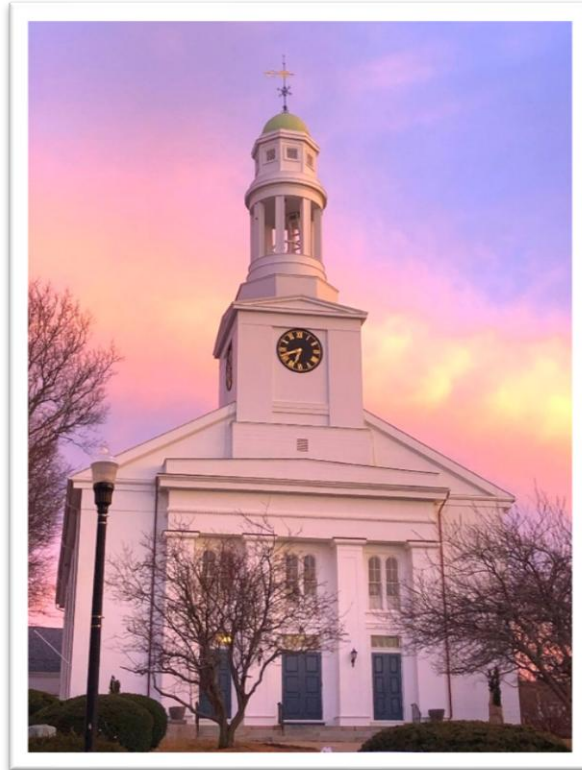


The First Congregational Church of Rockport, UCC

12 School Street ~ Rockport, MA

Sunday, August 9, 2026



*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

978/546-6638
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12 School St., Rockport, Mass.
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!

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 Prelude in E minor

J.S. Bach

Welcome

Rev. Olson

Announcements

Call to Worship Ps. 1-5:1-4

One: O give thanks to the LORD; call on his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.

All: Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

One: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

All: Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually. Therefore, let us worship in joy and faith.

Hymn*#42 "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Prayer of Invocation

Jack Reed

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.

The Word

Scripture Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33

Jack Reed

Sermon

Rev. Olson

Hymn* #51 "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"

Response

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

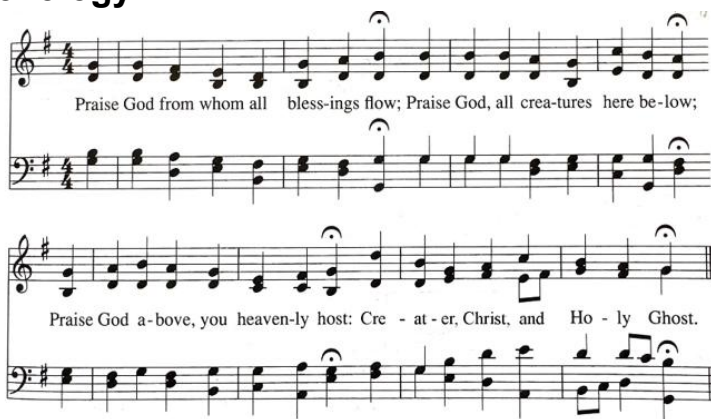


Offering

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

Offertory

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.

SENDING AND DEPARTING

Hymn* #80 Savior, Again to Your Dear Name"

*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 *Contrapunctus # 1 from Art of the Fugue....J.S. Bach*

Our organist this morning is Brian Lynam. Brian also sings in the chancel choir.

Today's Service Helpers

Liturgist Jack Reed

Usher Amy Seabrook and Barbara Sachs



*The flowers on the altar are given by
Wendy and Mark Woodbury
In loving memory of Mark's sister Ruth
who passed away on June 29, 2026.*



Vacation Bible School at the Old Sloop 2026!

CALENDAR ~ August 9-16, 2026

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

Monday, August 10 Office Closed
6:00-7:30 pm M. Downs Strings Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)
7-9pm Trustees Meeting

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

Wednesday, August 12 Office Open 9-12 and 1-3
9:15 am Yoga (Fellowship Hall)
3:00 pm Storytelling
5:00 pm Bible Study Zoom
7:00 pm Stewardship Committee Meeting Online

Thursday, August 13 Office Open 9-12 and 1-3, Pastor Hours 10-
4:00 pm Gouran/Pyle Wedding Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
9:30 am Book Group (Morgan Room)

Friday, August 14 Office Open 9-12 and 1-3, Pastor Hours 10-noon
4:30 Gouran/Pyle Wedding (Sanctuary)
1:00 Rise n Chime (Morgan Room)
4:00 pm Prayer Service – Zoom

Saturday, August 15 8:30 am AA meeting- (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, August 16 10:00 am Sunday Service Rev. Olson
11:30 am Outreach Committee (Morgan Room)
2:00 pm Women's AA Group (Morgan Room)
7:00 pm Cabinet Meeting