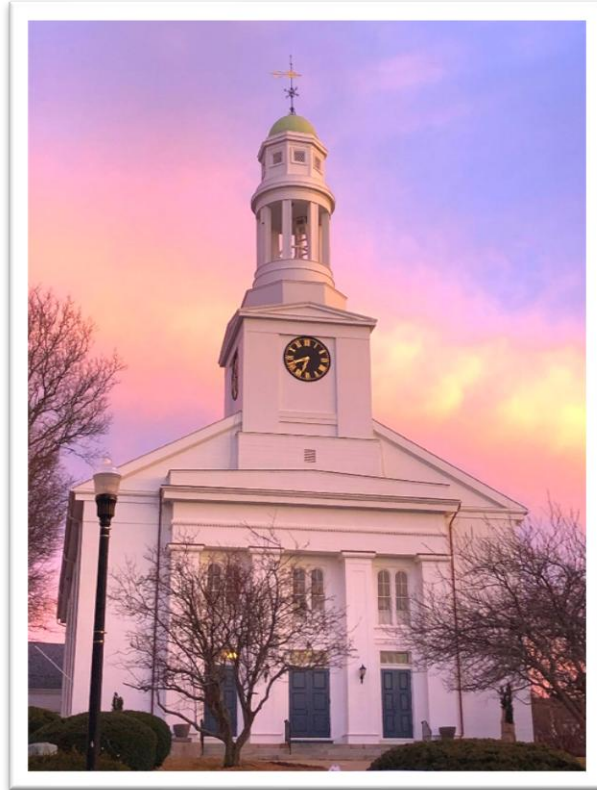


**The First Congregational Church
of Rockport, UCC**

12 School Street ~ Rockport, MA

May 3, 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

978/546-6638
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12 School St., Rockport, Mass. 01966
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

We Gather as God's People

Prelude Pastorale

Flor Peeters

Welcome

Jim Schell, Rev. Judy Brain

Hymn* #252 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

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

Jim Schell

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 #742 Gathered Here

Service of Holy Communion (see insert)

We Listen for God's Word

The Gospel Reading John 14: 1, 2b, 3 and 15 - 21

Jim Schell

Message "Spirit of Love"

Rev. Judy

Choral Anthem My Shepherd Will Supply My Need Virgil Thompson

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

Musical score for 'Hear Our Prayer' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. 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

Offertory Solo Little Lamb William Blake/Theodore Chandler
Soloist Gillian Hurst

Doxology

Musical score for the Doxology in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures here be-low; Praise God a-bove, you heaven-ly host: Cre - at - er, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost.'

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 * #283 "Spirit of the Living God"

Benediction

Postlude Dix (As With Gladness)

Wayne Wold

Today's Worship Service Helpers

Liturgist Jim Schell

Ushers Celene Lyon and Beverly Bernhard



The flowers on the altar are given by Michelle and Bill Elwell with a special thank you to all involved in finding interim preachers and all the work of hiring our new minister.

Old Sloop Congregation Pot Luck Supper

Tuesday, May 5th at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

Continuing our monthly potluck dinner on the first Tuesday of each month. Bring a ready to serve dish! You may re-heat your dish in the church kitchen. Please provide a label with your dish listing main ingredients.



Knit for the Fair!

The Old Sloop Fair will be on July 10 and 11. The knitting nook needs crafty items for youngsters age 6 and under.

Now is a good time to pull out your knitting needles or crochet hooks and look through your yarn stash and patterns for baby blankets, sweaters, booties, and toys. Then start stitching!

Camilla Ayers

Birthday Greetings Crew

**Captained by Camilla Ayers 978-546-3855
oldsloopbirthdays@icloud.com**

If you would like to be included on a monthly intergenerational Birthday Greetings List in the log, please fill out this form, put it in the offering plate or drop it in the office. You can also email

oldsloopbirthdays@icloud.com.

Include: Your Name' _____

Your Birthday Month ___ Day ___ Year _____ (optional)

How would you like to be contacted:

Phone _____ Email: _____

People may give you a call, greet you at Coffee Hour, send you a card or Write you an email message! And you will be invited to your month's Birthday Coffee Hour, usually the last Sunday of your Birthday month.

Virtual attendees welcome and children with parental permission and parental contact information only.



Gloucester Student Band fundraiser

A purple poster for a fundraiser. At the top left is a circular logo with 'Cinco DE Mayo' and a sombrero. To the right is the word 'Fundraiser' in large white letters, followed by 'FOR THE GLOUCESTER STUDENT BAND' in smaller white letters. Below that, it says 'a portion of proceeds will be donated to GSB from all dine in and carry out orders!' and 'PLEASE MENTION GSB WHEN YOU ORDER!'. The date and time 'Tuesday May 5 4pm to close' are prominently displayed. To the right is a logo for 'SALT WATER GRILLE' featuring a fish. At the bottom left is a logo with a sombrero and musical notes. To the right, it says 'SALT WATER GRILLE GRANT CIRCLE GLOUCESTER' and 'Raffles all night and special musical performances at 5pm and 7pm'. At the very bottom, it says '@GLOUCESTERSTUDENTBAND' and 'www.GloucesterStudentBand.com'.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS May 3 to 10, 2026

- Sunday, May 3 10:00 am Sunday Service Rev. Judy Brain
Service of Holy Communion
Youth Faith Formation
Coffee Hour hosted by the Welcoming Committee
- Monday, May 4 Office Closed
- Tuesday, May 5 Office Closed
11:00 am Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)
6:30 pm Pot Luck Supper Bring a ready to serve dish.
7:00 pm Al-Anon (Morgan Room)
- Wednesday, May 6 Church Office Open 9am -2pm
9:15 am Yoga (Fellowship Hall)
3:00 pm Storytelling Zoom
5:00 pm Bible Study Zoom
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)
- Thursday, May 7 Church Office Open 9 am-2 pm
9:30 am Book Group (Morgan Room)
- Friday, May 8 Church Office Open 9 am-2pm
4:00 pm Prayer Service – Zoom
- Saturday, May 9
8:30 am AA meeting- (Fellowship Hall)
- Sunday, May 10 10:00 am Sunday Service Rev. Judy Brain
10:15 Youth Faith Formation with Amy Seabrook
2:00 pm Women’s AA group (Morgan Room)

Old Sloop Presents



The Black Feathers

Sat May 30: The Black Feathers – Nora Meier opens
“The Black Feathers could well be Britain’s answer to Gillian
Welch and Dave Rawlings” – Flying Shoes