

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

June 21, 2026

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

8am

GATHERING

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

from Matthew 11:28-30

One: Jesus calls us into worship and into rest with these words:

**All: “Come to me, all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.**

One: Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.

All: For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

One: We worship the one who shares our burdens and gives us rest.

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Christine Hribar

God of the open ocean, God of the trickling stream.

May your love wash over us and all the earth.

We pray the words Jesus taught us...

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

One: Confession is a practice. It breeds humility, but also clarity. We can confess because God's grace rests gently upon us. We are both loved as we are and we can realize that we can continue to walk in the path of Jesus: with compassion and tenderness, with a heart and voice for justice and liberation. God's love can transform us, leading us into the people we are meant to be.

All: We confess our distraction, our attention to our devices rather than the humans around us.

We confess our overwhelm. Our taking on too much, our taking in too much.

We confess our need for strength and rigidity rather than listening to the soft calls for tenderness.

We confess our silence where our voices are needed, and our noise when we should be listening.

One: Hear our confessions, God, as we offer our own burdens and brokenness to you.

SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: People of God, there is nothing that can separate you from the love of God in Christ.

All: We live forgiven and set free. Amen.

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Read by Leah Waldo

Psalm 46 ("The Inclusive Bible" translation)

God is our refuge and our strength,
who from of old has helped us in our distress.

Therefore we fear nothing—

even if the earth should open up in front of us
and mountains plunge into the depths of the sea,

even if the earth's waters rage and foam
and the mountains tumble with its heaving.

There's a river whose streams
gladden the city of God,
the holy dwelling of the Most High.

God is in its midst, it will never fall—
God will help it at daybreak.

Though nations are in turmoil and empires crumble,
God's voice resounds, and it melts the earth.

YHWH Sabaoth is with us—
our stronghold is the God of Israel!

Come, see what YHWH has done—
God makes the earth bounteous!

God has put an end to war,
from one end of the earth to the other,
breaking bows, splintering spears,
and setting chariots on fire.

“Be still, and know that I am God!
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted upon the earth.”

YHWH Sabaoth is with us—
our stronghold is the God of Israel.

POETRY READING

Read by Ruth Duell

“*How to Do Absolutely Nothing*” (by Barbara Kingsolver)

Rent a house near the beach, or a cabin
but: Do not take your walking shoes.
Don't take any clothes you'd wear
anyplace anyone would see you.
Don't take your rechargeables.
Take Scrabble if you have to,
but not a dictionary and no
pencils for keeping score.
Don't take a cookbook
or anything to cook.
A fishing pole, ok
but not the line,
hook, sinker,
leave it all.
Find out
what's

left.

SERMON “What Happens While We’re Still” Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

BLESSING OF THE BOATS

SENDING

BENEDICTION

Announcements Sunday, June 21, 2026

TODAY

Today's Deacons are: Leah Waldo (reading today's Scripture Lesson) and Ruth Duell (reading today's Poem) at the 8am and Bonnie MacDonald at the 10am (reading both Scripture and Poem).

Summer Lighthouse Services at Chandler Hovey Park Begin Today — Summer is here and time to move our eight o'clock service to Marblehead's beautiful Chandler Hovey Park. Once again, the Welcome/Nurturing Committee of the Community Life Ministry Board will be providing coffee and homemade goodies after the 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.

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, during June we will also hold worship at 10am in the Sanctuary. We'll follow the same theme and liturgy as our Lighthouse service.

The choir is off for the summer and childcare will not be offered.

June 21—Blessing of the Boats—At the beginning of the summer boating, sailing and racing season we will participate in an ancient tradition: the Blessing of the Boats. As we gather in worship at the mouth of historic Marblehead harbor we'll name and bless our boats (racing yachts, whalers, kayaks, dinghies, lobsterboats, etc!) Please pass this along so your friends, boat mates and sailing buddies will know they can join us. If you can't be there and want to include the name of your boat (or a friend's boat) please email them to Rev. Lindsay (lindsay@onchurch.org)

May Leadership Board Meeting Minutes are available in the e-news. The next Leadership Board meeting with our new 2026-2027 roster will be on Thursday, July 9th at 7pm.

UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

June 28 – Pride Sunday Our church has been proudly Open and Affirming to LGBTQ+ people since 2008. On this Sunday in Pride Month, we will re-commit ourselves to the work of sharing God's love with all people, and seeing God's image in all people.

First Summer Intergenerational Dinner at the Goldthwait Reservation – Join us Wednesday July 8th, 5-6:30 for a picnic dinner. These beloved dinners are an opportunity for people of all ages to gather in a gorgeous setting. Feel free to bring a dish or just show up! Please RSVP to Ana in the Church Office (office@onchurch.org).

Life and Living Course Continues June 28, “Friendships”—We are meeting on June 28, to discuss “Friendships” – it is our last session prior to a summer break and we will start up again this coming Fall. There is a timeless Swedish proverb: “Shared joy is double joy. Shared sorrow is half sorrow”. I believe this captures the power of human connection. Close friends enhance our lives.

As always, we gather in person in the Great Room of Old North Church’s Stacey Street Office, from 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M., or on-line via the QR code.



Topic: Life and Living

Time: 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Meeting ID: 894 6648 8441 Passcode: 979357

YOUTH MINISTRY

Jess Easter is our Youth Pastor serving the Marblehead Youth Collaborative Ministry (MYCM). 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.

COMMUNITY LIFE

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

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 hares8carrots@hotmail.com or 781-639-0107 if you know someone who would appreciate a little extra cheer.

Prayer Shawl will have their final meeting of the season on **July 8** at Stacey Street, 10:30-12. Materials and pattern are supplied. Contact Alexandra at alexandradane@me.com for more information.

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.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

The Merrigan family invites you to an open house Celebration of Life for Don Merrigan on

Sunday, June 28
12:30-3:30 pm

Marblehead VFW Hall
321 West Shore Drive

A light luncheon will be served.

Please RSVP to 617-974-0244 or to **merrigan.carol@gmail.com** if you can join us.