

# 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,

The Monday following Easter Sarah and I packed up the car and headed to 'Sweet Rowen Farm' in Albany Vermont where our son Nathan is the herdsman. For the next six days we stayed in the farmhouse overlooking the barn with all the sights, sounds and smells of a working dairy farm. We spent most of the week communing with the cows, chickens and the farm dogs as well as taking long walks down dirt roads and through the pastures. It was warm and sunny all week and spring was popping all over the place. Crocus, tulips, and dandelions were painting the landscape with vibrant yellows, purples, reds, and orange. When we were quiet, we could hear the sap from the maple trees dripping into the sap buckets. The beauty, smells and sounds of spring took our breath away.

As we walked with our grandchildren through the cow pasture one afternoon, I found myself giving thanks to God for such beauty and the rejuvenation I felt by being more connect or maybe more conscious to

creation all around me. I also found myself praying that all this beauty which comes from God through the Earth will be around for our grandchildren's grandchildren to enjoy.

*God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature so they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth." God created human beings; he created them godlike, reflecting God's nature. He created them male and female. God blessed them: "Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth." (Genesis 1:26-28 Message)*

"Take charge! Be responsible", these words from scripture, Genesis 1:28, echoed in my ear throughout our time on the farm. What more could we do to be responsible for the earth? Were we do enough right now? After listening to a recent webinar sponsored by *Cape Ann Climate Coalition* and doing some research on local programs on Cape Ann, we came up with a few thoughts on what we could do now. Try to grow some of our own vegetables and do a better job at recycling our food waste. When we got home, we sign up with 'Black Earth Compost'. We are planning on increasing our garden space to grow more vegetables, which of course will be an ongoing adventure. We also plan to get involved in one of Cape Ann Climate Coalition's 'Action Groups'.

To educate myself more on what we can do as a church I have ordered and plan to utilize, *'Cathedral on Fire! A church Handbook for the Climate Crisis'*.

These are but a few small steps we are doing in answer to God's call to *"be responsible"* for the Earth. I would love to hear what you are up to and or other things you are doing. Please feel free to send me an e-mail at [pastor@rockportucc.org](mailto:pastor@rockportucc.org) or send letter, 12 School Street, Rockport, MA. 01966. It's not that this is all new to us it is just a renewed call to do more. I invite you to join us as together we might hear and answer God's call to *"Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth."*

Shalom,

Rev. Derek

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### **Our Earth Day Prayer – 2015 Mission Trip Youth**

Lord we thank you for your gifts of the earth, its gift of smell; roses, the salty ocean spray, freshly raked soil, petrichor (the unique scent that comes after a rain) even the smell of a wet dog!

Its gift of sights; the first green of new spring growth, a bright sunrise and the colors of a sunset, rainbows and the Arora Borealis, watching fuzzy creatures go about their day.

Its gift of touch; the softness of a delicate flower petal, cold snowflakes on our faces, rolling in grass that tickles, the roughness of a tree's bark, warm sand between our toes and the sudden shock of cold when a foot steps into the ocean.

Lord we are greatly concerned by melting ice caps, the ever-increasing pollution and all the manmade damage to our planet, we ask for your help in guiding mankind to find another way. A way to live that respects your creation.

We ask your help to keep mindful and savor the sacred things, clean air, the stillness of the woods, the vastness of your ocean, the distance and permanence of the stars, the laughter of a baby, the life-giving sun.

Lastly, we are grateful for the magnificence of your storms, the way they give and take away remind us of you, the thunder and lightning remind us of your power.

Your power that created all we know and love. Amen

### UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MAY

May 23: Pentecost Sunday

### HELPING OPPORTUNITIES

The Old Sloop Log is in need of a proof reader. If you can spend about an hour a month proof reading the log before it goes out please contact the editor at [sglillis56@gmail.com](mailto:sglillis56@gmail.com). Thanks!



We hope you have enjoyed the images and video clips that are shown with the prelude, postlude, and other musical selections in the virtual worship services. If you enjoy taking photos and videos and creating slide shows, please consider joining our worship team and helping with this important part of our online services. There are many ways we could

collaborate, but the essence is that we would tell you the length of a musical selection and ask you to create a slide show of that length. We would merge your slide show with the music. The subjects of the slide show could be all kinds of things: nature, the ocean, people, parades, other town events, etc. Please contact Rev. Derek at [pastor@rockportucc.org](mailto:pastor@rockportucc.org) if you would like to discuss this.

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Hi all,

In the online version of the Gloucester Daily Times recently there was an article about Rhiannon Hurst who has contributed so much to our church's music. Here is the article:

'The soon-to-be Rockport High School graduate received a 2021 National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) award in jazz voice. Hurst has been recognized at the Honorable Mention level, the organization's second highest honor, for her caliber of artistic achievement and joins 659 of the nation's most accomplished artists in the visual, literary, and performing arts.

"I feel deeply honored and extremely excited to be a part of the YoungArts community and family," wrote Hurst in an email to the Times. "Through this experience, I have connected with and will continue to get to know other members of the YoungArts community as we collaborate and create together."

Hurst will receive a cash prize and the opportunity to learn from leading artists such as Debbie Allen, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Frank Gehry, Wynton Marsalis, Salman Rushdie and Mickalene Thomas. She is also now eligible for exclusive creative and professional development support, including a wide range of fellowships, residencies and awards; virtual and in-person presentation opportunities in collaboration with major venues nationwide; additional financial support; and access to YoungArts Post, a free, private digital network for YoungArts artists to connect, collaborate and learn about additional opportunities.

YoungArts, a national organization, works to assist young visual, literary and performing artists through creative and professional development. Previous YoungArts award winners including multiple award-winners Viola Davis and Josh Groban.

In addition, Hurst was named one of four graduating seniors to receive the Excellence in Music Award from the Massachusetts Music Educators Association, earning her a \$500 college scholarship.'

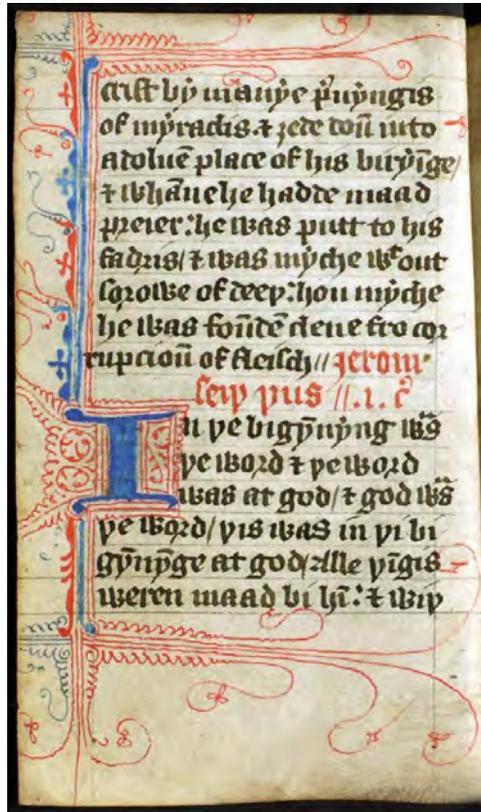
Please send congratulation cards to Rhiannon at: [36 Haven Ave., Rockport.](#)

Thanks!

Celene

## LIVING HISTORY BY DR. LIZ RICE-SMITH

Paving the Way for our 400th Commemorative. 1620 to 2021.



Beginning of the Gospel of John from a pocket Wycliffe translation that may have been used by a roving Lollard preacher (late 14th century)

As noted in the first two essays of this series, November, 2020 marked 400 years since our Congregationalist, "Separatist" forebears arrived at the tip of what we now call Massachusetts. Virginia was their planned destination. And this November, 2021, we will commemorate the 400 years since our forebears first shared a harvest feast with the Wampanoag people of Patuxet/Plimoth, on Thanksgiving Day. Each of our member 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 and repent what went wrong while honoring, enlivening, and renewing all that our faith invites us to celebrate.

This is the third essay in this series for us at First Congregational Church in Rockport, we who have migrated and are migrating from many traditions, entering into Covenant here, to gain a view on the history and terrain 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, and a year before the US entered in, our church historian Ralph G. Lucas published a short history, titled "The First Parish." To review from the first two essays in this series, Rev. Oviatt E. Desmond, pastor at that time, wrote an interesting Foreword to Lucas' 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." Rev. Desmond continued to write, "The general background of our denomination, beginning with the hanging 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 to us and maybe even somewhat interesting, to know a bit - month by month. reading in The Log - about what led the way to all that means so much to us, today. In the first two essays of this series, we have learned about Wycliffe and ways which his views were found to be compelling to a group of laymen, called Lollards, and many people who took note of their views.

This history cannot go forward without an account of aspects of the reign, presence, and remarkable impact of King Henry VIII in England. Woven into, through and beyond the reign of this Tudor king are many threads of thought, worship, study and prayer from John Wycliffe, the Lollards, along with so many compelled to read and worship in new ways. We have seen that before Henry VII came to power, protestant-leaning ideas were in the air. The reign of King Henry VIII was characterized by many military operations, jousting's in England and also on the continent, especially against France and Italy. Henry VIII was eager to establish Tudor power on the continent as well as in Britain. Henry VIII became king of Wales and Ireland. And while Henry VIII's military exploits entwined in complex ways with his ecclesiastical wars, complete military aspects of his reign are beyond the scope of these essays. But without a doubt, it was Henry VIII who split the Church of England from the Church of Rome, paving the way for more contests and battles between the Church of England and the Roman Catholic

Church, while leading to the creation of institutions which became key in both the Puritan and Separatist movements.

Henry VIII reigned as monarch from 1509 until his death in 1547. Born June 28, 1491, Henry VIII was the second son of Henry VII, the first English monarch from the House of Tudor and his wife, Elizabeth of York. Henry VIII's older brother Arthur had been expected to become successor to Henry VII, while Henry was being prepared to take on a church career via broad humanities education in theology, music, languages, poetry, and sport. Since the age of two years, Arthur, Prince of Wales, had been betrothed to Catherine of Aragon, a daughter of the Spanish monarchs Ferdinand and Isabella; during November 1501, as teens, Arthur and Catherine were married.

Sadly, within months of their marriage, Arthur died unexpectedly and quite suddenly. Henry stood next in line for the throne and then became betrothed to his brother's widow. At the age of 17 years, Henry was crowned King of England. Catherine later insisted that her marriage to Arthur was never consummated, and it was this purported lack of consummation that led to Roman Church approval for her to marry again to Arthur's younger brother, Henry.

Henry VIII's marriage to Catherine of Aragon occurred six weeks later. Henry and Catherine then had three sons and three daughters, five of whom died as infants. Their daughter Mary, born 1516, was their only child who survived to adulthood. Henry VIII also fathered a healthy son in 1519, Henry FitzRoy, outside his marriage. As many times as Henry VIII was married, each of his weddings were private, without public fanfare and celebration, conducted quietly in royal chapels. The modern, public celebrations of royal weddings really began when in 1840, England's Queen Victoria married Prince Albert.

Notable, too, that before, during, and after this period of Henry VIII's reign, ecclesiastical leaders were emerging elsewhere in the UK and on the continent in church Reformation practice and theology. More about William Tyndale, John Huss, John Knox, Martin Luther, and John Calvin in the next two month's essays in The Log, June & July, 2021. But during these years, 1509 - 1547, Henry VIII's reign was robust, active, even festive. Also, shocking in several ways. On October 11, 1521 in response to Henry's written attack against Martin Luther's ecclesiastical reform efforts in Germany, Pope Leo X called Henry VIII the "Defender of the Faith." Henry VIII's book, in which he attacked Martin Luther and supported the Roman Catholic Church, became a best-seller, with 20 editions in both England and Europe. However, Henry's intense desire to have a legitimate son as male heir to the throne as a way to assure the Tudor dynasty against the rival House of York led him to dissolve his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, creating a split from the Roman Church, establishing himself as the Head of the Church of England, and proceeding to have five more wives.

By the 1520s, Henry wanted to marry Anne Boleyn, a woman in his wife's entourage. He made a case based on Old Testament scripture banning marriage to one's brother's widow, promoting the idea that his marriage to his brother's wife, Catherine, was cursed by God. Henry VIII sought a papal annulment of his marriage to Catherine. Assisted by Cardinal Wolsey, Henry petitioned Pope Clement VII for this annulment. Pope Clement VII rebuffed Henry, having been pressured to do so by Catherine's nephew, who was the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V. Cardinal Wolsey was then charged for treason, removed from his power as Cardinal, and died in 1530 while awaiting trial.

It was after this that Henry VIII gained backing from both English clergy and Parliament to establish the Church of England with himself as Head of the Church of England. Pope Clement sent Henry VIII a letter on January 5, 1531 to excommunicate him, an act which was followed by Parliamentary legislation for England to break from the Roman Church. Henry VIII then moved forward without the Pope's permission to have his marriage to Catherine declared invalid and to have that marriage annulled. Shortly thereafter, on January 25, 1533, Henry was married to Anne Boleyn and on September 7, 1533, their daughter Elizabeth was born. Mary was declared illegitimate and Elizabeth was declared to be heir to Henry VIII. Further, Roman Catholic monasteries were closed and sold, adding wealth to the King Henry's coffers.

It was during 1534 by the Act of Supremacy that King Henry VIII was recognized as the supreme head of the Church of England.

The story of Henry's six marriages is a complex saga of two annulled marriages, two wives beheaded, losing one wife to death after childbirth, and having one wife who outlived him. In January 1536, Henry was thrown from his horse and seriously injured during a jousting event; when pregnant Anne learned of this accident, she miscarried, delivering their stillborn son. In response, Henry spurned Anne and next decided he wanted to marry Jane Seymour, another woman in his court. The king proceeded to have Anne Boleyn executed May 19, 1536 with treason and incest given as the charges against her.

By then, Catherine of Aragon had died of cancer on January 7, 1536, at age 50. The British people held Catherine of Aragon in high esteem, and her death inspired considerable mourning. *"The Education of a Christian Woman"* was written by Juan Luis Vives, and was controversial at time of publication as promoting women's right to be educated; this book was commissioned by her and dedicated to her in 1523. Thomas Cromwell is known to have said of her, "If not for her sex, she could have defied all the heroes of History;" Cromwell, the 1st Earl of Essex, was an English lawyer and statesman who was chief minister serving Henry VIII from 1534 to 1540, when he was beheaded on orders from the king. Catherine was viewed as both impressive and

compelling; for example, she made appeals for the lives of rebels active in the Evil May Day, with compassion for their families. Evil May Day is the name given to a 1517 riot which occurred as a protest against foreigners living in London. Catherine of Aragon was well regarded, too, for starting a widespread and effective program to offer relief to the poor. A patron of Renaissance humanism, and a devout Roman Catholic, she was friend to Erasmus and Thomas More.

Four months after Catherine of Aragon had died and the day after Anne Boleyn was executed, Henry VIII and Jane Seymour were betrothed. Just days later, they were married on May 30, 1536. As wedding gifts to his bride, Henry VIII gave Jane Seymour 104 manors in four different counties as well as forests and hunting chases. Jane Seymour was publicly declared queen on June 4, 1536 but was never crowned, due to the plague in London at that time. She was known to be sympathetic to the late Queen Catherine and her daughter Mary, which made her popular with many of the British people.

Queen Jane was conservative politically and was cautioned by the king to avoid meddling in his affairs; she had asked him to pardon participants in the Pilgrimage of Grace, which he refused. The Pilgrimage of Grace was a popular and serious uprising that began in Lincolnshire/Yorkshire during October 1536 before spreading into other parts of Northern England. It was a distinct result of Henry VIII's dissolution of monasteries, a practice which was distressing to many of the English people, many of whom counted on food and other resources made available to them from monasteries in their communities. Rather than enter into civil war at this time, Henry VIII used diplomacy to resolve these uprisings; The rebels did not seek to overthrow Henry but rather wanted to see the monasteries restored. At first, Henry VIII conceded and then broke his word, declaring martial law, indicted hundreds of rebel leaders who were tried, convicted, and executed. Queen Jane developed a close relationship with her stepdaughter Mary, wanting to restore Mary's presence at court and to reconcile Mary with her father. Both before and after Jane Seymour became Queen, she did try to restore Mary to the line of succession, but this was denied at that time. It was not until Henry's sixth wife, Catherine Parr convinced Henry VIII to do so, that Mary and Elizabeth were reinstated to succession.

Shortly after Jane Seymour and Henry VIII were married, by Christmas 1536, Jane was pregnant, but she lost that child. In January 1537, Jane conceived again and on October 12, 1537 their son Edward VI was born. Most sadly, within weeks of childbirth, Jane Seymour died at age 29 on October 24, 1537 from postnatal complications. Accounts of the probable cause of her death include puerperal fever, infection from a retained placenta, or pulmonary embolism. Jane Seymour was buried on November 12, 1537 in St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle. She is the only wife of Henry to receive a

queen's funeral, and when he died in 1547, it was his request to be buried beside her there. In addition to giving Henry VIII the son he so desired, she worked to restore Mary to royal succession and reconciliation with her father. Further, two of her brothers Thomas and Edward, tried to improve their situations after her death and the death of King Henry VIII. Thomas was thought to have pursued Elizabeth for marriage, but later married the queen dowager/widow Catherine Parr instead. During the reign of young King Edward VI, Edward Seymour set himself up as Lord Protector and de facto ruler of the kingdom. Both Thomas and Edward Seymour eventually fell from power and were executed.

Henry next married Anne of Cleves, whose brother was the ruler of a Protestant duchy in Germany. This political marriage was short lived January 6 - July 9, 1540, declared unconsummated, and annulled. Henry gave Anne of Cleves a generous settlement, including Richmond Palace and Hever Castle, the home of Henry's former Boleyn in-laws. Henry VIII and Anne of Cleves became good friends and she was thereafter known as the King's Beloved Sister. Anne of Cleves was often invited to court and in gratitude to her for not contesting the annulment of their marriage, Henry decreed that she would come before all women in Britain excepting his next wife and daughters.

That short, annulled marriage was followed by Henry's next short marriage on July 28, 1540 to Catherine Howard, seventeen years of age and a cousin of Anne Boleyn. Within two years, during November 1541, she was stripped of her title as Queen and on February 13, 1542, Catherine Howard was beheaded for purported treason and adultery with her distant cousin Thomas Culpeper.

Henry VIII next married the last of his wives and final queen consort of the House of Tudor, a widow, Catherine Parr, on July 12, 1543. She outlived Henry by a year and eight months. She was previously married to Sir Edward Burgh (m. 1529 and d. 1533) and John Neville, 3rd Baron Latimer (m. 1534 and d. 1543). As noted earlier, she was subsequently married to Thomas Seymour, 1st Baron Seymour of Sudeley (m. 1547) and died at age 36 on September 5, 1548. During Henry VIII's marriage to Catherine Parr, the king was reconciled with his two surviving daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, whose line of succession to the throne was restored after their brother Edward VI.

After Catherine Howard was beheaded, before Henry VIII married his sixth wife, Catherine Parr, Anne of Cleves and her brother William, Duke of Julich-Cleves-Berg pressured the king to remarry Anne. Henry refused. It is noted by several historians that Anne of Cleves commented that "Madam Parr is taking a great burden on herself."

It was on Friday, January 28, 1547 that King Henry VIII, age 55, died at Whitehall Palace. The day before, he saw his confessor and received Holy Communion. At that time, it was thought that each person best take time to prepare his or her soul for this transition, and it was Sir Anthony Denny who cautioned King Henry VIII that "in

man's judgement, he was not like to live" and should remember his sins, "as becometh every good Christian man to do." Henry response by saying that he believed that Christ in all His mercy would "pardon me all my sins, yea, though they were greater than can be."

The reign of Henry VIII deeply stirred the hearts and minds of religious Brits. Longstanding complaints about Roman Catholic ideas and practices were compounded by intense reactions to the politics and practices of the Church of England. The Wycliffe/Lollard legacy continued to fuel adherents in Britain and entwine with many in Protestant movements on the continent.

Amidst all this, during the early/mid 1500s, many leaders emerged to further private and public challenges to theologies, doctrines, and practices in both the Roman Church and the Church of England. John Foxe is notable amongst those who brought challenge and documentation of what occurred. John Foxe was born 1516 in Boston, Lincolnshire, Britain, a person of some privilege. It was John Foxe who took it upon himself to write the "*Book of Martyrs*," a book widely read which used to hold a place in thousands and thousands of Puritan households, next to "*The Pilgrim's Progress*" and the *Bible*. Foxe's "*Book of Martyrs*" was first published in 1563 and gives remarkable attention to the lives, convictions of faith, sufferings, trials, torments and deaths of many Christians from earliest times with a particular focus on many martyrs who, from the time of John Wycliffe during the 14th century through to Foxe's own era and the reign of Queen Mary I.

In John Foxe's "*Book of Martyrs*," he details specific trials and examinations to which Christians were subjected, what questions were asked of them, and what responses they gave, in order to determine whether or not they were heretics. His accounts give us many details for what beliefs our Separatist, Protestant-leaning, and Puritan forebears were thinking, praying, and dying. This book helped to shape popular opinion about Roman Catholicism for more than a century.

How did John Foxe come to write such a book? At age 16, John Foxe had gone to study at Oxford, then became a probationer Fellow of Magdalen College in 1538, and a full Fellow there in 1539. He is important to us as a martyrologist, an observer and writer who detailed the persecution and executions of many of our religious forebears during this era. His close friends and colleagues at Oxford University included Hugh Latimer and William Tyndale, and like them, he developed a strong interest in promoting Protestant ideas and practices of faith. Along with several of his close friends, he fell under suspicion at Oxford of harboring Protestant views more extreme than were allowed by university authorities at Magdalen College. In 1545, John Foxe resigned Magdalen College along with five other Fellows, whereupon he became a tutor to members of the Lucy family at Carlecote, Warwickshire. In 1547, he married Agnes

Randall, the daughter of a friend from Coventry, and then moved to London to seek his livelihood.

By the end of 1548, John Foxe was appointed as a trusted tutor to the orphaned children, two sons and three daughters of Henry Howard, the Earl of Surrey and their mother, Lady Frances de Vere. This has bearing on our history, since many of his experiences show him to be a man who was deeply interested in the unfolding of theological ideas and ecclesiastical practices associated with emerging Separatism and Protestantism. Henry Howard, the Earl of Surrey was executed at age 30 years, on January 19, 1547 at Tower Hill in London, the last person to be executed by orders of King Henry VIII. His execution was based on charges of treason; Henry VIII had become convinced that Howard planned to usurp the crown from his son, the future King Edward VI, treasonably quartering the royal arms. Henry Howard was a British nobleman, poet, military man, and politician, a first cousin of both Queen Anne Boleyn and Queen Catherine Howard, the second and fifth wives of King Henry VIII. He is recognized as one of the founders of English Renaissance poetry.

Because of family ties to the king's court, from 1530 - 1532, as a young teen, Henry Howard lived at Windsor with his father's ward, Henry Fitzroy, Duke of Richmond, who was the son of Henry VIII and his mistress Elizabeth Blount. During 1532, there was some talk of Henry Howard marrying the princess Mary, eldest daughter of King Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, but that year, he married instead Lady Frances de Vere, the fourteen year old daughter of the Earl of Oxford. Henry Howard and his new bride did not live together until 1535, because of her young age. As noted above, after 1547, their five fatherless children were placed in John Foxe's care for tutoring. Foxe tutored these pupils at the castle of Reigate, which was a manor belonging to their grandfather, the Duke of Norfolk.

Foxe was ordained deacon by Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London (a Protestant), in St. Paul's Cathedral on June 24, 1550 and subsequently preached at Reigate, the first to preach Protestantism, there, though he had no pastoral charge there. Over the course of the next four years, he immersed himself in the discourse surrounding intense religious controversy, reading church history, advocating Protestant ideas and practices in his teaching and writing. In 1553, the accession to the throne of the Roman Catholic Queen Mary I compelled him to flee overseas, to the continent; Thomas Howard, the Duke of Norfolk, Earl of Surrey, grandfather of Foxe's pupils, also a Roman Catholic, was released from prison at Queen Mary I's accession to the throne and had immediately dismissed Foxe from his responsibility as tutor to his grandchildren. There were many military involvements of the Howard family members during this period of the reign of Henry VIII.

In Strasbourg, France, John Foxe 1554 first published his partly completed martyrology in Latin as "*Commentarii rerum in ecclesia gestarum/Commentaries on Affairs Within the Church.*" In this manuscript he wrote mostly about Wycliffe and John Huss. He then went to Frankfurt, in Germany, where he met and lent support to the Scottish reformer John Knox, after which he went to Basel, Switzerland. There, in circumstances of abject poverty, in 1557, he wrote a vibrant appeal to English nobility to restrain Queen Mary I from persecuting and executing Protestants, "*Ad inclytos ac praepotentes Angliae proceres/To the Renowned and Powerful Nobles of England.*"

Colleagues from England continued to inform him of executions of Protestants in England during the reign of Queen Mary I, sending him written accounts from which he brought writings in his "*Book of Martyrs*" up to 1556. "*Book of Martyrs*" was first printed in 1559, the year after the accession to the throne of the Protestant Queen Elizabeth I. He then returned to England and in London devoted himself to completing his manuscript. In 1560, he was ordained a priest in the Church of England, Researching official registers, interviewing eyewitnesses, and perusing written accounts, Foxe completed his work, March 1563, printed and naming it "*Actes and Monuments of these Latter and Perillous Dayes.*" Immediately, his book acquired the popular name, "*The Book of Martyrs,*" and in 1570 he published a second edition, with some additional changes in his third (1576) and fourth (1583) editions.

The "*Book of Martyrs*" offers considerable information detailing what the Protestant-leaning faithful believed and practiced in worship which led to their persecution and executions during this era. More on that next month.

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### **First Congregational Church Scholarship**

The Outreach Committee, on behalf of the church, awards three \$500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors planning to seek higher education in 2021. One of those scholarships may be granted to someone from the church graduating from a school other than Rockport High. The application for that scholarship may be found on the church website. The deadline for submitting applications will be April 1. Questions about the scholarship should be directed to Pastor Derek or any committee member.

The Outreach Committee uses three criteria for awarding scholarships:(1) interest and involvement in community service (2) association with the church (3) financial need.

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## THRIVING CONGREGATIONS

Currently we are working as a team on a statement of what it means to thrive for us as a congregation. As soon as we have it completed we'll share it with everyone. Our next conversation as a committee is talking about relational formation, which is thriving relationships in our church. For those who would like here is the completion of our survey, [Thriving Survey Results](#). We had 29 folks complete the survey, from all ages of the congregation! Thank you to all who took the time to complete the survey.

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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

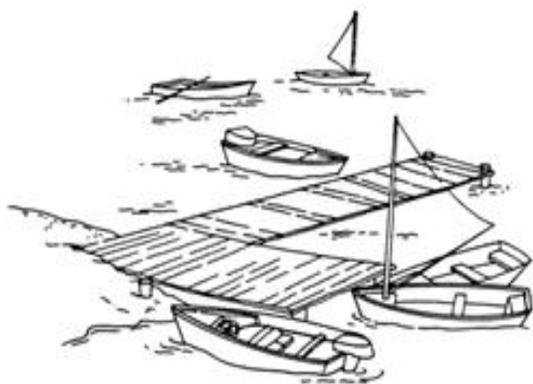
5:00 p.m.



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP  
LIVE VIA ZOOM AND FACEBOOK

10:00 A.M.





## 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

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***Please Note:** After more than a year of successfully providing The Old Sloop Landing service, the Church has decided to suspend the service after June. As vaccine availability has risen, program participation has dropped. The final delivery day will be June 16. You can still order from Henry's Market directly and have your groceries delivered to your home for \$10.00–five dollars more than the landing's price. The Church will continue to send out reminders on the first and third weeks of May and June.*

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Your church, in its quest to always be mindful of keeping its members safe and spiritually nourished, has come up with an innovative way to keep you healthy and physically nourished too. The idea is to greatly limit your need to visit the grocery store. The Old Sloop has set 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 all your groceries – meats, seafood, dairy and juice products, their wonderful baked goods, and famous prepared meals and more. 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...just like any other grocery store!

Mike Halle, a manager at Henry's Market has updated the store's website for easier ordering. You can now visit Henry's new website at <http://henrysfinefoods.com>.

## 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**

**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 to arrange your pickups by noon.

**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.

If you need to pick up your groceries after work or 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 APRIL 18, 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.

**Handouts:** (sent by email before the meeting): Agenda, Draft Minutes of Cabinet Meeting March 21, Operating Summary and Cash and Investment Summaries for March 2021, Digital Policy for Youth

**Present:** Jack Reed, Moderator and chair; Rev. Derek van Gulden, Pastor; Bruce Coates, Treasurer; Bill Elwell, Trustees; Jay Reed, Treasurer of Mission Funds; Rev. Elizabeth Rice-Smith, Historian and Old Sloop Fleet; Camilla Ayers, Diaconate; Dan Bing, Stewardship Committee; Louisa Casadei-Johnson, Stewardship Committee; Stephen Kalaghan, Christian Outreach Committee; Susan Lillis, Membership Committee; and Geof Lyon, Clerk and recording secretary.

##### 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 7:03PM.

Rev. Derek van Gulden led the assembly in prayer.

The minutes of the March 21 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved as submitted by voice vote.

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

Geof Lyon reported that the planned announcement of the new website on Easter Sunday was delayed because of the ongoing personnel matter.

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

Geof reported that the Trustees had discussed the matter and were in favor of going ahead. They suggested that the position be offered to the known candidate on a trial basis. Geof has written a job description and sent it to the Personnel Committee for their consideration.

### **Church future post-COVID activities**

Rev. Derek would like to put together a reopening team, and he asked for volunteers. There is information from the UCC and from Church Mutual, the church's insurance company. There are also state guidelines. There is a wedding planned for June that involves a local couple who will work with us on COVID restrictions. A planned baptism in March was delayed because of illness. There are two baptisms waiting, one of which is planned for Pentecost on May 23. It was pointed out that churches have been the source of outbreaks and that the church could require proof of vaccination.

### **Digital policy for the youth of the church**

Katie Welch was unable to attend the meeting to present this proposed policy and the matter was deferred to our next meeting.

### **Issues related to departure of Office Manager**

It was reported that some members of the church are considering withdrawing their membership in response to their concern about the departure of the office manager. The formal procedure for withdrawing membership is to send a letter to the clerk withdrawing their membership or transferring it to another church, and the clerk reported that he has seen no such letters. The Diaconate and the Trustees have both written letters to the congregation. A concern was expressed about messaging for the fall campaign in view of the matter.

There was a discussion of the emails that many in the congregation have been receiving. It was suggested that there is probably a legal way to stop them, but we may not want to move this to the next level. A cabinet member said they asked the sender to stop sending the emails and they stopped.

### **Online version of the Old Sloop Fair**

Dan Bing reported that the Stewardship Committee has not yet discussed this.

## Officer reports

### **Pastor**

Rev. Derek reported that we had a good Lent and Holy Week and that attendance online was good. He thanks everyone who took part.

### **Treasurer**

Bruce Coates referred to the summary financial reports he had distributed by email. Operating income to date is \$80,165, \$1,008 over budget. Operating expenses are \$66,804, \$3,356 below budget. Net income is up \$13,361, \$4,365 better than budget. Bruce thinks we are in good shape. The value of the church's investments increased by \$30,434, for a year-to-date increase of \$31,191.

### **Treasurer of Mission Funds**

Jay Reed reported that there is \$7,600 in the Outreach treasury and that the balance of the Pastor's Fund is adequate.

### **Historian**

Liz reported that she is writing away and enjoying it. Rick Kasten's architectural firm donated three large flat files that are a good start toward the historical archive requirements. She is working with Jim Schell on additional storage equipment.

## Committee Reports

### **Diaconate**

Camilla Ayers reported that the Diaconate met several times to work on the letter that was emailed to the congregation. They are looking forward to the new baptismal font.

### **Trustees**

Bill Elwell reported that the parsonage garage floor repair is in progress. Window Woman has installed the restored windows in Fellowship Hall.

### **Christian Outreach Committee**

Stephen Kalaghan reported that Outreach cannot deal with their usual activities until they know about reopening.

### **Old Sloop Fleet**

Liz reported that the fleet participated in an exciting celebration of Fred Witte's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **New Business**

Jay asked whether the health inspector has been contacted about inspecting the kitchen. He also wonders who pays for ServSafe certifications.

Jay reported that Family Promise has decided to stop rotating guests between churches. There will be one site where guests will stay and volunteers will go to them.

Geof reported that the Membership Committee has a vacancy and he asked whether the Nominating Committee was active. Jack replied that the committee had not yet met and suggested that the Membership Committee find a candidate.

### Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48PM.

### Date of Next Cabinet Meeting:

The Cabinet will next meet at 7:00PM on May 16, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Geof Lyon, Clerk

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

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## TRUSTEES

### MEETING MINUTES APRIL 12, 2021

**Trustee meeting** called to order at 7:01pm.

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

- Rev. Derek offered an Opening Prayer.
- **Minutes:** The minutes of the March 8, 2021 meeting were approved.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Bruce provided the Treasurer's Report. He opened by reporting that while filing an Unemployment Claim for the former Office Manager, it was discovered that required Quarterly Reports have never been sent to the Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance. A \$2,500 fine was being imposed. After going back and filing the missing forms, he received a notification that the fine had been deleted. As to the Financial Reports: Total Operating pledges are \$1,848 above budget and total Pledges and Offerings are \$1,093 above budget. Total Income is \$1,008 above budget. He noted that the cost of heating oil is \$981.23 mainly due to heating the sanctuary while the poinsettias were on the altar for the Christmas season. The total of Building Operations is \$1583.28 under Budget mainly due to the lack of the need for snow removal last winter. Church Office expenses are \$3,170 under budget mainly due to the reduction in salary being paid for an Office Manager. Total Expenses are \$3,356.73 under budget and Net Income is \$4,365 over budget.
- **Review of Bank/PEX statements:** Chip Kistner reported that he has checked the Bank Statements through the month of February 2021 and confirmed that all is well. Bonnie reported checking the PEX statement which only had two charges for the month of

March. The first for the Power Church software and the second for a "Plug-In" for the new web-site which allows for donations to be made through the web-site. Geof reported that this charge is being refunded. PayPal will be used instead.

### **Old Business:**

- **Steeple Leaks:** No update on the water leaks in the Steeple. Geof reported that he has not heard from American Steeple & Tower and will reach out to them again. Bonnie mentioned that the clock in the steeple facing Main Street has not been working for some time. Walter offered to take a look and see if he can make the repair. Otherwise, the Town will be contacted as the clock actually is their responsibility.
- **Parsonage Issues:** Bill reported that work has begun on the garage at the Parsonage. Keith McIntyre will be replacing the concrete and Bill will rebuild the wall which has rotted.
- **Fellowship Hall Windows:** The work on the windows has been completed. The decision to not re-hang the curtains was made due to their age and condition. The shutters will be re-hung and Geof offered to investigate replacing the ones which are in poor condition.

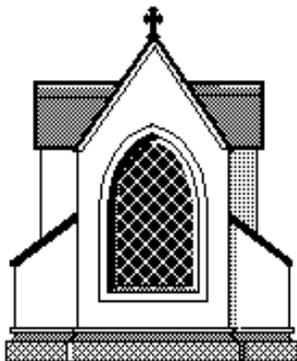
### **New Business:**

- A discussion on plans for Re-opening the building was begun by Geof who is hoping to plan three Coffee Houses in the Fall – two in October and one in November. His concern is with the guidelines for Covid that will have to be adhered to. He noted that guidelines for performances are quite different than those for religious services. He noted that the sanctuary could be used for the performances if restrictions prohibit using Fellowship Hall. Geof and Derek will investigate the UCC and State guidelines as well as the Church's insurance coverage. The Trustees are in favor of having these performances as long as all the protocols are adhered to.
- The creation of a position for Tech. Support was discussed. Geof has a person in mind for this position and suggested having him start on a trial basis to determine if he will be successful. He has developed a Job Description and will contact the Personnel Committee for any guidelines that may exist on creating a new position and hiring for it.
- A request has been received by the owner of a Pizza Food Truck to rent the kitchen at the Church mornings for 1 ½ hours each day for food preparation. The Trustees had several concerns: Insurance coverage, power costs if ovens are used, Safe Serve certification, cleaning and trash removal. Derek will bring the concerns to the fellow making the request. Another concern related to activities going on once the Church is re-opened. Will having this fellow in the kitchen interfere in any way.

There being no further business, the Board of Trustees adjourned at 8:22pm. The next scheduled meeting of the Trustees is on Monday, May 10, 2021. The Chairman of the Board may find it necessary to change this date.

Walter Vining  
Chair, Board of Trustees

Bonnie Gray  
Recording Secretary



## Stewardship Committee

MAY 2021

A Note From Stewardship

April 22, 201 – Earth Day

*“It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us.”*

In Rev. Derek’s sermon last Sunday, he spoke of the power of that old favorite song, “This Little Light of Mine.” I was reminded of the prose poem by Marianne Williamson that begins:

*“It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, ‘Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?’ Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world.”*

Today happens to be Earth Day. It’s cold and gray, 34 degrees when I woke up. It’s supposed to be in the sixties this weekend. April always seems to range all over the place, although these days when we have such dramatic diurnal variations, I worry how much has to do with change. Regardless of how we might each feel individually about the urgency of addressing global warming, we can all agree that each of us has the responsibility of being a good steward of the earth. It’s critical that none of us play small in this undertaking.

In the book group I attend with fifteen women friends, we decided this month to read *The Future We Choose*, in honor of Earth Day. In the book, written by Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac, architects of the 2015 Paris Agreement, the authors point out that, in working to care for and rebuild our environment, they realized that “perpetuation of our species was about far more than saving ourselves from extreme weather. It was about being good stewards of the land *and* of one another.”

I recently googled the word “stewardship” looking for inspiration. The simplicity of the definition encouraged me. *Christian Stewardship: the responsibilities that Christians have in maintaining and using wisely the gifts that God has bestowed.* His gifts are many and varied. Thank you for using your gifts of time, talent, and financial offerings to support

the work and worship of the church. Let's be reminded by Earth Day that we are stewards of so much more.

Submitted by Louisa Casadei-Johnson for the Stewardship Committee

Dan Bing, Kathie McCarthy, Jack Reed

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## Use Amazon Smile to Raise Money for the Church

We haven't talked about this in a while, but Stewardship wants to remind you about AmazonSmile, a program that will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. All you need to do is go to [AmazonSmile.com](https://www.amazon.com/amazonsmile) and choose the FCCR as your charitable recipient. That's it. If you already have an Amazon account, you use the same username and password. If not, open an AmazonSmile account. It's free and with all the online shopping we are likely doing these days, it could really add up. Thanks!

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### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

#### MEETING MINUTES APRIL 20, 2021

#### **Agenda:**

Nominate New Chairperson

Nominating an additional Committee member

Office Manager termination issue: short-term effects on our work

Connecting with Facebook and Zoom worship attendees

**Attendees:** Geof Lyon, Rev. Derek Van Gulden Louisa Casadei-Johnson, Rick Kasten, Laurie McKenna, Dan Bing, Susan Lillis

**Quorum:** Yes

**Derek's prayer** – "Peace be with you"

**Nominating an additional Committee member** – A member of the church has expressed interest. A member of the committee will contact them.

**New Chairperson** – Susan would be willing to be a Co-Chair and be responsible to create the agenda and lead the meetings. The other Co-Chair could set up the meetings and have other roles. Geof offered to set up meetings and Louisa would be willing to Co-Chair with Susan.

Rick made a motion to nominate Susan and Louisa as the Co-Chairs of the committee and Geof seconded, all were in favor.

Rick mentioned that right before COVID restrictions hit the committee was discussing ways to reach out to members. He feels that now we could work on how to become more welcoming, reinforce relationships with current contacts and reach out to new people. The committee only met a couple of times last year.

**Office Manager termination issue as it relates to the short-term effect on our work –**

Dan suggested an email or announcement to the Congregation to introduce the Membership Committee and give a brief overview of our mission.

Derek offered 2 points on moving forward – Firstly, the Deacons are handling the communication to members regarding the previous office manager's emails. The focus needs to be on healing. How do we heal? This will take a larger effort. Secondly, he likes reaching out to new people, but how to get current members more involved is equally as important to him.

**New Business:**

Derek needs one person from each committee for the team working on how to get back in the sanctuary. Approaching this from the perspective of what this would look like instead of a focus on the rules will be a more positive feeling for everyone.

He added that we need to include how we would reach out to the diverse population. We are a more multi-generational congregation with varied backgrounds and economics, so the challenge is how do we get congregation more involved in LGBTQ initiatives?

Rick shifted to how we would bring new people in. When we're back to in-person worship, will we still broadcast the service?

Derek reminded us that we will still live stream. He added that Pentecost Sunday is the birth of our church and an opportunity for us to address the congregation. Rick mentioned a few things we could say around being more welcoming and getting more people involved. He mentioned that years ago the church asked for mini bios from members. This could help put more meaning behind baptisms and other faith related events at the church.

Susan likes Rick's idea for brief write ups from members. She mentioned her husband's feeling about being a "member" versus a part of a congregation. Something we could consider in our messaging.

Derek formally invited the committee to talk on Pentecost Sunday. Maybe ask someone to tell their story, tell what they are passionate about. Geof mentioned deepening

involvement and it meaning different things to different people. This is important to consider as we develop our message to the congregation.

Next Committee meeting is on May 18 at 7PM. Agenda will include talking more about Zoom.

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## Christian Education and Faith Formation

**MAY 2021**

Happy Spring!

Just a reminder that all are invited to join us for our weekly faith formation activities, if you would like any more information or would like to see any new programming please let myself or Rev. Derek know!

### **Monday**

Youth Choir @4:30

### **Wednesday**

Story time with Rev. Derek @3pm

Lectio Divina Bible Study @5pm

Youth Group midweek check in @7:30pm

### **Friday**

Prayer Group @4pm

I can not believe we are a year into all of our online faith formation activities. I am so thankful for all who have jumped on this crazy ride with us, and so thankful for the relationships that have been deepened, the fun jeopardy games played over zoom, and the insightful conversations and sermons from our amazing 12 school street singers! We have learned how to adapt, and how to thrive in times of uncertainty.

I would like to invite everyone to join me in a project I am working on, what is something positive that has come out of this past year. If you have anything you'd like to share, a photo, video, piece of art, poem, etc. please share it with me via txt 978-290-3427 or email me.

We are also in the process of finalizing our digital safe church policy, and updating our safe church policy. Be on the look out over the next month or so for a photo release form!

Katie Welch

Director of Christian Education and Faith Formation

### **Youth Group 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.

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!

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### **NEW DIGITAL POLICY**

#### **Appropriate Electronic Communication**

- a) Sending and replying to emails and text messages from youths ONLY when copying another adult or the youth's parent
- b) Communicating through "organization group pages" on Facebook or other approved public forums

#### **Inappropriate Electronic Communication**

- a) Harsh, coercive, threatening, intimidating, shaming, derogatory, degrading or humiliating comments, sexually oriented conversations.
- b) Private messages between clergy, employees, and volunteers with youths
- c) There should be no posting of pictures on social media sites, without signed permission from parent/guardian.

#### **Social Media**

- a) Avoiding private messages, unless with another adult, and/or group message.

- b) FCCR youth social media accounts will be managed/have access to and have administrative privilege by the Director of Faith Formation and Christian Education, and/or another volunteer.
- c) Youth will be encouraged to post/comment publicly versus private messages (if not spiritual care related).

#### Zoom with Youth

- a) Second person rule still applies (both people must be seen within the video). Second person can be a parent, or a young adult (21 plus for youth group and/or 15 plus for youth choir), unless there is parental consent, then the youth can meet one on one with an adult via zoom.
- b) Remote gatherings with youth should be advertised in advance, and should take place at particular times (e.g. 7:30p on Wednesday nights). This communicates clear expectations and consistency related to youth virtual events.
- c) All virtual gatherings with **minors** should be password protected and the waiting room should be enabled.
- d) Attendance is to be taken and stored digitally for both youth and adults at each meeting. Access to the attendance will be granted to the Christian Ed. Director, Youth Choir Director, Pastor, and members of the CE committee. [Youth Digital Ministries Attendance](#)
- e) Written and/or digital permission forms for both adults and youth are to be filled out and filed with the understanding that the services will be viewed on Facebook, Zoom, YouTube, and cable access TV. These documents will be filed and stored in the Christian Education office. [Photo Permission Form](#)
- f) Any incidents of misconduct, inappropriate behavior, or other safety concerns, should be reported immediately to the Director of Christian Education and Faith Formation, and/or the Pastor.

### MEETING NOTES

Date: February 15th, 2021

Attendees: Karen, Kylah, Katie, Ant, Susan

#### COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Chair - Ant

Secretary - Kylah

Cabinet - Karen

Nominating -

#### MEETING AGENDA

Circulate digital policy  
Work on updating safe church policy

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Date: April 8th, 2021

Attendees: Katie, Kylah, Susan, and Karen

#### MEETING AGENDA

Edit and circulate safe church policy  
Establish guidelines and protocols for possible in person youth services for fall  
Plan end of the year socially distanced (by family) downtown scavenger hunt  
Distribute photo release form to the whole congregation.

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### Christian Outreach Committee



#### MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 11, 2021

**PRESENT:** Jay Reed, Marge Schell, Wendy Woodbury, Jessica Hunt, Ann Kistner

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The balance in the budget is \$7677.50 as of March 31, 2021. Pledges have continued to be strong allowing for disbursements to One Great Hour of Sharing, Family Promise, Refugee Immigration Ministry, Open Door, Grace Center, Heifer International, Den Mar relief and the Mass. Conference, UCC.

**PASTOR'S FUND:** The Pastor's Fund is sufficient at this time. A donation was given to assist a family. Wellspring also received a monetary donation for a refugee family.

**ACTION LUNCHESES:** Wendy hosted committee members to prepare lunches for the Action Shelter on March 31st. Our next date for this is June 30th. Jay will put out a request for the needed food items close to the date.

**FAMILY PROMISE:** Our budgeted donation to Family Promise was combined with the Easter offering this month. Family Promise has decided to remain in its current building until the end of the year. Guests will no longer rotate staying in local churches. Family Promise would ideally like to find a larger building so that more families can be

housed. Jay will find out more, including how we as volunteers can participate, in an upcoming Zoom meeting. Jay has contacted other church representatives to talk about Family Promise. The committee also briefly discussed the issue of returning our borrowed mattresses to FP, as well as the need to find a new home for the stored linens at the church.

**REFUGEE IMMIGRATION MISSION WALK FOR REFUGEES:** This year's walk was supposed to be held on June 20th in Wakefield around Lake Quannapowitt. Because of continued Covid concerns, the walk will take place in either Wakefield or Topsfield (the decision for the location will be made at the next May RIM meeting) with small numbers of representatives from each church cluster participating. Jay has recently been in touch, via Zoom, with members of the North Shore cluster of RIM. **LANDING:** The committee discussed the current status of the Old Sloop Landing. Wendy, Jay and Mark J. have been the primary workers at the Landing every other Wednesday. Approximately 6-10 orders, reaching about 15-18 individuals have been consistently placed. As the service was created to assist people during the pandemic, we will need to consider when it will be safe enough to stop offering this. We agreed that at this time it was too soon to decide on an end date. Henry's delivery cost to individuals through the Landing is currently \$5.00. If anyone wants to continue with the service after we have stopped organizing it, they may still get home deliveries through Henry's for a \$10.00 delivery fee.

**POT LUCK SUPPERS- OPEN DOOR:** At this time, due to the closure of the church, the Wednesday night pot luck suppers cannot resume. It is possible that we can start back with them once the church is able to reopen. We need to have a kitchen inspection as well as a Safe Serve certification. If we assist in Open Door meal preparations in the future, we will need to have individuals be certified. This will involve a cost to the church. We will need to further discuss this, deciding how many people need to be certified and how it will be paid for. Open Door has yet to state their plans for our involvement with meal preparations there once the pandemic has ended. The Gloucester Board of Health does not want home prepared food to be used. So in the future we will need to use our kitchen, the Open Door kitchen or the kitchen at Savor's. **SCHOLARSHIPS:** The committee discussed at length the upcoming church scholarship process. We will be looking to receive applications from Rockport High School students as well as from students who may be attending other schools. Three scholarships of \$500 each will be determined by specific criteria concerning community service, financial need and/or a connection to our church. The application was put on the church website with an April 1 deadline. We will meet on Zoom at the beginning of next month to make our decisions on the recipients.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Liz Rice- Smith has informed Jay of a Zoom event about the Martin-

Baro Initiative for Well Being and Human Rights at Boston College. It is a consciousness raising event for outreach groups or any individuals who would like to take part. The Grassroots Initiative, a precursor to Amnesty International, is also involved with this program. It will take place on Sunday, April 18.

The meeting adjourned at 12:59. NEXT MEETING: MAY 2, 2021

Respectfully submitted, Ann Kistner

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### END OF LIFE OPTIONS ACT

This year the Massachusetts legislature is considering a bill called the End-of-Life Options Act, which would permit medical compassionate aid in dying for Commonwealth citizens who are terminally ill, mentally capable, and facing extreme and unrelieved pain and suffering. In the Mass House of Representatives the bill is called HD 1456, in the Senate, SD 801.

If the law passes, patients would have to be at least 18 years old, a Massachusetts resident, and diagnosed with a terminal disease that would result in death within six months. Patients would make a verbal request to their doctor, followed by a written request with witnesses. The doctor and one other doctor would confirm the diagnosis and prognosis and determine that the patient is capable of making medical decisions. The doctor would refer the patient to a psychiatrist/psychologist to determine whether the patient suffers from a mental disorder that would impair judgment, and the doctor would confirm that the patient is not being coerced or unduly influenced by others. The doctor would inform the patient of any alternative therapy or medication that may keep the patient comfortable.

Being prescribed medication to end life, the patient would have to be able to ingest that medication without assistance.

If the Bill passes, Massachusetts would be the eleventh state plus the District of Columbia to legalize compassionate aid in dying to terminally ill patients. If you favor this bill, you should call or email your state Senator and representative to support the bill and especially to cosponsor the bill.

## 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](mailto:revdvan@yahoo.com)

### *The Old Sloop's Log*

Susan Lillis, Editor

Please submit articles to:  
[sglillis56@gmail.com](mailto:sglillis56@gmail.com)

**\*\* 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

Currently via zoom

### Sunday School

Currently via zoom

### Church Staff

#### Pastor

Rev. Derek van Gulden

#### Music Director

Dr. Phil Swanson

#### Youth Choir Director

Kristina Martin

#### Christian Education and Faith Formation Director

Kaitlyn Welch

#### Sexton

Phil Bynarowicz