

# 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,

As I sat down with my calendar last evening I got really excited about all wonderful things we have planned for Church this coming fall. There is our 'welcome back worship service on Sunday' September 15 with Jazz on the green after worship, Family Promise week starting that same day, youth group staring back up, and the continuation of our Wednesday Night Pot Luck/Community Meal, and of course the new season of The Old Sloop Coffee House. On October thirteenth we will be welcoming an exhibit of thirty stoles from the Rain Bow of Stoles project. This fall will definitely be very busy.

In general I don't do well when my life becomes overly busy. When my "to do" list gets too long I often don't even know where to start. Seeing that list can be overwhelming. How am I supposed to do all this in one day? In my frustration I usually end up leaving the list on a pile of papers only to find it the next day. Every August as I look ahead into the fall I feel that summer has slipped away before I had a chance to enjoy it. At times such as these I turn to a little something a wise friend of mine wrote many Augusts ago:

*"How often we get wrapped up in thinking about what has been before what is yet to come. How often we neglect to look around us and live, simply live, in wonder of the present moment. And so God, we give you thanks for this day, this one perfect day, in a proliferation of summer days, this one perfect day that we hope to live to its fullest potential. And like plants, may we be strengthened by this awareness today, and grow from it, and stand up a little*

*straighter because of it, in this perfect summer day, in the midst of an abundance of perfect summer days."*  
Amen and thank you Roger.

I pray you all have a chance to take a deep breath, relax and enjoy this day, this wonderful summer day which God created. Breathe in the wonderful salt air, the dazzling sunsets, the sparkling sea glass on front beach, the slower pace of August. May you be blessed with moments of stillness to enjoy God's created beauty which surrounds you.

Shalom, Rev. Derek

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## TRUSTEES

### Meeting Minutes: June 10, 2019

**Trustee Meeting** – called to order at 6:58 PM. Rev Derek opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

**Absent:**

- **Minutes:** Minutes from the May 8, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Bruce presented the Treasurer's Report and noted income from pledges has fallen behind but is expected to improve as the year progresses. He also suggested the income from the Restricted Endowment Fund for Flowers be designated to the Operating Account to help cover the cost of flowers. Trustees approved.
- **Monthly Reviews:**
  - Bank Statements:** Walt will review beginning with January.
  - PEX Statements:** Latest PEX statement was not available. Bonnie will follow up with Regina.

**Old Business:**

- **Narthex Improvement Project** – Building Study Committee will add 2 ad-hoc members (Jim Schell and Chip Kistner) to assist with the Narthex Project. There is some concern the upcoming painting project could disrupt some renovations in the Narthex. Bill will monitor.
- **Exit Door Replacement** – Still waiting for delivery of doors.
- **Remaining Steeple Work** – The ladder has been installed and all roof penetrations have been completed. The only remaining work is to paint the sprinkler pipes and the Verizon wires. There is a question if the current lightning rod wires are sufficiently grounded.

- **Sanctuary Ceiling Paint** – Spittle Electric will provide a lift that will allow the Building Science Corporation (BSC) representative access to inspect the ceiling. Awaiting a date from BSC.
- **Front Façade** – No update from Building Study Committee.
- **Verizon Progress** – Geof and Bill met with Verizon representative to discuss some issues noted with the work completed by their contractor. Verizon agreed to donate \$5,000 to the church to remedy the items identified as well as to complete the landscape restoration that is now delayed due to the town wide watering ban. Trustees will review the sign-off document prior to final approval.
- **Steeple Lighting** – No update from John Weaver.
- **Critical Incident Committee Update** – The Emergency Procedure Policy has been reviewed by Cabinet. CIC will work to incorporate the submitted input.
- **Funding for New Website** – No update.

#### New Business:

- **Capital Campaign Update** – Cabinet requested a progress report on the projects associated with the Capital Campaign as well as other significant projects funded by Major Maintenance. Bonnie and Bruce developed an update that will be published in the June Log and included in the bulletin.
- **Armoire** – An armoire has been donated to the church. The Deacons have asked to have it placed in the Sacristy to store linens and will move the existing cabinet to the choir loft for storage. Trustees have approved.
- **Baptismal Font** – Bill expressed concern about moving the extremely heavy font. Rev. Derek suggested purchasing a new more usable font and putting the existing one in storage and will investigate.
- **Grand Piano** – Great care must be used in moving the piano due to a broken leg.

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 7:48pm.

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

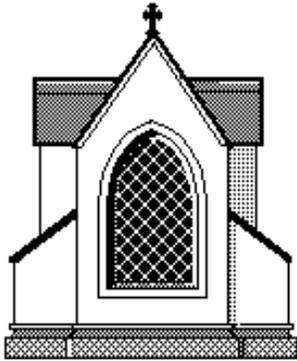
Walter Vining

Chair, Board of Trustees

Mark Jurewicz

Recording Secretary





## Stewardship Committee

### Meeting Minutes June 16, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 4:35PM

Present: Louisa Casadei-Johnson, Kathie McCarthy, Rev. Derek and Fred Witte

Absent: Marcia Myers and Joe Chambers

Rev. Derek opened the meeting with a prayer.

It was noted that the Shea's fundraiser on May 16<sup>th</sup> set a record for that type of fundraiser.

Discussion ensued regarding the need to more transparency as it relates to detailed pledging information. Derek presented 2 advantages to his knowledge of the details.

One to be able to plan for emergency situations such as a life event that would prevent a person from fulfilling a pledge. In that case knowing the facts, etc. would help plan for a shortfall.

Second it would be beneficial to know who the people are who pledge larger sums so they could share their rationale of why they are generous supporters with others. This sharing of what motivates them could motivate others to increase their commitment.

An example of the transparency at another UCC church is that of The First Congregational Church of Natick where policy permits the Pastor to be able to review the pledges with the Chair of the Stewardship committee, quarterly at a minimum. This gives the Pastor an idea of how things are going which is precisely the first point that Derek made.

The take away from the discussion is that Derek will draft the by-law change to be reviewed by the committee and perhaps be voted on at a special meeting rather than wait for the annual meeting.

We discussed the early returns of the response to Louisa's outreach to people as to why they pledge.

Louisa will contact the Trustees so we can be involved in the budget process for 2020 and be able to have more information when the 2020 Stewardship campaign starts in early Fall.

We discussed raffle baskets at length. The basket will be prepared by each committee and raffled off at the Old Sloop Fair. Stewardship will also have a basket with a "Wine" theme.

Joe is leading the charge at the Cabinet meetings.

The next meeting is tentatively set for Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:30PM

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Witte

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### Stewardship Log August

July is always a busy month for our church. The Old Sloop Fair brings together many hands as the congregation creates our biggest fundraiser of the year. This year the Stewardship Committee organized a raffle that included seven gift baskets designed by various friends and committees. We thank the Deacons for donating a breakfast basket which included gift cards to Brothers Brew and Common Crow in addition to the fixings for a month of breakfasts, coffees and teas! We are also grateful to the Outreach Committee which donated a beach-themed basket with towels, a Vera Bradley tote, games and beverages. Our own Stewardship Committee organized a wine basket which included wines and appetizers donated by Steve and Sigi Lindo and committee members. Other baskets were put together with donations from John Frisone, Susan Lillis, Regina Reis, Peter Goodwin, Hula Moon, Brothers Brew, the Blue Lobster, Brackett's, and the Atlantis. THANKS TO ALL! The raffle made \$630 for the church's operating budget.

In a new initiative, the Stewardship Committee recently reached out to friends and members who pledge to ask them to share with us their thoughts about why they give to this church whose many missions are so important to us. One response we received was from Jill Carter, a church member who has moved to New Hampshire and is still a dear friend to the church. This letter was read to the Congregation on July 14 and brought smiles and feelings of gratitude. Several people asked for a copy so we are printing her thoughts below. Jill, we miss your presence, but we feel your spirit with us every Sunday. Thank you for your beautiful words. We will be sharing thoughts from another member next month.

If you'd like to share your thoughts about why you pledge, please mail your comments to the church office at **First Congregational Church, 12 School Street, Rockport, MA 01966, ATTN Stewardship** or email your thoughts to [stewardship@rockportucc.org](mailto:stewardship@rockportucc.org). Please put "WITNESS" in the subject line.

Enjoy the remainder of Summer on beautiful Cape Ann.

The Stewardship Committee,

Louisa Casadei-Johnson, Joe Chambers, Marcia Myers, Kathie McCarthy, and Fred Witte

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### A Love Letter from Hanover to Rockport

On Sundays, although I am here in Hanover, NH, sitting in a pew at St Thomas Episcopal Church, my mind and heart always return to Rockport -- to my former church home; the one with the Blue Doors and tall steeple.....literally worth its weight in \$\$\$! And I picture your faces, each of you sitting in your accustomed places – the faces of people who make up a congregation that is absolutely genuine in its commitment to live a life following in God's footsteps.

From across the miles my memories of those Sunday mornings are so clear. The WIDE SMILES welcoming whomever walks into that light-filled sanctuary. The MUSIC surrounding the historic worship space with such glory, that it's impossible not to be drawn together as though one voice.

Everything seems to come from the heart. The Passing of the Peace ROCKS, rowdy and affectionate. The DIVINE offerings after worship at Coffee Hour, not to mention Corinne's pies at Coffee House – what be the biggest draw: country music or pie and coffee?

I even miss Derek's endearing asides, spoken 'sotto voce' that I could never hear them.....and it was always SO frustrating.

All this with such lack of pretense. I think this is what I miss most. Perhaps the authenticity of your faith, so apparent to anyone walking through these (open and affirming) Blue Doors, has something to do with the Old Sloop's roots, embedded as they are in the town's history. Those New England virtues that prize straightforwardness, truthfulness and a generosity towards others – those virtues are STILL PRESENT.

For me, the First Congregational Church of Rockport represents the incredible grace of a single congregation that has never stopped TRYING, as best it can, to be a LIGHT to all it touches. That is reason enough to support The Old Sloop as long as I am able --- still mine in heart and memory.

Jill Carter

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## Membership Committee

### Get-Acquainted Gatherings

With

First Congregational Church of Rockport

“The Old Sloop”

SAVE THE DATES!

Wednesdays, October 2, 9 and 16

6:30-7:30 p.m.

The Morgan Room, at the 12 School Street entrance

If you are interested in learning more about “The Old Sloop”, wish to consider your faith journey, and wish to explore church membership, we invite you to join us for these gatherings with Membership Committee representatives and Pastor Derek.

You are welcome to come to Wednesday night potluck dinner, starting at 6:00, then hop on the elevator to the first floor to the Morgan Room.

If this time is not possible for you, we will make every effort to accommodate you.

Sincerely, The Membership Committee

Ruth Janet Taylor, Sigi Lindo, Jim Schell, Geof Lyon, Stephen Kalaghan

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### UCC Practices of Faith: Communion

We apologize! In the June/July Log, an important part of Membership's offering on Communion was omitted. Please excuse us! We hope you will read the following thoughtfully and prayerfully.

For each of the coming 12 months, the Membership Committee will be offering a writing on one of twelve practices of faith in the United Church of Christ. We hope that considering these writings will stimulate your thinking about your faith and the First Congregational Church of Rockport.

UCC sacraments are ritual actions in worship, which, according to Scripture, were instituted by Jesus. The two UCC sacraments are Communion and Baptism. This month, we explore the meaning and practice of Communion. We invite you to consider the following, whether you are new to the church or have been here a long time. If you would like to receive *Practices of Faith in the United Church of Christ*, with the UCC's pamphlets on each of the twelve practices, please contact the church office (978-546-6638).

#### The Sacrament of Communion:

The banquet of communion is a reminder of Jesus' life, death and resurrection by the sharing of his body and blood in symbolic ways. The breaking of bread reminds us of Christ's broken body, broken and sacrificed for all of humanity. The cup of life is shared as a symbol of the new life we received through Christ's resurrection. Communion is a very relational part of our faith. No matter if we partake of communion on a Sunday morning as part of our communal worship or in a hospital bed, or a private home it is always about community. By sharing the meal of communion we are joined together with Christ, with Christians throughout the world, and with all creation throughout time as members of the body of Christ.

Here at The First Congregational Church of Rockport we celebrate communion in two different ways on Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of each month. One Sunday all are invited to come forward to receive the elements, the bread and cup, individually. This enables each person to have a personal experience of God through communion. The next Communion Sunday the Deacons will bring the elements out to the congregation and we will partake of the bread and cup together in community. There are times throughout the year when at special services and or programs communion might be offered. During these times those in attendance are offered a chance to experience communion through intinction, (dipping of the bread into the cup). This is another way of celebrating communion which allows for a more personal experience.





## Christian Education Youth Ministry News

### Important Updates from Christian Ed

#### Youth Ministry

With the ever changing way that the world is running these days, and the busy lives of families, Rev. Derek and I have been meeting to discuss new ways to change things up from our traditional ways of our youth ministry program. We are looking at different ways to integrate the ages together.

One change coming to this year will be how youth group is scheduled. Traditionally it has been Sunday nights from 5-7, while Sundays are becoming increasingly busier with the only time families have together, time to catch up on homework, etc. This year we will be incorporating a once a month bible study before potluck, where we can dig into the word, and then all enjoy a meal together, both youth and adults. Another change/addition is we will be volunteering more regularly with Den Mar Nursing Home (it helps that one of our teens' mom is the activities director there!) Another change/addition will be a once a quarter babysitting night for the community, the teens share a great interest in doing this for the community and families appreciate the pretty inexpensive babysitting! The teens help plan, prep, and make this night happen. Lastly, Rev. Derek and I, along with our leaders, will be implementing a once a month (for now) storytelling through scripture worship night (times and dates TBD).

#### Sunday Mornings /Intergenerational Worship

Rev. Derek and I and the Christian Education Committee are also looking into new ways to be integrating our youth into the worship services every Sunday. We now have all youth stay in worship, and they have a worship busy cart to help with sitting in the service, and a worship binder explaining the lay of the service, Lord's prayer etc. It has been a great experience enjoying worship with our littlest ones, and even listening to Logan explain communion (he could possibly run a service by himself at this point!). In the future, we plan to take a field trip over to a couple of churches who have already started implementing intergenerational worship and what that looks like for them. We know that no two churches are alike, but it is nice to see how others are making it happen.

For those interested in reading more about intergenerational worship here is a link to an article that I really enjoyed.

<https://network.crcna.org/parenting/ten-ways-families-engage-kids-worship#.XS4uqfSHnuM.facebook>

This is also a powerful video about intergenerational relationships. (grab your tissues!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2d2vZV87YJM>

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## Christian Outreach Committee

### MEETING MINUTES JULY 14, 2019

Attending: Charlie Brackett, Marjorie Schell, Ann Kistner, Pastor Derek Van Gulden, Jay Reed

Meeting began at 10:30 with a prayer from the United Farm Workers.

There is about \$1500 in the treasury after disbursing the Rockport High School scholarships. Perhaps soon we will see a transfer from the Maclean-Hooper Fund to help us with those. I will inquire about the Pastor's Fund bank statement, which hasn't appeared lately.

We have a few events coming soon: Action lunches on 7/31, Open Door on 8/17.

We discussed North Shore Pride Parade in Salem on 6/22. Three of us from the church marched, there was a large crowd, and the weather was suitable.

We conducted a discussion about the war in Yemen after potluck on 6/26, hosted by the Social Justice subcommittee. Most of the pot luck guests stayed for that, Pastor Derek moderated a discussion after a documentary movie. Rev Sue helped us with that, also. We encouraged attendees to contact their congressional representatives to voice their concerns.

We discussed the Refugee Immigration Ministry Walk on 6/30. Maybe 25 or so attended despite the threatening weather. I haven't heard about the proceeds from that fund raiser, but I think the North Shore cluster realized about \$2,000.

At a Family Promise meeting on 6/27, assistant director Julie Dillard asked us to consider dates for retraining volunteers. At the retraining we will seek CORI information from the volunteers, because many of us have not been CORI'd since 2013. We expect that retraining sometime in August.

We discussed next steps for the Social Justice subcommittee, including planning an autumn worship service and discussion about affordable housing.

I thanked the committee for helping the Stewardship Committee with a fund raising basket for the Fair.

I attended an evening presentation about the Crisis at the Border at UUSR last week. Perhaps 100 people attended.

Pastor Derek says there will be a display of stoles from LGBTQ pastors sometime in October.

A visiting pastor will address the congregation at that time.

We will hold next month's meeting on August 11 after worship.

Meeting ended with thanks at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted, James Reed

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### MEMBERSHIP

#### MEETING MINUTES, JUNE 9, 2019

1. Present: Ruth Janet Taylor, Sigi Lindo, Geof Lyon, Jim Schell
  2. Ruth Janet opened with Prayer.
  3. Ruth Janet will meet with Pastor Derek about classes for new members, how many and what is to be covered. Jim Schell will meet with Liz to ask about the UCC, movie which we will review together.
  4. The pamphlets on Practices of Faith in the UCC will be looked at as part of our new membership meetings. Date TBD.
  5. Updates on Panels on Activities and People Geof discussed Information Panels (draft 1 March, 2019) research on what might work, Church activities, what should be covered and presentation that represents a "voice" of the Church. He indicated that the Cabinet needs to approve these panels and it may require some buy in, to get approval and participation from other committees. Geof and Jim will make a sample panel under "General category" of Staff Personnel. Panel will be needed by June 16, Cabinet meeting. Jim will ask Regina for pictures of Rev. Derek, Regina R., Phil S., Phil B., Katie W., Kristina M. Geof will look into obtaining Oak Board and what printing will be needed. We will be trying to meet the June 16 deadline. Other Panels for future may include Outreach, Music, Youth activities and all of these will require pictures and thoughts on presentation, *Update: Thanks to Geof Lyon the deadline was met and warmly received by the Cabinet.*
  6. Opening the Doors of the Church was discussed and might be possible with improvements to the Narthex including locked Sanctuary inner doors that have larger viewing windows. Walking tours could be arranged through the office with approval.
  7. JCS will check with Regina about how to get new summer hours in newspaper. Membership Meeting June 6, 2019 final
  8. Sigi and RJ will submit an article on Communion taken from (Practices of Faith in the UCC) to go to Log. This was approved by membership committee present.
  9. Next Meeting, July 25, 5pm at Church.
  10. Mary Cressey resigned from the Membership Committee because of her work scheduling and commitments. We will need to find a replacement for her.
- Respectfully submitted, Jim Schell

## RUMMAGE SALE

Thank you to all the Rummage Sale helpers. It was another successful rummage sale and outreach. Thanks to those of you that contributed clothing or linens, and lugged, sorted, or shopped with friends and family. We gratefully appreciate your time and effort to pass along your donations for others. As a church community your generosity benefits many people and animals both locally and from many locations around the world.

Thanks for giving your items and sharing your time.

The Rummage Sale Committee



Thank you to all of the Old Sloop Fair helpers, from White Elephant, Art Mart, Boutique, Jewelry and all of the speciality tables, raffle and snack bar. At this point the accumulated proceeds are \$18,534 although there are still some items being sold over the internet.

### Income/Expense Old Sloop Fair 2019

Boutique	\$2,454.50
Art Mart	\$2,411.00
Donation	\$1,000.00
Expenses	
Credit Card fees-\$	85.03
OSF Expenses-	\$ 279.62
Total Expenses-	(\$364.65)
Jewelry	\$3,471.23
Ken's Corner	\$ 368.75
Knits	\$ 401.00
Other	\$ 341.05
Raffle	\$ 630.00
Rummage	\$2,394.35
Snack Bar	\$1,499.05
White Elephant	\$2,187.50
Yard Sale	\$1,739.99
Net Ordinary Income	\$18,533.77



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## A Photo and video library for our A New Website for the Old Sloop Church

We are in the process of developing a new website for the church and will be gathering photos and producing videos of events and candid occurrences that represent church life here. We are establishing a “photo and video library” where you can deposit photos pertaining to various categories – the fairs and bazaars; worship services; youth activities; special events, such as weddings and baptisms; concerts, etc. We will notify you when we will be ready for contributions to this important part of this project and will provide the instructions you will need to load us up with your favorite images. In the meantime, sort through what you have in your stash. You’ll be hearing from us over the next few months.

## Weekly Church Events

WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
POTLUCK DINNER  
6 PM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL



THURSDAY MORNING  
BOOK GROUP  
MORGAN CONFERENCE ROOM  
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.



The Fellowship Hour Schedule for August  
August 4 Michelle Coates  
August 11 Debbie Welch and Kevin Love  
August 18 Karen Coffin & Marge Shell  
August 25 Darlene Spittle & Walter Vining

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.

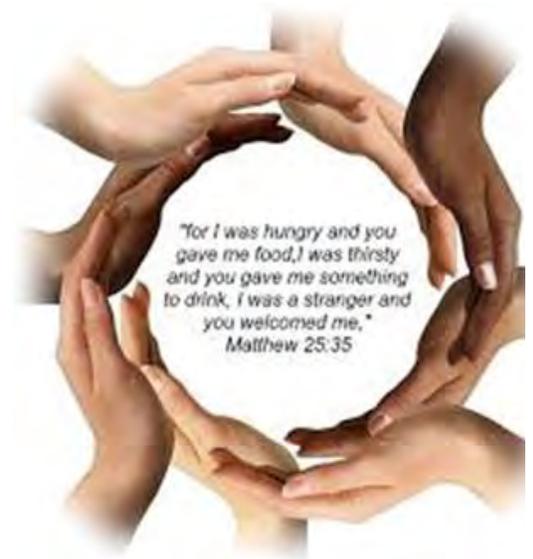
### With Gratitude for our Church Servants for July

#### Ushers

July 7 The Hurst Family  
July 14 The Hurst Family  
July 21 The McKenna/Kasten Family  
July 28 The Hurst Family

#### Readers

July 7  
July 14 Peter Goodwin  
July 21 Mary Cresse  
July 28 Jack Reed



## CHURCH DIRECTORY

### First Congregational Church of Rockport, UCC

12 School Street  
Rockport, Massachusetts 01966

Phone: (978) 546-6638

Email: [office@rockportucc.org](mailto:office@rockportucc.org)

Website: [www.rockportucc.org](http://www.rockportucc.org)

**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](mailto:oldslooplog@rockportucc.org)

**\*\* All articles are due on the  
18<sup>th</sup> of each month. \*\***

### Church Office Hours

Tuesday – Friday  
9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

### Sunday Worship Service

Nursery Care is available

### Sunday School

No Sunday School in  
August

### 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