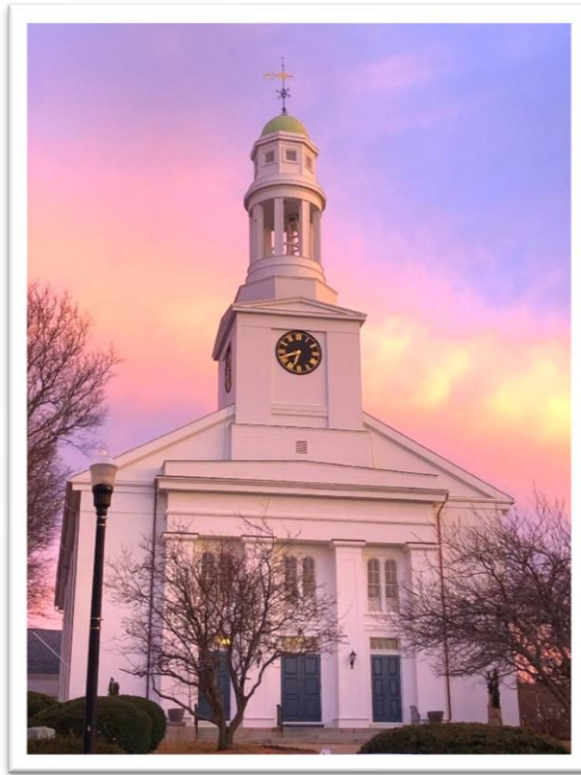


The First Congregational Church of Rockport United Church of Christ

12 School Street ~ Rockport, MA 01966

Sunday, September 27, 2026

18th 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!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

Prelude Royal Oak

Keith Kolander

Introit

*** Processional Hymn** "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" #42 (Black)

Call to Worship (based on parts of Ps. 113)

One: Blessed be the name of our God, from this time forth and forever more!

All: From the rising of the sun to its setting, God's name be praised!

One: It is good to give thanks to God, to sing praises to God's name.

All: To declare God's steadfast love in the morning, and God's faithfulness by night. Therefore, we gather to worship, praise, and adore!

Welcome & Announcements

Children depart for Sunday School after Announcements

Children: God be with you here!

All: God be with you there!

WORD

Prayer of Invocation

Jim Schell

One: God of our salvation, we falter before the demands of your word and turn away from your call to life. Pour out your mercy on us as you showed mercy to your people of old, that we may turn from our sinfulness and walk the path of self-emptying love made known in Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

Scripture Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32

Jim Schell

Sermon

* **Hymn** "What Wondrous Love is This?" #223 (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

Prayer Response (sing 3x)

Jaques Berthier - Taizé Chant

S
A
Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho-ly name -

T
B
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

Offering

Offertory Anthem I Heard the Voice of Jesus

H. Bonar/

Ralph Vaughan Williams

* Doxology

S
A
Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures here be-low;

T
B
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.

SENDING AND DEPARTING

* **Hymn** "All My Hope on God is Founded" #408 (Black)

Benediction

Postlude Earth and All Stars

Wayne Wold

September Birthdays Coffee hour in Fellowship Hall is hosted by the Old Sloop Fleet

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

Today's Service Helpers

Liturgist Jim Schell

Ushers Linda and Steve Rowell

The flowers on the altar are given in loving memory of June and Earle Greenwood, Lillian and Chester Swift, Jean Welch and Russell Welch from the Welch family.



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.

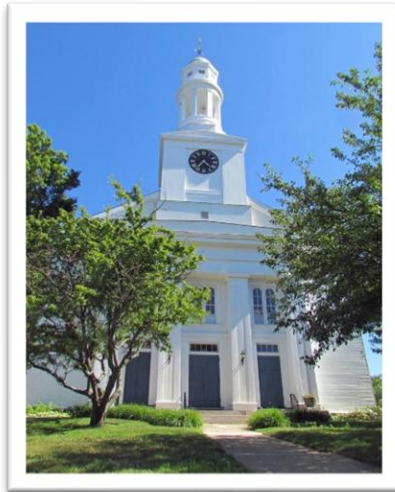
978-546-6638

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!



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

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."

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.