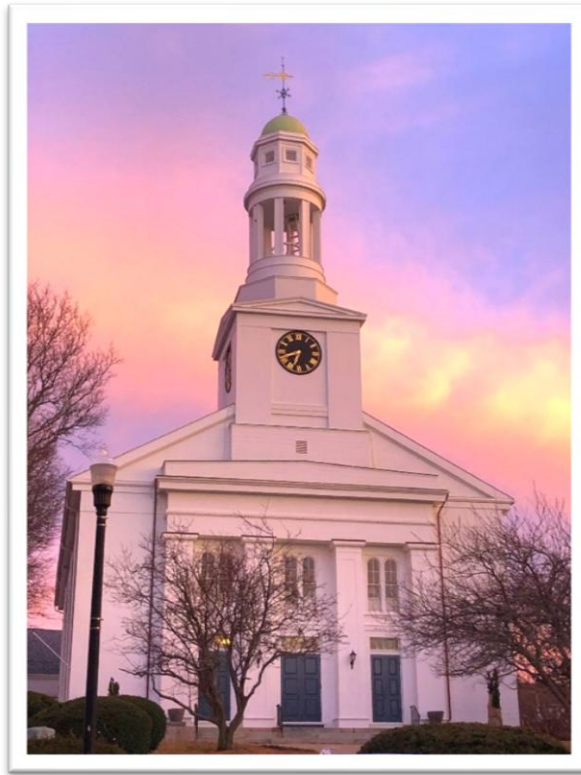


The First Congregational Church of Rockport United Church of Christ

12 School Street ~ Rockport, MA 01966

Sunday, October 4, 2026

19th Sunday after Pentecost



*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.*

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

GATHERING

Prelude & Introit "Hail the Day, So Rich in Joy" Johann Pachelbel

***ProceSSIONal Hymn** "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation" #400(Black)

Call to Worship (Ps. 19:1-2) The Rev. Meredith Ellis

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God,
and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

**All: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares
knowledge. Therefore, we worship and adore.**

The Baptism of Joseph Raymond Smith

Page 31 (Black Hymnal) The Rev. Dr. Liz Rice-Smith

Hymn "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise" #325 (Black)

Joseph will be introduced to the congregation during the singing of this hymn.

**Children depart for Sunday School after the Baptism and the
hymn, with these words**

Children: God be with you here!

All: God be with you there!

WORD

Prayer of Invocation

Jack Reed

One: Holy God, you love justice and hate oppression; you call us to righteousness and not to exploitation. Give us generous and loving hearts, and eyes to see the splendor of your reign, that we may live in truth and honor, and praise you for the transformation of our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Scripture Isaiah 5:1-7

Matthew 21:33-46

Jack Reed

Sermon

The Rev. Meredith Ellis

*** Hymn** "To You, O God, All Creatures Sing" #17 (Black)

RESPONSE

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

All: 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

Two systems of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first system contains the lyrics: "Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -". The second system contains the lyrics: "cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final whole note chord at the end of the second system.

Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -

cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

Offering

Offertory Anthem "Lord Make Us Servants" (A Prayer of St. Francis) Robert Roth

Doxology

Two systems of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first system contains the lyrics: "Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures here be-low;". The second system contains the lyrics: "Praise God a-bove, you heaven-ly host: Cre - at - er, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final whole note chord at the end of the second system.

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 Dedication

One: Blessed are you, God of all creation; through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.

All: Blessed be God forever. Amen.

* **Hymn** "The Spacious Firmament on High" #72 (Red)

***Benediction**

Postlude "Basse et Dessus de Trompette"

Louis Clerambault

After the Service:

Coffee hour in Fellowship Hall is hosted by the Welcoming Committee

An information session regarding the Pastor Search Committee formation will be held after worship today in the Sanctuary

Today's Service Helpers

Liturgist Jack Reed

Ushers Steve Rowell & Kathy Ambrogi

*The flowers on the altar are in memory of
Mary Jane Love and Margaret Petri.*



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
Rev. Dr. James Olson, Interim 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

www.oldsloop.org.

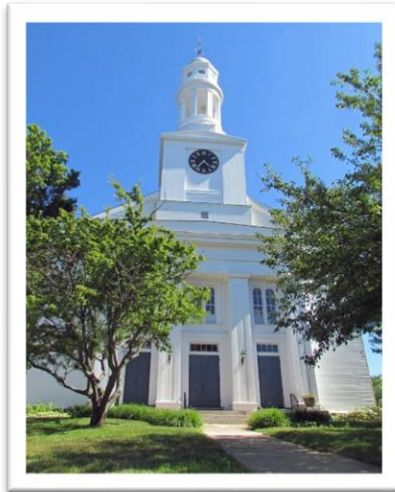
978-546-6638

office hours:

Wed, Th, Fri. 9-noon & 1-3

Pastor: Th. & Fri. 10-noon





NEW MEMBER CLASS

We will be receiving any who wish to join us as full members of First Congregational Church of Rockport on Sunday, November 8 at the 10:00 a.m. service.

Information and formation sessions will be on Sundays, October 18 and 25 at 8:45 a.m. in the Morgan Room. Each interested person is also invited to have a one-on-one conversation with Pastor Jim, at your convenience.

Anyone interested in joining the church, please email to office@oldsloop.org so we might have an idea about who might come!



From our Director of Faith Formation, Katie Welch

Welcome to parents of young children: Relax! There are worship carts available with coloring, books, fidgets, sensory items etc. for you to use.

God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress those wiggles in God's house. Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to engage. Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, musicians, and leaders. Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behavior by mimicking you.

If you must leave the Sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. There is a room off the Narthex/main entry way with a stream of the service and toys as well, so you don't miss anything! As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

From our Youth Choir Director, Kristina Martin:

Calling all youth who want to learn and make music!

This fall, I will be at the church on Wednesdays, 2:30-6:00 - available to work with kids who wish to make music!

I will plan a 4:15-5:15 group rehearsal for whoever can come.

I will be available to work with individual kids before the 4:15 hour (2:30-4:15) or afterwards (5:15-6:00), if they would like to participate, but cannot come at 4:15.

While we're aiming for Wednesdays, if your child would like to participate but can't practice on Wednesday, please suggest another time that would work for you.

Contact: 978-509-4995 or kristinawmartin@gmail.com