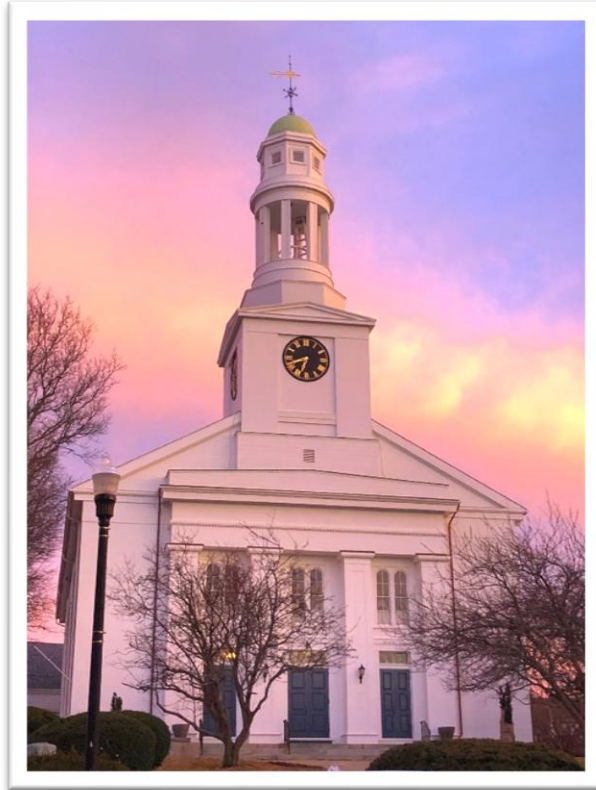


**The First Congregational Church
of Rockport, UCC**

12 School Street ~ Rockport, MA

May 31, 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 Beach Spring

Early American Tune

Welcome

Rev. Susan Moran

Hymn* #451 Be Now My Vision

Announcements

Call to Worship

Rev. Susan Moran from Hildegard of Bingen

Opening Words The time before death by Kabir (Translated by Robert Bly)
Rev. Susan Moran

Passing the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you,

Response: and also with you.

Hymn* # 99 Abide With Me

We Listen for God's Word

Scripture Exodus 20:1-17 New revised standard version Rick Kasten

Sermon The Hardest Commandment

Rev. Susan Moran

Choral Anthem: God in Mine Eternity

Alan Bullard

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

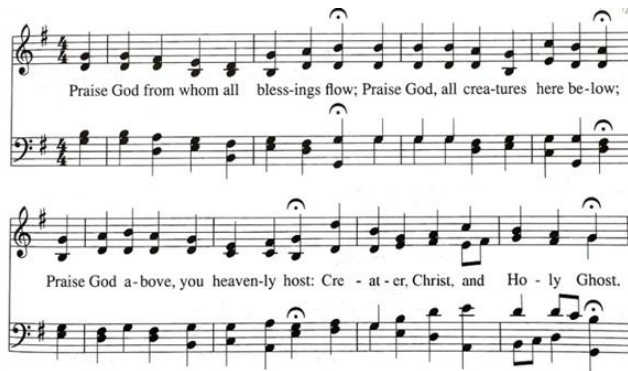
Response #769 Hear Our Prayer

Musical score for 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 (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; incline 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

**Oh God, source of love and creativity,
Remind us to rest in your embrace and in the beauty of all things
natural. May we be renewed by our Sabbath and inspired to offer
service and compassion to ourselves and all creatures. May we
show our gratitude for our lives with kindness and enthusiasm.**

We Take God's Light into the World

Hymn * #476 My Life Flows On

Benediction

Postlude Spring Child

Philip Swanson

Birthdays Coffee Hour this week. April and May Birthdays
Hosted by the Old Sloop Fleet

Today's Worship Service Helpers

Liturgist Rick Kasten

Ushers Janice Ramsden and Chip Kistner



*The flowers on the altar this morning
are given by Bill and Michelle Elwell
for Peace and Love*



The June potluck will be this week on June 2nd at 6:30 PM. Then we will take a summer break and look to restart in September. Please join us Tuesday and feel free to spread the word.

**About our
Preacher today:**

REV
Susan
Moran

Attended Union Theological Seminary graduate. Former pastor at UU Society, Rockport, 2011–2025. Ordained in 1996, she has served congregations in New York City, Boston, and the North Shore.



The Old Sloop Fair is a church tradition going back many years and is an important source of revenue for the church. 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 transport. We would like to be able to put a price tag of \$5 on everything we sell, which should give you some idea of what we are looking to sell.

Boutique - Louisa Casadei-Johnson and Sue 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
Contact them directly if you have a question about their area of interest.

***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. or email

Name _____

Your Birthday *Month* ____ *Day* ____ *Year* _____ (*optional*)

How would you like to be contacted:

Phone _____ *Email:* _____

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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS May 31 to June 7, 2026

Sunday, May 31 10:00 am Sunday Service Rev. Susan Moran
April & May Birthdays Coffee Hour hosted by the Old Sloop Fleet
2:00 pm Women's AA group (Morgan Room)

Monday, June 1 Office Closed
10:00 am- 3 pm Garden Club Luncheon
6:00-7:30 pm M. Downs String Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, June 2 Office Closed
11:00 am Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)
6:30 pm June Potluck (Fellowship Hall)
7:00 pm Al-Anon (Morgan Room)

Wednesday, June 3 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, June 4 Church Office Open 9 am-2 pm
9:30 am Book Group (Morgan Room)

Friday, June 5 Church Office Open 9 am-2pm
4:00 pm Prayer Service – Zoom

Saturday, June 6 8:30 am AA meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, June 7 10:00 am Sunday Service Rev. Richard Spalding
Coffee Hour Lite Hosted by the Welcome Committee
2:00 pm Women's AA group (Morgan Room)