# 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. 280, Issue 10, November 2024

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

#### **Giving Thanks: A Heartfelt Attitude**

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." - Psalm 136:1 In a world often filled with chaos and uncertainty, it's easy to forget the countless blessings we receive daily. As we approach the Thanksgiving season, let's take a moment to reflect on the importance of gratitude.



#### Why is Giving Thanks Important?

- <u>Fosters a Positive Mindset</u>: Gratitude shifts our focus from what we lack to what we have, leading to a more positive outlook on life.
- <u>Strengthens Relationships:</u> Expressing gratitude strengthens bonds with family, friends, and community members
- Reduces Stress and Improves Mental Health: Studies have shown that practicing gratitude can lower stress levels, boost mood, and improve overall well-being.
- <u>Deepens Our Spiritual Connection:</u> Thanking God for God's blessings helps us connect with God more profoundly.

#### How Can We Practice Gratitude?

- Keep a Gratitude Journal: Regularly write down things you're thankful for, no matter how small.
- Express Gratitude Verbally: Tell your loved ones how much you appreciate them.
- Volunteer Your Time: Giving back to others is a powerful way to express gratitude.
- Meditate on Scripture: Read verses about gratitude and reflect on their meaning.
- Pray Regularly: Thank God for God's blessings and ask for God's guidance.

Let's make gratitude a year-round practice. By cultivating a heart of thankfulness, we can experience greater joy, peace, and fulfillment in our lives.

May God bless you and your family as you express your gratitude this Thanksgiving season and beyond. "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." Colossians 3:15

With Gratitude and Love.



## Our Congregation votes to become a "WISE" congregation.

On Sunday, October 13, at the Semi-Annual meeting of the Church, those gathered after discussion and consideration adopted the WISE Covenant. The Covenant recognizes the issue of mental health and wholeness among those in our congregation and the wider commiunity and seeks to normalize the conversation around mental health and wholeness and to work to reduce the associated stigma.

The Task group, led by David Lincicome, will be working to educate about these issues as well as to foster an atmosphere of Christian love, nurture and support.

W.I.S.E. stands for Welcoming, Inclusive,
Supportive, and Engaging
You can read the Roxbury Church's covenant by
going to: https://www.roxburychurch.org/activitiesa-events/mental-health-wise.html

## Thank you...

To members of the congregation who organized and led worship for Laity Sunday on October 27. They included **Sue Stauffacher**, **Charlie Meade**, **Noreen Michener**, **Pat Fraley**, **Vail Barrett**, **Bill Steers**, and **Ray Fitch**. **David Lincicome**, coordinated the service.

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 **Brendon McGuinn** for his tree work taking down a tree leaning over the Fellowship Hall.

To **Frank White**, for their pro bono work cleaning gutters, trimming bushes and some many odd jobs around our property.

## All Saints Sunday November 3



On November 3rd, 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.

We will be during worship coming forth silently and light a candle in memory of someone and place it in a sand-filled container. This ritual has been meaningful for others and we thought it was a good idea.



We invite you to bring in pictures of those who are saints (no larger than 5X7 please) to be placed on an easel board near the Communion Table for the service.

On Sunday, November 3, 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.

## Advent Begins on December 1 Advent Candle Lighters needed

The church liturgical calendar tells us that Advent begins on December 1.

Each of the Advent Sundays, we have a couple, family, or group of individuals lead a simple

liturgy around the Advent Candle Wreath and light the candles. If you are interested in doing this, please see the signup on the Opportunity Table in Fellowship Hall



Questions? Please speak with Rev. Peters

## In Remembrance and Memorials ~ November 2023- November 2024

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: \* official church member

Jean Neff Gene Guilbert Lauren Mills Balas

We honor their memory and lift up their families in prayerful support.

Memorial Gifts Received

Jean Neff Dean Fraley Loved Ones Memorial Gifts can be made at any time to the church. Write "memorial" and the person's name on the memo line.

Memorial Gifts can also be made at any time through our online electronic giving portal: <a href="https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z252/home">https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z252/home</a>

## Flooding Update

The Trustees met on Sunday, October 27 and included in the discussion was dealing with the flooding of Roxbury Brook behind the Church. As a temporary measure, they will contract to place cement blocks behind Fellowship Hall to hold back any waters from flooding under the Church and then onto our neighbor's properties... The government program staff is still formulating a plan. The Trustees have as part of their planning, the replacing of the bridge to the Barn and the other side of the brook. The timing for this is yet to be determined.



## November Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Merlin Temple
- 16 Ray Fitch
- 18 Chris Steers
- 20 Ray & Patricia Fitch (A) (2011)
- 27 Elizabeth Kutepov

## 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 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

We need your help...

- If you have items 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 below).

If you have any of these items, please put them aside and bring them to the church beginning November 10. 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.24 after worship.

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

#### Nice Twice

Our 2024 Christmas Fair is on Sat., Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. I will be accepting items for Nice Twice beginning Monday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. The doors from the parking lot will be open during this time.

We do NOT accept clothing, exercise eqpt., electronics, computers, VHS tapes. luggage, baby items, furniture, TV's. We DO accept clean, working small appliances, kitchen items, books

(novels sell best, no textbooks), garden eqpt., tools, linens, etc.

If you have questions, contact Sue at 860-354-1274 before 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 . 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? We are asking for new, unopened or used items only. Our elves will take the items and wrap them in a basket, ready for sale.

We are asking that basket items be dropped off by Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.

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...

<u>Girl Craft Kits:</u> have 3 items Boy Craft Kits: have 2 items

boy Craft Kits. Have

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)

Gift Basket ideas, con't...

Car (ice scraper, car blanket, travel mug)

Tools (misc. Craftsman tools)

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

### Stewardship for 2025

The Stewardship Committee of Brian Neff and Mike Wilcox and Sue Stauffacher, along with Rev. Peters have been working on this year's Stewardship Campaign and the campaign letters asking for your support are in the mail. We ask that as you receive the solicitation letter, that you place it on the top of your pile, pray about what you will give to the work of your church for 2024 and make it as soon as you can. Each letter will have a self-addressed, stamped envelope included.

Please return your pledges by Stewardship Sunday is November 17<sup>th</sup>. If you misplace your letter, you can download and print another from the Church's website under the Giving tab.

## 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 17<sup>th</sup></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.



## Daily Bread Food Pantry

Since COVID 19, Daily Bread Food Pantry in Danbury has been doing their food distributions differently. They have a dedicated team for distribution days and it is outside rain, snow, sleet, or sun, whatever the weather brings. Since our church team does not go down to Danbury once a month any more, Charlie and I have been volunteering on donation days whenever they have openings that fit our calendars. We are happy to be back in the life of the Food Pantry. We missed it. We take down your donations, so please keep bringing in those bags of goodies:) They can go in the hall closet.

If anyone would like to donate their time on either Tuesdays (11:30 - 1:30) or Wednesdays (2:00 - 4:00) please contact Karen Pricken at kchristine24@gmail.com.

Below are the items that the food pantry wants/needs and the items they do not want as they get them from other sources. This listing is also on the Opportunity Table for you to take with you to

Thank you, Sue Stauffacher

Shopping List on Next Page

the grocery store.

### **DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY LIST**

YES - Items they want/need: Cereal, hot or cold Sugar - white Cooking Oil Rice Coffee - all kinds
Laundry Detergent
Dishwashing Detergent
Bar Soap
Shampoo
Tooth Paste
Tooth Brushes
Feminine Hygiene Products
Diapers
Q-Tips

No – Items they get from other sources:
Peanut Butter
Canned veggies
Meat
Bread
Other perishables

#### 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 Rev. Peters, if you are interested.

### Santa Fund 2024

This year we will be once again collecting hats, mittens and scarves for the needy families of New Milford. There will be basket in Fellowship Hall to place them in before December 8 so they can be delivered to New Milford Social Services. Please speak with Diana deVries with questions.



### 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 are Collecting Toys & Books

for distribution at Daily Bread Food Pantry in Danbury on December 13th

Items can be new or clean and gently used. They can be placed in the specially-marked box in Fellowship Hall.

Questions? Contact Ray Fitch or Barbara Biafore.

## 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.

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For financial offerings, please mail your check into the church or sign up for electronic giving by speaking to Rev. Peters. If you use a credit card, please consider adding 3% for handling charges.

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 Susan Zappulla-Peters 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%.

#### **CHRISTMAS GIVING** – Gift Cards!!!

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 from Raise Right. Talk with Susan Zappulla-Peters for how to order. Look on the Kiosk in Fellowship Hall for a complete listing and contact Susan Zappulla-Peters at 860-355-8830 to purchase your card.

## **Used Toner Cartridges**

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.

## Shop at Labonne Market?

Bring in your LaBonne's receipts for their Cash for Charities Rebate Program. There's a box for them in Fellowship Hall.

## The Prayer Shawl / Squares 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

## 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.



A scene from the Blessing of the Animals

## Word & Sacrament for November 2024

First Sundays = Communion Third Sundays = Faith Stories - Fourth Sundays= Mission Moments

Deacon of the Month: Chris Childs assisted by Charlie Meade

Underlined scriptures are for Lay Reader

#### Sunday, November 3

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints Sunday

Ruth 1:1-18 and Psalm 146

Mark 12:28-34

Greeters: Phil & Diana deVries

Reader: Phil deVires

Flowers:

Refreshments: Charlie & Sue Stauffacher

Zoom Tech: Barbara Cover

#### Sunday, November 10

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Stewardship Sunday

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 and Psalm 127

Mark 12:38-44

Greeters: Joan Temple & Carol Goodwin

Reader: Joan Temple

Flowers: Dale Pinchbeck in memory of Jay

Refreshments:

Zoom Tech: Charlie Stauffacher

#### Sunday, November 17

Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost/

1 Sam 1:4-20 and 1 Sam 2:1-10

Mark 13:1-8

Greeters: Dariel & Bill Curren

Reader: Bill Curren

Flowers: Sue Stauffacher in memory of Tanner

Refreshments:

Zoom Tech: Barbara Cover

#### Sunday, November 24

Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Thanksgiving Sunday:

2 Sam 23:1-7 and Psalm 132:1-12

John 18:33-37

Greeters: Janet & Chris Childs

Reader: Chris Childs

Flowers: Refreshments:

Zoom Tech: Charlie Stauffacher

## Save the Dates

November 2 Trivia Night (Chris Childs) 7 p.m.

November 3 Daylight Saving Time ends

All Saints Sunday – Dedication of Memorials

New Member Orientation

November 9 Fall Church Work Day 9:00 a.m.

November 10 Stewardship Sunday

November 15 Blood Drive 12-5

November 16 Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast 8 - 10

November 24 Thanksgiving Sunday

December 1 Advent 1(Candle Lighting)

December 7 Christmas Fair 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

December 8 Advent 2 (Candle Lighting)

December 15 Advent 3 (Candle Lighting)

Traditional Christmas Service 5 pm

December 22 Advent 4 (Candle Lighting)

UCC Christmas Fund Offering

Christmas Caroling 12:00 noon

December 24 – Christmas Eve

7:30 p.m. Lessons & Carols

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion



**Upcoming Events of Interest** 

**Fall Action Work Weekend**November 3-5 (youth and adults )

Winter Women's Yoga Day Retreat December 9 (adults over 18)

For Registrations or more details go to: https://www.silverlakect.org/

## **Church Library -New Books - Fall** 2024

How to Begin When Your World Is Ending: A Spiritual Field Guide to Joy Despite Everything by Molly Phinney Baskette

UCC Parish minister Molly Baskette weaves together her own story and the stories of those she has encountered in her life of faith while mining joy from all the hardest parts of being human.

The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak: Lessons on Faith from None Biblical Families by Shannon Bream

Shannon explains the intimate connection between faith and family - and how God's unexpected agenda can redefine the way we think about family.

## Red Cross Blood Drive – Friday,

November 15 12-5 pm in Fellowship Hall

Give the gift of life with your blood donation. There is currently a blood shortage nationally. To make an appointment, go to redcross.org.

#### 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.

## November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Laity Sunday	28	Rev. Peters Day off	=6:00PM Cub Scouts	Halloween 31	Diwali	Day of the Dead
= 9:15AM Choir Rehearsal = 10:30AM Worship Inperson & Virtual = 11:20AM Refreshments		=3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	=7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 65	=7:00PM Roxbury Housing Trust Direc- tors	=5:00PM Fair Commit- tee	= 10:30AM Mindful Meditation = 7:00PM Trivia Night
3 Daylight Saving Time En	ad 4	Rev. Peters Day off	=6:00PM Cub Scouts	7 = 7:00PM Deacons	8	= 8:00AM Mens Break-
= 9:15AM Choir Re- hearsal = 10:30AM Worship In- person & Virtual = 11:20AM Refresh- = 11:45AM New Mem-		Election Day	=7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 65			fast = 9:00AM Fall Church Work Day = 10:30AM Mindful Meditation
		= 1:00PM Choir Re- hearsal = 3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)				
= 9:15AM Choir Re- hearsal = 10:30AM New Mem- bers Join = 10:30AM Worship In- person & Virtual = 11:20AM Refresh- ments	Veterans Day	Rev. Peters Day off	=6:00PM Cub Scouts =7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 65	14	=12:00PM Blood Drive 12-5	= 8:00AM Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast = 10:30AM Mindful Meditation
	= 9:00AM Daily Bread Food Pantry team	= 3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)				
= 9:15AM Choir Re-	18 Newsletter Deadline	Rev. Peters Day off	=6:00PM Cub Scouts	21	22	23 = 10:30AM Mindful
hearsal = 10:30AM Worship In- person & Virtual = 11:20AM Refresh- ments = 11:45AM Council		=3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	=7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 65			Meditation
= 9:15AM Choir Re- hearsal = 10:30AM Worship In- person & Virtual = 11:20AM Refresh- ments = 11:45AM Trustees	25	Rev. Peters Day off  = 3:30PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	=6:00PM Cub Scouts =7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 65	Thanksgiving = 7:00PM Roxbury Housing Trust Directors	29	=10:30AM Mindful Meditation
Meeting						

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## 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

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

**Address Service Requested** 

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#### **NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2024**

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!



