

**The First Congregational Church  
of Rockport, UCC  
12 School Street ~ Rockport, MA  
March 22, 2026**



*The First Congregational Church of Rockport, “The Old Sloop,” 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**

[office@oldsloop.org](mailto:office@oldsloop.org)

12 School St Rockport, MA 01966

Office Hours Wed., Thurs., Fri. 9-2

978-546-6638

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



## Order of Worship

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.

### We Gather as God's People

**Prelude** Holy Manna Early American Tune/arr. Don Hustad

**Welcome** Rev. Susan Moran

**Hymn #476** My Life Flows on in Endless Song

### Announcements

**Worship Moment** Membership Committee

**Call to Worship** Rev. Susan and Camilla Ayers  
*You are Beloved and you are Welcome Here, by Joan Javier- Duval*  
(adapted by Rev. Susan).

**Modern Reading from** *For the Time Being* by Annie Dilliard Rev. Susan

**Prayer for transformation** *Blessing for the Place Between* by poet Jan  
Richardson Rev. Susan

### Passing of the Peace

**Rise'n Chime** Glory to His Name arr. Sharon Wilson  
Crown Him with Many Crowns arr. Sharon Wilson

### We Listen for God's Word

**Scripture** Isaiah 43:16-19, and the Gospel of Mark, Ch 5:24-34  
Camilla Ayers

**Sermon** What should we expect? Rev. Susan

**Choral Anthem Prayer of St. Richard L.J. White/arr. Alan Bullard**

**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**

Musical score for the response "Hear Our Prayer". The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in - cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace."

**We Respond to God's Word**

**Offering**

**Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, you heavenly host: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

### We Take God's Light into the World

**Hymn #99** Abide with Me

**Benediction**

**Postlude** Choral Amen and Chimes

**Coffee Hour** All are invited to coffee hour after the worship service, hosted by the Membership Committee

**Rise n' Chime** *Alison Trott, leader.*  
*Camilla Ayers, Lucy Fales Evans, Rick Kasten, Janice Ramsden*

**Service Helpers Today**

**Ushers** Jeff Taylor and Linda Kluge

**Liturgist** Camilla Ayers



*The altar flowers are given with love  
by the Chambers family  
Happy 85<sup>th</sup> birthday Barbara Tengrenn  
and a birthday remembrance for her  
mother, Elvira Fairley.*

---

***Deadline for Easter Flower dedications and donations  
is March 30<sup>th</sup>. To help deliver flowers after the Easter  
Service contact Celene Lyon [celenelyon@comcast.net](mailto:celenelyon@comcast.net)***



***Coming to Old Sloop Presents ~  
Sat Apr. 18: Antje Duvekot and  
David Berkeley***

*Two outstanding singer-songwriters, a  
New Englander originally from Germany  
and a traveler  
from New Mexico*



*Tickets at [oldslooppresents.org](http://oldslooppresents.org), and  
John Tarr Store 49 Main St. Rockport or  
The Bookstore of Gloucester, 61 Main St. Gloucester  
(stores accept cash and checks).*

## ***Holy Week and Easter Services 2026***



**Sun., March 29- 10 am Palm Sunday Service “Palm Sundaes”** at Coffee Hour after worship hosted by Faith Formation and the Old Sloop Fleet, together.

**Wed., April 1- 7 pm Vespers in the FCCR Morgan Room**

**Thurs., April 2- 7 pm Maundy**

**Thursday Service FCCR Sanctuary** A service of remembrance of Jesus washing the feet of the Disciples and the Last Supper. Foot washing, Communion, scripture, prayers and music.

**Fri., April 3- 6 pm Ecumenical Good Friday Service at Trinity Congregational Church, Gloucester** “Meditation on the last seven words from the cross,” by 7 Pastors.

**Sun., April 5- 6 am Easter Sunrise Ecumenical Service, Good Harbor Beach**

**April 5- 10:00 am Easter Service FCCR Sanctuary** Coffee Hour after the service in Fellowship Hall hosted by the Old Sloop Fleet.

*Also in April:*

**April 12, Coffee Hour** after worship, the Cabinet hosts.

**April 26, Final Service with Rev. Derek**  
After worship, **Farewell Blessing & Sendoff Gathering Meal** to honor and thank Pastor Derek with his family, with members and friends of the congregation, and with other invited guests, hosted by the church, as a whole.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS March 22- 29, 2026

---



- Sunday, Mar. 22    10:00 am    Worship service    Rev. Susan Moran  
                          10:15 Faith Formation Old Sloop Youth  
                          2:00 pm        AA Women’s Group (Morgan Room)
- Monday, Mar. 23    Office Closed  
                          3:45 pm        CAYC rehearsal Fellowship Hall  
                          6:00 pm        Orchestra rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)
- Tuesday, Mar. 24    Office Closed  
                          11:00 am       Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)  
                          7:00 pm        Al-Anon ( Morgan Room)
- Wednesday, Mar. 25 Church Office Open 9-2  
                          9:15 am        Yoga class  
                          3:00 pm        Storytelling Zoom  
                          5:00 pm        Bible Study Zoom  
                          7:30 pm        Choir Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)
- Thursday, Mar. 26    Church Office Open 9-2  
                          9:30 am        Book Group (Morgan Room)
- Friday, Mar. 27        Church Office Open 9-2  
                          4:00 pm        Prayer service on Zoom
- Saturday, Mar. 28    8:30 am        AA meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- Sunday, Mar. 29     10 am Worship service Palm Sunday  
*After worship, Palm “Sundaes” Coffee Hour, hosted by Faith Formation & Old Sloop Fleet, together.*