

The Old Sloop's Log

A Monthly Publication of
The First Congregational Church of Rockport, UCC
The Reverend Derek Van Gulden, Pastor

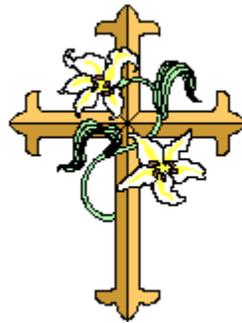


Our Covenant

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.

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 un-conditionally. Therefore, we covenant to become an open and affirming congregation welcoming persons of every age, ability, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic 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.



Beloved,

On Easter morning we will be greeted by these beautiful words from Isaiah:

"For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight" (Isaiah 65:17-18)

After a long winter and an equally long season of Lent the image of a "new creation" is a welcome sight. We are bogged down by the cold weather and the season of repentance. By April we are ready for a new season.

During the months of February and March it can be easy to get into a spiritual rut. We have come down from the highs of Christmas and are now trying to be in Lent. And because Lent is such a long season it is easy to feel that it will never end. We can't see the end, each day becomes like the next. We lack energy and motivation.

So when Easter arrives it is like God has breathed fresh air into our lungs. We experience an inner re-birth. The veil is removed from our eyes and we see the new creation: a world where Jesus has conquered the finality of death and opened a new door for us all. In these moments we turn our hearts away from worldly desires and set them on the human desire to be a co-creator with God. We long to reshape the world, making it into the world of our true hearts' desire.

My prayer for each of you is that on Easter morning you experience a new creation. May God grant us the strength and wisdom to wake each day ready to co-create a new world with God.

Shalom,

Rev. Derek

CABINET

Meeting Minutes: March 17, 2019

Present: Jack Reed, Moderator, chair, and Christian Education Committee; Rev. Derek van Gulden, Pastor; Bruce Coates, Treasurer; Sue Herron, Diaconate; Stephen Kalaghan, Christian Outreach Committee; Bonnie Gray, Trustees; Joe Chambers, Stewardship Committee; Bob Cannon, Music Committee; and Geof Lyon, Clerk and recording secretary.

Handouts: Agenda; Meeting of Church Cabinet February 17, 2019, Meeting Minutes - Subject to Approval; A Report for the 2019 First Congregational Church of Rockport Annual Meeting; "Charting the Future: The Future of Christian Education/Formation for Families and Youth"; Rev. Sue Arsenault-Koehler's Proposal.

Action, Discussion, and Follow-up Items

Declaration of a quorum, approval of minutes.

Moderator Jack Reed observed that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Rev. Derek van Gulden led the assembly in prayer.

The minutes of the February 17 Cabinet meeting were approved as submitted by voice vote.

Charting the Future Course for Christian Education - Next Steps

Jack directed the Cabinet's attention to page 5 of the "Charting the Future" report and to the summary Proposal, both of which describe possible ways forward. There was discussion about the salary history of the Christian Education positions and about possible ways the positions could be deployed. A motion was made that Rev. Sue's contract be extended with the amendment that the end report include recommendations about the direction of the program. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Status of the Narthex

Bonnie Gray reported that members of the Trustees and the Building Study Committee would meet with a Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning expert Monday, March 18 to discuss options for heating the space. There has been discussion of taking down the partition at the entryway, the use of ceiling tile to improve acoustics, and the installation of glass panes in the upper part of the doors into the sanctuary.

Officer Reports

Pastor: Rev Derek reported that he has spoken with Rosemary Lesch about conducting a CPR class at the church.

Treasurer: Bruce Coates distributed a report showing a Year to Date Operating Summary and a Cash and Investment Summary as of February 28. The "profit" reported last month was due to timing matters and has disappeared as expected. Monies have been moved between accounts to address liquidity needs for the narthex. A request that an update on the planned Capital Campaign projects was made and referred to the Trustees.

Treasurer of Mission Funds: Jay Reed reported that there is about \$4,600 in the Outreach treasury. He said he had not received a final report on pledges to Outreach. Treasurer's Assistant Geof Lyon promised to provide one.

Committee Reports

Diaconate: Sue Herron reported that representatives of the Membership Committee attended the March Diaconate meeting to discuss the responsibilities of the two committees. The Diaconate would like to see a list of all of the committees in the church.

Trustees: Bonnie Gray reported that Verizon's contractors placed a buried conduit in a location that would interfere with the church's planned storage addition. There is still a little more work to be done on the steeple, including the project to light the steeple. Three exterior doors that are in poor condition will be replaced. The church will purchase the doors, and Bill Elwell Associates will install them gratis. Fire extinguishers in and around the kitchen have been moved.

Outreach: Steven Kalaghan made a motion that the Easter offering be given to the Outreach Committee for a cause to be identified by the Social Justice subcommittee. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Other Business

It was suggested that the Cabinet develop a list of all of the ad-hoc committees and subcommittees in the church and understand their reporting relationships. Jack will send an email to the chairs of the standing committees asking for a list of their subcommittees.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13PM.

Date of Next Cabinet Meeting:

The third Sunday of April is Easter, so the cabinet will next meet in the Morgan Room at 7:00PM on April 28.

Respectfully submitted,

Geof Lyon, Clerk

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL



TRUSTEES

Meeting Minutes: March 11, 2019

Trustee Meeting – called to order at 7:04PM. Rev Derek opened the meeting with a prayer.

Present: Bruce Coates; Mark Jurewicz; Bonnie Gray; Chip Kistner; Walter Vining; Rev. Derek van Gulden; Bill Elwell; Geof Lyon, Building Study Committee.

Absent: Kevin Love

- **Minutes:** Minutes from the February 11, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Bruce presented the Treasurer's Report which was approved as submitted. It was noted that funding for Facebook postings was eliminated from the 2019 budget and that information needed to be passed on. Walter will follow up.
- **Monthly Reviews:**
 - Bank Statements:** Not reviewed
 - PEX Statements:** Only issue noted was 2 missing receipts from Christian Ed. Katie has been notified.

Old Business:

- **Narthex Improvement Project** – Needs identified by previous committee include removal of mold; replace ceiling, window panes, molding and closet door; repair wall in stairwell; replace tile floors with wood; add closet shelving; paint ceilings, walls and trim in all areas; new lighting; add art work. Additional considerations include repairs to blue doors; explore acoustics and heating options; and address safety/security concerns with the double doors leading into the Sanctuary. With a limited budget these items will need to be prioritized. Trustees will lead the project with input from the Building Study Committee, Diaconate, Decorating Committee, Critical Incident Committee, and the History/Art Committee.
- **Exit Door Replacement** – Bill will determine the cost for the 3 single doors plus installation materials and has generously offered to install them. Locks and crashbars will need to be installed by a locksmith. Replacement of the front double doors in the Law Bldg. will be delayed due to the complexity of that project.
- **Remaining Steeple Work** –The ladder from the bell deck still needs to be replaced in addition to work on the bell frame and the sprinkler system. Geof will contact Bob Levesque once Verizon work is completed.
- **Sanctuary Ceiling Paint** – Bill has sent scans and digital pictures to Building Science. Awaiting a response.
- **Front Façade** – No update
- **Verizon Progress** – Concerns with subcontractor and location of trenches for wiring were discussed and will be referred to Tom Moylan for resolution.
- **Steeple Lighting** – Geof presented a very comprehensive internal/external lighting plan from John Weaver. The plan was agreed to in principle by the Trustees pending the actual cost estimates.

- **Insurance Review** – Quote was requested last month with no response. Walter will follow up.
- **Relocate Fire Extinguisher** – Both extinguishers have now been appropriately relocated.

New Business:

- **Church Specialties (Bell)** – A survey of the bell was performed by Church Specialties. The report indicated the overall condition of the bell and its installation to be good. Several maintenance issues and minor adjustments were identified. Trustees agreed to have the work completed and to engage Church Specialties to maintain and survey the bell on an annual basis.
- **Use of Facilities** – 3 requests were reviewed and approved:
 - Rockport Gives Back – Front yard & possibly Fellowship Hall – April 25th
 - Rev. Sarah van Gulden – Morgan Room – May 4th
 - Rockport Middle School Chorus – Fellowship Hall – May 24th (AM)

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 8:35pm.

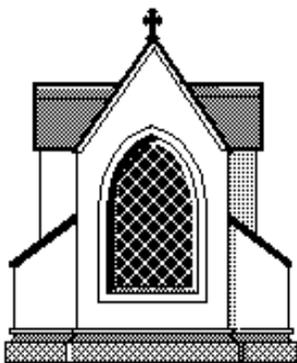
The next scheduled meeting of The Trustees is: Monday, April 8, 2019.

Walter Vining

Mark Jurewicz

Chair, Board of Trustees

Recording Secretary



Stewardship

April 2019

Oh do you have time to linger for just a little while out of your busy and very important day for the goldfinches that have gathered in a field of thistles for a musical battle to see who can sing the highest note, or the lowest...do not walk by without pausing...."

-Mary Oliver

At our March meeting, the Stewardship Committee made plans for the year ahead (see minutes below). You can look forward to a May fundraising dinner at Sheas restaurant in Essex with good food and good fellowship. It's hard to believe that planning has already started for The Old Sloop Fair and we are doing our part by arranging gift baskets to raffle off—the wine basket is always a popular one! Let us know if you would like to contribute to this effort.

Those of you who pledge will be receiving your quarterly contribution statements soon. As always, thanks for your commitment. If you meant to pledge but forgot or couldn't at the time, it's never too late. Forms are available at the church office.

As we approach Easter, take a moment to pause and enjoy the signs of spring and rebirth as the red-winged blackbirds return and the forsythia blooms!

-Louisa Casadei-Johnson for the committee

Draft Minutes of the Stewardship Committee Meeting March 13, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 5:42PM

Present: Casadei-Johnson, Kathie McCarthy, and Joe Chambers with Reverend Derek van Gulden joining in progress.

Discussion on calendar of tasks for the year was held.

The following was agreed upon:

- Include minutes in the log articles.
- Draft new consolidated letter for pledge thank you notes- assigned to Joe.

Restaurant fundraisers were discussed.

- Louisa will contact Shea's for a May dinner fundraiser
 - 50/50, Greeter at the door
 - Include a descriptive handout on church with menus or on tables
- Joe will contact Fish Shack for a fall fundraiser
 - Fish and Chips-Pub Bash style
 - Possibly a Sunday or Saturday afternoon event

New Fundraisers were discussed and agreed we would like to include gift baskets to be raffled at the Old Sloop fair. Joe agreed to discuss with cabinet to seek support.

Other discussions were held on getting better information on donors and pledges.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM. The next meeting date was not set.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Chambers



Christian Education Youth Ministry News

APRIL CALENDAR

Thursday, April 4

3:15

Confirmation Class

Sunday, April 7	8:30 – 3:30	Common Cathedral in Boston
	5:00 – 7:00	No Youth Group
Sunday, April 14	10:00	Worship with Children in Service
	TBA	Youth Group Service Afternoon
Thursday, April 18	TBA	Agape Dinner (Hand/foot washing)
Sunday, April 21	10:00	EASTER Sunday Service
Sunday, April 28	10:00	Worship with Children in Service
	5:00 – 7:00	Youth Group: Famous Last Words.

Common Cathedral

If you would like to help us make sandwiches to bring into Boston for Common Cathedral please join us in fellowship hall at 8:15 am on April 7. You don't have to be going with us into Boston to help make the sandwiches. Once the sandwiches are made, we will pack up the cars and head into the city for the afternoon.

Intergenerational Worship: Affirming Children in Church

Adapted from an article that I read. "Children grow - in love of God and love of other - when they feel truly affirmed as members of the worshipping community. While comments such as "you were so good in church," or "your child was so attentive today" may make children/parents feel good, it's much better to use statements that honor a child's personhood. For example: "I am so glad to see you today," or, "It was wonderful to worship with you." As for what parents and grandparents can say to their children, "Thank you for being with me in church" goes as long way."

Prayground

In moving forward with the intergenerational aspect of worship we are in the process of creating our own prayground. A prayground is a place in the front of the sanctuary where young children can experience worship through age-appropriate worship materials and tools that will help keep them engaged in worship. So, you might notice that we are slowly starting to incorporate these ideas into our sanctuary. The children all have worship binders, and we have a cart with papers, coloring supplies, dry erase boards, puzzles, books, etc. to use during worship.

Youth Ministry

"To grow up healthy, our youth need to be known and supported by at least five adults in addition to their parents or caregivers who are willing to invest time with them personally and spiritually."

Eugene C. Reohlekpartain

There are some aspects of ministry that just can't be broken down into something that is measurable. One of the greatest strengths of our youth ministry are the relationships that have been formed over

the years between students and leaders. For my own story, the whole reason I went into youth ministry was because I had an amazing leader (Mindy) and I wanted to be who she was to me to others when I got older. We have students who come back to lead after they have left and are in college. We have young adults who make the effort to keep in touch with us via Facebook, Instagram, text messages throughout the week and through snapchat. We are lucky we live in the day in an age of technology where it is so much easier keeping in touch no matter where everyone ends up. Our leaders take time out of their busy schedules to attend plays, concerts, games, and time to grab coffee. These are moments that students remember more so than a lesson that was taught or a service they sat through.

Be blessed!

Katie



Christian Outreach Committee

Meeting minutes, March 17, 2019

Attending: Rev Derek, Diane Westman, Wendy Woodbury, Marge Schell, Karen Coffin, Steve Kalaghan.

Meeting began at 11:33 with a prayer: "Loving God, be with all the people gathered in this place. Help them to feel your presence and know you..."

As of March 1, the treasury has a \$4,600 balance. Aside from the basic support disbursement to the United Church of Christ, the treasury disbursed to Beverly Bootstraps, which serves the Beverly area rather like Action, Inc, serves Cape Ann.

We discussed the Pastor's Fund which currently has a healthy balance. We decided to reimburse the pastor for out of pocket expenses related to sheltering a homeless individual.

We discussed the Easter offering, traditionally to Outreach. The social justice subcommittee has considered taking a special offering at worship for Yemen relief. We agreed that we would promote the Easter offering for Yemen relief if the social justice subcommittee were amenable. Steve suggested donating to the migrant program of the Good Shepherd Church, UCC in Sahuarita, Arizona, to which we contributed last fall. Perhaps we will consider further support

of the Green Valley Samaritans later this year.

We reviewed our scholarship policy for graduating high school seniors attending higher education in the fall. We will discuss applications at our April 14 meeting, Palm Sunday.

We have completed our Family Promise host week March 10-17. We adjusted to a changing guest census. We discussed communications with our volunteers about food preparation after our guest numbers changed. I didn't mention that our Rockport United Methodist Church volunteers will be unable to serve on our June 9-16 host week.

We discussed our campaign for One Great Hour of Sharing. I asked the committee to promote the Special Offering at worship next Sunday.

Refugee Immigration Ministry's North Shore cluster of churches will hold a potluck dinner and auction on April 7. Mission moments at worship services have encouraged the congregation to seek items for auction at that event. This fund raiser helps RIM support asylum seekers resettling to this area.

We discussed the social justice subcommittee which has concentrated on immigration, the humanitarian disaster in Yemen, and affordable housing in our area.

Pastor Derek asked us to plan a worship service around an area of concern to the committee, most likely the problem of homelessness. We expect that worship service to take place on May 19.

We meet next on April 14.

Respectfully submitted, James Reed



One Great Hour of Sharing

The Outreach Committee urges the congregation to donate to One Great Hour of Sharing, the special offering of the United Church of Christ. This is a disaster relief and development ministry of the UCC. One Great Hour not only helps to restore populations worldwide beset by calamity, it helps to make improvements in education, health, and agriculture in chronically impoverished places.

Whether responding to hurricanes in the Carolinas, Texas, and Florida, floods in India, earthquakes in Guatemala, or wildfires in California, your dollars are put to work to alleviate suffering, enhance recovery, and nurture sustainable infrastructure development.

This offering saves lives. Please give freely.

OLD SLOOP COFFEEHOUSE UPCOMING PERFORMANCES



Saturday, April 13 at 7:30PM – Emma's Revolution with opener Willa Mamet

Emma's Revolution is the dynamic, award-winning, activist duo of Pat Humphries & Sandy O, whose songs have been sung for the Dalai Lama, praised by Pete Seeger, and covered by Holly Near. With beautiful harmonies and genre-defying eclecticism, Emma's Revolution delivers the energy and strength of their convictions, in an uprising of truth and hope for these tumultuous times. Touring 200 days a year, Emma's Revolution has performed at thousands of events throughout the US and around the world, spreading their message of peace and justice.

Singer and songwriter Willa Mamet was born in a trunk and raised by performers of all kinds. She's made music since about that time, singing irrepressibly, playing piano and guitar, and bringing her unique blend of rapier tongue and honey heart to audiences everywhere.

Tickets for this concert can be purchased in advance for \$18 from the coffeehouse web site at oldsloopcoffeehouse.org, at John Tarr Store in Rockport, at The Bookstore of Gloucester, and at coffee hour following worship on Sunday, April 7. The suggested contribution at the door is \$22 for adults, \$15 for low income and youth ages 13-18, \$9 for kids 12 and under, and \$44 for families.

Easter Flower Donations will be collected in Fellowship Hall immediately after church on March 31, April 7, and 14.

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 21, 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 let Regina know in the church office.

NAMES OF PERSON TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED

MEMORY OF _____

HONOR OF _____

YOUR NAME _____

Please make your payment & request by April 16 to ensure your names will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin.



Weekly Church Events

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
POTLUCK DINNER

Wednesdays at 5 pm



THURSDAY MORNING
BOOK GROUP

MORGAN CONFERENCE ROOM

9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.



The Fellowship Hour Schedule for April

April 7 Celene and Geof Lyon

April 14 Michelle Coates

April 21 Debbie Welch and Kevin Love

April 28 Karen Coffin and Marge Schell

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 March

Ushers

March 3 Lou Cannon and Jeff Taylor

March 10 Bob Cannon and Jeff Taylor

March 17 Bonnie Gray and Jeff Taylor

March 24 Dick Douglas and Jeff Taylor

March 31 Jim Ugone and Jeff Taylor

Readers

March 3 Hope Norton

March 10 Ruth Janet Taylor

March 17 Bob Cannon

March 24 Kate Desmond and Emma Fuller

March 31 Bob Cannon and Jim Schell



CHURCH DIRECTORY

First Congregational Church of Rockport, UCC

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Rockport, Massachusetts 01966

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During non-business hours:

Rev. Derek van Gulden can be reached at (508) 818-0616 or revdvan@yahoo.com

The Old Sloop's Log

Susan Lillis, Editor

Please submit articles to:
oldslooplog@rockportucc.org

**** All articles are due on the
18th of each month. ****

Church Office Hours

Tuesday – Friday
9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship Service

Nursery Care is available

Sunday School

10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Church Staff

Pastor

Rev. Derek van Gulden

Office Manager

Regina Reis

Music Director

Dr. Phil Swanson

Youth Choir Director

Kristina Martin

Youth director and Interim Christian Ed. Director

Kaitlyn Welch

Sexton

Phil Bynarowicz