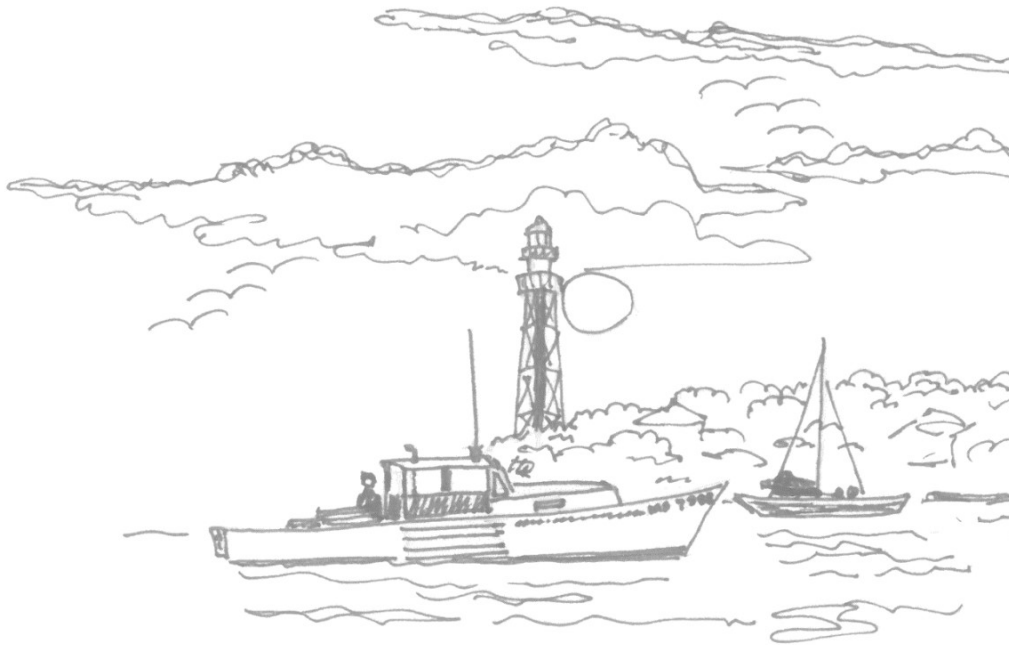


Old North Church, UCC
Marblehead, Massachusetts
An Open and Affirming Congregation



Wherever You Are on Life's Journey, You are Welcome Here
Extending Christ's Welcome
Embodying God's Love
Telling Our Stories
Sharing the Journey

The Rev. Lindsay Popperson, Senior Minister
The Rev. Christine Hribar, Associate Minister

Summer at Marblehead Light
Sundays, June 18 through Labor Day at 8am
Old North Sanctuary at 10am

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

August 17, 2025 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 8am and 10am

GATHERING

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Christine Hribar

One: The Psalmist says, “this is the day the Lord has made,
let us rejoice and be glad in it!”

All: We will rejoice!

One: Like the songbirds before dawn,
like the crickets after sunset:

All: we will rejoice!

One: Like children running through a sprinkler,
like workers at the end of a long day,

All: we will rejoice!

One: Though the world is full of trouble,
it is fuller still of beauty, and delight,
and a love that is stronger than death, and so,

All: we will rejoice!

One: We worship a God of power and of everlasting love,

All: and we will rejoice!

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us today. Soften our hardened hearts. Stir up our imaginations. Open us to see the delights scattered throughout this world: warm cups of coffee, cooling waves lapping at our ankles, blooming dahlias and hollyhocks. Open us to wonder and to joy, and sustain us through our hardships, in the name of the One who taught us to pray, saying:

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: God of boundless love, you are always more ready to hear us than we are to pray. We bring our full selves before You, seeking the healing and grace that you long to offer us.

We have listened too closely to the voices that speak of despair.

All: Forgive us, and speak to us of hope.

One: We have believed the lie that we cannot make a difference.

All: Forgive us, and lead us in your paths.

One: We have convinced ourselves that we must be self-sufficient, and cannot rely on one another or on You.

All: Forgive us, and come to our aid.

One: We have worried too much about what a mess we are, and what a mess our lives are.

All: Forgive us, and reveal your presence in the chaos of our lives.

One: We have tried, and failed, to be perfect, believing that that is what You require.

All: Forgive us, and shower us with your grace that meets us right where we are.

One: In the silence, we lay down our shame, our regrets, our unfinished business, and we reach for your joy.

SILENT PRAYER

All: God of new beginnings, God of growth, forgive us, and assure us that you are with us, just as we are. We pray in Jesus' name, amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The poet Wendell Berry implores us, “be joyful, though you have considered all the facts.”

All: The psalmist assures us, “weeping may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.”

One: Jesus promises us, “no one will take your joy away from you.”

All: God forgives us and God leads us into abundant life, today and always. Thanks be to God!

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 3:1-6

Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They were watching him to see whether he would cure him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man who had the withered hand, “Come forward.” Then he said to them, “Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

POETRY READING

“First Coming”

Madeleine L’Engle

He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace.

He came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine.

He did not wait till hearts were pure.
In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
he came, and his Light would not go out.

He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,

SERMON

“Joy as Resistance”

Rev.Christine Hribar

PASTORAL PRAYER

SENDING

BENEDICTION

The use of poetry in our worship service is permissible under US copyright law (17 U.S.C. § 110(3))

Announcements Sunday, August 17 2025

TODAY

Today's Deacons are: Dave Cross (reading the Scripture) and Mark Roberge (reading the Poem) at 8am and Katharine Redmond at 10am

Summer Worship at Chandler Hovey Park – Again this year we are happy to continue our annual summer tradition of worshipping 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 Parish Hall. 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.

Coffee Hour at the Lighthouse – Please join us for coffee hour after the service at the Lighthouse. Don't forget to bring your travel cup so we can reduce waste and save trees. In keeping with our church's commitment to being green, all items utilized and served at the lighthouse coffee are compostable. A compost bin is provided for cups, napkins and utensils.

UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

We are Hiring! We are looking for a paid Sunday School Teacher to teach in our mixed age classroom. If you know anyone who would be a good fit, please let Rev. Christine know!
revchristine.hribar@gmail.com

"Faith in Action" Group Forming - How do we live out our Christian faith in times like these? Many of my (Lindsay's) conversations as a pastor come down to questions like these--especially when the news is full of chaos and heartbreak. A group of ONC-ers are hoping to gather together as a group to engage these questions together and to take faithful action. There are many forms that a Social Action/Social Justice/Faith in Action/etc etc group can take in a church, and we will build it together.

If you're interested, be in touch with church member MaryEllen Solomon-Auger at maryellen@littleharborboathouse.com (let her know some times that are good for meeting for you, as we decide when the first meeting should be!)

Summer Intergenerational Gatherings – Our 5-6:30pm Intergenerational dinner gatherings continue this summer!

- August 20 at 5pm.

Please RSVP for addresses and details. Questions? Ask Rev. Christine: 978.587.1391,
revchristinehribar@gmail.com

Scrabble Group – The Scrabble Group meets weekly on Wednesdays from 2-4pm in the Great Room at the Stacey St. office building. Newcomers are always welcome to join in the fun!

Fall Book Group: This Fall, Rev. Christine will facilitate a discussion of Elaine Pagel's *Miracles and Wonder*. Dates are yet to be set, but let Christine know if you're interested.
Revchristinehribar@gmail.com

COMMUNITY LIFE

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.

GREEN TEAM

This week's Green Tip: The Marblehead Light Department gives rebates for energy efficient appliances and battery powered yard equipment. Check their website for details on how to apply.

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.