

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 12, 2026

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

8 & 10am

GATHERING

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Christine Hribar

One: We worship a God of extravagant welcome.

All: God welcomes us,

One: like a parent meeting a child after school,
ready with snacks, comfort, a listening ear.

All: God welcomes us,

One: like an old friend, who knows us better than we know ourselves,
who is delighted to see how we've changed and how we've stayed the
same.

All: God welcomes us,

One: like a kind stranger opening their door to a weary traveller,
ready to give rest along a journey.

All: Let us worship the God who welcomes us.

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Christine Hribar

Sustainer of life, we come windswept and travel-weary. May this time of worship be a time of renewal. Turn us to your love. May we love you with all our heart, mind and soul and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We pray with the words Jesus taught us 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

Rev. Christine Hribar

One: In Hebrews 13:2, we read. “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” As we bring ourselves before God in confession, let us consider these questions in silence. How have we responded to those who are strangers to us? How have we noticed—or not—the presence of God in our lives? This week, have we loved God with our whole heart and mind and soul and strength? Have we loved our neighbors as ourselves?

SILENT PRAYER

One: Forgive us, Loving God,
**All: for what we have done,
and for what we have left undone.
Lead us towards change,
and help us to grow,
in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: People of God, proclaim together this good news:
All: Jesus said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.”
One: No matter what we have done or failed to do,
God stays with us, forgiving us and guiding us.
All: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 18:1-10

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:34-36

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’

POETRY READING

Red Brocade (by Naomi Shihab Nye)

The Arabs used to say,
When a stranger appears at your door,
feed him for three days
before asking who he is,
where he’s come from,
where he’s headed.
That way, he’ll have strength
enough to answer.
Or, by then you’ll be
such good friends
you don’t care.

Let’s go back to that.
Rice? Pine nuts?
Here, take the red brocade pillow.
My child will serve water
to your horse.

No, I was not busy when you came!
I was not preparing to be busy.
That’s the armor everyone put on
to pretend they had a purpose
in the world.

I refuse to be claimed.
Your plate is waiting.
We will snip fresh mint
into your tea.

SERMON

“Fresh Mint”

Rev. Christine Hribar

PASTORAL PRAYER

SENDING

BENEDICTION

Announcements Sunday, July 12, 2026

TODAY

Today's Deacons are: Ruth Duell (reading today's Scripture Lesson and Gospel Reading) and Andrea Gilgulin at the 8am (reading today's poem) and Katharine Redmond at the 10am (reading today's Scripture Lesson, Gospel Reading and Poem).

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

Old North Church Helping Victims of the Earthquake in Venezuela— As we continue to pray for the people of Venezuela, our church will be sending \$500 each from our UCC Emergency Fund to All Hands & Hearts and World Central Kitchen, two trusted organizations providing vital relief to those affected by the crisis. Both are highly rated charities with strong records of compassionate, effective service.

We also encourage those who would like to make an individual gift to consider Global Empowerment Mission (info via the QR code), another highly rated organization partnering with local groups to bring aid to communities in need. Thank you for your care for our neighbors around the world.



Summer Lighthouse Services at Chandler Hovey Park— 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 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.

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

Paid Nursery Lead Teacher Position OPEN – We are looking for a paid lead nursery teacher who will care for our children from 6 months to three years old during Sunday morning worship throughout the program year. We have two very experienced assistants who will be in the class while our current lead teacher, Max, moves up to the 4-6 year old room. Please spread the word about this position that will offer competitive pay! Inquire to Rev. Christine (rev.christinehribar@gmail.com) or the church office (office@onchurch.org).

Seeking Youth for Paid Sunday School Assistant Position – We're looking for a youth 14 or above to assist Max in our new 4-6 year old classroom. Do you know a teen interested in working with children on Sunday mornings? Spread the word and inquire to Rev. Christine (rev.christinehribar@gmail.com) or the church office (office@onchurch.org).

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 haires8carrots@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.

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 Office Hours – The office is open Tuesday-Thursday 9-2pm. If you have an emergency outside of office hours, or need access to the Church Office, please send an email to office@onchurch.org.