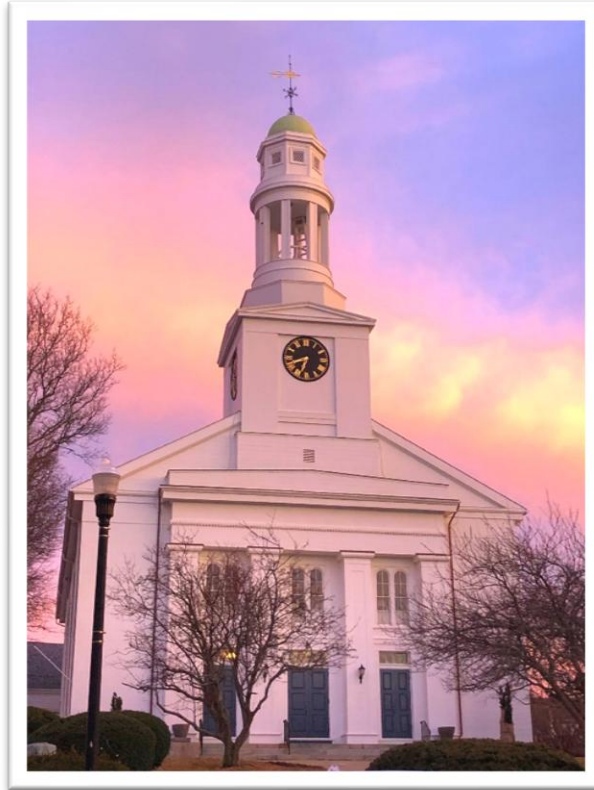


The First Congregational Church of Rockport, UCC

12 School Street ~ Rockport, MA

July 5, 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
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

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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 Morning Has Broken .Gaelic melody, arr. King

Welcome Deacon Jim Schell

Hymn* #18 Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

Announcements

Call to Worship

One: We are here to be a church, a community of faith.
What does that mean?

All: God calls us to love others as deeply as we love ourselves, with no strings attached.

One: How does this love affect our behavior?

All: God calls us to forgive our sisters and brothers, to let mercy triumph over judgment.

One: Christians are supposed to make a difference.
How do we do that?

All: We create a community here that is like living in the kingdom of God.

One: God is calling us to a new purpose. Will we respond?

All: We will. Let us put aside any spirit of timidity and move forward with boldness, love, and joy.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Elsa Tranfaglia

Companion God, keep us ever mindful of what we find in the church—a purpose for our lives, a center of friendship and support, a sacred place where we encounter the holy, a community of people who love us, serve with us, and pray with us. For all these gifts, present in this place, we thank you. Amen

Words of Grace

And this, then, is the vision of that Heaven of which we have heard, where those who love each other have forgiven each other, where, for that, the leaves are green, the light a music in the air, and all is unentangled, and all is undismayed.

Wendell Berry, Entries

Passing the Peace

Communion Hymn* #332 As We Gather At Your Table

Service of Holy Communion (see insert)

We Listen for God's Word

Scripture Psalm 139: 1-14 Matthew 11: 25 – 30 Elsa Tranfaglia

Sermon You are fearfully and wonderfully made Deacon Jim Schell

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Response #769 Hear Our Prayer

Two systems of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first system contains the lyrics: "Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -". The second system contains the lyrics: "cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace." The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the accompaniment is on a bass clef staff.

We Respond to God's Word

Offertory Solo Shenandoah Traditional American, arr. Doran

Doxology

Two systems of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first system contains the lyrics: "Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures here be-low;". The second system contains the lyrics: "Praise God a-bove, you heaven-ly host: Cre - at - er, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost." The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the accompaniment is on a bass clef staff.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

O God, you have made us family to all who walk this earth with us. With these gifts may we reach out to others. With these gifts, may we open a way for others to reach out to us. Amen

We Take God's Light into the World

Hymn * #440 O Beautiful for Spacious Skies (Red Hymnal)

Benediction

Postlude America the Beautiful.....Samuel Ward, arr. Doran

Handchime soloist: Alison Trott

Rise N' Chime Handchime Ensemble:

Camilla Ayers, Lucy Fales Evans, Rick Kasten, Janice Ramsden,
Donna Schwenk, Leader, Alison Trott

Today's Worship Service Helpers

Liturgist and Communion Elsa Tranfaglia

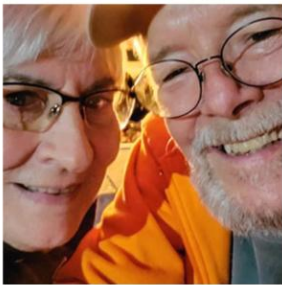
Ushers The Hurst Family

Altar Flowers dedication:

*"No one has ever been barred because of his race
from fighting for America.*

*There are no "white" or "colored" signs
In the foxholes or graveyards of battle."*

*John Fitzgerald Kennedy
35th President of the United States*



Deacon Jim Schell

Jim Schell and his wife, Marjorie, joined this Congregational Church in the fall of 1980. Having an interest in classical sacred music, Jim joined the choir the day of their first visit. He has also served on many of the church committees as the need arose. Jim's 30-year tenure in the Gideons International allowed him to grow spiritually through Gospel presentations in many churches in the New England area. He was also listed as a Chaplain

for the Military Entrance Process Station in Boston. A Navy veteran having served in Vietnam, he had the privilege of presenting new recruits with God's Word and the importance of having a close relationship with Our Father in Heaven.



**GET READY FOR
The 5th Annual Christmas in July Re-gifting
Auction Sunday, July 26th
We are excited to feature
Donna Schwenk as Auctioneer!**

Our 5th Annual Old Sloop Fleet Fundraiser will happen July 26 after the Worship Service, with coffee and cake in the Sanctuary! Perhaps you tried to sell that lovely but unwanted Christmas gift at our yard sale at the Old Sloop Fair. Still have it? Please help us by donating your re-gift or by buying someone else's re-gift. Just wrap up your "re-gifting" donations with a note tied on, indicating for what age the gift is appropriate. The re-gift could be a joke gift, a truly awesome present, or any kind of "gift" nice or silly, strange or funny. Then, come to the auction prepared to buy, having no idea what you are paying for, to support your Old Sloop Fleet! Your Old Sloop Fleet is an active, quiet ministry (since 2007) of many volunteers who "share the love" on behalf of the whole congregation during special times in our lives, to offer warm support, encouragement, condolence, assistance, or congratulations.



See you at The Old Sloop Fair. July 10 & 11 *
July 5th, after the service, the sanctuary will be available to store items for sale. If you need help getting your items to the church, Jack Reed and Jim Schell can help. Boutique ~ Louisa Casadei-Johnson and Susan Lillis Bake Table

~ Barbara Sachs ~ Musicians ~ Madeleine Downs ~ Jewelry ~ Celene Lyon ~ Barbeque ~ Steve Rowell ~ Art ~ Bonnie Gray ~ Tools and Yard Sale ~ Rick Kasten, Laurie McKenna, Jim Schell ~ Kids Fair ~ Amy Seabrook ~ Pottery ~ Sarah Mowitt ~ Knitting ~ Camilla Ayers

***Volunteers Needed for set up and both Fair days!**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS July 5 to 12, 2026

Sunday, July 5	10:00 am Sun. Service Deacon chair, Jim Schell Service of Holy Communion Coffee Hour hosted by the Welcoming Committee
Monday, July 6	Office Closed
Tuesday, July 7	Office Closed
11:00 am	Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)
(6:30 pm	No Pot Luck Supper July and August. Will restart in September.)
7:00 pm	Due to Fair set up Al Anon will meet in the Artist studio space.
Wednesday, July 8	Church Office Open 9am -2pm
(9:15 am	No Yoga this week)
3:00 pm	Storytelling Zoom
5:00 pm	Bible Study Zoom
Thursday, July 9	Church Office Open 9 am-2 pm
9:30 am	Book Group (Morgan Room)
Friday, July 10	THE OLD SLOOP FAIR 9-2 Church Office Open 9 am-2pm
4:00 pm	Prayer Service – Zoom
Saturday, July 11	THE OLD SLOOP FAIR 9-2
8:30 am	AA meeting- (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday, July 12	10:00 am Sunday Service Rev. Jamie Klopotoski and Sax Supercubed Band members: April Ferraro, Nick Capello, Frank Freedman, Sonyangelie Del Valle
2:00 pm	Women's AA group (Morgan Room)