

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

**12 School Street ~ Rockport, MA**

**June 14, 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**

*This morning we continue a series of 3 sermons, which could be titled, "What We Learned along the Way". They're focused on this transitional time as the Old Sloop gets ready to take a new tack, heading from a familiar place to a new, richly-imagined but still unknown place – a new season in your long history. We're looking for guidance and companionship in the journey of the ancient Hebrew people from Egypt to their place of promise – focusing on 3 moments in the book of Exodus that distill important lessons we might do well to carry with us as we go. Each of these 3 stories from Exodus is paired with a text from the gospel of Matthew - so that we can take to heart the company of Jesus along the way. For those who like to read ahead:*

***June 7 - Exodus 3:1-15 and Matthew 16:13-17, 21-25 – sermon, Who Am I?***

***June 14 - Exodus 17:1-17 and Matthew 5:1-16 – sermon, Are You There?***

***June 21 - Exodus 32:1-20 and Matthew 22:15-22 – sermon, Devices and Desires (Printed copies of last week's sermon are available on the table in the narthex and the table by the entry to Fellowship Hall.)***

### **We Gather as God's People**

**Prelude**    Amazing Grace

Setting by Peter Pindar Stearns

**Welcome**

Rev. Rick Spalding

**Hymn\*** # 391 "In the Midst of New Dimensions" [omit verse 4]

**Announcements**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Psalm 42)

One: As a deer longs for flowing streams,  
so my soul longs for you, O God.

**All: My soul thirsts for the living God.  
When shall I come and behold the face of God?**

One: My tears have been my food day and night,  
while people say to me continually,  
Where is your God?'

**All: These things I remember, as I pour out my soul:  
how I went with the throng,  
and led them in procession to the house of God,  
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving.**

One: Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you disquieted within me?

**All: Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,  
my help and my God.**

**Prayer of Invocation**

Donna Schwenk

You are present with us, Holy God, in this storied place and these centered moments.

May we be present to you: willing to risk, hoping to find, ready to think, able to love, eager to serve. Speak to us, O God. We are listening.

**Prayer for Transformation and New Life (in unison)**

**Though sometimes we wander in a wilderness of our own making,  
or suffer in exile from our best selves,  
O God, you have met us in the midst of our estrangement,  
fed us with the bread of hope and watered us with the balm of love.**

**We bring before you here those deeds and memories, thoughts and feelings which have diminished us and hindered you.**

**Look graciously, we pray, upon all that we have cause to regret, and lift from our hearts the burden of having been less than you have shown us, in Jesus Christ, that we can be...**

*(the prayer concludes with a few moments of silence)*

**Words of Grace**

Rev. Spalding

**Passing the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you,

**Response: and also with you.**

### **We Listen for God's Word**

**Hymn\* # 412** God Moves in a Mysterious Way [verses 1, 2 and 3]

**Scripture** Exodus 17:1-7 and Matthew 5:1-16 Donna Schwenk

**Sermon** Are You There? Rev. Rick Spalding

**Choral Anthem** As Parts the Hart for Cooling Streams  
(from Psalm 42) Hugh Wilson

### **We Respond to God's Word**

**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**

**Offertory solo:** Like as the Hart Desireth the Waterbrooks  
(from Psalm 42) Soloist Gillian Hurst Herbert Howells (arr. G. Hurst)

**Doxology\***

**Prayer of Dedication**

God of abundant compassion – here, in this sanctuary we love, we have offered you these gifts gleaned from the substance of our living. Give us courage and conviction to follow these gifts out into the world which, in the strong company of Jesus, we are still learning to love – in his name, for his sake. Amen.

**We Take God’s Light into the World**

**Hymn \* # 547** Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

**Benediction**

**Postlude** Voyage (Old Sloop 2026) Philip Swanson

**Today’s Service Helpers**



**Liturgist** Donna Schwenk  
**Ushers** Jack and Evelyn Reed

**Flower dedication:**  
*Happy Anniversary Joe and Karen Chambers*  
*“It don’t matter to me, wherever we are is where I*  
*wanna be. I can be your lucky penny, you can be*  
*my four leaf clover, starting over”*  
*Chris Stapleton*

***The Old Sloop Fair.*** July 10 and 11~ 9 am Starting July 5th, right after the worship service, the sanctuary will be available to store items for sale during the fair. 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, and Jim Schell ~ **Kids Fair** - Amy Seabrook ~ **Pottery** - Sarah Mowitt ~ **Knitted Goods** - Camilla Ayers.

**Rev. Rick Spalding**, is a (retired) pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA) who has held Dual Standing in several U.C.C. Associations. He studied at Yale Divinity School, Union Theological Seminary (NYC) and Hartford Seminary and served congregations in Albany, NY, New York City, and Boston before being called into the heart of his career as Chaplain at Williams College in Williamstown, MA. More bio on the web page, [oldsloop.org](http://oldsloop.org)



### **Juneteenth Front Lawn Celebration 10-12**

On Friday, June 19th, the First Congregational Church of Rockport and the Unitarian Universalist Society of Rockport host a front lawn celebration of Juneteenth at 12 School Street in Rockport from 10 – 12noon. Please join us for music with the fabulous RPS Band. We have African games for the children to play and a shady, comfy book nook for children and adults to read Juneteenth books. We are serving traditional red fruits and treats for free. Contact [seabrookarts@gmail.com](mailto:seabrookarts@gmail.com) for more information. Thanks very much.



## **CALENDAR June 14-21, 2026**

- Sunday, June 14 10:00 am Sunday Service Rev. Rick Spalding  
Coffee hour hosted by the Choir Fellowship Hall  
2:00 pm Women's AA group (Morgan Room)
- Monday, June 15 Office Closed  
6:00-7:30 pm M. Downs Strings Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)
- Tuesday, June 16 Office Closed  
11:00 am Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)  
7:00 pm Al-Anon (Morgan Room)
- Wednesday, June 17 Church Office Open 9am -2pm  
9:15 am Yoga (Fellowship Hall)  
3:00 pm Storytelling Zoom  
5:00 pm Bible Study Zoom
- Thursday, June 18 Church Office Open 9 am-2 pm  
9:30 am Book Group (Morgan Room)  
3:00 Juneteenth Committee FH Kitchen  
4:30 Wedding rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- Friday, June 19 Church Office Open 9 am-2pm  
10:00 – 12:00 noon Juneteenth Celebration on the Old Sloop Front Lawn  
3:00 pm Eugin/O'Brien Wedding (Sanctuary)  
4:00 pm Prayer Service – Zoom
- Saturday, June 20 8:30 am AA meeting- (Fellowship Hall)
- Sunday, June 21 10:00 am Sunday Service Rev. Rick Spalding  
Coffee Hour lite hosted by the Welcome Committee  
Outreach Committee after service  
2:00 pm Women's AA group (Morgan Room)  
7:00 pm Cabinet meets online