

# 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,

Welcome to the season of Lent. This year we will be guided on our Lenten journey by Psalm 52:4-5.

*"Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow. Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you.*

We began our 40-day journey through Lent with a contemplative Ash Wednesday service written by Conference Minister for Missouri Mid-South Conference, UCC, Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel. We were invited to reflect on these words, specifically: *"Ash Wednesday is about leaving baggage behind and braving the unknown carrying nothing but the mark of God's beloved."* Each of us present were invited to share what baggage we hoped to leave behind.

Since Wednesday I have been contemplating the idea of leaving baggage behind and what weights me down the most. What gets in my way of having a deeper connection with God? Sin, which to me is any actions, or words which harm any aspect of creation and thus God. Sin leads us away from a right relationship with God. When we sin, we not only hurt others, but ourselves as well. How does one leave sin behind? By confessing to God. I offer the following prayer of confession.

*“Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open us to a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus the Christ we pray. Amen.” (The UCC Book of Worship)*

What “baggage” do you hope to leave behind as we journey through the season of Lent together?

Shalom, Rev. Derek

### UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MARCH

March 21                    One Great Hour of Sharing

March 28                    Palm Sunday

March 28-April 4        *Holy Week*

Sunday March 28<sup>th</sup> - Palm Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am

Tuesday March 30<sup>th</sup>- Vespers 8:00 pm

Thursday April 1<sup>st</sup> - Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm

Friday April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Good Friday Service 7:00 pm

Sunday April 4<sup>th</sup> – Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service at Good Harbor Beach 6 am

Sunday April 4<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am

If anyone is interested in taking part in any of these Holy Week Services, please contact either Rev. Derek at the church or via e-mail or Katie Welch.

## WHAT'S NEW?

### THRIVING CONGREGATIONS

This year our church was fortunate enough to be invited by the denomination to join the Thriving Congregations Initiative, a United Church of Christ program locally, regionally (Southern New England Conference), and nationally. The ultimate aim of Thriving Congregations is to help congregations thrive by strengthening ministries that help churches deepen their relationships with God, enhance their connections with each other, and contribute to the flourishing of their communities and the world. Here at the First Congregational Church of Rockport we are exploring how we perceive thriving based on our Covenant and Open and Affirming statement.

#### **The Committee**

**Chair:** *Debbie Welch*- Convene team meetings, build meeting agendas, and coordinate efforts with assigned coach

**Trend Researcher:** *Katie Welch*- Glean learnings from books, articles, and blogs; share insights with team members.

**Data Researcher:** *Liz Rice-Smith*- Gather church & community data through research, surveys, interviews & focus groups.

**Communicator:** *Leap Kasten*- Share monthly updates on projects via newsletter, e-news, website, & social media.

**Leadership List Manager:** *Kate Desmond*- Create leadership email distribution list, send monthly updates on progress, key decisions made, next steps, and how church leaders can help support projects goals.

**Systems Reviewer:** *Andrena Huntsman*- Gather information about the church's norms and practices related to staffing, structure, leadership development, and communications.

*Leap Kasten*

*Communicator, Thriving Congregations Committee*

### CONSIDER BECOMING PART OF THE OLD SLOOP FLEET

For the past fourteen years now, your Old Sloop Fleet has been sailing all kinds of seas: calm, nor'easter, stormy, high and low tides, balmy warm and frigid cold. Your "crew captains," Wendy Woodbury, Celene Lyon, Ruth Janet Taylor, David Emerson, and Liz Rice-Smith coordinate with countless volunteers to bring cheer, comfort, congratulations, support and assistance within the life of our congregation. Also coordinating closely with Pastor Derek and the Diaconate co-chairs, Camilla Ayers and

Jim Schell, your Old Sloop Fleet is always quietly busy. Recently, your Old Sloop Fleet sent a bouquet of Red, White, and Blue flowers with a note of warm congratulations to Cecile Woodbury, wife of Matt Woodbury, mother of Mary Woodbury, and daughter-in-law of Wendy and Mark Woodbury at this special time of her becoming a United States citizen! What good news! Cecile sent this lovely note to all of us:

Dear Old Sloop Fleet,

Thank you so much to the Old Sloop congregation for sending the beautiful bouquet of flowers to me. It was such a thoughtful and generous gesture of you, all! It really caught me by surprise and I couldn't be more happy, when I received it.

The flowers have been holding very well and are still brightening our days in this difficult start of 2021.

Thank you again to the Old Sloop Clan!

I wish you peace and good health in the New Year.

Sincerely,

Cecile

January 14, 2021

**If you would like to explore helping with the Old Sloop Fleet efforts, reach out to one of the crew captains listed above.**

**OLD SLOOP LIVING HISTORY** with Dr. Liz Rice-Smith

**Living History! Paving the Way for our 400th Commemorative/1620-1621.**

November, 2020 marked 400 years since our Congregationalist, "Separatist" forebears arrived at the tip of what we now call Massachusetts, instead of arriving in Virginia, which was their planned destination. And this November, 2021, we will commemorate the 400th years since our forebears first shared a harvest feast with the Wampanoag people of Patuxet/Plimoth, on Thanksgiving Day. Each of our congregations in the United Church of Christ does well to search deeply into the past; to know where we came from; to search how our past lives in us; to reflect on, repent what went wrong while honoring, enlivening, and renewing all that our faith invites us to celebrate.

And there was quite a history, which led to this adventure of emerging Congregationalism in North America.

In reading the several histories which our congregation's historians have written over the years, I noted that on August 1, 1940, when Europe was embroiled in WWII, a year before the US entered in, our church historian Ralph G. Lucas published a short history, titled "The First Parish." Rev. Oviatt E. Desmond, pastor at that time, wrote an interesting Foreword to this history, in which he noted that Lucas detailed "amusing stories of Church Discipline, fiery resolutions on the Slavery Question, anecdotes revealing the hardihood of our forebears, Money Problems and ways of paying salaries, school teacher pastors, spiritual depressions and subsequent revivals, early church music, the parish building schools and roads and so on, making these pages fascinating."

Rev. Desmond went on to note, however, that "it was impossible to record everything as our history is so rich in worthwhile and amusing facts. The general background of our denomination, beginning with the hanging [burning?] of five men in England between 1383 and 1593 for being 'Separatists' and going along through the establishment of the Congregational Church in America by the Pilgrims at Plymouth, has by necessities of space been omitted. This study deals mainly with the first century and a half of our local history."

So it is that here, in the spirit of commemorating the 400th year of the Separatist/Pilgrim arrival in North America, and heeding the note of Pastor Desmond, it can be useful and maybe even somewhat interesting, to know a bit - month by month in The Log - about what led the way to all that means so much to us, today.

What are the stories of some of those five men, who became known as Separatist leaders, who were hung — or burned — between 1383 - 1593? Why were they killed? Let's start with John Wycliffe.

During the 14th century, in England, John Wycliffe (c. 1330 - 1384) was an Oxford University professor. He developed and promoted a number of doctrines, that the Bible is the supreme authority in faith, that there is no basis for the doctrine of transubstantiation, and the clergy (Roman Catholic priests) should hold no property. All his views were condemned by Pope Gregory XI as heretical in 1382, who ordered him to be arrested. Among Wycliffe's many contributions, to our emerging tradition of faith and also to English literature, was his inspiration for many people to be involved in translating and transcribing the Bible into Middle English, the first complete translation in the language.

Wycliffe's ideas were adopted by a group of followers, called Lollards, in a movement that spread rapidly after his death. More about them, next month! In his own lifetime, Wycliffe was supported by his colleagues at Oxford, in Court, and by powerful laymen. This support most likely kept him from being imprisoned and killed. While Pope Gregory XI ordered him to be arrested, this order was never carried out. Finally, in

1382, the Archbishop of Canterbury condemned him and his writings, but Wycliffe was undisturbed and continued to write until his death in 1384.

There was little public interest in rooting out heresy at that time in England and King Richard regularly resisted clerical demands that he establish burning as the punishment for heresy, which was common on the Continent at that time. In fact, there was growing interest and passion for literacy and a developing capacity for lay people to translate, transcribe, and read Scripture.

It was Henry IV who issued the first order for burnings in England, "De heretico comburnendo" in 1401, and the hunt for heretics began in earnest a few years later. Wycliffe was finally condemned 41 years after his death. His books were burned, hand transcribed translations of the Bible burned, and his body was exhumed and burned, with a scattering of his ashes.

While yes, Wycliffe was a scholar and teacher, he was a significant force in promoting interest in and willingness to take risk for lay people to be able to read, study, teach, and share in understanding of Scripture. His life and ministry opened some very important doors, marking many significant pathways for the unfolding of church as we know it today!



WEEKLY ZOOM EVENTS

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON  
STORY TELLING

3:00 p.m.



WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON  
BIBLE STUDY

5:00 p.m.



THURSDAY MORNING  
BOOK GROUP

9:00 a.m.



FRIDAY AFTERNOON  
PRAYER SERVICE

5:00 p.m.



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP  
LIVE VIA ZOOM AND FACEBOOK

10:00 A.M.



## GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING 2021

The United Church of Christ created the special offering One Great Hour of Sharing to fight extreme poverty anywhere in the world, and efforts to raise people out of poverty have borne fruit. A portion of the offering relieves disasters, natural and manmade. The UCC frequently teams with aid organizations at the site of disasters to provide relief. It is hard to express the degree to which early intervention mitigates disasters.

Our congregation faithfully contributes to One Great Hour of Sharing, and that in itself is remarkable. It is a great gift that we contribute anonymously to an effort that saves lives, when we can only imagine the impact of our offering. Thank you.

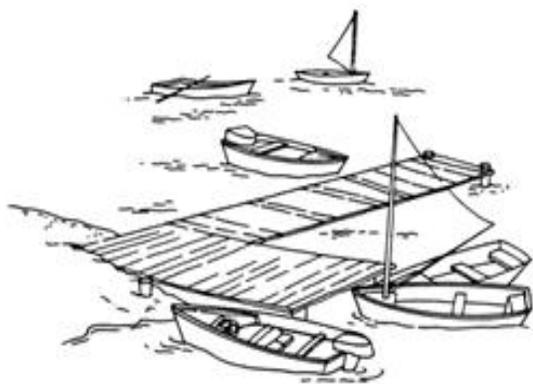
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### FAMILY PROMISE NORTH SHORE BOSTON Announces Plans for 2021

Our family homelessness program, Family Promise, will vacate its day center at 330 Rantoul St in Beverly and rent a new building at 8 Rantoul. For 2021, homeless families will live in that building, starting in February. Two of the three families have been in YMCA apartments temporarily, and the third family has been living at the day center. The third family has found an apartment, and expects to living there soon.

First Congregational Church through the Outreach treasury has donated rent and expenses for a month in 2021. Outreach will help raise another month's rent and expenses, most likely for the month of September, with the help of our support churches.

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## The Old Sloop Landing

12 School Street  
Rockport, Massachusetts

office@rockportucc.org  
978.546.6638

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## Taking Care of our Church Family

During our lives in the time of the Coronavirus, staying at home has been the model of prevention that we all share. It is also a time as a church family that we have had to adjust to our sanctuary being closed to us and our worship services being “zoomed” to us. We have had to find other ways to connect and be there for each other. We have needed to push ourselves to be more creative and “think out of the box” to figure out ways to support each other and lift each other up.

Together, we have had to face mutual fears that we never thought would be an issue -- being isolated, along with weekly and daily events that we took for granted. And, one of those is putting food on our tables. That is...*grocery shopping*.

Your church, in its quest to always be mindful of keeping its members safe and spiritually nourished, has maybe come up with an innovative way to keep you healthy and physically nourished too.

### **Reducing the stress of grocery shopping**

The idea is to greatly limit your need to visit the grocery store. Many of you have expressed the procrastination and restraint in heading to shop and stock up for food...waiting in line...being exposed to others...and facing the absence of product on the shelves. It doesn't matter how old you are. This is a fear that we have all expressed or suppressed. And, we are mindful to even think of letting our guards down in the future. One thing we may have all learned is that being prepared is what helps us feel better and less stressed. And, looking out for one another and being connected helps all of us feel stronger and supported.

To support this feeling of preparedness for the year to come, the Old Sloop is setting up a way for you all to acquire needed produce, meats, dairy products, bread and pastries, and other grocery items. And, you will be able to pick up your groceries at the new “Old Sloop Landing” located at the former day school at 12 School Street.

### **Who will be providing your groceries? Henry's Market**

We are so fortunate to have Henry's Market providing most of your groceries – meats, seafood, additional dairy and juice products as well as their wonderful baked goods,

and famous prepared meals. If you don't see it on the list that they have provided us, just ask. They also have snacks, paper goods, wine and beer...ICE CREAM!

Mike Halle, a manager at Henry's Market is so excited to collaborate on our Old Sloop Landing project that he is moving forward to update the store's website for easier ordering. We are all hoping for a long-term relationship. **(Refer to the "instruction" pages regarding ordering. Henry's two inventory lists will be provided as separate attached documents.)**

Henry's Market, a Beverly landmark and full-service grocery store, was founded by Henry Swanson in 1941 and is known for its high-quality prepared foods. Swanson sold the business to longtime employee John Keohane in 2005. Later in 2015, Henry's was purchased by Jim Crosby of Crosby's Marketplace, another well-known family-owned grocer on Cape Ann. Keohane said several grocery store companies had approached him about buying Henry's, but only Crosby's has the ability to continue the store's tradition of friendly customer service. Keohane also believed, "We understand what customers need and we're both community-minded."

### **When to order and pick up your groceries**

Henry's will be making their **deliveries to us every first and third Wednesday of the month**. They will deliver sometime in the morning and then, you can pick up your orders in the afternoon that same day. Those who work during the day will be able to make arrangements for pick-up late day/early evening on your way home from work.

**You will have to put in your order for Henry's Market by 5pm the Monday before the Wednesday deliveries. So, mark your calendars accordingly.**

Your order will be marked and ready for pick-up. If there is a delay in the delivery, you will be notified via email. Several church members have already volunteered to make deliveries to those who cannot come in person to pick up their orders.

**Pick-up at The Old Sloop Landing is at the window of the former day school at 12 School Street.** You will park on School Street. There will be a table right outside the window for you to receive your order. If necessary, a volunteer will be available to assist you to your car with your order. A cart will also be available for heavy loads.

There will be no contact and wearing your masks is mandatory.

**Always looking for input**

We hope that creating "The Old Sloop Landing" will ease some of the burden and stress of what has become our everyday lives. Please let us know how it is working for you once you have tried it. We encourage you to please try it at least once, if it is possible.

If you have other resources that you would like us to look into to add to the offerings at the Old Sloop Landing, please let us know.

God bless you all and we hope you take advantage and enjoy The Old Sloop Landing.

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## **Instructions for Ordering and Pick-up of groceries**

***Important:*** Pick-up days are the first and third WEDNESDAY of each month

**Orders must be in by 5 p.m. on the Monday before pick-up day**

### **To Order from Henry's Market**

**Please contact the church office to get copies of the Henry's inventory.**

You can only order during store hours: Sunday-Saturday, 7am until 6pm  
Please call Henry's at 978-922-3885 with further questions and to place your order.

OR

**You can also send an email with your organized shopping list**

*(include options of flavors or brands, in case your first choice is unavailable)*

and send it to: [info@henrysfinefoods.com](mailto:info@henrysfinefoods.com).

Please include your name, address and telephone number and

**be sure to use the following address for delivery:**

**First Congregational Church of Rockport**

**12 School Street, Rockport, MA 01966**

Orders are paid by credit/debit card only.

Please **do not** email any payment information-- they will obtain it over the phone.

**There is no minimum with Henry's Market.**

## **Pick up Instructions at the Old Sloop Landing**

We will call you late morning/early afternoon to arrange your pickups.

If you need to pick up your groceries after work or you have a conflict, just let the church office know ahead of time by calling 978-546-6638 or email at [office@rockportucc.org](mailto:office@rockportucc.org) to make arrangements for pick up after 5pm.



**CHURCH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES AND NOTES**  
**CABINET**

**MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY, 2021**

**Subject to Approval**

**Special note:** this meeting was held during the COVID 19 pandemic while social distancing kept the members of the cabinet from being physically together. Cabinet members attended from their homes using the Zoom video conferencing facility.

**Present:** Jack Reed, Moderator and chair; Rev. Derek van Gulden, Pastor; Bruce Coates, Treasurer; Bill Elwell, Trustees; Jay Reed, Treasurer of Mission Funds; Lou Cannon, Personnel Committee; Bob Cannon, Music Committee; Elizabeth Rice-Smith, Historian and Old Sloop Fleet; Camilla Ayers, Diaconate; Karen Hurst, Christian Education Committee; Dan Bing, Stewardship Committee; Susan Lillis, Membership Committee; and Geof Lyon, Clerk and recording secretary.

**Handouts:** (sent by email before the meeting): Agenda, Draft Minutes of Cabinet Meeting January 17, Operating Summary and Cash and Investment Summaries for January 2021

**Action, Discussion, and Follow-up Items**

**Declaration of a quorum, approval of minutes.**

Moderator Jack Reed observed that a quorum was present. He called the meeting to order at 7:01PM.

Rev. Derek led us in prayer.

The minutes of the January 17 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved as submitted by voice vote.

### **Updates on the new website**

Geof Lyon reported that the website committee received a first draft January 15 and sent feedback February 3. The committee received another draft February 16 and is reviewing that now. A great deal of the website is done, and the committee is pleased with it. The committee plans to deploy the new website by Easter.

The church's Google calendar has been reorganized to make it fit better with the new website, and the web developer has everything he needs to incorporate the calendar into the website.

The old website has email addresses for each officer, committee, etc, in the rockportucc.org domain that forward to people's personal email addresses. The committee plans to migrate to corresponding email addresses in the new oldsloop.org domain. They would also like to phase out the old oldsloopr@aol.com and use office@oldsloop.org as the office email address. Geof asked whether approvals would be needed. The consensus was that the committee could proceed.

The new website will include a blog feature so that designated authors can contribute articles that anyone can read. Two or three articles can be featured with a photo and summary on the home page. The church needs to provide content for two or three blog posts now so that there are a few posts when the website is rolled out.

We wondered whether we would need an editor for blog posts. We discussed email and other ways of telling people about the new website.

### **Tech support needs of the church**

Geof reported that he and Jim Schell run the online services from the music office while Rev. Derek is in the sanctuary. They switch between Zoom speakers, start and stop prerecorded videos, manage the recording, etc. There is also preparation: making the virtual choir videos and the prelude and postlude videos, collecting videos contributed by others, and working out the detailed steps for running the service. There is also work to be done after the service: cleaning up the Zoom recording and uploading it to 1623 Studios and YouTube. Geof said he and Jim are generally happy to do this work during the pandemic.

The church has decided to continue streaming services when we are back in the building, and some things will change. There will not be any videos, so the preparation will be much reduced. The process of running the service will change from running a Zoom meeting and starting and stopping videos to switching between microphones and cameras in the sanctuary. There will still be work after the service to prepare the recording and upload it. Geof said he and Jim are not going to be willing to sit in the

music office throughout every service. We could look for some more volunteers, but it is going to be a big ask.

Our friends at Annisquam Village Church have also recognized the value of streaming services. They have begun advertising for a part-time "tech support coordinator" position. AVC expects to pay someone \$10,000-\$13,000/year for about 10 hours per week. We may have to do something similar.

Liz Rice-Smith reported that Old South Church has a tech coordinator who would be willing to speak with us. She believes we should speak to several congregations, so we have points of comparison.

Rev. Derek agrees this is important. We are on an island and cannot draw people from a large area. But we do draw people with our virtual services. Online services are also good for parishioners when the weather is bad. He believes we should pursue this in earnest and not wait.

Jay Reed asked whether it was possible to do this with volunteers. We agreed that it is possible but that it will be hard to find a volunteer willing to sit in the music office throughout services.

Jack Reed asked whether we keep numbers for online attendance. There were 50 Zoom sessions for today's service, and Rev. Derek counted 69 people. There were about 15 Facebook sessions, and Karen Hurst pointed out that her whole family watched on a single Facebook session. People also see recordings on channel 67, Facebook, and YouTube. For comparison, the average in-person attendance in February 2020 was 74. Rev. Derek feels we are reaching a lot more people.

### **Leaks in the church steeple**

Bill Elwell reported that Bob Levesque of American Steeple and Tower has not yet visited. He is waiting for a day with good weather.

### **Officer Reports**

#### **Treasurer**

Bruce Coates referred to the summary report he had distributed by email. He pointed out that only one month has elapsed in the new year, so we should draw no conclusions. Operating income is up \$1,237 over last year, and operating expenses are down \$1,366, so net income is up \$2,604. The value of the church's investments decreased by \$8,475, but Bruce reminded us that there was a large increase in value last year. Jay asked whether the increase in operating income was due to prepaid pledges, and Bruce answered that it is not.

#### **Treasurer of Mission Funds**

Jay reported that Outreach treasury balance at the end of January was \$7,900. Much of that sum comes from prepaid pledges. Outreach made a large disbursement to the Christmas Fund, due in part to one large donation. They disbursed funds to Action and Beverly Bootstraps. They spent \$250 on food from Henry's Market for DenMar.

### **Historian**

Liz reported that she is working on the pandemic project. People are signing up for interviews and adding items. She will follow up with the Trustees and the Diaconate about acquiring an archival storage resource. She has spoken with Jim Schell about digitizing historical artifacts.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Diaconate**

Camilla Ayers reported that the Diaconate is getting started on new year discussions. They are keeping in touch with the Old Sloop Fleet and with isolated people.

#### **Trustees**

Bill reported that the restoration of the Fellowship Hall windows would begin February 22. The sashes will be gone for a couple of months. An application was submitted to Rockport's Community Preservation Committee. The church will meet with the CPC March 16. The Trustees have contracted with Araneo Landworks to repair the floor of the parsonage garage.

#### **Christian Outreach**

Jay reported that there was a great response to the call for support for the new Refugee Immigration Ministry family. The family is in apartment that is expensive but the only one for which the landlord was willing to rent to someone without an income. It remains difficult to raise money during the pandemic with no opportunity for congregant settings. Today's service included a UCC video about One Great Hour of Sharing. There is unfortunately no opportunity for video in the sanctuary. Outreach also made disbursement to the LGBTQ Asylum Task force in Worcester, which helps asylum seekers who have had to flee their home countries because they are LGBTQ. Family Promise will move into a new building at the end of February. We have paid for rent and expenses for one month, and we hope to raise funds for another month in September. The Gloucester health inspector now insists that meals for the Open Door be made in approved kitchens, so people can no longer make Open Door meals at home. Jay wants to explore getting an inspection of the church kitchen from the Rockport health inspector so we could make Open Door meals there. Bill pointed out that we would also need people with ServSafe certification. Geof pointed out that we have added support for the special offerings to our PayPal online donation form.

#### **Christian Education**

Karen reported that the Christian Education Committee plans to update the Safe Church policy.

### **Membership**

Susan Lillis reported that with four new members, the Membership Committee will need some time to get up to speed. The committee discussed bylaws, which specify duties for the Membership Committee that overlap significantly with other committees. The committee wonders whether it should pick and choose from among the duties or do something more formal to clarify the scope. Liz reported that the Team for the Welcoming Ministry of Hospitality has not been able to do anything because the congregation cannot meet in person.

### **Music**

Bob Cannon reported that Geof attended their meeting to help them understand digital copyright issues. Digital music is at the heart of our online services, and the copyright matters are complex. The committee is trying to come up with overriding principles. They approved funding for the renewal of licenses from Christian Copyright Solutions and OneLicense, which does not solve all our problems but keeps us running. Evelyn Reed will do the work to investigate music and report usage with OneLicense. Phil Swanson will discuss our copyright concerns with a colleague at Salem State. Rhiannon Hurst will expand the visibility of the church's music through Instagram, and will work with local talent for church outreach.

### **Personnel**

Lou Cannon reported that the Personnel Committee is busy dealing with a confidential issue.

### **Thriving Congregations**

Rec. Derek reported that the Thriving Congregations team sent surveys to 29 people and got responses from all 29.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50PM.

### **Date of Next Cabinet Meeting:**

The Cabinet will next meet at 7:00PM on March 21, 2021.

Respectfully submitted, Geof Lyon

## **TRUSTEES**

MEETING MINUTES February 8, 2021

**Trustee meeting** called to order at 7:02pm.

**Present:** Walter Vining, Bill Elwell, Geof Lyon, Kevin Love, Bruce Coates, Chip Kistner, Rev. Derek van Gulden, Bonnie Gray, Lou Cannon.

- **The following positions were appointed for 2021:**  
Chair, Walter Vining  
Scribe: Bonnie Gray  
Cabinet Rep: Bill Elwell  
Nominating Committee: Kevin Love  
Check signer: Walter Vining
- **Minutes:** The minutes of the January 11, 2021 meeting were approved.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Bruce provided the Treasurer's Report noting that the pledges received for 2021 are \$743.06 more than last year at this time. The total Operating Income for January was \$1,237.84 higher than last year. The net Operating Income was up \$2,604.19. Investment values are down \$8,475.54; however, Bruce did not see this a concern. Bruce asked for approval of the networking of his computer and the computer in the Church office. This would make it possible for him and the Office Manager to both access the always up to date QuickBooks program. He offered to cover the cost of hiring a professional to perform this task. The Board approved the request.
- **Review of Bank/PEX statements:** Neither the Bank nor PEX statements were reviewed.

#### **Old Business:**

- **CPC Application:** Bill Elwell reported that the CPC Application was submitted on Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be a hearing on the application on March 16<sup>th</sup> with the CPC. Bill and Chip Kistner both plan to attend the video conference. Included in the application is a request for \$86,400 to: 1) Remove paint from the front of the building and repaint. 2) Restore 21 windows in the Law Building and Fellowship Hall. The company Window Woman will perform the work. Bill requested an expenditure of \$23,520 to cover the cost of restoring 7 windows in Fellowship Hall. The Church has traditionally offered to cover up to 50% of the amount requested from the CPC. The Board approved this request. The funds will come from the Major Maintenance account.
- **Steeple Leaks:** Geof Lyon met with Bob from American Steeple & Tower on a rainy day in order for Bob to determine where exactly the water is leaking into the steeple. It was determined that the water is coming in through the steeple posts. A crew will be sent out on a day that the weather permits a repair to be made.
- **Parsonage issues:** Walter reported that he repaired the kitchen cabinets. Araneo Landworks has requested a deposit of \$707.00 for the work planned on the garage and driveway. The garage floor will be replaced and the driveway prepped for new asphalt. The Board previously approved this work in the total amount of: \$6,365 and approved paying the deposit at this time.
- **Solar panels:** Geof suggested that the Church investigate the possibility of installing Solar Panels on the Church. He offered to check with the Historic Commission as to whether or not this project would be approved. Bill offered to check with the Insurance Company as to any problem with coverage if Solar Panels were installed.

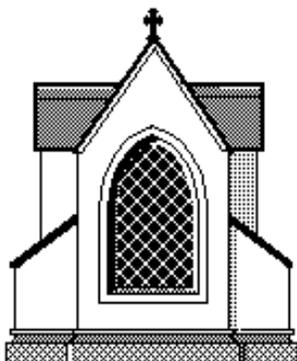
- **Executive Session:** The Trustees met in Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. There being no further business, the Board of Trustees adjourned at 8:15pm. The next scheduled meeting of the Trustees will be on Monday, March 8, 2021

Walter Vining

Bonnie Gray

Chair, Board of Trustees

Recording Secretary



## Stewardship Committee

MARCH 2021

### A Note From Stewardship

Rev. Derek often encourages church committees to take the month of December off, if possible, to rest and restore during the Christmas season. Because that is a very busy time for Stewardship, we decided to take February off instead. We therefore have no minutes to report, but I am happy to share our new Stewardship Committee positions:

Co-chairs: Dan Bing and Louisa Casadei-Johnson

Cabinet rep: Dan Bing

Recording Secretary: Kathie McCarthy

Nominating Com. Rep Jack Reed

We look forward to our first meeting on March 4.

Louisa Casadei-Johnson

For the Stewardship Committee



## Christian Education and Faith Formation

MARCH 2021

Dear Friends,

I cannot believe we are already into Lent (again) and we will be coming up on a year of Christian education and faith formation online. As we continue in this pandemic year, we are still offering our Wednesday afternoon storytelling, bible study *lectio divina* on Wednesday evenings and our weekly check ins with our youth and young adults Wednesdays at 7:30 pm. If you would like to know any more information about what we offer or have an idea of something you would like us to do please feel free to reach out! I do have a bit of a hectic schedule, but am always happy for conversation via email, phone call or text.

As Lent began on Ash Wednesday (February 17th) and continues until Easter! (April 4th) I sent out the supplies for a Lenten Prayer Chain, which is a good way to encourage your family to say a prayer every day as they add a link to the chain. There are 40 days in Lent because the Sundays are not counted. We have supplied you with a number of ideas and spaces for you to add your own. Use both sides of the links for prayers. This is something that anyone can do! All you need is scissors, paper, and a pen!

Also, check out this video on Lent from a kid's perspective!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=blfjp1FdKbY>

If you are looking for any ideas or suggestions you could pray for The Church, Essential Workers, Family, School Teachers, Our nation's leaders, Peace, and Friends.

I hope we can all take this season of Lent and focus on how we can bring our relationships closer to God and with each other as a church family.

If you would like to send photos of your Lenten prayer chain to Katie please feel free to do so and we can put the photos on our Facebook and Instagram accounts! (978-290-3427)

Also, if you would like to stay connected with us throughout the week please like the church's page on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/rockportuccand> and follow us on Instagram @firstcongorkptUCC.

Blessings!

Katie

### Wednesday midweek check in at 7:30

As we continue into the New Year, we will continue our various ministries via Zoom. Our Sunday night youth group has moved to a midweek check in on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm. We take this time to check in on each other, a small lesson, peak, pits and prayers for the week, and we close with our typical candle light closing.

March 3: 7:30 pm

March 10: 7:30 pm

March 17: 7:30 pm

March 24: 7:30 pm

As we are continuing into this year of uncertainty and doing online ministry, please reach out if there is anything that you would like to see going through this winter and into the spring. This is a perfect time to be trying new things and seeing what sticks!

Katie Welch

Director of Christian Education and Faith Formation

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### Christian Outreach Committee



#### MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 14, 2021

PRESENT: Jay Reed, Margie Schell, Wendy Woodbury, Bill Davis, Jessica Hunt, Rev. Derek van Gulden, Ann Kistner

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer at 11:30 AM.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The balance in the budget as of January 31, 2021 is \$7916.09.

PASTOR'S FUND: The Pastor's Fund is sufficient at this time.

BYLAWS: Jay read the current Bylaws that relate to Outreach to the committee. These describe the number of committee members, the duration of their expected term of membership, the various positions to be filled on the committee and a description of the purpose of this committee.

REFUGEE IMMIGRATION MINISTRY: The newest family has moved into a safe apartment that is being supported by our church cluster. Unfortunately, it is expensive, as many landlords do not want to rent to those who are without an income. The current policy prevents asylum seekers from working until they have been in the country for a year, and then they must apply for a work permit. A lengthy waiting period may occur after that application. Bill plans to contact Rep. Seth Moulton about this. Jay has also emailed his office about this concern.

The supported family has received items for furnishing their apartment, as well as donated funds from some of our church members, to cover utilities. We will see what else is needed for their apartment. We will need to fund raise at some point in order to continue our support. Jay and Barb will Zoom with the coordinators of the Walk for Refugees, which takes place on June 20. They will find out if the walk is taking place.

FAMILY PROMISE: Jay reported that we would attempt to raise funds for another month's rent and expenses for two client families living in the building that Family Promise has just relocated to. The cost would be \$2000. Jay will let the other churches (The Baptist Church, The UU Church, The Methodist Church, St. Paul Lutheran Church, The Annisquam Village Church) in our cluster know that we will need to raise money for the month of September. He thinks that we will do all right with the help of the other churches.

Rev. Derek is planning to talk to FP director, Rachel Hand to ask about how other people are raising money. Katie, from FP, will be in touch with other churches to discuss fundraising.

DEN MAR: We donated money for a meal from Henry's for the staff at Den Mar. Wendy delivered the meal. Derek would like to do this again in late March to continue to recognize the hard work of the staff.

LGBTQ ASYLUM TASK FORCE, WORCESTER: The LGBTQ Asylum Task Force is an outreach of the Hadwen Park Congregational Church in Worcester. The website offers that they support and empower LGBTQ individuals seeking asylum in the United States. Their support involves housing those individuals as well as working to support policy changes. Derek stated that it is a well-run group similar to RIM. He felt that they would be a good group to have a relationship with. They have raised funds with a large Gala that has helped to purchase a house for their clients. Our plan is to give them a donation at this time and to determine if we will donate again in the future, if they are able again to have their Gala.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING 3/22/21: Our next One Great Hour of Sharing occurs on March 22. Someone from the group will speak to the church during a service. The funds from One Great Hour of Sharing enable the UCC to respond to emergencies, natural catastrophes, political or natural disasters, as well as supporting chronically

impoverished areas in many ways such as developing infrastructure for these areas. It may also include sending individuals or missionaries to assist in healthcare or education.

We will try to determine how donations can be made electronically, possibly on the church website. We will talk to Geof about this.

CHAIR, RECORDING SECRETARY, CABINET REPRESENTATIVE, NOMINATION REPRESENTATIVE: Jay has agreed to return as Chair. Ann will be the recording secretary. We will ask Steve if he will continue as the Cabinet Representative. We will ask Darlene if she will continue as the Nominations Representative.

OTHER BUSINESS: OLD SLOOP LANDING is this Wednesday.

ACTION LUNCHESES: We will prepare lunches on March 31. We will discuss this at our next meeting.

OPEN DOOR: Jay thinks that the Open Door will ask for partnership for the Open Door Dinners in the future. We discussed needing an inspection in our church kitchen by the Board of Health. We will need individuals to be Serve Safe approved in order to use the kitchen for meal preparations for Open Door as well as Pot Luck, Coffee House, Fairs, etc. It will be good to add the use of our kitchen to the other food preparation options that we have.

FUTURE SUPPORT: Jay asked us to continue to think of other areas that would be good for our participation and support.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40.

NEXT MEETING: March 14, 2021 via Zoom

Respectfully submitted, Ann Kistner

<p><b>First Congregational Church of Rockport, UCC</b></p> <p>12 School Street Rockport, Massachusetts 01966</p> <p>Phone: (978) 546-6638 Email: <a href="mailto:office@rockportucc.org">office@rockportucc.org</a> Website: <a href="http://www.rockportucc.org">www.rockportucc.org</a></p> <hr/> <p><b>During non-business hours:</b></p> <p><b>Rev. Derek van Gulden can be reached at (508) 818-0616 or <a href="mailto:revdvan@yahoo.com">revdvan@yahoo.com</a></b></p> <hr/> <p><i>The Old Sloop's Log</i> Susan Lillis, Editor Please submit articles to: <a href="mailto:sglillis56@gmail.com">sglillis56@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>** All articles are due on the 18<sup>th</sup> of each month. **</b></p>	<p><b>Church Office Hours</b></p> <p>Tuesday – Friday 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Sunday Worship Service</b></p> <p>Currently via zoom</p> <p><b>Sunday School</b></p> <p>Currently via zoom</p>	<p><b>Church Staff</b></p> <p><b>Pastor</b> Rev. Derek van Gulden</p> <p><b>Office Manager</b></p> <p><b>Music Director</b> Dr. Phil Swanson</p> <p><b>Youth Choir Director</b> Kristina Martin</p> <p><b>Christian Education and Faith Formation Director</b> Kaitlyn Welch</p> <p><b>Sexton</b> Phil Bynarowicz</p>
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