 18 Mr. Christopher Cole**

*Member In Discernment (Seminarian)*

*Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 and Psalm 111

John 6:51-58

Greeters:

Reader:

Zoom Tech:

Flowers:

Refreshments:

**Sunday, August 25 Rev. David Peters**

*Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

1 Kings 8: (1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43 and Psalm 84

John 6:56-69

Greeters:

Reader:

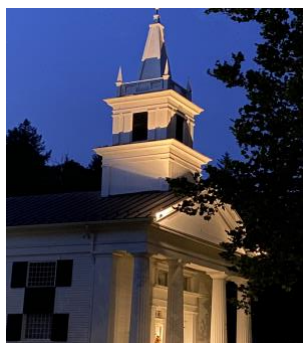
Zoom Tech:

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.



We are now signing up Steeple Lightings for February 2025 and beyond – Contact the Church Office.

July: Gaila Rossiter

*In memory of her husband, Peter*

August: Collette Family

*IMO Gerald Kusinsk & Michael Dipietro*

September Patty Metzger

*In memory of Anthony & Elizabeth Perrotti*

October: Frank White

*In memory of his mother, Carol*

November Pat Lowe *in memory of loved ones*

December: Luanne & Tom Awlasewicz

*In memory of Joey Awlasewicz*

January 2025: available

## Save the Date!

All events listed are tentative as of 6/1/2024

July & August      Worship time is at 9:30 a.m.  
Rev. Peters on Vacation (July 8-31) and  
Sabbatical (August 1 through August 22)

August 3              Community Trivia Night  
August 31             Beef Barbecue 5 – 7 p.m.  
September 1         United Worship with Picnic  
& Episcopal Church at Apple Lane with 10:30 a.m.  
September 7         Tag Sale, 9 a.m. -2 p.m.  
September 8         Homecoming Sunday – Choir begins

October 6             World Communion Sunday –  
*Neighbors in Need special offering*  
October 27            Laity Sunday

November 3         All Saints Sunday – A Time  
of Remembrance and Dedication of Memorials  
Daylight Savings Time Ends  
November 10         Stewardship Sunday

December 1         Advent Begins  
December 7         Country Church Christmas Fair  
December 8         Santa Fund offering received  
December 15        Olde Tyme Christmas 5:00 p.m.  
December 22        Christmas Fund-Veterans of the  
cross offering received /  
Christmas Caroling  
December 24         Christmas Eve  
7:30 p.m. A Service of Lessons and Carols  
11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service

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## Music Appreciation 2024



## Choir 2024

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## 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.

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## ***This Summer ...***

### ***Silver Lake Camp & Retreat Center***

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

### ***Summer Youth Conferences - 2024***

Registrations are now open!

Conferences fill *f a s t!* - 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!

The Camp is American Camping Association certified **AND was recently named one of the best Summer Camps in the US by Newsweek Magazine!!** Congratulations!! Silver Lake is a camp and retreat center of our Southern New England Conference, UCC

For more information about Silver Lake: go to [silverlakect.org](http://silverlakect.org)



# Star Island

Isles of Shoals, NH

An island off the coast of Portsmouth, Star Island, NH is a wonderful week-long time of renewal and enrichment for adults and youth alike.

Their vision is to create on Star Island an environment that frees all who come to renew spiritually, explore matters of consequence, and gain knowledge about the world as it might ideally be.



For more information and register for Summer 2024 Conferences, go to their website [starisland.org](http://starisland.org).

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

Church Scholarships are available, see Rev. Peters.  
[www.starisland.org](http://www.starisland.org)

# Leadership Listing

(All 860- unless noted)

As of June 1, 2024

Ministers: The Congregation

Moderator: Charlie Meade 203-898-0107

Clerk: Patricia Fraley, 868-0051

Treasurer: Dale Pinchbeck 355-2497

(Bill or reimbursement requests:

treasurer@roxburychurch.org)

Collector: Beverly Wolmer 203-405-6795

Deacons: David Lincicome (203) 948-2008

Trustees: Brian Neff, 354-3177

Missions: Charlie Stauffacher

Fellowship: Jeanne Steers, 354-7484

Stewardship: Sue Stauffacher 354-1274

Pastoral Relations: Mark Wolmer, Joan Temple,  
Barb Cover

Men's Group: Charlie Stauffacher, 354-1274

Historian: Dale Pinchbeck, 355-4297

Librarian: Joan Temple, 350-0529

## Staff

Custodian: Bruce Rossiter

Secretary/Newsletter: Secretary,

Luanne Awlasewicz 355-1978

Minister of Music: Sandra Kleisner, 868-9040

sandy@roxburychurch.org

Pastor: The Rev. David F. Peters,

office: 355-1978 home: 355-8830

cell for emergencies: 203-770-6721

david@roxburychurch.org

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Roxbury Congregational Church challenges you to join us for our Summer



**Saturday August 3rd, 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

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

Address Service Requested

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**Newsletter – July / August 2024**

*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](https://fb.com/RoxburyChurch))

Summer Sunday Worship **9:30 a.m.**

**Annual Beef Barbecue – Saturday, August 31, 5-7 p.m. – A Community Event!**

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

