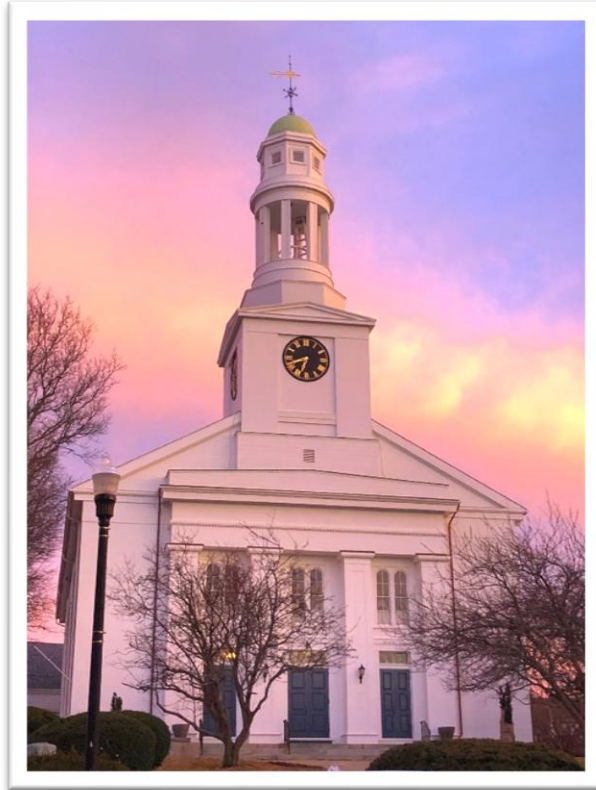


**The First Congregational Church
of Rockport, UCC**

12 School Street ~ Rockport, MA

April 12, 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
The Rev. Derek van Gulden, Pastor
Dr. Philip Swanson, Music Director
Kristina Martin, Associate Music Director
Kaitlyn Welch, Director of Faith Formation
Annette Mackin, Office Manager
Phil Bynarowicz, Church Sexton
Daniel Chase, Tech. Person

Contact information

978/546-6638
office@oldsloop.org
12 School St., Rockport, Mass. 01966
www.oldsloop.org

Office Hours
Wed., Thurs. Fri.
9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Closed Monday & Tuesdays

*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

We Gather as God's People

Prelude Andante from Voluntary

J. Bennett

Welcome "So I Send You"

Rev. Derek van Gulden

Hymn* #233 Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 16)

One: Let us say to the Holy One: You are our God, we have no good apart from you!

Many: Holy One, you are our God, we have no good apart from you!

One: The Holy One is our chosen portion and our cup; God holds our lot.

Many: Holy One, you are our God, we have no good apart from you!

One: The Holy One provides us protection and refuge, keeps us in pleasant places, and gives a good heritage.

Many: Holy One, you are our God, we have no good apart from you!

Prayer of Invocation

Jack Reed

Gracious and Eternal God, you are the one who calls us together and the one who sends us out in the world. Remind us, as we gather, how good it is to dwell with you and one another. Stir our hearts to love boldly, freely, and joyfully. Let us praise you with our whole lives and magnify your name by our works. We bless and honor you, O Faithful One, from

generation to generation and from community to community. Speak to our spirits and receive our worship. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Gracious and Eternal God, you never abandon us the way that we sometimes abandon you. We doubt your power and your compassion. We call upon your name, but too often without expectation that you will answer. We blame you for the things we have collectively caused or that life demands. Yet, we give ourselves credit for the good that comes our way. We offer empty apology devoid of real repentance. We want to be absolved without engaging in repair. Help us to cherish grace as a gift and mercy as a miracle. Have mercy on us, Holy One. Amen.

Words of Grace

Beloved, the Redeemer of our souls meets us in our doubts, uncertainty, and questions. When we call, God responds. When we do not call, God remains present with us. Receive the grace of God to trust the Holy One with our struggles, pain, and brokenness. Have life in the name of the One who came to us, comes to us, and will come to us again and again.

Passing the Peace

Communion Hymn #347 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Liturgy of Holy Communion (see insert) Rev. Derek and Deacons

We Listen for God's Word

Scripture Psalm 16, John 20:19-31 Jack Reed

Sermon Rev. Derek

Choral Anthem Joy is Come Medieval Tune/setting by Andrew Carter

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (The New Zealand Book of Common Prayer)

Eternal Spirit Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all. Loving God, in whom is heaven. The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Response #769 Hear Our Prayer

Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -
cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

The musical notation consists of two systems of staves. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff.

We Respond to God's Word

Offertory
Doxology

Prayer of
Thanksgiving and
Dedication

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.

The musical notation consists of two systems of staves. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff.

We Take God's Light into the World

Hymn* #241 Joy Dawned Again on Easter

Benediction

All: May the tomb be just a stop

Reminding us that God's reign knows no bounds

The realm of God's possible knows no limits

God's presence always remains

God's protection endures

God's glory radiates the day and the night

And the power of Christ lives in us.

Pastor: May we go forth from the tomb

Renewed and rededicated to witness to this good news

To live the resurrected life in spirit and in truth

And to be the good news in the world God loves.

Postlude Strike the Viol Henry Purcell Soloist: Dr. Gillian Hurst

***Please join us for the Coffee Hour after the Service in Fellowship Hall
hosted by the Cabinet***

Today's Worship Service Helpers

Liturgist Jack Reed

Ushers James Krieger

Knit for the Fair!

The Old Sloop Fair will be on July 10 and 11. The knitting nook needs crafty items for youngsters age 6 and under.

Now is a good time to pull out your knitting needles or crochet hooks and look through your yarn stash and patterns for baby blankets, sweaters, booties, and toys. Then start stitching!

Camilla Ayers

**Announcing the start of a
new, intergenerational
“Birthday Greetings Crew,”
captained by Camilla Ayers.**



If you would like to be included on a monthly, intergenerational Birthday Greetings List in the Log, please fill out this insert and either place it in the Offering Plate as it is passed or mail/bring it to the church Office.

Your Name:

Your Birthday:

Month. Day. Year (year optional)

How would you like to be contacted?

Phone:

Email address:

In years past, “The Old Sloop Log Birthday List” was a tradition greatly enjoyed by members and friends of the congregation. We are happy to get this going again! People may give you a call, greet you at Coffee Hour, send you a card or write you an email message! And you will be invited to your month’s Birthday Coffee Hour, usually the last Sunday of your Birthday month!

If you attend virtually, let us know if you would like to be included! We would love to have you on the list! Children are also welcome to be listed if their parents are willing to use parental mailing addresses.

Contact information for Camilla Ayers:
oldsloopbirthdays@icloud.com
or 978-546-3855

CALENDAR OF EVENTS April 12-19, 2026

Sunday, April 12 10:00 am Sunday Service
 10:15 am Old Sloop Youth Faith Formation
 Coffee Hour after the service hosted by the Cabinet
 1:00 pm Deacons meeting online
 7:00pm Cabinet meets online

Monday, April 13 Office Closed
 10:00 am Garden Club (Morgan Room)
 7:00 pm Trustees Meet (Zoom)

Tuesday, April 14 Office Closed
 11:00 am Tai Chi (Fellowship Hal)
 7:00 pm Al-Anon (Morgan Room)
 7:00 pm Membership Committee (Zoom)

Wednesday, April 15 Church Office Open 9-2
 9:15 am Yoga (Fellowship Hall)
 3:00 pm Storytelling Zoom
 5:00 pm Bible Study Zoom
 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, April 16 Church Office Open 9 am-2 pm
 9:30 am Book Group (Morgan Rm)
 4-5:30 pm Youth Group

Friday, April 17 Church Office Open 9 am-2pm
 4:00 pm Prayer Service – Zoom

Saturday, April 18 8:30 am AA meeting- (Fellowship Hall)
 7:30 pm Old Sloop Presents

Sunday, April 19 10:00 am Sunday Service
 School vacation, no Youth Faith Formation



Old Sloop Presents Apr.18
 Antje Duvekot and David Berkeley

April 26th ~ Pastor Derek Blessing and Sendoff Our Final Service with Rev. Derek After worship we will have a Gathering Meal to honor and thank Pastor Derek with his family, friends and special guests. Hosted by the Old Sloop Congregation.