

The First Congregational Church of Rockport, UCC

12 School Street ~ Rockport, MA

Sunday, August 16, 2026

12th Sunday after Pentecost



*The First Congregational Church of Rockport is an
Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ.
Whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey of faith,
you are welcome here for an hour or a lifetime.*

About Us

Our Covenant

We, the members of this congregation welcome you with gladness into our lives. We renew our covenant of faith and offer you our support, encouragement and love to the end that all of us may grow in the boundless mercy of God. By loving and being loved, forgiving and being forgiven, serving and being served, let us go forward together with courage as Christ's disciples, glorifying God by being fully alive.

Our Open and Affirming Statement

We, the members of The First Congregational Church of Rockport are called upon to love each other as God loves us, freely and unconditionally. Therefore, we covenant to become an Open and Affirming congregation, welcoming persons of every age, ability, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, nationality, ethnicity and immigration status into full membership and participation in our community life and ministry. We embrace and support those who experience rejection and exile from spiritual community and commit ourselves to the struggle against injustice.

Serving the Church

The Congregation, Ministers
Rev. Dr. James Olson, Interim Pastor
Dr. Philip Swanson, Music Director
Kristina Martin, Associate Music Director
Dr. Gillian Hurst Section Leader, Soloist
Kaitlyn Welch, Director of Faith Formation
Annette Mackin, Office Manager
Phil Bynarowicz, Church Sexton
Daniel Chase, Tech. Person

Contact information

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01966
www.oldsloop.org
Pastor Office Hours: Thursday and
Friday 10-noon
Church Office Hours
Wed., Thurs. Fri. 9:00 am – noon
and 1:00 to 3:00 pm



Welcome to our Sanctuary! Hearing devices are on a rack by the main entrance, cushions are available in the last pew. Please be at home and comfortable here!

Welcome to parents of young children:

Relax! There are worship carts available with coloring, books, fidgets, sensory items etc. to use during the summer months.

God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress those wiggles in God's house. Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to engage. Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, musicians, and leaders.

Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behavior by mimicking you. If you have to leave the Sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

Order of Worship

GATHERING

Prelude Kyrie

Cathy Moglebust

Welcome

The Rev.Dr.James J. Olson

Announcements

Call to Worship Ps. 67:5-7

One: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

All: The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

One: May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

All: Therefore, let us worship in joy and faith.

Hymn * #7 All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Prayer of Invocation

Jim Schell

One: Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated unto you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, always to your glory and the welfare of your people, through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

WORD

Scripture Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15:20-28

Jim Schell

Sermon

Rev. Olson

Hymn* #179 We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness

Prayers of the People

All: Our Father and Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

Response

Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -

cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

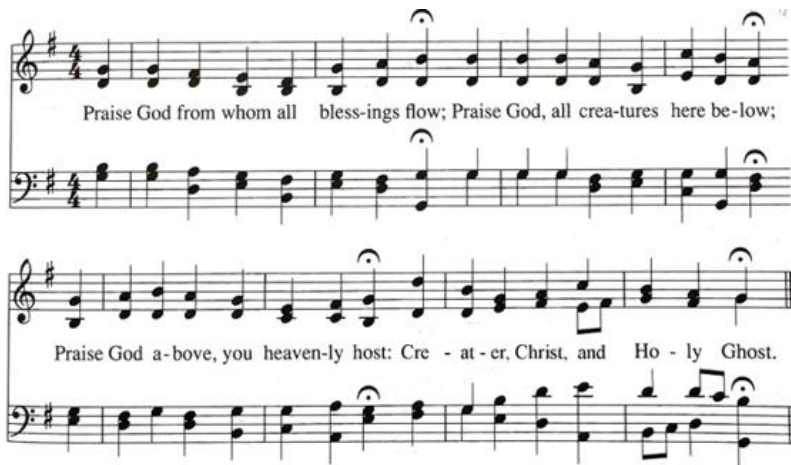
Offering

One: Through Christ let us continually praise God and share what we have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Offertory solo O Rest in The Lord

Mendelssohn/ Doran

Doxology*



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures here be-low;

Praise God a-bove, you heaven-ly host: Cre - at - er, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Prayer of Dedication

One: Blessed are you, God of all creation; through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.

All: Blessed be God forever. Amen.

SENDING AND DEPARTING

Hymn* #418 My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff

Benediction

Postlude Great is Thy Faithfulness

Chisholm/ Doran

Today's Service Helpers

Liturgist Jim Schell

Usher Amy Seabrook and Linda Kluge

Soloist Our soloist on Hand Chimes is Alison Trott

*The altar flowers this morning
are given by
Sandy and Rich Lorigan*



Old Sloop Vacation Bible School 2026



Congregational Library and Archives

<https://congregationallibrary.org/membership>

14 Beacon St Boston

Visit us to explore over 400 years of Congregational history.

Rev. Dr. Liz Rice Smith, our church Historian, encourages church members to explore the Congregational Archives especially those of you interested in year round educational opportunities. Visit 14 Beacon St. in person in Boston or participate in online webinars

Summer is a great time to catch-up on videos you missed over the previous year. Revisit Dr. Lori Rogers-Stokes talk on her book, *Gathered Into a Church: Indigenous-English Congregationalism in Woodland New England*.

You can also explore over 100 videos from past talks, discussions, and events anytime. The Congregational story is about ordinary people doing extraordinary things, beginning with the seventeenth-century puritans, continuing in the activism of nineteenth-century abolitionists and social reformers, and seen in the work modern-day Congregational churches devote toward creating a just and open society. Available on our YouTube channel.

We acknowledge that the land we live on and the water that surrounds us were inhabited by the Pawtucket peoples, members of the Wabanaki Confederacy.

CALENDAR ~ August 16-23, 2026

Sunday, August 16	10:00 am Sunday Service	Rev. Olson
2:00 pm	Women's AA Group (Morgan Room)	
	Outreach Com. Meets after Worship	
7:00 pm	Cabinet Meeting online	
Monday, August 17	Office Closed	
6:00-7:30 pm	M. Downs Strings Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)	
Tuesday, August 18	Office Closed	
11:00 am	Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)	
7:00 pm	Al-Anon (Morgan Room)	
Wednesday, August 19	Office Closed for Vacation	
9:15 am	Yoga (Fellowship Hall)	
3:00 pm	Storytelling	
5:00 pm	Bible Study Zoom	
Thursday, August 20	Office Closed for Vacation, Pastor Hours 10-12	
9:30 am	Book Group (Morgan Room)	
Friday, August 21	Office Closed for Vacation, Pastor Hours 10-noon	
1:00 pm	Rise n Chime (Morgan Room)	
4:00 pm	Prayer Service – Zoom	
Saturday, August 22	8:30 am AA meeting- (Fellowship Hall)	
Sunday, August 23	10:00 am Sunday Service	Rev. Olson
2:00 pm	Women's AA Group (Morgan Room)	