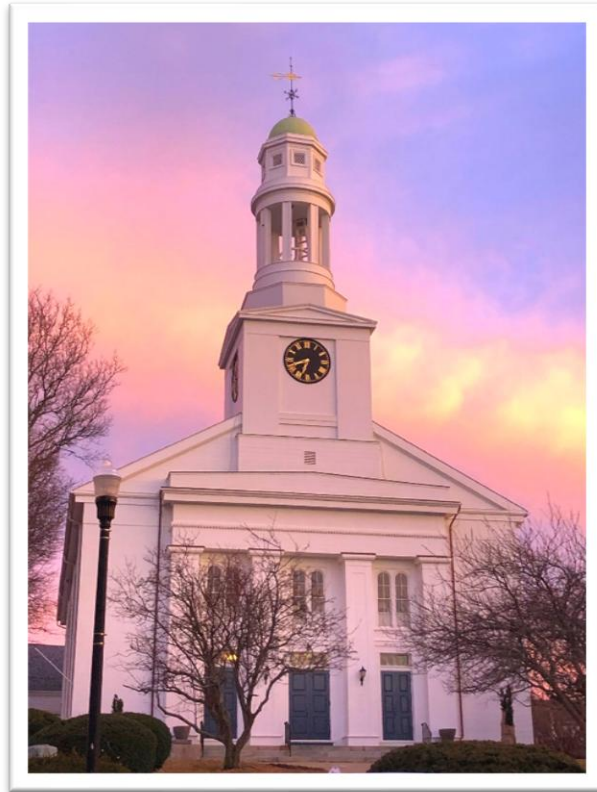


**The First Congregational Church
of Rockport, UCC**

12 School Street ~ Rockport, MA

May 24, 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
office@oldsloop.org
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 Come Holy Spirit

Georg Kaufmann

Welcome

Elsa M. Tranfaglia

Hymn* # 261 - Let Every Christian Pray

Announcements

Mission Moment

Christian Outreach

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 104:24-35b),

One: The earth is full of God's creatures, living things both small and great. In wisdom God has made them all;

ALL: These all look to you to give them their food in due season; You give to them, you open your hand, all are filled with good things.

One: When you send forth your spirit, all things are created, and you renew the face of the ground.

ALL: May the glory of the Lord endure forever, may the Lord rejoice in these works

One: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

ALL: May our meditations be pleasing to You Holy One for we rejoice in You

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord.

Prayer of Invocation

Lou Cannon

Holy Spirit, rushing wind and sacred fire, enter this space. Fill the hearts of Your faithful people. Kindle in us the fire of Your love as we gather to worship, guide our minds, soften our hearts with the grace of Pentecost. Just as You empowered the early church, breathe Your presence into us. Open our ears to Your truth, and empower us to carry Your transformative love into the world. Amen

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

May we feel the Holy Spirit as we gather. The Spirit is here to move us, making us sing and praise. May our worship fill us with power to claim who we are in Christ and may our worship continue as we live our daily lives. We look to you, O Lord. Our world is full of grief and pain. Let sin be consumed from the earth. Let wickedness be no more. We who bear your image, your children, wait for you to fill us with goodness. Help us to be builders of your Kingdom here on earth, creating communities of hope, love and peace. Amen

Words of Grace

The Spirit is here among us within us, around us, between us. We are fed by The Holy Spirit's fiery strength. The Spirit is here to strengthen us bringing courage, bringing conviction. Through the Spirit we are transformed, reformed, reborn! That is the joy and wonder of our Christian community. The spirit brings joy, so that we can re-create joy with one another and be the face of God's goodness to our neighbors and to all. The Spirit is here. Praise be to God!

Passing the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you,

Response: and also with you.

Hymn #283 Spirit of the Living God

We Listen for God's Word

Scripture Acts 2:1-21

Lou Cannon

Sermon Holy Smoke and Sacred Fire
All are Invited

Elsa M. Tranfaglia

All are Expected to Prophecy and Dream, too!

Choral Anthem: Come Down O Love Divine

William Harris

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

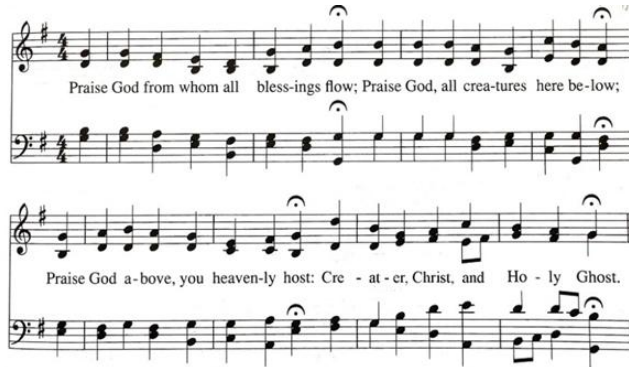
Response #769 Hear Our Prayer

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 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

Offertory

Doxology



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures 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 * #270 - Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

Benediction

Postlude Rise Up O Flame .Michael Praetorius

Today's Worship Service Helpers

Liturgist Lou Cannon

Ushers Linda Kluge and Bonnie Gray





***The flowers on the altar this morning
are given in honor of our Veterans***

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS May 24-31, 2026

- Sunday, May 24 10:00 am Sunday Service Rev. Elsa Tranfaglia
Old Sloop Youth Faith Formation
Coffee Hour hosted by the Welcoming Committee
- Monday, May 25 Office Closed Memorial Day Holiday
- Tuesday, May 26 Office Closed
11:00 am Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)
7:00 pm Al-Anon (Morgan Room)
- Wednesday, May 27 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 28 Church Office Open 9 am-2 pm
9:30 am Book Group (Morgan Room)
- Friday, May 29 Church Office Open 9 am-2pm
4:00 pm Prayer Service – Zoom
- Saturday, May 30 8:30 am AA meeting- (Fellowship Hall)
- Sunday, May 31 10:00 am Sunday Service Rev. Susan Moran
10:15 Youth Faith Formation
- April & May Birthdays Coffee Hour hosted by the Old Sloop Fleet
2:00 pm Women's AA group (Morgan Room)



Old Sloop Presents

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