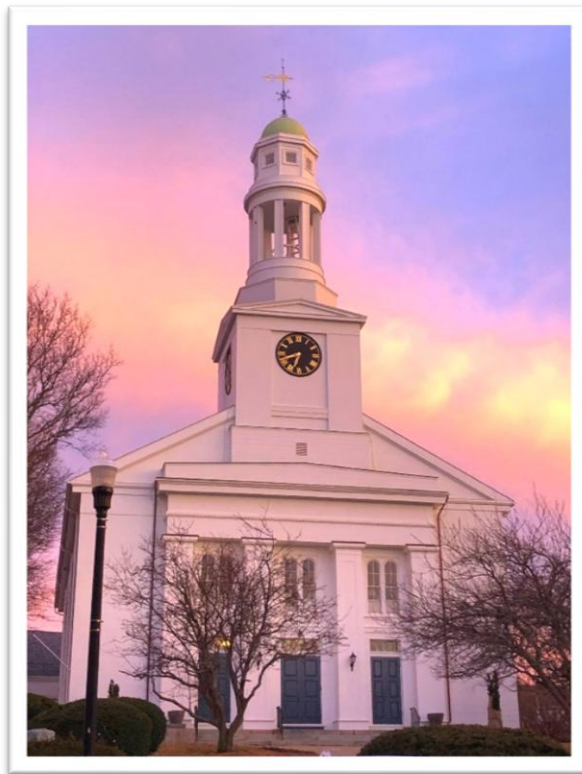


The First Congregational Church of Rockport, UCC

12 School Street ~ Rockport, MA

Sunday, August 2, 2026 –10th 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. 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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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!

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.

Order of Worship

Gathering

Prelude Air de trompette

G.P. Telemann

Welcoming Interim Pastor, The Rev. James Olson Kevin Love

Announcements

Hymn* # Red Pilgrim Hymnal #345 - Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart

Call to Worship

One: The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Many: The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

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

Prayer of Invocation

Sue Bowers

One: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Confession and Absolution

One: We are called to examine our faithfulness to God's covenant with us. God, in whose presence we gather, promises us grace and pardon when we acknowledge our weakness and failures. Let us confess our faults before almighty God.

All: Eternal God, whose Word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path, we recognize and confess that we have failed to respond fully to your gracious presence in our lives. Through Jesus Christ, you have offered us new life, fulfillment, and the freedom and joy to serve you. We confess that we are captive to sin, that our sin binds us with false pride, and that the wrong we do is made worse by the good we leave undone. Reconcile us to you and to all people. God of mercy, forgive all our sin and strengthen us anew for life as you intend it; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

One: Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether; the past is finished and gone; everything has become fresh and new. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel; that in Jesus Christ, we are loved and forgiven.

Peace

One: As a sign of our reconciliation with God and with one another, turn and greet each other. The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

We Listen for God's Word

Scripture Isaiah 55:1-5, Matthew 14:13-21

Sue Bowers

Sermon

Rev. Olson

Choral Anthem At the River

Robert Lowry/Arr. Aaron Copland

We Respond to God's Word

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

Offertory Solo Adagio (from The Four Seasons) A. Vivaldi/Arr. S.Wolff

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

One: Gracious God, we return to you just some of what you have first given us. We thank you for the ability to give. Bless these gifts, and bless us, that our offering may be used to further your work in the world. Amen.

Communion

Hymn* # 321 - Break Thou the Bread of Life

Invitation

One: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week, Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, and on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

All: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table.

One: This table is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

Communion Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: We give you thanks, Holy One, therefore, with the entire company of saints in heaven and on earth, we worship and glorify you God Most Holy, saying...

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

One: For in the night of betrayal...Great is the Mystery of our faith.

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

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

One: The gifts of God, for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Anthem

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the Good News of your love, and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain and unsettled world, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

SENDING AND DEPARTING

Hymn * #377 - Forward Through The Ages

***Benediction**

Life is short, And we do not have much time
to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us.
So... be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.
And the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us,
and who travels with us be with you now and forever.

Postlude The Rejoicing (from Royal Fireworks Music)

G.F. Handel/Arr. C. Seipp

*Our **Trumpet Soloist** is Richard Given*

ILLUMINATING

POETRY

Today's Service Helpers

Liturgist Sue Bowers

Usher Amy Seabrook and Marge Schell

Communion Helper Elsa Tranfaglia



The Flowers on the Altar today are in honor of our new Interim Minister, Rev. Olson



**START CELEBRATING
ROCKPORT ILLUMINATION
EARLY!**

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 8
2:00 PM TIL 3:00 PM**

**ROCKPORT PUBLIC
LIBRARY
17 SCHOOL STREET
BRENNER ROOM
2ND FLOOR**

FREE ADMISSION

**ROCKPORT POET
LAUREATES**

**SHARON CHACE
SUELLEN WEDMORE
BOB WHELAN**

CALENDAR ~-August 2 to 9, 2026

Sunday, August 2 10:00 am Sunday Service and Holy Communion
 with our new Interim Pastor Rev. James Olson
 2:00 pm Women's AA Group (Morgan Room)

Monday, August 3 Office Closed
 6:00-7:30 pm M. Downs Strings Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, August 4 Office Closed
 11:00 am Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)
 7:00 pm Al-Anon (Morgan Room)

Wednesday, August 5 Office Closed for vacation
 9:15 am Yoga (Fellowship Hall)
 3:00 pm Storytelling
 5:00 pm Bible Study Zoom

Thursday, August 6 Office Closed for vacation, Pastor Hours 10-noon
 9:30 am Book Group (Morgan Room)

Friday, August 7 Office Closed for vacation, Pastor Hours 10-noon
 4:00 pm Prayer Service – Zoom

Saturday, August 8 8:30 am AA meeting- (Fellowship Hall)
 2:00-3:00pm "Illuminating Poetry" at Rockport Library
 Rockport Poet Laureates. (Sharon Chace)

Sunday, August 9 10:00 am Sunday Service Rev. Olson
 2:00 pm Women's AA Group (Morgan Room)
 Rain Location Rockport Acoustic Festival