

**The First Church of Christ in Marblehead
Old North Church, United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation**

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

August 23, 2026

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8am

GATHERING

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Christine Hribar

All: God is about to do something new

One: Now, it springs forth, can you perceive it?

All: God will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert

One: The wild animals know and honor God: the jackals, the ostriches

All: For God provides water in the wilderness and rivers in the desert,

One: To provide drink to the people God formed.

All: Let us praise God!

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Rev. Christine Hribar

from the "Prayer Inviting the Lord" from The Book of Common Prayer

I ask dear Lord, that Thou would make me wholly Thine.

Lord, I am weary of myself, weary of being so far away from Thee.

Abide with me, then—abide in me.

Let no sorrow keep me away from Thee;

Let no loneliness or desolation of soul affright me.

Let me not think of Thee as one afar off;

**Let me not think of Thee as a severe judge since Thou Thyself
comest unto me, and fallest on the neck of thy poor prodigal,
and give me the kiss of peace.**

Thou wilt not let those go empty away who come to Thee from afar.

Thou hast brought me nigh.

LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Christine Hribar

One: Today, we will hear the story of Jacob wrestling with an angel until the angel blesses him. In confession, we wrestle with our faults, our fears, and our bad habits, and ask for God's blessing. Let us pray, first in silence, and then aloud, together.

SILENT PRAYER

One: Holy God, when we cause harm, intentionally or unintentionally,

All: have mercy on us.

One: When we accept the violence of the world,

All: have mercy on us.

One: When our lack of imagination prevents us from seeing how things could be different,

All: have mercy on us.

One: When we become numb and distracted and miss the blessings you have given us.

All: have mercy on us.

One: When we become stuck in our ways, and resist the change you call us to,

All: have mercy on us.

One: When our courage falters and our strength fades,

All: have mercy on us.

One: Forgive us.

Lead us out of our old ways, and lead us to new life, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Christine Hribar

One: Proclaim together this good news: God gave Jacob a blessing, a new name, a new identity, a new way forward.

All: God blesses us, too: with forgiveness, with second chances, with fresh starts.

One: We begin again, as children of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 32:13-30

Mark Adams

So he spent that night there, and from what he had with him he took a present for his brother Esau, two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, thirty milch camels and their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys.

These he delivered into the hand of his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass on ahead of me, and put a space between drove and drove." He instructed the one in the lead, "When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, 'To whom do you belong? Where are you going? And whose are these ahead of you?' then you shall say, 'They belong to your servant Jacob; they are a present sent to my lord Esau, and moreover he is behind us.' " He likewise instructed the second and the third and all who followed the droves, "You shall say the same thing to Esau when you meet him, and you shall say, 'Moreover your servant Jacob is behind us.' " For he thought, "I may appease him with the present that goes ahead of me, and afterwards I shall see his face; perhaps he will accept me." So the present passed on ahead of him, and he himself spent that night in the camp.

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man[b] said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel,[c] for you have striven with God and with humans[d] and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel,[e] saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved."

GOSPEL READING

John 15:4

Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.

POETRY READING

"Too Many Names"

Mark Adams

Pablo Neruda

Monday is tangled up with Tuesday
and the week with the year:
time can't be cut with your tired scissors,
and all the names of the day
are rubbed out by the waters of the night.
No one can be named Pedro
no one is Rosa or Maria,
all of us are dust or sand,
all of us are rain in the rain.
They have talked to me of Venezuelas,
of Paraguays and Chiles,
I don't know what they're talking about:

I'm aware of the earth's skin
and I know it doesn't have a name.
When I lived with the roots
I liked them more than the flowers,
and when I talked with a stone
it rang like a bell.
The spring is so long
that it lasts all winter:
time lost its shoes:
a year contains four centuries.
When I sleep all these nights,
what am I named or not named?
And when I wake up who am I
If I wasn't I when I slept?
This means that we have barely
disembarked into life,
that we've only now just been born,
let's not fill our mouths
with so many uncertain names,
with so many sad labels,
with so many pompous letters,
with so much yours and mine,
with so much signing of papers.
I intend to confuse things,
to unite them, make them new-born,
intermingle them, undress them,
until the light of the world
has the unity of the ocean,
a generous wholeness,
a fragrance alive and crackling.

SERMON

“What's in a Name”

Rev. Christine Hribar

PASTORAL PRAYER

SENDING

BENEDICTION

Announcements Sunday, August 23, 2026

TODAY

Today's Deacons are: Mark Adams at 8am and Andrea Gilgulin at 10am.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Film Production and Washington St. Closure— A film production will take place in the Parish Hall on Monday, August 24, and Tuesday, August 25. Please note that Washington St in front of the church will be closed to traffic on both days.

Blessing of the Animals – Our worship on August 30 will include a Blessing of the Animals. Our pets transform and enrich our lives; they show us unconditional love like nothing else; they open us up to joy and show us the meaning of offering care. We will recognize these gifts, and offer blessings to our pets--those who are living with us now, and those who have died (as many of our beloved animal companions have this year). Bring your pets to church--your dogs, your cats, your snakes, etc--or bring a photo of a pet, living or dead, who is special to you; Rev. Lindsay and Rev. Christine will be delighted to bless them all!

Elevator Unavailable on August 30— Please note that the elevator will be unavailable for church on Sunday, August 30, due to work being completed on the Parish Hall floor. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Summer Lighthouse Services at Chandler Hovey Park — We are happy to continue our annual summer tradition of worshiping together at Chandler Hovey Park. There is something unique and spiritual about gathering in worship where ocean waters meet solid rock and the light shines to guide people safely. As in the past, if it is raining at 8 am, the service will be moved to the Sanctuary. Look for the sandwich board sign at the Devereux Beach entrance: if green, go to the Lighthouse; if red, the service will be held in the Sanctuary.

For those who wish to continue their traditional Church worship, we will also hold worship at 10am in the Sanctuary. We'll follow the same theme and liturgy as our Lighthouse service. We will continue to livestream our 10am worship held in the Sanctuary.

Childcare is offered at the 8am Light service.

If you have never been to the lighthouse service, you might want to give it a try. Bring your own chairs or blankets, dress as you please, bring your furry friend.... just come and immerse yourself in the beauty that God has created. Then stay for coffee and a chat with friends.

As we have done in the past, and in keeping with the church's commitment to sustainability, all service goods used will be carried out and composted. Better yet, bring your own coffee cup to further help preserve this beautiful planet that the Lord has given us.

Sunday, September 6 is our last worship service at Chandler Hovey Park for the season. Please join us back in the sanctuary for worship at 8 and 10am on September 13.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Time to Register Children and Youth for Church Activities—Nursery care, Church School, Youth Group: please register your child(ren) here using the QR code to participate in church activities this academic year!



Bibles for Children and Families—Beloved families, this church has a history of giving Bibles to third graders, but the tradition has lapsed in the past handful of years. We'd love to get bibles into the hands of children and families that will actually be read and used. If you'd like to be part of thinking through giving out bibles (be it to 3-5th graders or a sort of Bible Book Fair) let Rev. Christine (rev.christinehribar@gmail.com) know!

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Join The Haven Project's 5K Run/Walk!—Lace up your sneakers and hit the trails at Lynn Woods Reservation on Saturday, September 12th to support housing-unstable youth ages 17–24.

Every step you take and every dollar raised will directly benefit The Haven Project's programming—providing essential resources, housing support, and opportunities for young people in need. Whether you're a seasoned runner or just looking to make a difference, this event is the perfect chance to contribute to a brighter future for our community's youth.

After the race, enjoy the festival area with food trucks, local vendors, and family activities. It's a family-friendly, dog-friendly event, so bring the whole crew! You can sign up by using the QR code.



CHURCH FAIR

You are cordially invited!—The calendar may say August, but it's time to start planning for our annual church-wide Holiday Fair fundraiser to be held on Sat. Nov. 14th! If you're interested in helping make it a success, let's join together on Wed. **Sept. 2nd** at 7pm in the Great Room at Stacy Street. We need your creative ideas and time! If you have questions, reach out to Jill Dearborn at jamesjill@comcast.net.

*Thank you and see you on **Sept. 2nd**.*

COMMUNITY LIFE

Women's Group—Interested in the Women's Group? Please text Debby with your name and phone number, even if you have already. She will be sending out a group text.

Debby Stockdale: 781-883-5115

Gestures of Cheer – If you know of anyone, either here at Old North or in the wider Marblehead community, who is going through a difficult time, the Community Life Board would like to reach out with a little plant and a friendly note. Please contact Lynda Hare at hare8carrots@hotmail.com or 781-639-0107 if you know someone who would appreciate a little extra cheer.

The Narthex display for Summer – America's 250th! "First Church Members in the Revolution" – In honor of America's birthday, the narthex display through the summer features historical members of the congregation who were heroes in the cause for Independence as well as modern ones who portray them.

We want you! – The Community Life Ministry brings our church community together outside of the Sunday morning worship services and we are looking for new members. We meet the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm for about an hour, September through May, and our aim is to plan an activity or event once a month throughout the church calendar year. We aim for multigenerational connection where possible and have sponsored things such as the chili bakeoff, bowling, author presentations, short family hikes, potluck and coffee hour. Please contact Janet Doyle if you think you might be interested. janet@doylesailsonedesign.com or cell: 781-530-0065

North Shore Youth Ministry—Jess Easter has served as the Youth Group Leader for the North Shore Youth Ministries (NSYM), which is a collaboration between four churches (Old North Church, Clifton Lutheran Church, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, and First Church Swampscott) since 2024. She is a recent graduate of BU School of Theology. To get in touch with Jess for more details about youth programs, or if finding a ride to any youth events is ever an issue, please reach out to Jess (jess@thensym.org) as she can make connections between families to make sure our youth have the opportunity to join.

CHURCH OPERATIONS

Accessing Rev. Lindsay's Calendar – Pastor Lindsay is available to meet with you for pastoral care, to discuss church matters, or simply to get to know you. You may reach Rev. Lindsay at her email address, lindsay@onchurch.org or by phone at 781-631-1244 x102. You can schedule time with her at calendly.com/lindsaypopper.

Accessing Rev. Christine's Calendar – You can access Rev. Christine's calendar online as well to schedule time with her: <https://calendly.com/christine-hribar>. Rev. Christine may also be reached at her email address, revchristinehribar@gmail.com or by phone at 781-631-1244 x105.

Church Building Access and Summer Office Hours –The office is open Tuesday—Thursday 9-NOON. If you have an emergency outside of office hours, or need access to the Church Office, please send an email to office@onchurch.org.