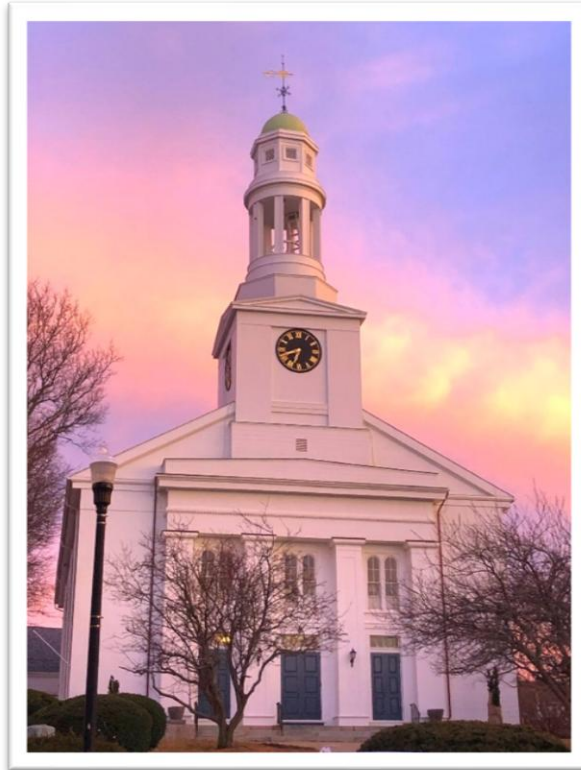


The First Congregational Church of Rockport, UCC

12 School Street ~ Rockport, MA

July 12, 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
Dr. Gillian Hurst Section Leader, Soloist
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 Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Welcome Rev. Jamie Klopotoski

Hymn* #73 Enter, Rejoice, and Come In (verses 1, 2, 3, and 5)

Announcements

Call to Worship

One: Beloved community, we gather to worship the God who invites us to create a new world.

All: When our souls are trampled on, made too hard to bear fruit, let us gather.

One: When the cares of the world prick at and stifle our spirits like thorns, leaving no room for joy or hope, no time for kindness or compassion, let us gather.

All: When we are in need of healing, nurture, and care, let us gather.

One: Let us gather to worship our Creator, the source of the water, the sun, and the air that sustains our being and unites us with all living things.

All: Let us gather to be stirred into action. May we accept the invitation to be co-creators, as God's Kingdom takes root, grows, and blossoms across the world.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Merciful God, we confess we are not always merciful people. We turn away in anger rather than seek solutions. We criticize those who differ from us rather than seek understanding. We hear your word, but we do not always live it. Touch our hearts and minds that we may live as you intended. Speak to us now your word of forgiveness and lead us into new and fruitful life with you.....

Passing the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you,

Response: and also with you.

Hymn #181 You Are Salt for the Earth O People (verses 1, 2, 3)

We Listen for God's Word

Scripture Isaiah 55:10-13 and Matthew 13:1-9,18-23 Jim Schell

Sermon "Sowing the Seeds" Rev. Jamie

Anthem Let It Be

We Respond to God's Word

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

Offertory Music All Creatures of our God and King

Doxology*

Prayer of Dedication

God of abundant compassion – here, in this sanctuary we love, we have offered you these gifts gleaned from the substance of our living. Give us courage and conviction to follow these gifts out into the world which, in the strong company of Jesus, we are still learning to love – in his name, for his sake. Amen.

We Take God's Light into the World

Hymn * #597 Shall We Gather at the River

Benediction

Postlude Amen, Amen!

Today's Service Helpers

Liturgist Jim Schell

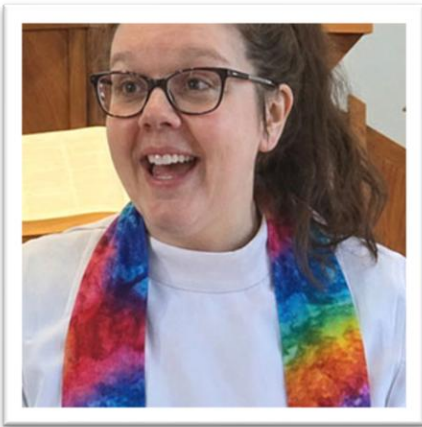
Usher Rick Kasten



Old Sloop Fair 2024

Thanks to all who contributed so much time, energy and the many sale items to the Old Sloop Fair this past weekend! Thanks also to the patrons of the Fair. The Annual Old Sloop Fair is an important source of revenue for our ongoing church programs.

***The altar flowers this morning
are given by Phil Swanson
in appreciation of
the Chancel and Youth Choirs***



*Rev. Jamie Klopotoski
and Sax Supercubed
Originally from Beloit, Wisconsin,
Rev. Jamie Green Klopotoski is a graduate
of Northwestern University and Harvard
University's Divinity School and is dually
ordained in the National Association of
Congregational Christian Churches and the*

*United Church of Christ. She provides pulpit supply to churches on
Boston's North Shore, teaches music in the Gloucester Public School
District, directs the Gloucester Student Band, and plays saxophone with
many local musical groups. She lives in West Gloucester with her tuba-
playing husband and their three cats, three ducks, and fourteen
chickens.*

Sax Supercubed (Sax⁴) *is a saxophone quartet that was formed at
Trinity Congregational Church in Gloucester to lead monthly jazz worship
services. The group consists of Frank Freedman from Gloucester on alto
saxophone, April Ferraro from Rockport on alto saxophone, Nick Capello
from Gloucester on tenor saxophone, Rev. Jamie Green Klopotoski from*

Gloucester on baritone saxophone, and Sonyangelie Del Valle from Gordon College on vocals. All music is specially arranged for the group by Rev. Jamie. In addition to regularly leading worship at Trinity, Sax⁴ has performed at the West Gloucester Unity Service, the "Surely" service at Old Sloop, and at Topsfield Congregational Church.

**GET READY FOR THE FIFTH ANNUAL
“ Christmas in July Re-gifting Auction”**

To benefit the Old Sloop Fleet

**Sun. July 26 after worship in the Sanctuary
Featuring: Donna Schwenk as Auctioneer!**



Our Old Sloop Fleet Fundraiser will happen July 26 after the Worship Service, with coffee and cake in the Sanctuary! Perhaps you tried to sell that lovely but unwanted Christmas gift at our recent yard sale at the Old Sloop Fair. Still have it? Please help us by donating your re-gift or by buying someone else's re-gift. Just wrap up your "re-gifting" donations with a note tied on, indicating for what age the gift is appropriate. The re-gift could be a joke gift, a truly awesome present, or any kind of "gift" nice or silly, strange or funny. Then, come to the auction prepared to buy, having no idea what you are paying for, to support your Old Sloop Fleet! Your Old Sloop Fleet is an active, quiet ministry (since 2007) of many volunteers who "share the love" on behalf of the whole congregation during special times in our lives, to offer warm support, encouragement, condolence, assistance, or congratulations.

CALENDAR July 12-19, 2026

Sunday, July 12 10:00 am Sunday Service Rev. Jamie Klopotoski and
Sax Supercubed

Please join us for Coffee Hour after worship,
hosted by the Old Sloop Fleet

2:00 pm Women's AA Group (Morgan Room)

Monday, July 13 Office Closed

6:00-7:30 pm M. Downs Strings Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 pm Trustees Meet in the Morgan Room

Tuesday, June 30 Office Closed

11:00 am Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 pm Al-Anon (Morgan Room)

Wednesday, July 15 Office Open 9am -2pm

9:15 am Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

3:00 pm Storytelling

5:00 pm Bible Study Zoom

Thursday, July 16 Office Open 9 am-2 pm

9:30 am Book Group (Morgan Room)

Friday, July 17 Office Open 9 am-2 pm

4:00 pm Prayer Service – Zoom

Saturday, July 18 8:30 am AA meeting- (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, July 19 10:00 am Sunday Service

lead by Gracie Paterson

Outreach Com. Meets after the service

2:00 pm Women's AA Group (Morgan Room)

7:00 pm Cabinet meets online