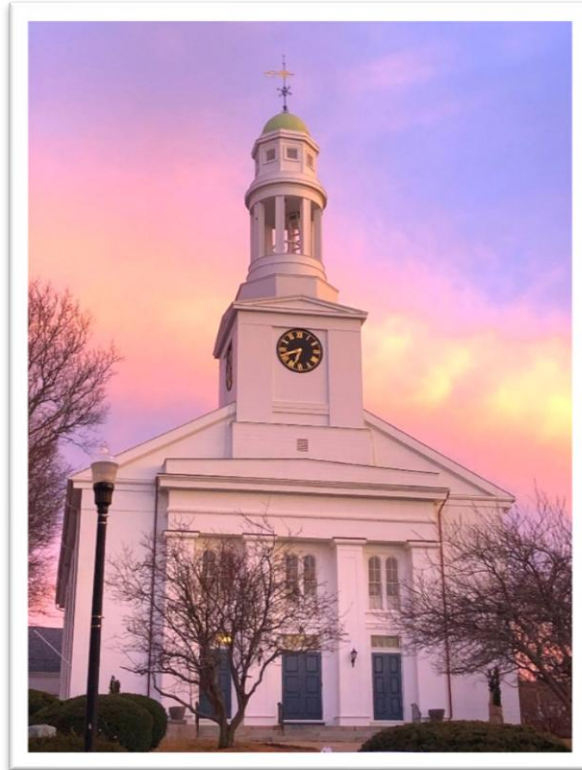


The First Congregational Church of Rockport, UCC

12 School Street ~ Rockport, MA

July 19, 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

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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

Domenico Zipoli

Welcome

Rev. Gracie Paterson

Hymn* # 576 For the Healing of the Nations

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.

We Listen for God's Word

Scripture Romans 8:18-25, Matthew 13:24-30

Celene Lyon

Sermon Between Sowing and Reaping

Rev. Gracie

Hymn* #472 Precious Lord, Take my Hand

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

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 * #23 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Benediction

Postlude Prelude, Fugue and Chaconne Dietrich Buxtehude

Today's Service Helpers

Liturgist Celene Lyon

Usher Celene Lyon and Alison Trott



*The altar flowers this morning are given
in memory of Marcia McDonough
and Jill Jeffries
by Susan Lillis and Kevin McDonough.*



Gracie Paterson is a graduate of Boston University School of Theology and a candidate for ordained ministry in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She currently serves as Transitional Presbyter for the Presbytery of Boston and as Minister for Children and Youth at First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain, MA. Gracie's young ministry has already taken her to pulpits big and small, to the bedside of hospital patients, to Sunday School classrooms, and to the public square alongside interfaith leaders. She has earned a reputation for lively liturgical leadership and for guiding worshipping communities along the path to revitalization and transformation. Gracie is projected to be ordained in 2026.

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 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.





Welcoming Interim Pastor the Rev. James Olson, Sunday, Aug. 2!!

The Rev. Dr. James J. Olson begins his ministry with us at First Congregational Church of Rockport - the Old Sloop - on Sunday August 2nd. Rev. Olson is a native of Massachusetts, and was raised in Randolph at First Congregational Church, UCC. He is a graduate of Maine Maritime Academy, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, and Boston

University School of Theology. He has also studied at Regent's Park College, Oxford, UK. He has been a settled parish pastor, and an interim minister; a university chaplain an Associate Dean, and an Associate Conference Minister in the Illinois Conference of the UCC.

Rev. Olson says "I am thrilled to be coming to walk with Old Sloop for a time, as you consider the possibilities of the future. My hope is that we will have a joyful year of discovery, self-examination, and planning that will set you up well to select your next settled pastor."

Please join us for worship on Sunday, August 2 at 10:00am to welcome Jim to our pulpit. The service will feature a welcoming choir and brass musicians!



CALENDAR July 19-26, 2026

Sunday, July 19 10:00 am Sunday Service Rev. Gracie Paterson
Please join us for Coffee Hour after worship,
hosted by the Welcome Committee
Outreach Com. Meets after the service

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

7:00 pm Cabinet meets online

Monday, July 20 Office Closed

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

Tuesday, June 21 Office Closed

11:00 am Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 pm Al-Anon (Morgan Room)

Wednesday, July 22 Office Open 9am -2pm

9:15 am Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

3:00 pm Storytelling

5:00 pm Bible Study Zoom

Thursday, July 23 Office Open 9 am-2 pm

9:30 am Book Group (Morgan Room)

Friday, July 24 Office Open 9 am-2 pm

4:00 pm Prayer Service – Zoom

6:00 -7:30 Rockport Brown Bag Discussion (Fellowship H.)

Saturday, July 25 8:30 am AA meeting- (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, July 26 10:00 am Sunday Service Elsa Tranfaglia

After worship Christmas In July Re-Gift Auction for the Old Sloop Fleet

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