

The First Congregational Church of Rockport, UCC

12 School Street ~ Rockport, MA

Sunday, August 30, 2026

14th 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

978/546-6638
office@oldsloop.org
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!

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 Lobe den Herren (Praise to the Lord)

J. Walter

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (Ps. 105:1-6)

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.

One: Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles and the judgments he uttered, O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

All: Therefore, let us worship the Lord!

***Hymn #24 The God of Abraham Praise" (Black Hymnal)**

Prayer of Invocation

Bonnie Gray

One: God, you are the power of liberation, calling your servant Moses to lead your people into freedom, and giving him the wisdom to proclaim your holy law. Be our Passover from the land of injustice, be the light that leads us to the perfect rule of love, that we may be citizens of your unfettered reign; we ask this through Jesus Christ, the pioneer of our salvation.

All: Amen.

WORD

Scripture Exodus 3:1-15 Matthew 16:21-28

Bonnie Gray

Sermon

***Hymn # 204 "Take Up Your Cross" (Black Hymnal)**

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

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

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

Offering

Offertory Solo

Come Sunday

Duke Ellington

*Doxology

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.

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 #80** Savior Again to Your Dear Name We Raise (Black Hymnal)

***Benediction**

Postlude Peace Piece

Bill Evans

Today's Service Helpers

Liturgist Bonnie Gray

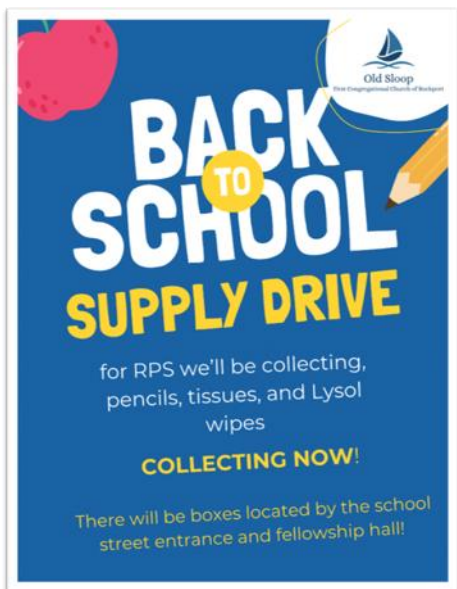
Usher Kathy Gregg and Amy Seabrook

Guitar Soloist Steve Lacey

The altar flowers this morning are given by the family of Hazel von Rosenvinge in her loving memory. Hazel often enjoyed a Winnie the Pooh quote: "If there ever comes a day when we can't be together, keep me in your heart, I'll stay there forever." — Winnie the Pooh



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.



Youth Faith Formation begins on Sept. 13th with the "Blessing of the Backpacks"

Welcome to the 17th season of Old Sloop Presents!

Coming Fri. September 18, 7:30

What Time Is It, Mr. Fox

A five person band from Gloucester that plays a genre blending combination of soul, folk, and cabaret.



And Oct. 10: Rob Flax's Boom Chick Trio

CALENDAR ~ August 30-Sept 6, 2026

Sunday, August 30 10:00 am Sunday Service
August Birthdays Coffee Hour hosted by the
Old Sloop Fleet
2:00 pm Women's AA Group (Morgan Room)

Monday, August 31 Office Closed
6:00-7:30 pm M. Downs Strings Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, Sept. 1 Office Closed
11:00 am Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)
7:00 pm Al-Anon (Morgan Room)

Wednesday, Sept. 2 Office Open 9-noon and 1-3pm
9:15 am Yoga (Fellowship Hall)
3:00 pm Storytelling
Bible Study is on break and will be resumed soon TBA

Thursday, Sept. 3 Office Open 9-noon and 1-3pm
9:30 am Book Group (Morgan Room)

Friday, Sept. 4 Office Office Open 9-noon and 1-3pm
1:00 pm Rise n Chime (Morgan Room)
4:00 pm Prayer Service – Zoom

Saturday, Sept. 5 8:30 am AA meeting- (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, Sept. 6 10:00 am Sunday Service and Holy Communion
2:00 pm Women's AA Group (Morgan Room)

*The first choir rehearsal will be Sept 9th.

**The next Cabinet meeting will be in person Sept 20, 2026 at 7pm in the Morgan Room.