

The Old Sloop's Log

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



Our Covenant

We the members of this congregation welcome you with gladness into our lives. We renew our covenant of faith and offer you our support, encouragement and love to the end that all of us may grow in the boundless mercy of God. By loving and being loved, forgiving and being forgiven, serving and being served, let us go forward together with courage as Christ's disciples glorifying God by being fully alive.

Open and Affirming Statement

We the members of the First Congregational Church of Rockport are called upon to love one another as God loves us, freely and un-conditionally. Therefore, we covenant to become an open and affirming congregation welcoming persons of every age, ability, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic status, and ethnicity into full membership and participation in our community life and ministry. We embrace and support those who experience rejection and exile from spiritual community and commit ourselves to the struggle against injustice.



Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." ' When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time. (Luke 4:12-13)

Beloved,

On the first Sunday in Lent we hear the story of the Devil testing and tempting Jesus. The devil has two goals with his tests: for Jesus to turn away from God and for Jesus to reveal his identity as the Son of God. Each time, Jesus deflects the Devil's challenge by responding with a quotation from scripture. After the last temptation Jesus responds, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" He says these words with such authority and power that the Devil has no choice but to run away.

It's appropriate that we begin Lent with this passage because this season can often feel full of testing or temptation. We give up treats, take on a new form of prayer, write daily meditations, engage the rite of reconciliation, etc... For forty days we struggle with the new routine. We long to be in a deeper relationship with God but the temptations and tests can wear us down. Maybe we give in and eat that sweet treat, we stop praying, we stop attending church. Burdened with these failures we disappear from our community, even from God.

As I pray for our community members who are fighting illnesses, struggling with finances, worrying about heat, worrying where they

will find shelter each night I recognize that some of us live in a Lent that lasts more than 40 days, even more than 365 days. For them the temptations and tests of Lent don't vanish when the church calendar moves on to the joy of Easter. How do you give up a favorite food when you don't have enough food to eat? How do you reach out to help others when your mind is distracted with worries? How do you try a new form of prayer when you don't feel worthy to approach God? How do you experience the joy of Easter when stuck in a permanent Lent?

Our church Mothers and Fathers were wise to limit Lent to short season of the year. Like us, they experienced deep pain and suffering—hunger, poverty, persecution, martyrdom—AND they knew that this was only a part of God's story. God forcefully ends Lent with the resurrection. And so Lent is only a part of God's story which means it is only a part of our story as well. .

During Lent we acknowledge the pain and suffering of Jesus so that we who are well and able-bodied can provide a balm for the pain and suffering of our neighbors. As we resist temptations and try on new ways of meeting God we discover the strength and the courage to stand against the social injustice that surrounds us.

When the Devil tested and tempted Jesus, Jesus wasn't interested in proving his worth. Instead it was a moment of preparation for greater tests and temptations that would soon follow. Lent is our moment of preparation.

How will this Lent prepare you to fight against oppression, injustice, and scarcity?

How will this Lent prepare you for all the tests and temptations to come?

The Following are a few ideas on how to fast your way through Lent that may help you improve relationships with others, the planet, yourself and with God. *These were written by Bishop PB Arthur Lichtenberger; Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church from 1959-1964.*

Fast from judgment, Feast on compassion
 Fast from greed, Feast on sharing
 Fast from scarcity, Feast on abundance
 Fast from fear, Feast on peace
 Fast from lies, Feast on truth
 Fast from gossip, Feast on praise
 Fast from anxiety, Feast on patience
 Fast from evil, Feast on kindness
 Fast from apathy, Feast on engagement
 Fast from discontent, Feast on gratitude
 Fast from noise, Feast on silence
 Fast from discouragement, Feast on hope
 Fast from hatred, Feast on love

Shalom,

Rev. Derek

CABINET

Meeting Minutes: February 17, 2019

Subject to Approval

Present: Jack Reed, Moderator, chair, and Christian Education Committee; Rev. Derek van Gulden, Pastor; Bruce Coates, Treasurer; Sue Herron, Diaconate; Stephen Kalaghan, Christian Outreach Committee; Liz Rice-Smith, Historian and Old Sloop Fleet; Bonnie Gray, Trustees; Joe Chambers, Stewardship Committee; Bob Cannon, Music Committee; Jim Schell, Membership Committee; Sue Koehler-Arsenault, guest of chair; and Geof Lyon, Clerk and recording secretary.

Handouts: Agenda; Guidelines for Conduct of Cabinet Meetings as Approved by Cabinet May 17, 2015; FCCR 2019 Board and Committee Positions; Bylaws of The First Congregational Church of Rockport, Massachusetts Inc. As Amended at Annual Meeting January 20, 2019; Cabinet Membership; Meeting of Church Cabinet January 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes - Subject to Approval; Minutes of the 265th Annual Meeting First Congregational Church of Rockport January 27, 2019 (subject to approval); A Report for the 2019 First Congregational Church of Rockport Annual Meeting "Charting the Future: The Future of Christian Education/Formation for Families and Youth"

Declaration of a Quorum: Moderator Jack Reed explained the new quorum requirement for Cabinet meetings. Noting that several people serve as officers and also represent committees on the Cabinet and that other people represent more than one committee, Jack indicated that he would interpret the quorum requirement to mean that 50% of the offices and committees must be represented. Observing that a quorum was present, Jack called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Review of Cabinet Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the January 20 Cabinet meeting were approved as submitted by voice vote.

Charting the Future: Jack called on Sue Koehler-Arsenault to review the Charting the Future report and recommendations. Sue will present this to the congregation after worship February 24 but wanted to meet with the Cabinet first. She explained that the Charting the Future committee would like to continue its work by surveying people who were baptized or married at the church. The church would have to find a volunteer who is able to continue the work, or make a financial commitment by hiring a Director of Christian Formation or by extending her contract. Extensive discussion about how the survey would be conducted and what questions would be asked broadened into sharing ideas about how we might attract people to the church. It was decided to wait to decide how to proceed with Charting the Future until after the presentation to the congregation.

Conduct of Cabinet Meetings: Jack reviewed the Guidelines for Conduct of Cabinet Meetings and pointed out that they were approved at the Cabinet meeting on May 17, 2015. There was agreement that the guidelines were useful, and a motion was made that the guidelines be approved again. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Annual Meeting: Jack noted that the minutes of the January 27, 2019 Annual Meeting would be approved at the 2020 Annual Meeting, but that there were matters raised at the meeting that the Cabinet might take up. The 3% increase in UCC Basic Support was approved by the congregation as part of the Outreach budget. Jay Reed had pointed out a problem with the description of the

MacLean-Hooper Fund in the Annual Reports, and Jack agreed to contact Jay to ask him to work with the Trustees to correct the problem.

Board and Committee Positions: Jack noted that most of the committees have met and chosen chairs and representatives to the Cabinet and Nominating Committee. After some discussion, it was agreed that a Cabinet member has one vote even if he or she represents more than one office or committee.

Narthex: The Trustees will work with the Diaconate to specify the improvements to the narthex.

Officer Reports

Treasurer: Bruce Coates distributed a report showing a Year-To-Date Operating Summary and a Year-To-Date Cash and Investment Summary as of January 31. He pointed out that although the Operating Summary looks very good, the difference between this year and last is almost all timing issues.

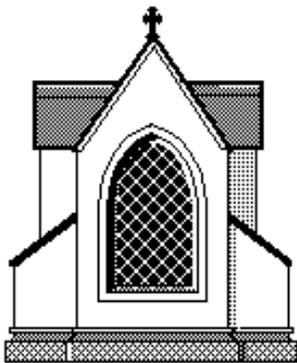
Date of Next Cabinet Meeting:

The cabinet will next meet in the Morgan Room at 7:00PM on March 17.

Respectfully submitted,

Geof Lyon, Clerk

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL



Stewardship

March 2019

The Stewardship Committee had their first meeting of the year on February 11. We welcome two new members, Joe Chambers and Kathie McCarthy. Sigi Lindo, Kevin Love, and Jan Miccalizzi have completed their service to the committee and we are grateful for their time and contributions. Sigi, as chairwoman, always went above and beyond and we will surely be asking for her advice and guidance along the way this year.

I write this the day after Ash Wednesday. It seems fitting that Lent begins in early March, when the cold is still bone-chilling and the sun still sets before dinnertime. To me, the darkness of the end of winter inspires the Lenten traditions of reflection and repentance. However, remember that Daylight Savings Time begins next week and the days will begin to seem longer and lighter. In two weeks, spring will arrive (at least on the calendar!) and in a little over a month we will celebrate Easter--the Resurrection and the Light.

-Louisa Casadei-Johnson

Minutes of the Stewardship Committee Meeting February 11, 2019--DRAFT

The meeting was called to order at 5:30PM

Present: Louisa Casadei-Johnson, Sigi Lindo, Kathie McCarthy, Joe Chambers and Fred Witte with Reverend Derek van Gulden joining in progress. Absent: Marcia Myers.

The first order of business was to vote to assign roles to the members as follows:

1. Chair who will be Louisa,
2. Cabinet representative who will be Joe,
3. Secretary who will be Fred, and
4. Nominating Committee representative who will be Kathie.

We then reviewed the regular activities of the committee, with guidance from Sigi who has served on the committee for 6 years.

1. Quarterly thank you to accompany the mailing of the quarterly pledge statements which will be written by different members each quarter and sent to Geof Lyon.
2. Articles for The Old Sloop Log, which will routinely include a draft of the minutes of the last meeting.
3. Submitting the minutes to the office manager once they are approved.
4. The appropriate "home" for the cookbook which has become a fundraiser for the Steeple.
5. Fundraising dinners, when and where. Ask Kathleen Morgan if she would host a wine and cheese event.
6. The need to interact with the Trustees in the summer to have a goal for the Fall Stewardship Campaign based on a preliminary budget.
7. Our Ministries Book needs fresh photos.
8. Promoting Amazon Prime as a fund raiser.
9. Create a theme for the Fall Stewardship campaign.
10. Redesign of the pledge card based on the unified pledge.
11. Photo Directory to be tasked to Membership which Sigi will bring to that committee since she is now a member of the committee.

Two new ideas were discussed.

1. "Coffee's" at member's homes to discuss the pledging process and its importance.
2. Attend new member meetings to discuss the importance of pledging, both financially and time and energy.

Also discussed was the proper level of the Pastor's and the committee's knowledge regarding pledge details.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

The next meeting was tentatively set for March 13, 2019.

Respectfully submitted, Fred Witte



Christian Education

Youth Ministry News

MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday, March 3	10:00	Communion Sunday/Youth in Service
	5:00 – 7:00	Youth Group: Famous Words. Week 1
Sunday, March 10	9:00	Confirmation Class
	10:00	Worship with Children in Service
	5:00 – 7:00	No Youth Group (Family Promise)
Sunday, March 17	10:00	Worship with Children in Service
	5:00 – 7:00	No Youth Group (Jazz Band trip)
Sunday, March 24	9:00	Confirmation Class
	10:00	Worship with Children in Service
	5:00 – 7:00	Youth Group: Famous Words. Week 2
Sunday, March 31	10:00	Special Music Sunday with Children in Service
	5:00 – 7:00	Youth Group: Famous Words. Week 3

Youth Group

This month in youth group we will be exploring the series “famous last words” in this series, we’ll discover the powerful words Jesus shared in the days leading up to His death and resurrection-- words that still impact us today.

Sunday School

With attendance low and unpredictable and busy family schedules we have been exploring different options for our normal Sunday morning routines. We are slowly beginning to implement children and families staying in for worship Sunday mornings. We have talked about what worship is, and there have been worship binders made for all the children and confirmation class. The binder includes a place to take notes, to draw, the Lord's prayer with a beaded bracelet, and the general flow of worship with simple words and pictures. It is important that we work together as the body of Christ as a whole!

Common Cathedral Info

We will be meeting at the church at 8:15am on Sunday, April 7th to make sandwiches. You don't have to be going with us into Boston to help make the sandwiches. Once the sandwiches are made, we will pack up the cars and head into the city for the afternoon. We are going to need the following

items, so look for myself or a teen with the sign up sheet in fellowship hall a few weeks prior. The following items are needed, 3 jars of peanut butter, 3 jars of jelly, 3 lbs bologna, 3 lbs of ham, 5 lbs, of cheese, 20 loaves of bread, 6 packages of cheese sticks, 12 packages of cookies/fig newtons, 10 dozen hard boiled eggs (boiled and put back in the carton), 3 packages of clementines, 1 gallon of grape juice, 200 hot cups, 100 napkins, 250 sandwich baggies, 2 cans of hot chocolate, and 1 sheet cake.



Christian Outreach Committee

Meeting minutes, February 10, 2019

Present: Karen Coffin, Steve Kalaghan, Ann Kistner, Jay Reed, Marge Schell, Diane Westman, Wendy Woodbury

Jay opened the meeting with prayer at 11:30 am.

We welcomed Ann Kistner as a new committee member.

The Committee elected the following: Chair - Jay Reed

Treasurer of Mission Funds - Jay Reed

Cabinet Rep - Steve Kalaghan

Nominating Rep - Marge Schell

Secretary - Sarah Mowitt

We reviewed receipts, disbursements and balance as of January 31, 2019.

Balance as of that date is \$4693,17.

The Pastor's Fund is funded by anonymous donations and is used to help people requesting help from the church. Funds are used for rent, gift cards to food stores, utilities. We avoid giving money or checks from the Pastor's Fund to individuals if possible.

Disbursement decisions are made with approval of Pastor and Outreach Committee. Balance as of February 10, 2019 is approximately \$1000.00.

We prepare lunches for the Action shelter on months that have a 5th Wednesday.

Our next date is May 28.

Wendy reminded us that in the past we have designated the Easter Offering for the Youth Group Mission Trip. She will contact Katie Welch to ask if there will be a Mission Trip this year. When we know we will decide how we will designate the Easter Offering.

The church prepares and serves at Open Door four times a year: Feb, May, Aug and Nov.

Wednesday pot luck dinners have been averaging 20 people. People seem to be lingering, talking and socializing longer. We discussed places we could place posters to notify more people. Pot luck had a referral from the library to someone in need of food.

The Refugee Immigration Ministry (RIM) fundraiser at Shea's Restaurant, Essex was successful.

Enough was raised to provide one month's expenses for RIM client. The fundraiser walk for RIM is June 30th in Wakefield.

The Social Justice Subcommittee of Outreach has been discussing the impact of the war in Yemen and the difficulty of providing humanitarian aid. They are also concerned about affordable housing. We are hoping to have a representative of Harborlight Community Partners(HCP) speak to the congregation in May. HCP promotes affordable housing in the North Shore.

Affordable Housing and Homelessness is an issue of great concern to the Outreach Committee. We have seen homeless guests at pot luck, through inquiries to the church for help and through our experiences with Family Promise.

Rev. Derek would like to focus periodic worship services around Outreach issues. The Committee would like to focus the first on Homelessness/Affordable Housing. We are recommending either March 24th or 31st.

The next host week for Family Promise is March 10-17th. We will be recruiting volunteers during coffee hour.

Next meeting: Sunday, March 17th

Meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marge Schell (This is my first time doing minutes. Let me know of any additions, deletions, mistakes)

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 2019. 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; and (3) financial need.

LET'S GET STARTED

We don't know who will run the Old Sloop Fair or who the table chairmen will be, but we do know that handcrafted items will be needed. The cooler months are the best time to work on knitting, crocheting and other types of needlecraft. 'm wondering if some folks would enjoy getting together to socialize, share ideas, patterns, materials and more as we each work on projects for the fair.

Whether you rarely pick up your needles or use them all the time, please let me know if you'd like to share the fun of making summer-themed items before the hot weather arrives.

Camilla Ayers, 978-546-3855 or camillayers@hotmail.com.

OLD SLOOP COFFEEHOUSE UPCOMING PERFORMANCES



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

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

has performed at thousands of events throughout the US and around the world, spreading their message of peace and justice.

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

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

12th Annual Women's Retreat

"The Heart of Hospitality"



Saturday April 6, 2019 • 9:00AM to 4:00PM
Adelynrood Conference and Retreat Center • Byfield, MA

Each Sunday when we gather for worship, we hear “Welcome home. No matter where you are on your journey of faith - whether you are here for an hour or a lifetime, welcome home.” At the core of our identity as members of the United Church of Christ is this extravagant proclamation of hospitality, rooted in Jesus’ welcome to us and his call to welcome the stranger.

Author of “Radical Hospitality,” Lonni Collins Pratt writes, “Real hospitality isn’t about what we do, it’s about who we are.” Mutual reverence is at the heart of hospitality. It requires open hearts; to allow all of who we are to be received by Christ and to receive every person as Christ. As followers of Jesus, how can we welcome the stranger within and come home to ourselves? How can we welcome the stranger in our lives that comes to us as a cranky teenager, an aging parent, a weary refugee or someone with different political views?

Led by Rev. Sue Koehler-Arsenault, this year’s retreat will offer opportunities for prayer, personal reflection, guided meditation, deep listening, inspiring conversation, good food, and worship. This will be a time to grow in friendship – with yourself, with other women, and with God.

Lunch, coffee, and tea will be provided. Cost is \$ 25 pp. Scholarship assistance is available.

We can arrange ride sharing. Feel to invite friends from outside of our church.

To Register-Sign up in Fellowship Hall after Sunday worship starting March 10 or contact Celene Lyon (508) 284-8762 or celenelyon@comcast.net.

Registration deadline is March 31. We are limited to 30 participants so register early!

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

EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to share in the Easter flower fund, which provides flowers in the sanctuary in honor of or in memory of loved ones, please fill out this form and send it to the church office. Make checks payable to: The First Congregational Church of Rockport, “Easter Flower Fund.” These plants will be in the sanctuary during our Easter Sunday service, April 21, and will be disbursed to friends who are unable to share in our Easter celebration. If you know of anyone who might enjoy receiving a plant, please let Regina know in the church office.

NAMES OF PERSON TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED

MEMORY OF _____

HONOR OF _____

YOUR NAME _____

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



Weekly Church Events

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
POTLUCK DINNER

Wednesdays at 5 pm



POTLUCK DINNER

THURSDAY MORNING
BOOK GROUP

MORGAN CONFERENCE ROOM

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



The Fellowship Hour Schedule for March

March 3 Wendy and Mark Woodbury

March 10 Rich Kasten and Kathleen Morgan

March 17 Ann Kistner and Sue Morris

March 24 Liz Rice-Smith

March 31 Diane Westman and Joe Chambers

If there are any questions or concerns or if you would like to be a part of our fellowship hour by baking or hosting, please contact Liz-Rice Smith or Wendy Woodbury.

With Gratitude for our Church Servants for February

Ushers

February 3 Karen and Joe Chambers

February 10 Karen and Joe Chambers

February 17 Karen and Joe Chambers

February 24 Karen and Joe Chambers

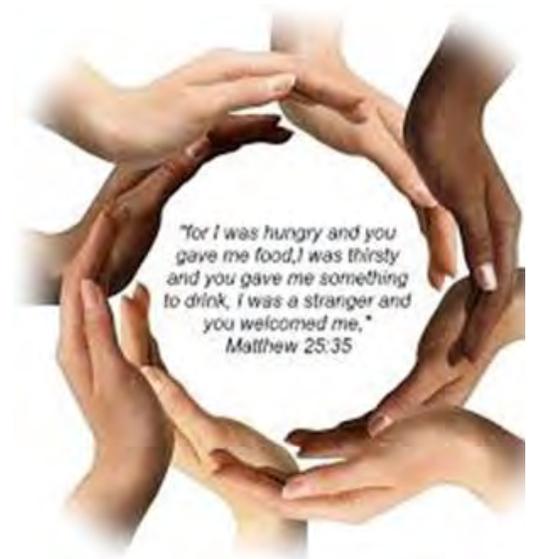
Readers

February 3 Mary Cresse

February 10 David Arsenault

February 17 Louisa Casadei-Johnson

February 24 Jack Reed



CHURCH DIRECTORY

First Congregational Church of Rockport, UCC

12 School Street
Rockport, Massachusetts 01966

Phone: (978) 546-6638

Email: office@rockportucc.org

Website: www.rockportucc.org

During non-business hours:

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

The Old Sloop's Log

Susan Lillis, Editor

Please submit articles to:
oldslooplog@rockportucc.org

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

Church Office Hours

Tuesday – Friday
9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship Service

Nursery Care is available

Sunday School

10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Church Staff

Pastor

Rev. Derek van Gulden

Office Manager

Regina Reis

Music Director

Dr. Phil Swanson

Youth Choir Director

Kristina Martin

Youth director and Interim Christian Ed. Director

Kaitlyn Welch

Sexton

Phil Bynarowicz