

The Old Sloop's Log

A Monthly Publication from the First Congregational Church, UCC Rockport, Massachusetts
The Reverend Derek Van Gulden, Pastor



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.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Beloved,

A few weeks ago on a Friday morning at 44,000 feet I texted Regina and asked her to change the scripture and sermon title in Sunday's bulletin. I made the changes as I was returning to Vermont with Sarah and three of my siblings after saying good bye to our oldest sister who was nearing the end of her battle with cancer. Looking back over the three days we had with her I realized that I had not been listening to the advice I give to others so freely at times like this in their lives. I felt moved to share a few things with you all. One of the new pieces of scripture I chose for that Sunday worship was from the book of Isaiah;

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you. (Isaiah 43:1-2, 4)

I have always loved those beautiful words of God as brought to us by Isaiah; "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you. I have called you by name, and I love you." For me God's promise to be with us when we pass through the waters has always been reassuring to me. Over the last few years my sister and I would talk every once in a while about what might happen if she lost her battle with cancer. We would share with each other our individual thoughts on death and dying. I would quote a few of my favorite passages, such as the one above, and she would share Buddha's beautiful words on the same subject with me. "Even death is not to be feared by one who has lived wisely." Of course this would often lead to a discussion on who determines what living wisely is. In the end I think she lived very wisely finding joy in most everything she did in life.

As I mentioned I have not been the best at listening to my own advice when it comes to grieving. But with the help of a few of you I discovered what helped. I have been meditating on Psalm 23, listening to it through scripture as well as some of the varied musical versions. Bobby McFerrin's version is my favorite; I find it very beautiful and soothing.

Open and Affirming Statement:

We the members of the First Congregational Church of Rockport are called upon to love one another 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, and ethnicity 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.

I share with you Bobby McFerrin's version of Psalm 23 which he dedicated to his mother. You will notice that this version of the song uses a feminine pronoun for God. For me this was the perfect version to meditate on when thinking about my sister's passing;

“The Lord is my Shepherd, I have all I need, She makes me lie down in green meadows,
Beside the still waters, She will lead. She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs, She leads me
in a path of good things, And fills my heart with songs.

Even though I walk, through a dark & dreary land, There is nothing that can shake me,
She has said She won't forsake me, I'm in her hand. She sets a table before me, in the presence
of my foes, She anoints my head with oil, And my cup overflows.

Surely, surely goodness & kindness will follow me, All the days of my life, And I will live in her
house, Forever, forever & ever. Glory be to our Mother, & Daughter, And to the Holy of Holies,
As it was in the beginning, is now & ever shall be, World, without end. Amen.”

The form of meditation I use is Lectio–Divina, reading, meditating and praying with scripture. After reading scripture a few times I meditate on the word or phrase which has jumped out at me. The following are a few parts of Psalm 23 which I have been meditating on; ‘I have all I need’; ‘she restores my soul’; ‘And fills my heart with songs’; ‘I will live in her house, Forever, forever & ever’.

I share all this with you for a couple of reasons, first doing so has helped me move forward. Second I invite you all to listen to the beautiful words of Psalm 23, really listen to them. In a week we will enter the season of Lent. One of the spiritual disciplines often observed during Lent is reading scripture and praying daily to draw oneself nearer to God. May I suggest joining me in starting with Psalm 23? I am sure that you will find comfort as well as energy within the beautiful words.

Shalom,

Rev. Derek

CABINET

MINUTES FEBRUARY 19, 2017

Subject to Approval

The Cabinet of the First Congregational Church of Rockport, Massachusetts, UCC was called to order by Moderator Steve Lindo at 6:59pm. Rev. Derek van Gulden opened the meeting with a prayer.

Present: Steve Lindo, Moderator, chair, and Personnel Committee; Rev. Derek van Gulden, Pastor; Jack Reed, Trustees; Sigrid Lindo, Stewardship Committee and Music Committee; Joe Chambers, Diaconate; Jay Reed, Treasurer of Mission Funds; Bruce Coates, Treasurer; Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Rice-Smith, Historian and Membership Committee, Stephen Kalaghan, Christian Outreach Committee; and Geof Lyon, Clerk. Also in attendance was Barbara Reed, a deacon.

Action, Discussion and Follow-Up Items:

Meeting minutes

The minutes of the January 15 meeting were approved as submitted by voice vote.

Living Memorial Fund/History Fund Issues

Joe Chambers reviewed the history of the 2008 Walen gift to the church. The funds were held in the Living Memorial Fund and transferred to the History Fund in January, 2016 by vote of the Diaconate. Barbara Reed indicated that she still had questions about the matter. She distributed a document entitled "Financial Report" and reviewed it. Chair Steve Lindo observed that the Diaconate has sole jurisdiction over the Living Memorial fund and suggested that the matter should be handled by the Diaconate.

Old Sloop Fair

Steve reminded us that there had been two meetings about the Old Sloop Fair after the annual meeting and that he had written an account of the meetings and distributed it by email, in the Log, and in the worship bulletin. There will be a session after worship on March 12 at which Steve hopes people will offer to fill the positions that will make the 2017 Fair possible. Steve believes that we need another meeting before March 12, and that meeting will take place Tuesday, February 21 at 7:00PM. Geof Lyon will provide Steve with a list of positions for the 2016 Fair. He will also post the new dates to the Old Sloop Fair web page and the Facebook page.

Lilly Grant Application

Rev. Derek told us that the application deadline is April 21, a little later than we thought. The application can be online or written. Rev. Derek has been following up on the Executive Soul recommendations. He contacted one of the storytellers, who has offered to work with Rev. Derek and with the congregation. We need ideas for activities during the sabbatical, and we need to develop a budget. There will be a meeting about music during the sabbatical Thursday evening, February 23. Rev. Derek will work with the parishioner who has offered to write the grant. We will need writers for specific sections of the application.

Officer Reports

Pastor

Rev. Derek noted that Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 1.

Treasurer

Bruce Coates distributed a year-to-date operating summary and observed that there was nothing remarkable at this early point in the year. Jay Reed asked about donations to the Pastor's Fund and whether thank-you notes had been written. Geof will review the policy for handling gifts and report back.

Historian

Liz Rice-Smith reported that she is working on a new historical exhibit. A parishioner suggested an exhibit about the preschool. Liz suggested that the church join the Congregational Library in Boston. The consensus was that this is a good idea. Liz will prepare a proposal.

Committee Reports

Diaconate

Joe reported that the Diaconate had elected positions. Joe and Debbie Welch will be co-chairs, Karen Chambers will be secretary, Joe will be cabinet representative, and Barbara Reed will be Nominating Committee representative. They also discussed the Living Memorial Fund, as described earlier.

Trustees

Jack Reed reported that work will begin on the steeple around March 15.

Outreach Committee

Steve Kalaghan reported the Outreach Committee had welcomed new member Karen Coffin to the committee and had elected positions. Jay Reed will be chair, Sarah Mowitt will be secretary, Stephen Kalaghan will be cabinet representative, and Marge Schell will be Nominating Committee representative. Jay reported that the balance of the mission treasury is about \$8,000. They will ask Action Inc. director Peggy Hegarty-Steckto speak.

Old Sloop Fleet

Liz reported that flowers, food, and rides abound. The Fleet is open to suggestions and to new volunteers. Liz spoke to Debbie Welch about engaging the Deacons. The Fleet would like to find a Food captain.

Stewardship Committee

Sigi Lindo reported that the committee has elected positions. Sigi will be chair, secretary, and cabinet representative, and Kevin Love will be Nominating Committee representative.

Christian Education Committee

Rev. Derek reported that three young people will attend the UCC's General Synod in Baltimore, accompanied by Katie and Derek. The Christian Education Committee will approach the congregation for funding ideas.

Membership Committee

Liz reported that the Team for the Welcoming Ministry of Hospitality has 106 people on birthday/coffee hour teams. All of the teams have leaders. The committee bought a Be the Church rainbow banner. Katie has been doing a great job with social media. They are getting ready for the Eastertide film series, which will run on ten consecutive Thursdays beginning April 20. There will be a potluck supper at 5:30 and the movies will begin at 6:00. They are considering Hacksaw Ridge, a Mel Gibson film about war on Okinawa, and Liz asked about the cabinet's feelings about a film that has some graphic scenes. There were no objections. Joe asked that the Membership Committee let the deacons know as soon as possible about contact with potential new members.

Music Committee

The Music Committee has elected positions. Jill Carter will be chair, Karen Hurst will be secretary, Sigi Lindo will be cabinet representative, and Jill Carter will be Nominating Committee representative. Geof reported that the Obertones (Oberlin College a cappella group) will perform in the sanctuary March 21.

New Business

Steve circulated an invitation for a ten week Executive Soul leadership program. The invitation will be posted on the bulletin board.

Rev. Derek noted that Super Saturday in Framingham is March 18. The Massachusetts Conference website has details. Sigi noted that the stewardship conference is the following Saturday

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the Cabinet adjourned at 8:28PM. The next meeting of the Cabinet will be March 19, the regular day, but at 11:45AM instead of 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted, Geof Lyon, Clerk of the Church SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

TRUSTEES

MINUTES February 13, 2017

The February 13th meeting was called to order at 7:00PM.

Present: Jack Reed; Mark Jurewicz; Bill Elwell; Bruce Coates; Jeff Taylor; Bonnie Gray; Paul Hurst, Bob Morgan; Geof Lyon, Building Study Committee

Absent: Rev. Derek van Gulden;

- **Minutes:** Minutes from the January 9, 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved.
- **Treasurers Report:** The treasurer's report was reviewed and approved as written.
- **Monthly Review of Bank Statement:** Bonnie reviewed the January bank statements. No issues.

Old Business:

- **Capital Campaign Projects** – review of projects.
 - Steeple Project / Structural Engineer – Expecting mid-March start date. Jack will identify process for CPC payments as well as town reimbursements.

- **Verizon Cell Tower** – Still no response from Verizon on proposed contract. Meeting between Verizon and Stealth Panels scheduled for Friday, 2/17.
- **Amendment to Purchases Policy** – Bob reviewed proposed language for amended policy. Paul will draft additional comments. Will review in March.
- **Dog Signs** – will remain in storage until spring.
- **Sanctuary Furnaces** – one of the furnaces was not functioning again last Sunday. Jack will contact Frank Favaloro to determine if this is a new problem or a recurring issue. Will also meet with Frank when he comes to inspect.

New Business:

- **Cleanliness of Church** – Jack & Jeff developed a list of areas to be cleaned including all woodwork (baseboards, window casements, doorways), alter area, the pineapple, windows, kitchen and all painted surfaces. It was decided some areas needed to be managed professionally (Sanctuary windows and pineapple). Options for other areas include community service hours, youth group and adding to the Sexton's cleaning schedule. Jack will contact cleaning company for cost estimate and will discuss the cleaning schedule with Derek.
- **FL Putnam** – Discussed moving investments to different investment management company. Paul will arrange a presentation by UCC.
- **Alternatives for Snow Removal** – an unreasonably high snow removal bill triggered an email discussion to identify alternative methods of snow removal. R D Enterprise reviewed the bill and discovered an overcharge of \$336. Due to the unique needs of the church and the large areas needing to be cleared it was determined that snow removal should be done professionally.
- **Check Signers** – Since Jack has agreed to be a Treasurer Assistant he should no longer be a check signer. Jeff, Bill and Bonnie will be the three check signers.

A copy of this report will be forwarded to the editor of the Old Sloop Log.

There being no further business, the Board of Trustees adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Next meeting will be Monday, March 13, 2017.

Jack Reed

Mark Jurewicz

Chair, Board of Trustees

Secretary of Trustees

DIACONATE

JANUARY 15, 2017 MINUTES

ADMINISTRATIVE

Present: Louisa Casadei-Johnson, Debbie Welch, Karen Chambers, Barbara Reed, Mercy Duffill

Minutes of December meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Next worship:

On February 5, Kyle will prepare communion. Barbara will bring bread; there is sufficient juice and gluten-free crackers. Servers: Karen, Joe, Mercy and Barbara

Karen will find readers for February. Louisa will put notice in bulletin asking for additional reader volunteers. Deacons will discuss at next meeting having one member find readers for 2017.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Pastor's report: Debbie shared Pastor's comments: 1) Derek was attending Common Cathedral 2) Visits have dropped off a bit but will resume after the Annual Meeting; 3) Pastor thanked those who participated in Executive Soul conversations.

Pastor evaluation: Deacons will continue discussion with Pastor regarding his goals at February meeting.

Living Memorial: Barbara will pursue the issue of a transfer made from the Living Memorial to the History Committee.

Membership moment: no new discussion.

Paraments: Joe has taken pictures of the December and January paraments for the new binder.

NEW BUSINESS

New office manager: It was suggested that perhaps Derek would introduce her at Annual Meeting or ask her to Deacons' meeting.

Bylaws: There was lengthy review of and discussion about several bylaws that addressed various duties of the Deacons, the goal being to ensure that the Deacons were clear on their duties and performing accordingly.

- First, regarding new members, it was suggested that the Deacons discuss at some point how they will work with the Membership Committee per Article X 13 B.
- Second, regarding Sunday worship service, it was noted that changes in Sunday worship can be very rejuvenating. However, changes should be discussed with the Deacons in a timely manner since it is "the duty of the Diaconate to cooperate with the minister in ministering to the spiritual needs of the church and the community" per Article X 2 B. The Diaconate would then be better able to assist with changes. It was also noted that, according to Article VI 1 A, "Services of worship shall be held at given hours each Sunday, except when temporarily suspended by vote of the church."
- Third, per Article X8B, "The Board of Ushers shall have charge of ushering at all religious services of the church. The board shall coordinate with the minister and with the Diaconate in the conduct of services." The Deacons and Pastor should discuss how this affects funeral services.
- Finally, per Article X2B, the Diaconate "shall consult with the clerk and make an annual check of the church membership roll and report any revisions to the church at the annual meeting." The Deacons will make note of this for the future.

Several suggestions were made for the upcoming year.

Add to Annual Report a list of those people who had been honored with a contribution to the Living Memorial Fund.

- Get quarterly reports from Treasurer on Living Memorial account.
- Create a master calendar with Deacons' duties noted.
- Invite someone from Membership Committee to come to Deacons' meeting.
- Get feedback after events like the Dogtown Worship Sunday.

Closet for paraments: Mercy will ask the Cabinet if the Deacons can have the use of the closet in the Morgan Room to store the new paraments. Contents will need to be moved or discarded, preferably by February 15. Ultimately, a design for the closet should be made and a bid procured by a contractor to hang a rod, build necessary shelves, etc. Women's Fellowship could perhaps use the hall closet. A similar clean up and redesign could be made there.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM **NEXT MEETING** – Sunday, February 5 at 11:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted *Louisa Casadei-Johnson, secretary*

FEBRUARY 25, 2017 MINUTES DRAFT**ADMINISTRATIVE**

Present: Joe Chambers, Kate Desmond, Debbie Welch, Karen Chambers, Barbara Reed, Mercy Duffill, Kyle Picardo, Janice Ramsden, Rev. Derek Van Gulden

Minutes of January meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Next worship:

On March 5, Kyle will prepare communion. Kate will bring bread; there is sufficient juice and gluten-free crackers. Servers: Janice, Mercy, Kate and Debbie.

Officers elected:

Co-chairs: Joe Chambers and Debbie Welch

Cabinet Rep: Joe Chambers

Nominating Committee: Barbara Reed

Secretary: Karen Chambers

Coordinator of readers: Karen Chambers

ONGOING BUSINESS**Pastor's report:**

- Feb 26, 2017 Memorial for Ruth Giles.
- Lent is beginning Ash Wednesday, March 1 with Easter on Sunday, April 16. Derek would like a Deacon to help with the planning.
- Super Saturday is March 18th in Wilbraham, MA.
- Visitations have been on hold due to health and personal issues, will update at next meeting.
- Sabbatical budget and plan being worked on for what FCC will do while Derek is away.
- Possible Outreach participation by FCC for Refuge Walk May 20 in Wakefield.

Living Memorial: vote was taken to accept the transfer of \$4050 to Historical Fund.

Vote passed 7 yes, 1 no.

Membership moment: no new discussion.

Paraments: Joe has taken pictures of the December and January paraments for the new binder. Karen will compile photos as reference for seasonal changes. Joe will continue documenting as year progresses.

NEW BUSINESS**Welcome back:**

Special thank you to Janice Ramsden for her return to Diaconate.

Several suggestions were made for the upcoming year.

- Add to Annual Report a list of those people who had been honored with a contribution to the Living Memorial Fund.
- Joe will supply Deacons with the Treasure's report from Cabinet meetings.
- Create a master calendar with Deacons' duties noted as a reference for future Deacons.

Closet for paraments: Mercy will contact Regina about ideas for use and organization of the closets.

The meeting adjourned at 1PM **NEXT MEETING** – Sunday, March 5 at 11:30 A.M

Respectfully submitted *Karen Chambers, secretary*

STEWARDSHIP**MARCH 2017****SHEA'S RIVERSIDE****Thursday, March 23, 4:00-10:00 p.m.**

Join your church friends and bring other friends to
Shea's Riverside



122 Main Street, Essex

Call **978-768-6931** to make a reservation right away.

Let's go "over the bridge" for great food, beautiful sunset views and good fellowship.



Our obligation is to have at least 20 of us show up. If we do, Shea's will contribute 10% of their entire evening's proceeds to the church.

**50:50 Raffle. Drawing at 9:00 p.m., that evening.
Winner need not be present**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**MARCHCALENDAR**

Friday, March 3		Monadnock Winter Retreat begins
Sunday, March 5	10:15	Sunday School
	5:00 – 7:00	NO Youth Group
Monday, March 6	2:30 – 5:30	Build a Bridge
Wednesday, March 8	5:00 – 6:00	Adult Class: Story Matters
Sunday, March 12	10:15	Sunday School

	5:00 – 7:00	Youth Group
Monday, March 13	2:30 – 5:30	Build a Bridge
Wednesday, March 15	5:00 – 6:00	Adult Class: Story Matters
Sunday, March 19	9:00	C.E. Meeting
	10:15	Sunday School
Monday, March 20	2:30 – 5:30	Build a Bridge
Wednesday, March 22	5:00 – 6:00	Adult Class: Story Matters
Sunday, March 26	10:15	Sunday School
	5:00 – 7:00	Youth Group
Monday, March 27	2:30 – 5:00	Build a Bridge
Wednesday, March 29	5:00 – 6:00	Adult Class: Story Matters

Behind the Scenes in Youth Ministries

The Children's' church has been working on a unit involving "The Fruits of the Spirit." This unit has taken off! During our science workshop we learned about the needs of plants and planted melon seeds. During our cooking workshop we made fruit salad parfaits and shared them at coffee hour learning about generosity and kindness. We explored goodness by taste testing strange and exotic fruits.

The teen scene live streamed a former student during class so he could participate. How cool is that? For Valentines Day the teens made Valentines to share with all during coffee hour.

We have welcomed a new family with 2 children into our programs.

The youth group Rocked for 24 hours to raise money for our Pastors fund. These young teens have been thinking outside the box exploring ways to help our church community as well as new outreach projects.

As you can see Gods' work is happening in many forms.

To stay updated with our weekly activities like us on Facebook

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/2264204592> or follow us on Instagram @FCCRyouth

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH COMMITTEE



MINUTES FEBRUARU 12, 2017

Present: Jay Reed, Derek Van Gulden, Wendy Woodbury, Stephen Kalaghan, Marge Schell, Karen Coffin, and Sarah Mowitt.

Jay Reed opened the meeting at 11:30 with a reading from our hymnal. He welcomed our new member, Karen Coffin, and provided her with documents about the mission of the committee.

Assignment of Responsibilities: In the coming year, Jay Reed will be the chair of the committee, Sarah Mowitt will serve as the recording secretary, Marge Schell will be our representative on the Nominating Committee, and Stephen Kalaghan will attend meetings of the Cabinet.

Treasurer's Report: The balance at the end of January was \$8,010.05, with disbursements made during the month to the Massachusetts Conference Basic Support(UCC), to the Christmas Fund, to Action, Beverly

Bootstraps, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mass. Bay, and to the City Mission Society of Boston. There is an adequate balance in the Pastor's Fund.

One Great Hour of Sharing: Jay reported that the UCC special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing is scheduled for March 26. This offering goes for disaster and refugee relief. It is one of three special offerings that our church supports. The others are Neighbors in Need and the Christmas Fund.

Family Promise: We have just concluded another week of hosting four homeless families for Family Promise. The week went well with a few minor glitches. We will be hosting again during the week that starts on April 2. We are supported by five other churches in Rockport and Gloucester in this effort. It was suggested that this summer we host a celebration of our fifth year and include our support churches and the Family Promise staff.

Action, Inc.: Peggy Hegarty-Steck, Director of Action, will speak to the congregation during the mission moment.

UCC speaker: Wendy Vander Hart, the Associate Conference Minister for the Massachusetts Conference, will speak to the congregation in March.

Open and Affirming: Jay Reed pointed out that it has been 10 years since the church became Open and Affirming and that it is time to revisit and talk about what this means. Derek suggested that during June Pride Month we might want to show a National Geographic program about gender identity. During our next meeting we will discuss ways to continue the discussion of Open and Affirming.

Open Door: We serve dinners at Open Door on the first Saturdays of February, May, August and November (with some variation in dates in August).

Scholarships: Soon we will be deciding on recipients of scholarships for graduating high school students. Two scholarships are supported by the Maclean-Hooper endowment fund and one by the Outreach treasury. The criteria for awarding the scholarships are: community service, attachment to our church, and financial need. Two scholarships go to graduates of Rockport High School and one may go to a graduate of another high school.

Derek suggested that we might consider attending the Racial Justice workshop on February 25 and the Super Saturday workshops of the Massachusetts Conference (UCC) on March 18.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00. The next meeting will be on **March 12**.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Mowitt

LENTEN COURSE

What? A five session course titled *Lenten Lights: Your Luminous Hopes*.

Who? Led and written by Sharon Chace.

When? Tuesday Afternoons from 4 PM to 5PM or 5:30 PM depending upon amount of discussion. (If 4:30 is more doable for you please let Rev. Derek know so we can change the start time.) March 7, 14, 21, 28, and April 4. Of course, I hope most people will want to participate in all five sessions. However, you are welcome to attend just the first session. My presentation is a synthesis, drawing upon writings from the 60's to material hot off the press.

Where? Morgan Room

Why? Exploring images of light and art that resonate is a way of understanding our hopes for ourselves and others.

Participants: This course is for church members and anyone else you want to invite. While there will be expressions of personal piety, mine and yours, this course roots religion and biblical literature in the arts and

humanities. Therefore this course is appropriate for people who are not church members and do not want dogmatic thought pressed upon them! Feel free to reach out!

Lenten Lights is based on my book, *Images of Light: Ascent to Trust in Triumph*, published in 2013 by Resource Publications, an imprint of Wipf and Stock. The book started as a course that interim pastor Jim Fletcher asked me to teach. Some of you will see your input.

During this course we will consider derivative, biblical images of light and look at art that reflects those images. These derivative biblical images include the lights on inclusion, speaking truth to power, healing, forgiveness, transfiguration, and resurrection. It is my hope that you will read my "Author's Note" and "Introduction", but there will not be required readings. We will read and discuss sections together. This procedure is like the Rockport Poetry Readers format. Although we have likely read the poems at home, we choose our favorites and read our selections in our group meetings.

For the first session, after I discuss various religious dimensions of art, there will be art books on display so that you can find a compelling image to live with during the course. I will photocopy the image for you if you cannot find it online. Your picture does not have to be one that is included in the book I wrote. Nor does your image have to be one in my art books. You may already have your own. Perhaps you have a favorite picture of Christ or a painting of beauty on Cape Ann. You might have painted or photographed your image of choice. Your pictures do not have to have explicitly biblical or religious subject matter. I will offer thoughts that will help you explore your choice of art and how your selection evokes your inner, luminous hopes for yourself or others. When inner hopes burn brightly, you are lights in the world.

There will be course books available during the first session. You can give your book back to me at the end of the course or you may keep it if you want to purchase it. If you miss the first session, it would be best if you phone or visit me so I can summarize my introductory presentation.

Please let Rev. Derek or me know if you plan to participate in this course. My phone number is 978-546-2697. E-mail is shnrchace@aol.com. Please consider participating in this course. I will be honored by your presence, especially in the first session. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sharon R. Chace



Stay Tuned. Your Old Sloop Fair Steering Committee has been working hard to streamline this year's fair, try some new approaches that will reduce time commitments, and eliminate the burdensome jobs. A consensus is beginning to emerge around the specific dates in July when the fair will be held and the specific changes that will be made. We will have an after-church meeting to explain final decisions and enlist your support on March 12. If you have ideas in the meantime that you have not already communicated, please send them in to office@rockportucc.org!. We will need everyone's help to make this year's fair a success.

Easter Lily Donations will be collected in Fellowship Hall immediately after church on March 26th, April 2, and April 9th.

EASTER FLOWERS



If you would like to share in the Easter flower fund, which provides flowers in the sanctuary in honor of or in memory of, loved ones, please fill out this form and send it to the church office. Make checks payable to The First Congregational Church of Rockport, "Easter Flower Fund." These plants will be in the sanctuary during our Easter Sunday service, April 16, 2017 and will be disbursed to friends who are unable to share in our Easter celebration. If you know of anyone who might enjoy receiving a plant please call Michelle Alekson-Kerans at 617-974-5044.

NAMES OF PERSON TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED

MEMORY OF _____

HONOR OF _____

YOUR NAME _____

Please make your payment & request by Wednesday April 5th, 2017 to ensure your names will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

OLD SLOOP COFFEEHOUSE UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Old Sloop Coffeehouse will present two concerts of fine folk and acoustic music in March

Friday, March 3 at 7:30 PM – RUNA with TheBombadils



Quickly gaining recognition as one of Irish music's new "super-groups," RUNA enchants audiences by pushing the boundaries of Irish folk music, Americana, and roots music. Interweaving the haunting melodies and exuberant tunes of Ireland and Scotland with the lush harmonies and intoxicating rhythms of jazz, bluegrass, flamenco and blues, they offer a thrilling and redefining take on traditional music. This will be RUNA's fourth appearance at Old Sloop Coffeehouse.

Canadian duo The Bombadils will open the concert. Maritimer Luke Fraser and prairie-girl Sarah Frank are classically-trained musicians who share a love of folk songs and fiddle tunes. Drawing from the Canadian, American, and Celtic traditions, the two pour the spirit of story-telling and kitchen parties into their beautifully crafted music.

Advance tickets for this concert cost \$15, and the suggested donation at the door is \$18 for adults, \$12 for those 65 and older, \$5 for those younger than 18, and \$36 for a family.

Saturday, March 25 at 7:30 PM – What Time Is It, Mr. Fox? with the Rockport High School Madrigal Singers



Named after a Victorian children's game, What Time Is It, Mr. Fox? is known for its dynamic performances and its original songs. The ensemble has performed to packed theatres, coffeehouses, and concert halls throughout Boston, NYC, and beyond. Their original song "Cold Rain" was covered by New Orleans Soul Queen Irma Thomas on her Grammy-nominated CD "Simply Grand," with the track earning high praise in Rolling Stone, USA Today and The Village Voice. This will also be Mr. Fox's fourth appearance at Old Sloop Coffeehouse.

The Rockport High School Madrigal Singers will open the concert and back up Mr. Fox.

Advance tickets for this concert cost \$10, and the suggested donation at the door is \$12 for adults, \$8 for those 65 and older, \$5 for those younger than 18, and \$24 for a family.

Tickets for these concerts can be purchased from the coffeehouse web site at oldsloopcoffeehouse.org, at Toad Hall Bookstore in Rockport, at The Bookstore in Gloucester, and at coffee hour following worship on the Sunday immediately preceding each concert.

WEEKLY CHURCH EVENTS

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT
POTLUCK DINNER
ALL ARE WELCOME**



**THURSDAY MORNING
BOOK GROUP
9:30 AM to 10:30 AM
MORGAN CONFERENCE ROOM**



The fellowship hour schedule for March:

March 5: Debbie Welch and Kevin Love

March 12: Karen Coffin and Marge Schell

March 19: Darlene Spittle and Walter Vining

March 26: Jay Reed and Derek van Gulden



If there are any questions or concerns or if you would like to be a part of our fellowship hour by baking or hosting please contact Liz-Rice Smith or Wendy Woodbury.



WITH GRATITUDE FOR OUR CHURCH SERVANTS

For February:

Readers

Mary Cresse
Laurel Juthe
Laurie McKenna
Sue Herron

Ushers

Celene Lyon and Giles Day;
Giles Day and Louisa Casadei-
Johnson;
Barbara Reed and Karen Coffin;
Giles Day and Diane Westman.



CHURCH DIRECTORY

CONTACT US AT:

First Congregational Church of Rockport
12 School Street
Rockport, Massachusetts 01966
Phone # 1-978-546-6638
Email – office@rockportucc.org
Website – www.rockportucc.org

**During non- business hours Rev. Derek van
Gulden can be reached at: (508) 818-0616 or
revdvan@yahoo.com**

LOG EDITING INFORMATION:
EDITOR: SUSAN LILLIS
SUBMIT ARTICLES TO:

oldslooplog@rockportucc.org

**ALL ARTICLES ARE DUE ON THE 18TH OF
EACH MONTH**

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

TUES. – THURS. 8:30AM –
1:30PM

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:15 AM – 11:00AM

NURSERY CARE IS
PROVIDED

CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR
Rev. Derek van Gulden
MUSIC DIRECTOR
Dr. Phil Swanson
YOUTH CHOIR
DIRECTOR
Kristina Martin
OFFICE MANAGER
Regina Reis
SEXTON
Phillip Bynarowicz
CHRISTIAN ED.
DIRECTOR
Melynda Picardo
ASSISTANT YOUTH
DIRECTOR
Katie Welch

2017 COFFEE HOUR TEAM SCHEDULE

JAN	1	8	15	Annual Meeting 22	29
	Wendy Woodbury Mark Woodbury No Team	Jack Reed <i>Co-host needed</i>	Wendy Woodbury Mark Woodbury	Rick Kasten Kathleen Morgan	Charlie Brackett Jill Carter
FEB	5	12	19	26	
	Mercy Duffill Liz Rice-Smith	Diane Westman Jamie Klopotoski	Celene Lyon Geof Lyon	Michelle Coates Chelsea Picardo Hale	
MAR	5	12	19	26	
	Debbie Welch Kevin Love	Karen Coffin Marge Schell	Darlene Spittle Walter Vining	Jay Reed Derek van Gulden	
APR	2	Palm Sunday 9	Easter 16	23	30
	Jack Reed <i>Co-host needed</i>	Wendy Woodbury Mark Woodbury	Rick Kasten Kathleen Morgan	Charlie Brackett Jill Carter	Mercy Duffill Liz Rice-Smith
MAY	7	Mother's Day 14	21	28	
	Diane Westman Jamie Klopotoski	Celene Lyon Geof Lyon	Michelle Coates Chelsea Picardo Hale	Debbie Welch Kevin Love	
JUN	4	11	Father's Day 18	25	
	Karen Coffin Marge Schell	Darlene Spittle Walter Vining	Jay Reed Derek van Gulden	Jack Reed <i>Co-host needed</i>	
JUL	2	9	16	23	30
	Liz Rice-Smith Guy Micalizzi	Liz Rice-Smith Guy Micalizzi	Liz Rice-Smith Guy Micalizzi	Liz Rice-Smith Guy Micalizzi	Liz Rice-Smith Guy Micalizzi
AUG	6	13	20	27	
	Wendy Woodbury Mark Woodbury	Rick Kasten Kathleen Morgan	Charlie Brackett Jill Carter	Mercy Duffill Liz Rice-Smith	
SEP	3	10	17	24	
	Diane Westman Jamie Klopotoski	Celene Lyon Geof Lyon	Michelle Coates Chelsea Picardo Hale	Debbie Welch Kevin Love	
OCT	1	8	15	22	29
	Karen Coffin Marge Schell	Darlene Spittle Walter Vining	Jay Reed Derek van Gulden	Jack Reed <i>Co-host needed</i>	Wendy Woodbury Mark Woodbury
NOV	5	12	19	26	
	Rick Kasten Kathleen Morgan	Charlie Brackett Jill Carter	Mercy Duffill Liz Rice-Smith	Diane Westman Jamie Klopotoski	
DEC	3	10	17	24	31
	Celene Lyon Geof Lyon	Michelle Coates Chelsea Picardo Hale	Debbie Welch Kevin Love	Karen Coffin Marge Schell	Darlene Spittle Walter Vining

FELLOWSHIP/COFFEE HOUR HOSPITALITY TEAMS

Team 1 Co-Captains: Charlie Brackett & Jill Carter Susan Emerson Ann Kistner Bob Morgan	Sue Morris Lisa Vining	Team 7 Co-Captains: Marge Schell & Karen Coffin Renee Ayers Nan Blue Stacey Cook	Mary Cresse Elsa Marshall
Team 2 Co-Captains: Liz Rice-Smith & Mercy Duffill Louisa Casadei-Johnson Michele Kerans Susan Lillis Emmie Martin Gaetano Micalizzi	Guy Micalizzi Thomas Micalizzi Garie Perry Ken Perry Amy Seabrook	Team 8 Co-Captains: Darlene Spittle & Walter Vining Martha Bowen Sue Herron Jeff Taylor	Ruth Janet Taylor Charlene Williams Mike Williams
Team 3 Co-Captains: Diane Westman & Jamie Klopotoski Pam Basso Joe Chambers Laura Clay	Kate Desmond Helen Raney Barbara Tenggren	Team 9 Co-Captains: Jay Reed & Derek van Gulden Karen Chambers Karen Hurst Paul Hurst Rhiannon Hurst	Sigi Lindo Kathy McCarthy Mindy Picardo Barbara Reed
Team 4 Co-Captains: Celene & Geof Lyon Pam Beck Bill Davis David Emerson Dorothy Geiser	Hope Norton Fred Witte	Team 10 Co-Captains: Jack Reed & Steve Lindo Susan Bowers Sarah Mowitt Laura Osmond Corinne Waring	
Team 5 Co-Captains: Michelle Coates & Chelsea Picardo Hale Beverly Bernhard Bruce Coates Lindsey Coates	Joyce Davis Linda Emerson	Team 11 Co-Captains: Wendy & Mark Woodbury Lois Butt Mary Devaney Bonnie Gray Marilyn Lincoln	Richard Ling Jim Ugone Katie Welsh Alex Ziegler
Team 6 Co-Captains: Debbie Welch & Kevin Love Camilla Ayers Kyla Brackett Michelle Elwell Steve Kalaghan	Marjohn Love Phil Swanson	Team 12 Co-Captains: Kathleen Morgan & Rick Kasten Rosemary Bigelow John Frisone Mark Jurewicz Leap Kasten	Linda Kluge Laurie McKenna Janice Ramsden

July hosted by Liz Rice-Smith and Guy Micalizzi.

Team captains are encouraged to contact your team to arrange coverage on your scheduled dates.

Contact Liz (dr.eprs@gmail.com) or Wendy (wendy@woodburys) with any questions, suggestions or comments.