

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 unconditionally. Therefore, we covenant to be an Open and Affirming congregation welcoming persons of every age, ability, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic 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.



Beloved,
Throughout my life and more so since I have been a pastor, I have watched the church push away and abandon many LGBTQ folks. Those shunned were dear friends, family members, co-workers, colleagues, and mentors. Many of my classmates in seminary shared their experiences of being unwelcomed by the congregations they had faithfully served as lay leaders or ordained clergy after they came out.

Hear the voice of one who cries out from the wilderness:

You

You baptized me.

You taught me in Sunday school about Good News.

You told me about Jesus who loved me and wanted me to follow his self-sacrificing lifestyle.

You watched me and encouraged me to go into the ministry.

You told me I'd make a good minister.

I followed your advice.

You tell me I'm a good minister.

I've spread the Good News about love.

I've served God's children in the streets of New York City, in the countryside of South America, in the suburbs of Mid-America.

I've served you, I've baptized your children.

I've married your family members.

I've sat and cried in the night with you as your spouse died, as your child overdosed, as you lost your job.

You've showered praise on me, telling me my actions are so Christ-like.

I reply that you taught me the Way, I'm only grateful to be alive and allowed to serve.

But what will you say when you find out I'm gay?

Will you cry with me and feel the rage my partner and I feel, knowing we can't share our love with the church we live and die for?

Will you sense the injustice of our church that tells me I'm slime, I'm a pervert, I'm not able to minister, when you know otherwise?

Will you feel the irony of a church that brands me promiscuous yet will not honor and support my monogamous relationship of five years?

Or will you forget who I am?

Your minister

Your counselor

Your friend.

You've used me.

I need you.

Speak the truth.

Please.

See me as I am.

Your brother in Christ.

David M.

(Excerpt from "Voices from the Silence," a litany based on stories from the stoles in the "Shower of Stoles Project")

About the "Shower of Stoles Project"

On October 13, we will welcome an exhibit of 30 stoles from the "Shower of Stoles Project." The stoles will be exhibited in the sanctuary through mid-November. The following is a brief history of the Shower of Stoles Project.

The Shower of Stoles Project is an extraordinary collection of over 1,000 liturgical stoles and other sacred items representing the lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people of faith. These religious leaders have served in 27 denominations and faith traditions, and come from six countries on three continents.

This collection celebrates the gifts of LGBTQ persons who serve God in countless ways, while also lifting up those who have been excluded from service because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The project bears witness to the huge loss of leadership that the church (*universal*) has brought upon itself because of its own unjust policies. The collection tours constantly around the country, being exhibited in local congregations, universities and seminaries, and regional and national denominational gatherings.

Project founder Martha Juillerat worked for years as a closeted Presbyterian minister in rural Missouri. When faced with the threat of being defrocked by the church in 1995 after coming out, she chose to set aside her ordination. It was important both for Martha and for her partner, Tammy Lindahl (herself a minister), to impress upon their presbytery the fact that they were only two of hundreds of LGBTQ people of faith who were active in the life and ministry of the church. They

asked LGBTQ friends and colleagues to send a stole to hang at the presbytery meeting on the day that she was to set aside her ordination. They were hoping to receive a couple of dozen stoles; instead they received 80 almost overnight! After that presbytery meeting the stoles kept coming, along with cards and letters. By the following spring, they had 200. Truly, this was taking on a life of its own.

The Shower of Stoles was first displayed in full at the 1996 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in Albuquerque, N.M. These stoles quickly became a powerful symbol of the huge loss to the church of gifted leadership. Since that time the project has become broadly ecumenical, working within dozens of denominations, faith traditions, and secular settings across the U.S. and Canada. The stoles in this collection represent people who have served churches in 31 denominations and faith traditions, in six countries, and on three continents.

In 2006, after 10 years of traveling with the collection – logging over a half-million miles on the road and almost a quarter-million in the air, while overseeing about 1,500 exhibits – Martha Juillerat retired and gave the Shower of Stoles to the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force's Institute for Welcoming Resources. The stoles continue to be exhibited across North America and online, bearing witness to the lives and voices of LGBTQ persons of faith who have been silenced by the church.

The Shower of Stoles mission statement and core objectives is as follows:

Mission Statement

To end religious discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people.

Core Objectives

The Shower of Stoles Project will use its collection of liturgical stoles and other sacred pieces from LGBTQ people and their supporters, each with its own individual story to

- educate people about the gifts of LGBTQ persons who serve God;
- support people, churches, denominations, and other groups in their quest to end discrimination against LGBTQ persons; and
- provide a voice for LGBTQ persons who cannot speak for themselves to religious communities.

A bible study to accompany this exhibit

In conjunction with the Shower of Stoles Project exhibition, I will be offering a bible study created for the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force's Institute for Welcoming Resources in partnership with the ecumenical Welcoming Church Programs using the resource "**Hearts Unbound: Engaging Biblical texts of God's Radical Love through Reader's Theater**" by David R. Weiss.

This program will start on Tuesday, Oct. 8 and will meet once a week through November 19. We will start at 5 p.m. and end by 6:30 p.m. I hope you will all join me. If you have any questions, please contact me at the church office or call my cell phone at 508-818-0616.

Shalom,

Rev. Derek

Boston Handel and Haydn Society

“Messiah”

G. F. Handel

Monday, December 2, 2019

7:00 p.m.

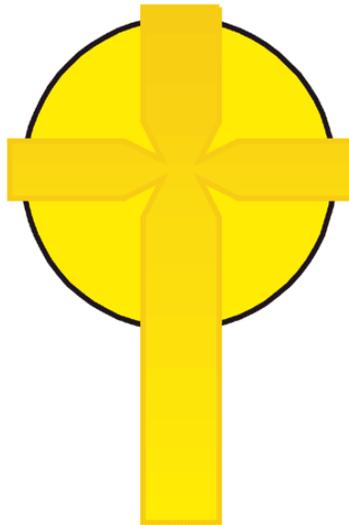
First Congregational Church of Rockport

Sanctuary

We are thrilled to announce that Handel's iconic *Messiah*, a treasured holiday tradition, will be performed by the incomparable Handel and Haydn Society in a special chamber arrangement for 13-member chamber orchestra and chorus led by Associate Conductor Ian Watson.

This performance, held in the sanctuary, is part of our developing relationship with Rockport Music.

General admission tickets are available by contacting the Rockport Music box office 978-546-7391 or the website, rockportmusic.org. Tickets are already available and are expected to sell quickly.



CABINET**Meeting Minutes September 15****Subject to Approval**

Present: Jack Reed, Moderator and Christian Education Committee; Rev. Derek van Gulden, Pastor; Sue Herron, Diaconate; Bonnie Gray, Trustees; Rev. Liz Rice-Smith, Historian; Bruce Coats, Treasurer; Stewardship Committee; Jay Reed, Treasurer of Mission Funds; Stephen Kalaghan, Christian Outreach Committee; Bob Cannon, Music Committee; Lou Cannon, Personnel Committee; Jim Schell, Membership Committee and recording secretary.

Handouts: Agenda; Meeting of Church Cabinet September 15, 2019 Meeting Minutes - Subject to Approval; Year to Date Operating Summary and Cash and Investment Summary August 31, 2019; FCCR/UCC Critical Incident Safety Policy.

Action, Discussion, and Follow-up Items:

1. Declaration of a quorum, approval of minutes 8/25/19
2. Emergency Procedures Policy - Bob Cannon
3. Membership Committee request for input for panels
4. The Bell Ringing at Night
5. Modifying the Policy concerning Access to pledge/gifts information
6. Safe Church Policy:
7. New Business and Action Items;

1.) Declaration of a quorum, approval of minutes.

Moderator Jack Reed observed that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 7:02PM. Rev. Derek Van Gulden led the Cabinet in prayer.

The August 25, meeting minutes needed a few corrections. Pastor Derek Report corrected the name Rainbow of Stoles Project; The Diaconate has authorized up to \$2,000.00 be taken from the Living Memorial Fund to be used to buy a Baptismal Font; Charting the future Report: Discussion/ "High School" needs changed to "non secular"

2.) Emergency Procedures Policy - Bob Cannon

A well thought out Draft was presented **First Congregational Church of Rockport/UCC (FCCR) Critical Incident Safety Policy**

The prime objective of this policy is to promote the safety and security of congregants, staff and other building users at the First Congregation Church of Rockport.

High lights:

1. **Overview:** "Policies specified herein do not supersede in any way the FCCR Bylaws or the Safe Church Policies and Procedures."

2. Responsibilities: "It is the responsibility of the Trustees to reasonably anticipate and put in place practical procedures necessary for addressing Critical Incident Safety issues."

Safety Center: A clearly identified Safety Center will be installed and maintained in Fellowship Hall near the door leading to the elevator and restrooms.

a. It will include **Emergency Procedure Instructions**

b. **Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and First Aid Kit.**

c. **Training** all of the above needs training to apply correctly

d. **Periodic Review and Upgrades** is the responsibility of the Trustees.

e. **Person in Charge.** All activities should have an assigned responsible person.

f. **Reception Center.** FCCR is the designated location for Level 3 evacuation of Rockport High School and Middle School.

3. Firearms and other Weapons: "Artifacts for violence are not permitted in the FCCR Church building or anywhere on FCCR property."

4. Reporting:

Reporting of all critical incidents is the responsibility of the Person In Charge (PIC) of any activity in the Church. The Pastor, Trustees or Cabinet should be notified as soon as possible.

Discussion:

A noteworthy point was made that **Procedures** are dynamic and always actively changing and updated to what works best. **Policy** should follow what the Procedures indicate is Best Practice, consistent with FCCR values. Pictorial and graphic images help in emergency conditions.

Some announcements should be included in the Log and possibly the Sunday Bulletin.

3.) Officer Reports

Pastor Derek: The **Harvest Fest** is on October 19, and Derek has obtained a table for the Church. He will need volunteers and support. An exhibit from Rainbow of Stoles Project will be on display.

Treasurer: Bruce Coates stated that the operating budget has some timing issues due to investment income delay but is not in bad shape. There could be a \$3,000.00 shortfall by years' end.

Treasurer of Mission Funds: Jay Reed reported that the Outreach Treasury has \$2,900. Outreach receipts are also behind. Budget is low but will improve in fall.

Historian: Report- Rev. Liz Rice-Smith received many complements on the Church history. She has continued work on the 400th anniversary of Pilgrims landing in Provincetown and settling Plimoth Colony.

4.) Committee Reports

Diaconate: It was voted up to \$2,000.00 be taken from the Living Memorial Fund to be used to buy a Baptismal Font. Replacing the Bibles in the Sanctuary is being discussed. Current Bibles are not in good condition.

Trustees: Bonnie Gray reported that there has been a request to use the Church for photos on December 7 as part of Santa's arrival in Rockport. This is also the week for the Christmas Fair and could be very beneficial for the Church.

Outreach Committee: Stephen Kalaghan reported that Community Potluck has been well attended, Family Promise started this week Sept.15th with 3 families.

Old Sloop Fleet: Liz Rice Smith noted there is still needs for volunteers for Rides and Other Miracles.

Christian Education Committee: Should take the lead on Faith Formation director, and make recommendations.

Stewardship Committee: No report.

Membership Committee: Jim Schell reported that the dates and times for new members will be scheduled for October. Jim will notify by E-mail the committee chairs what will be needed from them to complete The Panels for Committee activities, and where supplies could be purchased.

Personnel Committee: Lou Cannon reported that the cost to the employee for the maternity/paternity leave and long term medical leave will be 0.378% of their wages.

New Business Action Items: There was a discussion on who has access to the information on amounts pledged and donated to the church. The discussion was initiated by the pastor with support from the Stewardship Committee and Diaconate. Pastor Derek will draft a proposed resolution which would allow the pastor, chair of the Deacons and chair of the Stewardship Committee to have access to the fore mentioned information. He will present the resolution to the cabinet for further discussion with the goal of bringing it before the congregation at the 2020 annual meeting in January.

Jack Reed has E-mailed the Nominating committee about the next meeting, Sept.29th.

Respectfully submitted

Jim Schell



TRUSTEES

Meeting Minutes: September 16, 2019

Trustee Meeting – called to order at 7:03 PM. Derek opened the meeting with a prayer.

Present: Bruce Coates, Treasurer; Bill Elwell; Kevin Love; Rev. Derek van Gulden; Mark Jurewicz; Bonnie Gray; Walter Vining; Chip Kistner; Louisa Casadei-Johnson, Stewardship

Absent: Geof Lyon, Building Study Committee

- **Minutes:** Minutes from the August 12, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved. Due to scheduling conflicts the July 8th meeting was not held.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Bruce presented the Treasurer's Report and noted income remains behind budget for various reasons but he expects a deposit from the Humphrey Fund and an increase in pledge income as we move into fall. Monthly bank statements are now received electronically. Bruce will forward to Regina to print and file.
- **Monthly Reviews:**
 - **Bank Statements:** Walt has reviewed May & June with no significant issues noted. Kevin will review July and August. The monthly bank statement folder will now be made available at each Trustee meeting to facilitate it's review.
 - **PEX Statements:** Bonnie has reviewed and noted an unauthorized charge from Dropbox. She will check with Geof Lyon when he returns from vacation.

Old Business:

- **Narthex Improvement Project** – Bill will begin weather stripping work on the blue doors and will solicit estimates for painting and lighting upgrades in preparation for the December 2nd Handel and Haydn concert. The existing rugs will also be replaced. Bonnie will contact the decorating committee for paint color recommendations.
- **Exit Door Replacement** – Incorrect doors were delivered and returned. Installation is now projected to be in October.
- **Sanctuary Ceiling Paint** – Formal report has been received from the Building Science Corporation (BSC). A recommendation was made to “test paint” several areas of the ceiling utilizing different paint types and methods. Bill Elwell & Associates will provide labor to paint the test areas.
- **Front Façade** – No update from Building Study Committee.
- **Verizon Progress** – Expecting \$5,000 check from Verizon to complete miscellaneous tasks including replacement of gate, fencing and landscaping.
- **Steeple Lighting** – Funding for this project has been secured through a very generous targeted donation.
- **Critical Incident Committee Update** –The revised Emergency Procedure Policy has been approved by the Cabinet. The CIC will begin work on training plans.
- **Funding for New Website** – The committee continues to evaluate cost options from four different vendors. Funding for the project has potentially been found.

New Business:

- **Stewardship Discussion** – Trustee's process to develop a balanced church budget was reviewed with Louisa. She requested an estimated amount needed from pledges for operating expenses, major maintenance expenses and outreach expenses. These figures will be provided as soon as possible. Stewardship will address the importance of maintaining a balanced budget during the fall campaign.

- **Concert Preparation** – In addition to the Narthex facelift the area behind the cross will be repainted (existing color), Walter will coordinate cleaning of the pineapple pediment, the short pew will be reinforced and the concert will be added to the events calendar.
- **Use of Space Request** – A use of space request for a musical event was denied due to its political overtones.
- **Requests from Cabinet** – Bonnie reported that the Cabinet has requested an audit be conducted of all key holders. Derek will discuss with Regina. They also have requested a listing of all subcommittees that report to the Trustees. The current subcommittees are – Building Study Committee, Finance Committee, Investment Committee, Critical Incident Committee, History Committee and the Decorating Committee.
- **Parsonage Issues** – Derek identified several overgrown bushes he plans to remove and replace with Holly bushes. He also reported severe deterioration of the concrete apron and floor in the garage. Bill and Walter will evaluate.
- **Solar Project** – Derek was approached by the Town Green 2025 organization and a solar power organization who assist nonprofits realize cost savings from solar power. He will keep the Trustees informed.

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 8:24pm.

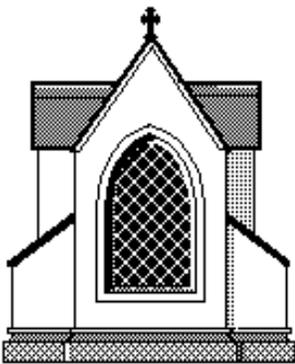
The next scheduled meeting of the Trustees will be Monday, October 21, 2019.

Walter Vining

Chair, Board of Trustees

Mark Jurewicz

Recording Secretary



Stewardship Committee

STEWARDSHIP—LOG OCTOBER 2019

The harvest season of abundance is the perfect time to launch our annual stewardship pledge campaign. We are grateful to those of you who choose to pledge and hopeful for your continued support in 2020. This year we continue to focus on our mission of *Living the Love and Justice of Jesus through Scripture, Story, Service and Song*. During worship from October 20- November 10, you will hear from four witnessing stewards who will share their stories about their relationship with The First Congregational Church and why they choose to support it. Through these conversations, we get to know our church family better and learn more about the many ways the church speaks to us.

We are looking forward to Rockport's Harvestfest on Saturday, October 19 as the town welcomes autumn with food and drink, music, and entertainment. The Old Sloop will have a booth with information about the church, and the Stewardship Committee will be selling "Rockport Cooks," a compilation of recipes from the congregation's best bakers!

Enjoy this beautiful season between the dog days of summer and the upcoming New England chill!

Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes—September 10, 2019

The meeting began at 4:35PM.

Members present: Derek, Louisa, Kathy, Joe and Fred; Members absent: Marcia

Derek started the meeting with a prayer.

We discussed the opportunity of working at the table that the church will have with other non-profits at the Harvestfest on October 19th. We will discuss that further at the next meeting on October 8th.

The minutes of the June 24th meeting were unanimously approved with the correction of a typo.

We discussed the success of the baskets created by many committees that were raffled off at the Old Sloop Fair. That effort resulted in \$600 in income.

Major agenda items:

Stewardship campaign.

We will kick off the Stewardship campaign on October 20th and end it on November 17th with an expanded coffee hour.

The theme will be "Living the Love and Justice of Jesus through Scripture, Story, Service and Song". The plan is to have witnessing stewards who will speak to those four (4) worship concepts.

We discussed possible people who would speak as witnesses at each of the 4 services on 10/20, 10/27, 11/3, and 11/10.

Louisa will draft letters addressed to current pledgers, new pledgers and those who donate but do not pledge. She will also meet with Geof Lyon who helps with the mailings by creating the personalized pledge cards, processing the various mailing lists, and merging them with the mailing.

Pledge Confidentiality

We discussed the possibility of a resolution to be presented to the congregation to allow the minister and stewardship chair to see pledge amounts. There is no bylaw regarding this issue and the current policy was adopted at the 2015 Annual Meeting. Therefore, the policy is based on a resolution voted on by the congregation.

After a brief discussion about the benefits, the Stewardship committee unanimously endorsed the change in policy which will allow the pastor and the chair of the Stewardship Committee to have access to pledge details. Derek will draft the resolution for the annual meeting in January 2020.

Fellowship Fundraiser

Joe will investigate our options for the next fellowship dinner and fundraiser at the Fish Shack.

The next meeting date is October 8th.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10PM.

--Louisa Casadei-Johnson for the Stewardship Committee

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

Practices of Faith in the UCC

Working for Justice

For each of the coming 10 months, the Membership Committee will continue to offer a writing on one of twelve practices of faith in the United Church of Christ. We hope that considering these will stimulate your thinking about your faith and the First Congregational Church of Rockport (FCCR).

This month we provide an overview of the UCC's and our church's deep involvement in issues of social justice. This material combines language from the UCC's pamphlet with portions of a history of FCCR's involvement in social justice dating back to before the Civil War, provided by Reverend Doctor Elizabeth Rice-Smith, our church's Historian.

We invite you to read 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).

Foundation

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship...

You promise to all who trust you...

Courage in the struggle for justice and peace.

--from the *United Church of Christ*

Statement of Faith

What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with your God?

--*Micah 6:6*

How have United Church of Christ members worked for justice?

The United Church of Christ has declared itself to be a Just Peace Church and throughout its history, members of the United Church of Christ and its predecessor bodies have sought to respond to situations of injustice, human suffering, and need through works of justice and mercy. We have worked to respond to human rights abuses, oppression, and discrimination, to advocate and organize for change as well as provide direct service ministries.

As Christian people, we are called to work against conditions which diminish human dignity, deny basic human rights, limit opportunities for full human expression, and widen the gap between rich and poor.

FCCR is an active leader in social justice issues on many fronts: advocacy and action; programs for service to rectify the impact of injustice; the arts; worship and prayer; public witness; participation in campaigns to fund local, regional, national and global efforts; history exhibits; and our Open and Affirming (ONA) covenant, which now extends our welcoming hospitality and inclusivity affirming statement to refugees and immigrants. The introductory book for our church, *Our Ministries*, details the many outreach/mission projects with which we are involved. If you haven't seen this, ask Membership for one! A sampling of FCCR projects includes,

Advocacy & Action, our Outreach Committee's Campaign addresses contemporary US border concerns, issues, and realities as part of the **national UCC effort, Faithful Witness for the Border;**

At FCCR we are active in the areas of Climate and Creation Justice, recently joining with other faith based, civic, local governmental, youth school based, and other groups participating with Cape Ann Climate Crisis action group as part of Town Green 2025.

FCCR has built and sustained hospitality with the Family Promise Program since 2013.

We have participated in the UCC's Neighbors in Need mission, supporting ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

How has the UCC reached out to others?

The Bible tells us (Ephesians 2:11-22) that in Christ people are no longer strangers, and that we all can belong in God's household. In this spirit, the United Church of Christ is working hard to become a multiracial and multicultural church, accessible to all, in which all people can feel at home. The UCC's General Synod has affirmed the membership and gifts for ordained ministry of gay and lesbian people. UCC churches respond to changing neighborhoods by sharing their facilities with recent immigrants. UCC members help refugees establish new lives in the U.S., support public policies which are more welcoming of immigrant groups, oppose racist stereotypes at the office and

in leisure activities, and in other ways acknowledge that because we are one in Christ, we each must bear one another's burdens.

Justice for all is not a new concept in the United Church of Christ and particularly the FCCR. In 1843, a year after the town turned over the meetinghouse to the church, the congregation voted a resolution of support for abolition, nearly 20 years before the outbreak of the Civil War. The congregation was a powerful recruiting station during the Civil War. Rockport's people contributed significantly to that war effort.

In the 1960s, the UCC played an active role in the civil rights movement in an effort to make all parts of our society home for all citizens. FCCR recently exhibited a collection of Civil Rights icons celebrating the sacrifices and achievements of leaders in the Civil Rights effort.

Through our Open and Affirming Covenant, FCCR has affirmed God's vision of unity through Christ to people of color, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered people, people with disabilities, refugees, and migrants.

How can we be involved in justice ministries?

Many justice issues are being addressed by the United Church of Christ as an ongoing commitment and response to the call of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. FCCR has responded on many fronts with many projects. In some efforts, such as Family Promise, sheltering the temporarily homeless, we welcome the participation of other congregations. At other times, like RIM, the Refugee Immigration Ministry, the church works with national and regional groups, and national UCC ministries to advocate and press for change.

The struggle for justice has always been integral to our faith commitment. From the UCC's Reformed tradition comes the idea that God is sovereign over all of creation and history. This means nothing is beyond the proper concern of the church. On the other hand, it also means that our own discernment around justice issues in the world is subject to God's judgment as well. From God comes courage to continue the struggle!



Christian Education Youth Ministry News

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Wednesday, October 2	5:15	S.O.A.P. (potluck to follow)
Sunday, October 6	10:00	Worship with Children in Service
	5:00	Youth Group: 1 st Rhythm Week
Sunday, October 13	10:00	Worship with Children in Service
		No Youth Group
Sunday, October 20	10:00	Worship with Children in Service
	5:00	Youth Group: 2 nd Rhythm Week
Sunday, October 27	10:00	Worship with Children in Service
		No Youth Group (RHS Play)

Important Updates from Christian Education

S.O.A.P. (Scripture, Observation, Application and Prayer). Please join me and Rev. Derek for our first Wednesday night S.O.A.P all ages bible study. We will be exploring through scripture, and looking at ways that the story is within our own lives. All welcome!

"You're a good man Charlie Brown. Come and support our high schoolers in this Rockport High School Musical on October 25, 26 and 27.

CE Curriculum. For the first half of the year we will be using Orange Curriculum "Rhythm" series. Could there be more to worship than just singing songs at church or being a part of youth group? In this series, we'll find out what it looks like to worship.

Looking ahead!**Community Babysitting Night**

Friday November 8th we will be hosting a Community Babysitting night! It will be open to pre-k through 5th graders (6th-12th graders welcome to volunteer). Price is \$8 if you RSVP ahead of time (check the Facebook page @rockportucc) for the link and more information. Or \$10 if you pay at the door. \$25 cap for three or more children per family (CASH or CHECK)

Sunday, November 24th 5:00-7:00 pm will be our annual pie bake for open door. Weeks leading up to it we will be looking for cash donations to help buy supplies for the pies! We are always looking for volunteers to come and help!



Christian Outreach Committee

MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 22

Present: Jay Reed, Stephen Kalaghan, Ann Kistner, Darlene Spittle, Marjorie Schell, Rev. Derek Van Gulden. Jay called the meeting to order with a prayer-poem.

Treasurer's Report: The balance in the Wider Mission Treasury at the end of August was \$2416.45 with total disbursements of \$1880.00. Budgeted recipients included the Massachusetts Conference, UCC- Basic Support (\$1180.00), as well as the Massachusetts Council of Churches (\$300.00) and the North Shore Health Project (\$400.00). Discussion took place regarding donating \$200.00 to the Bahamas hurricane relief effort. \$200.00 will be donated at this time.

Pastor's Fund: Bruce Coates will give Jay the current balance.

Pot Luck Dinners - Currently the dinners are attended by approximately 20 people. More posters describing the event will continue to be distributed around town.

Family Promise: Our next Family Promise host week is 11/17/19 – 11/24/19.

Family Promise Walk to End Homelessness: This occurs on 10/12/19. Sponsors are needed.

Neighbors in Need: There is a current need for a Mission Moment during the church service regarding Neighbors in Need. Jay addressed the fact that there are many causes that could use our support. Anyone who was interested in speaking on this was encouraged to do so.

Andrew Defranza/ Harborlight Community Partners: Andrew Defranza will be at the church on 10/20/19, as a representative of Harborlight Community Partners, which focuses on affordable housing. He will run a questions and answers session after coffee hour.

Nominations: Karen Coffin is resigning from the committee. Discussion followed regarding replacing her position.

Next Meeting: October 13.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kistner

Weekly Church Events

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
POTLUCK DINNER
6 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL



POTLUCK DINNER

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



The Fellowship Hour Schedule for October

October 6 Liz Rice-Smith
October 13 Diane Westman & Joe Chambers
October 20 Celene & Geof Lyon
October 27 Michelle Coates

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 September

Ushers

The month of September Linda and Steve Rowell

Readers

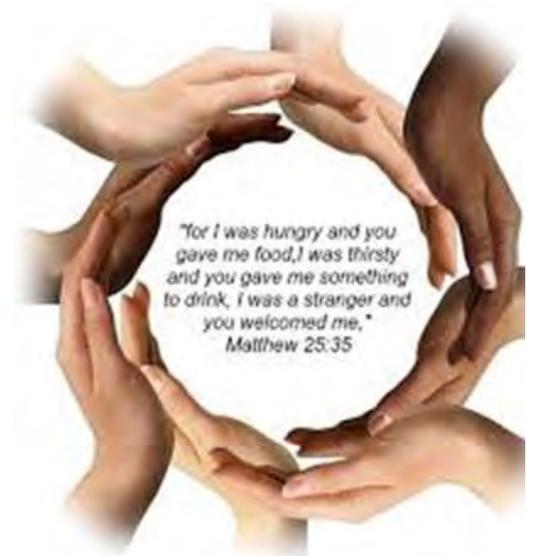
September 1 Joe Chambers

September 8 Liz Rice-Smith

September 15 Bob Cannon

September 22 Barbara Reed

September 29 Jack Reed



CHURCH DIRECTORY

First Congregational Church of Rockport, UCC

12 School Street
Rockport, Massachusetts 01966

Phone: (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**

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

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