

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.



A letter to the UCC Family of Faith: We can't let evil prevail;

October 29, 2018; Written by **Bonnie Bates**

This call to action comes from the Conference Minister of the Penn Northeast Conference UCC, with the affirmation of the denomination's National Officers and the Rev. David Ackerman, Conference Minister of the Penn West Conference UCC.

“ ”

**We must advocate for justice,
humanitarian treatment of our neighbors,
and for safety in our places of worship.
We, in the Church, must stand as moral
authorities proclaiming peace and hope,
compassion and justice.**

The Rev. Bonnie Bates
Conference Minister, Penn Northeast Conference UCC

The news over the past weeks has revealed an undercurrent of hate within our culture and our country. Between the assumption that immigrants walking nearly 2,000 miles seeking asylum are seen as a threat to our security; the pipe bombs mailed to those who oppose our current political

administration; the massacre of 11 Jewish citizens during services at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh; and the shooting of an African American man and woman in a grocery store after a failed attempt to enter a church of Black worshippers, it is hard to find cause for hope in our nation.

The rhetoric of hate and divisiveness calls for a response from the faith community. While we should not advocate for candidates or political parties, we must advocate for justice, humanitarian treatment of our neighbors, and for safety in our places of worship. We are a diverse nation and until recently that diversity has been seen as a strength. We, in the Church, must stand as moral authorities proclaiming peace and hope, compassion and justice.

Wherever and whenever you have the opportunity to provide wisdom and comfort, inspiration and compassion, I urge you to do so. To be silent is to let evil prevail and we, as people of faith, cannot do that, any more than Jesus could do it in his time and culture.

Find a way to bring peace and hope to your faith communities, your communities, our state and our nations.

Today we are asking our members to write prayer notes or notes of compassion to our siblings at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. Mail them from your local church to them at 5898 Wilkins Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15217.

“ “ “
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The Rev. Bonnie Bates
Conference Minister, Penn Northeast Conference UCC

Participate in a vigil or a peaceful worship process in any one of your communities and if there isn't one, please plan one. If you are able, this would be a wonderful way to demonstrate solidarity with our Jewish siblings.

By all means pray but above all do not fail to speak out or to act. As Martin Niemöller wrote:

“First they came for the Jews and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for the Communists and I did not speak out because I was not a Communist.
Then they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak out for me.”¹

We are called to be people of prayer, but we are also called to remember that “The Spirit of the LORD is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the

prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free (Luke 4:18). May we each and all do our part to make our communities, state and nation places of hope and peace.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Bonnie Bates

Conference Minister

Penn. Northeast Conference United Church of Christ

Biblical Storytelling



Long before the narratives of the Bible became "scripture" ("writing") they existed in oral form as stories shared in the faith community and passed down from generation to generation. Even the early written records were regarded as notation for the performance of the stories as oral/aural events.

(From the network of biblical storytellers)

As many of you know I studied biblical storytelling during my sabbatical. My experience learning biblical storytelling has opened up scripture to me in new and delightful ways. I would love to share this experience with anyone interested. So I am offering a different type of bible study based on Biblical Storytelling. My plan is to start in October. We will study the scripture of the nativity story. We will learn the different ways to tell the story following scripture and with hope and prayer be able to tell the Nativity Story on Christmas Eve in biblical storytelling form. If memorizing things is not your strong suit don't worry it is not about memorizing anything.

Please let me know if you are interested and we will come up with a day and time that works best for the group. I hope many of you will take this chance to experience scripture in a different and amazing way.

Rev. Derek

Looking For Committee Members

The Flower Committee is seeking a volunteer for the month of January. This volunteer would find people to donate flowers for the altar for the Sundays in January. Please contact Sue Herron for information (978-546-2082, susherr8@gmail.com).

The Board of Ushers is seeking an Usher Captain for March. The Usher Captain would be responsible for finding ushers for Sunday services in March. Please contact Celene Lyon for Information (508-284-8762, celenelyon@comcast.net).

CABINET

MEETING MINUTES October 21, 2018

Subject to Approval

The Cabinet of the First Congregational Church of Rockport, Massachusetts, UCC was called to order by Moderator Steve Lindo at 7:04 PM.

Present: Steve Lindo, Moderator, chair, and Personnel Committee; Rev. Derek van Gulden, Pastor; Sigrid Lindo, Stewardship Committee and Music Committee; Sue Herron, Diaconate; Walter Vining, Trustees; Stephen Kalaghan, Christian Outreach Committee; Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Rice Smith, Historian and Membership Committee; Jay Reed, Treasurer of Mission Funds; and Geof Lyon, Clerk and recording secretary.

Rev. Derek led the assembly in prayer to open the meeting:

Action, Discussion and Follow-Up Items:

Meeting minutes: The minutes of the September 23 meeting were approved as submitted by voice vote.

Bylaw Revisions: Steve Lindo distributed printed copies of the bylaws marked up with proposed changes. He has reviewed the changes, and the people most affected by the changes have provided input. He reminded us that the cabinet has no role in approving bylaw changes, but he asked that cabinet representatives explain the changes to their committees and bring back any concerns to the November cabinet meeting. He explained the principal changes:

1. The minimum size of most committees has been reduced by one.
2. There have been a number of changes in the organization of the bylaws. For instance, clauses that had been repeated for each committee were consolidated into the opening section that applies to all committees.
3. Some relatively minor substantive changes were made to the responsibilities of the treasurer's assistants.
4. The requirement that the Nominating Committee find a chair for the Old Sloop Fair was eliminated.

There was some discussion. We wondered whether the bylaws should include mention of ad-hoc committees such as the Team for the Welcoming Ministry of Hospitality. It was observed that there are a number of such ad-hoc committees. We agreed that a good solution might be to add a provision that allows committees to form ad-hoc committees. Steve Lindo said he would take this suggestion to the bylaw review committee. Several suggestions were made about the presentation of the changes:

1. Because the Nominating Committee is nominating only enough people for the reduced minimum committee sizes, it is essential that the bylaw changes that reduce committee sizes be passed. These changes should be made in a separate motion so that a disagreement about some other part of the changes doesn't cause the defeat of the committee size reductions and leave us with insufficient nominations.

2. It is very difficult to discern the intention of the changes from the marked up document. There should be an overview of some sort that explains the changes.
3. Accepting all of the changes in the Word document reveals some obvious problems such as repeated headings. If it is the markup that is to be voted at the annual meeting, it is essential that accepting the changes produce a solid document.

Steve Lindo expressed some reservations about the changes regarding the assistant treasurer and will ask the bylaw review committee to reconsider them.

Christian Education and Formation function: Steve Lindo distributed a proposed contract to retain Rev. Sue Koehler-Arsenault as a consultant to provide research, advisory services, and written recommendations regarding the future staffing and direction of the church's Christian education and Christian formation functions. He sought the cabinet's approval. After some discussion, the contract was enthusiastically approved by voice vote.

Budget: Walter Vining reported that treasurer Bruce Coates has been helping with information to support the development of the budget and that Steve Lindo has provided cost of living adjustment information.

CORI Checks: Rev. Derek reported that the Criminal Offender Record Information applications have nearly all been completed.

Pastor photos: It was observed that the photographs of Revs. Goss, Fletcher, and van Gulden are still not on the wall.

Officer Reports

Pastor: Rev. Derek reported that Rev. Sue Koehler-Arsenault's Ecclesiastical Council will take place at our church on October 30 beginning at 7:00. Other area pastors and representatives from area churches will attend. Rev. Derek encouraged our church's lay leadership to attend and support Sue. Rev. Derek also reported that the team that is considering a new website had a good meeting. One idea that emerged is that we should consider a branding exercise for the church. Steve Lindo pointed out that we should be prepared to spend money on things like website development and branding.

Treasurer: Steve Lindo distributed year to date Operating and Cash and Investment summaries that has been prepared by the treasurer. In Bruce's absence, Geof Lyon explained that operating income is nearly \$7,000 better than budget and expenses are more than \$15,000 better than budget, so net income is more than \$22,000 better than budget. Bruce has said that much of this current surplus is due to timing, and he expects things to even out somewhat before the end of the year. But he still anticipates a small surplus.

Treasurer of Mission Funds: Jay Reed reported that there is \$3,200 in the outreach treasury. \$300 was sent to Good Shepherd Church in Arizona for their Good Samaritan border program. Boxes of goods we sent to Good Shepherd and another to a church in Phoenix. Payments were made to several of the outreach program recipients, and money was sent to Hadwen Park Congregational Church in Worcester for their LGBTQ Asylum Task Force. A speaker from Hadwen Park will speak to our congregation during worship on November 18. A motion was made that the loose offering on

November 18 given to the Hadwen Park church for their LGBTQ Asylum Task Force program. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Historian: Rev. Liz Rice Smith reported that she will reluctantly take down the exhibit in the sanctuary before Advent. Large folders have been ordered for the various collections (including narrative texts, artifacts, and photos) established over the past decade for various exhibits at Old Sloop Fair, Christmas Fair, and other occasions. The Historical Artifacts Committee, a committee of the trustees, will meet soon.

Committee Reports

Diaconate: Sue Herron reported that the Diaconate is working on the pastor's evaluation.

Trustees: Walter reported that there has been an issue with Verizon workers showing up unannounced. They have agreed to call the day before they will come. Verizon's contractors are making progress. Regina is looking into replacing the current Verizon internet service with Comcast. It was pointed out that there are items on the capital campaign projects list that are urgent and we wondered how they would be funded. Walter indicated that the trustees would discuss this.

Nominating Committee: Steve Lindo reported that the Nominating Committee is working on nominations for the annual meeting.

Outreach Committee: Stephen Kalaghan reported that there was a suggestion that the outreach committee form an ad-hoc committee to focus on the border issues. The matter will be taken up later. Buckets filled with supplies are being created for storm victims. The next Family Promise week begins November 4.

Stewardship Committee: Sigi Lindo reported that the Stewardship campaign had begun earlier that day and that three quarters of the stewardship packets had been distributed. Stewardship will skip their usual kickoff lunch because we just had the steeple celebration. The Shea's fundraiser dinner was well attended, and the winner of the 50/50 donated the proceeds to the church. Stewardship encourages people to submit their pledges by the second weekend in November.

Christian Education Committee: There was no representative, but Rev. Derek reported that a confirmation class had been started with 3 students, all of whom have good mentors.

Music Committee: Sigi reported that the Old Sloop Jazz Quartet had performed at the steeple celebration event and that the entire event was very well received.

Membership Committee: Liz observed that several members are leaving the membership committee and pointed out that there are UCC resources for membership. Gathering sessions for prospective members and others will begin next week, with a joining Sunday planned for Epiphany. They are getting ready for the Eastertide movie series.

Personnel Committee: Steve Lindo reported that the personnel committee is working on an update of the personnel manual.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48PM.

Date of Next Cabinet Meeting:

The cabinet will next meet in the Morgan Room at 7:00PM on November 18. As the Lindos will be away, Geof Lyon will chair, and Sue Herron and Liz Rice-Smith will record minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Geof Lyon, Clerk

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

DIACONATE

MEETING MINUTES October 7, 2018

ADMINISTRATIVE

Present: Janice Ramsden, Debbie Welch, Barbara Reed, Karen Chambers, Sue Herron, and Rev. Derek van Gulden

Minutes of our September meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Next Communion worship:

On **November 4, 2018**; Barbara and Sue will prep. Karen, Barbara, Janice and Sue will help serve. Barbara will bring the bread; the juice is all set. All contribute to clean up.

Elements will be brought forward by the 3 confirmands.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Pastor's report:

- Rev. Derek reported on individuals and families he has met with and updated their wellbeing status.
- Rev. Derek met with Katie Welch and three confirmands have decided to move forward and will be meeting for this year.
- The church is figuring out details on hiring Rev. Sue Koehler Arsenault as a consultant for looking forward and making changes to the Christian Education format.
- Rev. Derek is planning an Animal Service and blessing Oct. 14.
- Communion will now include having elements brought forward.
- October 30 is the planned Ecclesiastical Council meeting at FCC Rockport to review Rev. Sue Koehler Arsenault. A quorum is needed of members, lay people and clergy.

Updates:

- Parament Book- Karen is formatting pictures to create book.
- Baptismal Font- on hold, awaiting email confirmation.
- Evaluation Process- Rev. Derek will bring his self-assessment to the November meeting. Sue Herron reported the Steve Lindo has offered his help in the evaluation process.
- Roles of Deacons- Mercy is working on updates.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Nominating Committee:** Barbara looking for 1 person to join diaconate. The Bylaw Committee has made changes to cut number of members needed on various committees in church due to active membership numbers dropping. Deacons present discussed, agreed, voted and unanimously passed to drop the number for members of the Diaconate from 8 to 7. Debbie Welch is stepping down from 2 fulfilled terms and Janice Ramsden had agreed to a one-year term to replace Kyle Picardo who moved away and Janice finished his term. One new member will need to be replaced with this change.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM **NEXT MEETING** – Sunday, **November 4, 2018** at 11:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted *Karen Chambers, secretary*

TRUSTEES

MEETING MINUTES October 15, 2018

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

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

Absent: Paul Hurst, Mark Jurewicz

- **Minutes:** Minutes from the September 10, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Bruce presented the Treasurer's Report noting that Net Income at this point is \$22,000 ahead of the budget. He estimates that number will be around \$4,000 to \$8,000 by year end. He also noted that income is approximately \$30,000 ahead of last year at this point. He pointed out that this is primarily due to the Verizon payments of \$17,400; increases in Pledges and Offerings of \$7,795 and increases in Endowment fund transfers of \$4,652. Trustees approved Bruce's request to increase the PEX Debit Card balance by \$100.
- **Monthly Review of Bank Statements:** Kevin reported no issues in statements checked to this point. He volunteered to continue checking the statements before the next meeting.
PEX Statements: Bonnie reported that Regina has set-up a very helpful notebook with a section designated for each of the three PEX holders. The August PEX statement was reviewed and approved. The receipt for the refrigerator purchased for Fellowship Hall was not included. Bonnie will ask Regina to track that down and have it signed by a Deacon and a Trustee.

Old Business:

- **Verizon:** Bill is very concerned with the lack of communication in regards to the necessary work to be completed by Verizon. After some discussion, it was decided that the contract with Diamond Communications should be reviewed in order that the Trustees have a better understanding of who exactly should be communicating with them. Walter will check files left by Jack Reed, past Chair. It is also possible that Steve Lindo may have a copy.

- **Sanctuary Ceiling Paint:** Bill reported that the Building Science Corporation has not yet visited the church to make a cost assessment. He will notify the Trustees when that occurs.
- **Steeple Lighting:** Geof reported that Spittle Electric is expected to come to the church this week to give an estimate for the final electrical work in the steeple.
- **Sound System updates:** Geof reported that work will begin on Wednesday morning.
- **Organ Repairs:** It was reported that the pipes have been re-installed and the finish work will be completed soon.
- **Parsonage Repairs:** Walter checked the attic of the Parsonage for a leak in the roof which Derek had reported. He found some moisture but feels we should wait and see if this was the result of one particularly severe storm. Walter also reported that he has a plan to shore up the garage before winter. Derek requested permission to remove the wall-to-wall carpet in the master bedroom. He will do the work and Bill offered to dispose of the carpet. Derek also mentioned the need for a new refrigerator in the parsonage. It was decided to leave the decision to Derek and set the parameters at \$1,300-1,800.

New Business:

- **Office printer:** Information was presented on two possible replacements for the office printer. The Trustees felt that more information is needed before making a decision. For example: If a copier is leased, what services/supplies are included in the lease. If a copier is purchased, what is required for a maintenance contract? Walter will ask Regina to do some research.
- **2019 Budget:** The budget was discussed briefly. The Trustees will all review this year's budget and make recommendations at the next meeting. The Personnel Committee is recommending a 3.4% increase in pay for the employees paid hourly. Bill mentioned that the cost of heating oil is expected to rise by 20% this year, and we will not have the discount from Walsh Oil that we have had this year.
- **Nominating Committee:** Kevin reported that the Nominating Committee has suggested that each committee have one less member than is presently serving. Due to the large number of committees and the somewhat small number of parishioners willing to serve, having one less member on each committee would be helpful.
- **Key to Sexton's Closet:** Bill suggested that an extra key is needed for Phil's supply closet. Supplies often need to be replaced during a function when Phil is not in the building. Derek will have one made and give it to Wendy Woodbury.
- **Internet Problems:** Discussion was held on the unreliability of the present internet system with Verizon. The suggestion was made to switch to Comcast. The Trustees agreed with this. Regina will be asked to research this and make the switch.

A copy of this report will be forwarded to the editor of The Old Sloop Log. There being no further business, the Board of Trustees adjourned at 8:20pm.

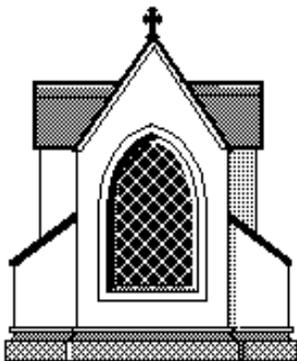
The next scheduled meeting of The Trustees is: Monday, November 12, 2018.

Walter Vining

Chair, Board of Trustees

Bonnie Gray

Acting Recording Secretary



Stewardship

November 2018

Stewardship Campaign in full swing

By pledging to the church, you help those planning the budgets to understand what financial support they can expect from the congregation.

By the time you read this, pledge packets will have been distributed, witnessing stewards will have spoken, you will have had the opportunity to

peruse the new "Our Ministries" book and will have considered your pledge decision. Whatever that decision may be, you are part of our church family. You are welcome with love.

The Old Sloop "took over" Shea's on October 11!

The entire front dining room of Shea's was filled with friends from the church that Thursday. There was lots of good fellowship and great food. Shea's donated 10% of the entire evening's receipts to the church.

Sign up for Amazon Smile!

More and more of our church family are using Amazon Smile, and our quarterly checks are getting larger and larger. If you haven't signed up yet, please do so before you start your holiday shopping.

Go to www.smile.amazon.com and follow the instructions.

Please pick First Congregational Church of Rockport as your charity.
Questions? Contact Sigi Lindo at 978-546-6587 or sigilindo@gmail.com

Have you bought Rockport Cooks yet?

A beautiful new collection of recipes from family and friends of the Old Sloop was published in July. It combines iconic Rockport photography with delicious favorites of many parishioners and church friends. Contact Marcia Myers at cliffnevis@aol.com Sigi Lindo at sigilindo@gmail.com or Regina Reiss at office@rockportucc.org for copies for yourself and friends. The price is \$18. Net proceeds will be donated to the steeple fund.

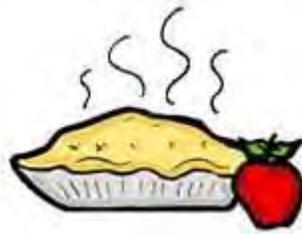




Christian Education Youth Ministry News

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday, November 4	9:00	CE Meeting in Youth Space
	10:15	No Sunday School (Family Promise)
	5:00 – 7:00	Youth Group at Katie's house
		Movie Night: Love Simon
Sunday, November 11	10:15	No Sunday School (Veteran's Day)
	5:00 – 7:00	No Youth Group
Sunday, November 18	10:15	Sunday School
	5:00 – 7:00	Youth Group: PIE BAKE!
Friday, November 23	5:00 – 7:00	Youth Group: ALUMNI GATHERING
Sunday, November 25	10:15	No Sunday School



PIE BAKE

This year we are going to try and do something a little different and take check and cash donations for the pie bake. Every year we find ourselves having to run out to grab extra supplies, so we are going to try and see what we have for donations and then buy accordingly! There will be a table in fellowship hall during coffee hour during the weeks prior to accept your donations. Thank you!

ALUMNI GATHERING

Alumni gathering @Katie's house! Are you an alumna(e) of our youth programming and want to catch up? We will be gathering for dinner at Katie's house November 23rd at 5pm.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

There will be a confirmation class this year, so if you are a 9th grade or older, there is still time for you to sign up! We will be meeting twice a month. Contact Katie or Rev. Derek if you would like any more information.

TRAVEL

We are booked for Encounter Weekend January 18th-20th (MLK weekend). An \$80 deposit secures your spot! <https://monadnockchristianministries.org/encounter/>.

Also, this year we are looking to go to the UCC's general synod in Milwaukee, Wisconsin being held June 21st-25th. <https://monadnockchristianministries.org/encounter/>.

Be blessed!

Katie



Christian Outreach Committee

Meeting minutes, October 14, 2018

Attending: Darlene Spittle, Marge Schell, Karen Coffin, Steve Kalaghan, Charlie Brackett, Pastor Derek, Jay Reed

Meeting began about 11:35 with a Samoan prayer from the hymnal: "Jesus, be the rudder that gives me direction and keeps me on course."

The treasury balance is \$3200. Last month, we received two special offerings: One, a response to the UCC's call for a faithful witness at the border, which we sent to the Good Shepherd Church UCC in Sahuarita, AZ for their Samaritans mission on behalf of immigrants. Thanks to the congregation for responding to this call. The other, the UCC's Neighbors in Need special offering, which to date amounts to \$1200. Thanks to the congregation for honoring the UCC's Witness and Justice Ministries.

After collecting supplies for the border, including those from UUSR's Mary Ann Camp, we sent them to two UCC churches in Arizona providing services to immigrants. Thanks to the congregation and friends for their 70 pounds of supplies.

We also sent a donation to Hadwen Park Congregational Church in Worcester for their LGBT Asylum Gala in October.

The account statement for the Pastor's Fund appears to be misplaced, but the balance should be adequate. Last month the Pastor's Fund paid part of an apartment rent for an individual from the community.

We discussed Church World Service cleanup buckets in the aftermath of hurricanes Florence and Michael. We decided to assemble a bucket and several of us will provide components for the bucket:

- Charlie, the bucket, trash bags, reusable cleaning towels, scrub brush
- Darlene, liquid laundry detergent, bottle disinfectant dish soap
- Marge, clothespins, clothesline, dust masks

- Karen, 2 pairs dishwashing gloves, 1 pair work gloves
- Jay, bottle household cleaner, bottle insect repellent
- TBD(Wendy), scouring pads and sponges

Thanks to all.

We currently serve between 25 and 35 guests at Wednesday pot lucks. Jay finally asked the office manager at Millbrook Apts. to post a pot luck flyer on their bulletin board.

Rev Sue had asked whether we wanted to create an Outreach subcommittee for those people who have met to discuss the UCC's call for a faithful witness at the border. We postponed a decision until next month's meeting.

Our September Family Promise host week went well except for miscommunication between the van driver and the program about time of van arrival in the a.m. and the number of guests to be transported. We host homeless families again from November 4 to 11. Linda Hyde from Rockport United Methodist Church will be away that week, and since she is the sole volunteer from RUMC, she asked her church to donate the cost of dinner for our guests.

Yesterday, October 13, Family Promise North Shore Boston held their fifth Walk to End Homelessness at Lynch Park in Beverly. Church members and friends, including UUSR's Scott DeLuca, donated \$1000 to that fund raiser, a tremendous effort.

We make lunches for the Action shelter on October 30, and we host an Open Door dinner on November 3.

Marge told us about Nominations Committee business. She suggested a potential new Outreach member and said she will speak to that person.

We meet again on November 18.

Respectfully submitted, James Reed



THANK YOU!

Thanks from the Hadwen Park Congregational Church, Worcester after we sent their LGBT Asylum Task Force a donation for their Gala in October:

On behalf of the Task Force, I want to thank you so much for your generous contribution to the Gala. As you may know, we have a donor who will match whatever we make on the Gala up to \$150,000. So, your gift is worth twice as much. Thanks so much.

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$300 made on September 19, to aid our work with and for migrants on our border. Every dollar stretches.

Sincerely, The Green Valley Sahuarita Samaritans

Old Sloop Coffeehouse Upcoming Performances

Friday, November 16 at 7:30PM: An Evening with John McCutcheon



John McCutcheon has emerged as one of our most respected and loved folksingers. As an instrumentalist, he is a master of a dozen different traditional instruments, most notably the rare and beautiful hammer dulcimer. His songwriting has been hailed by critics and singers around the globe. His thirty recordings have garnered every imaginable honor including seven Grammy nominations. He has produced over twenty albums of other artists, from traditional fiddlers to contemporary singer-songwriters to educational and documentary

works. His books and instructional materials have introduced budding players to the joys of their own musicality. And his commitment to grassroots political organizations has put him on the front lines of many of the issues important to communities and workers.

Advance tickets are \$20. Visit the website at oldsloopcoffeehouse.org, John Tarr Store in Rockport, or The Bookstore of Gloucester. The suggested contribution at the door is \$25 for adults, \$15 for those 65 and older, \$5 for those under 18, and \$50 for families.



It's Poinsettia Time!

It is time to start thinking about the beautiful poinsettias, which will augment our worship experiences on December 23, and Christmas Eve. You can help in two specific ways:

1. Donate a poinsettia in honor of or in memory of a special person. Starting Sunday Dec. 2 and until Sunday, Dec. 16, the Flower Committee will be accepting donations for Christmas poinsettias. Check out their table in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour. If you would prefer to mail your donation directly to the office, keep in mind that there is a *deadline of December 16*. Make all checks payable to 'First Congregational Church of Rockport' and put 'Flower Fund' in the check memo. Please include the names of those you would like to honor or remember.
2. If you know of someone who would like a little Christmas cheer in the form of a poinsettia, please contact Celene Lyon. Help with delivery may be needed after church on Dec. 23. Please use this form when making your donation. Thank you!

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

GIVEN BY _____

Please use this form to sign up after service or mail it to the church office: FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 12 SCHOOL STREET, ROCKPORT, MA 01966

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 November

November 4	Mercy Duffill and Liz Rice-Smith
November 11	Diane Westman and Joe Chambers
November 18	Celene and Geof Lyon
November 25	Michelle Coates

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

With Gratitude for our Church Servants for October

Ushers

October 7	Celene Lyon and Chip Kistner
October 14	Chip Kistner
October 21	Louisa Casadei-Johnson and Chip Kistner
October 28	Bob Cannon and Chip Kistner

Readers

October 7	Peter Goodwin
October 14	Kate Desmond
October 21	Mary Cresse
October 28	David Arsenault



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