

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

**12 School Street ~ Rockport, MA**

**June 21, 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  
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**

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[www.oldsloop.org](http://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

This morning we conclude a series of 3 sermons which could nestle together under the title, "What We Learned along the Way". They've been focused on this transitional time as the Old Sloop gets ready to take a new tack, into a new season in your long history. We've been looking for guidance and companionship in the journey of the ancient Hebrew people from Egypt to their place of promise – focusing on 3 well-known stories in the book of Exodus that distill important lessons we might do well to carry with us as we go. Each of our 3 episodes from Exodus has been paired with a text from the gospel of Matthew - so that we can take to heart the company of Jesus along the way. (Copies of the June 7 and June 14 sermons are available in the narthex and on the table by the entry to Fellowship Hall.)

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

**Prelude** It is Well With My Soul P. Bliss/arr. C. Anderson

**Welcome** Rev. Rick Spalding

**Hymn\*** # 421 We Gather Together

**Announcements**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP** *(adapted from Isaiah 49)*

One: Thus says the Lord: I have kept you  
and given you as a covenant to the people;

**All: And I will turn all my mountains into a road,  
and my highways shall be raised up.**

One: Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;  
break forth, O mountains, into singing!

**All: For the Lord has comforted his people,  
and will have compassion on his suffering ones.**

One: But Zion said, 'The Lord has forsaken me,  
my Lord has forgotten me.'

**All: Can a woman forget her nursing-child?  
Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.  
See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands.**

### **Prayer of Invocation**

Lucy Fales Evans

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)**

**We are here, O God, because we know that you have seen us for  
who we are. We come because you understand, too, who we want  
to be. We search for you in the space between our failures and our  
goals, our struggles and our hopes. We long to let go of all that  
separates us from you and from each other; we hunger for release  
from habits, thoughts and memories that bind our true hearts. In**

**the silence of these moments of shared honesty, whisper a word of grace to us, and transform our regret into reconciliation, with you and with each other, by the touch of the healing, forgiving love of Jesus Christ....**

*(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\* # 373** They Did Not Build in Vain

**Scripture** Matthew 22:15-22  
(Exodus 32:1-20 Rev. Spalding)

Lucy Fales Evans

**Sermon** Devices and Desires

Rev. Rick Spalding

**Choral Anthem** The Road Home

Stephen Paulus

### **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** He Leadeth Me

W. Bradbury/arr. J. Miller

**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 \* # 376** God, We Thank You for Our People

**Benediction**

**Postlude** David’s Lamentation

Shape note tune

**Soloists:** Alison Trott ~ hand chimes, Gillian Hurst ~ Soprano

**Today’s Service Helpers**

**Liturgist** Lucy Fales Evans

**Ushers** Susan Lillis and Kevin McDonough



**Flower dedication:**

*June 21 Happy Father’s Day  
from the Chambers family!*

*“The measure of a father is not in what he  
says, but in what he consistently does.”-  
unknown*



***It's that time again!  
The Old Sloop Fair.***

***July 10 and 11~ 9 am -3pm***  
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)



## **CALENDAR June 21-28, 2026**

- 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
- Monday, June 22    Office Closed  
6:00-7:30 pm M. Downs Strings Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)
- Tuesday, June 23    Office Closed  
11:00 am    Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)  
7:00 pm    Al-Anon (Morgan Room)
- Wednesday, June 24 Church Office Open 9am -2pm  
9:15 am    Yoga (Fellowship Hall)  
3:00 pm    Storytelling Zoom  
5:00 pm    Bible Study Zoom
- Thursday, June 25    Church Office Open 9 am-2 pm  
9:30 am    Book Group (Morgan Room)
- Friday, June 26    Church Office Open 9 am-2pm  
4:00 pm    Prayer Service – Zoom
- Saturday, June 27    8:30 am AA meeting- (Fellowship Hall)
- Sunday, June 28    10:00 am Sunday Service Rev. Anne Deneen and  
Rev. Dr. Joseph Duggan  
June Birthdays Coffee Hour hosted by the Old Sloop Fleet