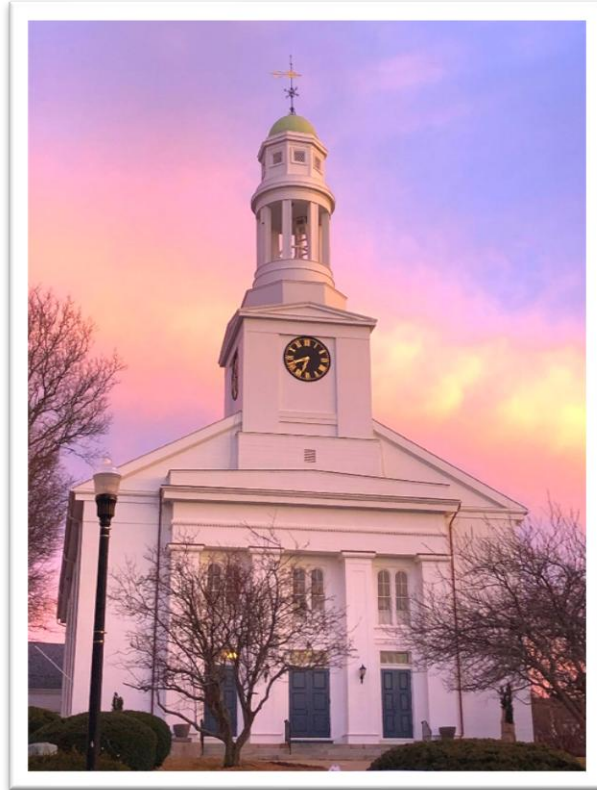


**The First Congregational Church
of Rockport, UCC**

12 School Street ~ Rockport, MA

April 19, 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 Green Fields Trad. American melody/setting by Don Hustad

Welcome Rev. Derek van Gulden

Hymn* #240 Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Announcements

Worship Moment Welcoming Committee

Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 116)

One: We call upon the name of the Holy One who hears our cry and responds to our prayer. What shall we return to the Holy One for all the blessings we receive?

Many: We will call upon the name of the Holy One for as long as we live.

One: The Holy One has been our Companion in suffering and our Comforter in anguish. What shall we return to the Holy One for their presence among us?

Many: We will serve the Holy One and be companions and comforters for God's people.

One: The Holy One has given a new covenant of salvation, redemption, and restoration for the world. What shall we return to the Holy One for the gift of covenantal love?

Many: We will declare the goodness of God with praise and thanksgiving. Hallelujah! Bless the name of the Holy One!

Prayer of Invocation

Jack Reed

Living God, you are the fire that burns within us. You open our hearts to your presence, revealed in word and song, in hospitality and friendship, in sacrament and presence. Open our minds again so that we may recognize you when you meet us in unexpected moments. Let us encounter you in every phase and movement of worship that we might know you and love you more than before we gathered. And, may that love burn brightly like the sun cutting through the gloom of the storm to inspire us to go on with renewed hope and spirit. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Spirit of the Living God, we ask you to meet us in those moments when we recognize that we have caused, through action or inaction, through words or silence, through participation or lack of participation, that we have caused or allow harm to take place. In those moments, allow our hearts to break in order to be mended with the burning fire of repentance and sharpening. In those moments, let our hearts cry, "what should we do?" In those moments, guide us to wisdom and discernment< Holy Spirit, so that we would not only be forgiven but gifted with the work of repair and restoration. Amen.

Words of Grace

Beloved, the Holy Spirit continues to be our present companion. When we seek them, the Spirit responds with wisdom, hope, and peace. Be encouraged that the Holy One awaits to meet us where we are in order

to journey with us to where we could be for the glory of God and the good of the world..

Passing the Peace

Leader: Peace be with you,

Response: and also with you.

We Listen for God's Word

Scripture Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Luke 24:13-35

Jack Reed

Sermon "Awe" It takes work!

Rev. Derek

Choral Anthem Alleluia

William Boyce

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer 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 #769 Hear Our Prayer

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in - cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a steady rhythm. The bass line provides a harmonic accompaniment with block chords and moving lines.

We Respond to God's Word

Offertory Duet Holy, Holy, Holy

arr. Kurt Meyer

Doxology

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Musical score for the Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here be-low; Praise God a-bove, you heaven-ly host: Cre - at - er, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost."

We Take God's Light into the World

Hymn* #84 This Is the Day

Benediction

Postlude O Great God

arr. Kurt Meyer

Our soloists today: Alison Trott, hand chimes; Sharon Trott Reid, flute.

Please join us for the Coffee Hour after the Service in Fellowship Hall hosted by the "Welcoming Committee."

Today's Worship Service Helpers

Liturgist Jack Reed

Ushers Dorothy Geiser and Amy Seabrook

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 19-26, 2026

Sunday, April 19 10:00 am Sunday Service School vacation, no Youth Faith Formation
Coffee Hour after the service hosted by the "Welcoming Committee"
Outreach Meets after Coffee Hour (Morgan Room).
2:00pm Women's AA Group (Morgan)

Monday, April 20 Office Closed **Patriot's Day**

Tuesday, April 21 Office Closed
11:00 am Tai Chi (Fellowship Hal)
7:00 pm AI-Anon (Morgan Room)

Wednesday, April 22 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 23 Church Office Open 9 am-2 pm
9:30 am Book Group (Morgan Rm)
10 am-12 pm Youth Group Pies Fellowship Hall

Friday, April 24 Church Office Open 9 am-2pm
4:00 pm Prayer Service – Zoom
7:00 pm Old Sloop Presents ~ Sorellanza



Sorellanza a 12-woman a cappella chorus from Cape Ann, directed by Patti Pike

Saturday, April 25
8:30 am AA meeting- (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, April 26 10:00 am Sunday Service
School vacation, no Youth Faith Formation
After Worship next week, Pastor Send Off

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.