

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 26, 2026

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

8 & 10am

GATHERING

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Christine Hribar

"Summer Day"

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean—
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Jess Easter

**You nourish and sustain the world
From day to day
And wherever we go
You are present more fully
Than we dare presume.**

We thank you for this presence,
This hidden, vulnerable,
Yet faithful presence here and now.
We believe in it and live from you
As we live from bread
As we hunger and thirst for peace.

LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

Jess Easter

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: Let us confess our sin against God and each other. We confess first in the silence of our hearts, and then aloud, together.

All: We confess our hopelessness, our loneliness, our overwhelm. Save us from despair.

SILENT PRAYER

All: Merciful God,
we know that you love us,
and that you call us to fullness of life,
but around us and within us
we see the brokenness of the world
and of our ways.
Our successes leave us empty;
our progress does not satisfy.
Our prosperous land
is not the promised land of our longing.
Forgive our willful neglect of your word,
our insensitivity to the needs of others,
and our failure to feed the spirit that is within us;
though Jesus Christ our Redeemer.
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Christine Hribar

One: In spite of our tendency to pull apart,
in spite of our tenacity to our old ways,
our loving God continues to call us back together again,
showing us the true nature of forgiveness.

**All: God does not keep score of our wrongs,
or measure how far we have wandered.**

One: God welcomes us, like a mother scooping up her lost children,
like a father embracing his prodigal offspring.

**All: As we are welcomed home,
we are encouraged to learn from that forgiveness,
to offer it to ourselves and to others again and again,
as God offers it to us in Jesus Christ,
our hope and our home.**

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Cor. 1:17, 26-31

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

SERMON

“God’s Work. Our Hands”

Jess Easter

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Christine Hribar

SENDING

BENEDICTION

Announcements Sunday, July 26, 2026

TODAY

We extend a warm welcome to Jess Easter. 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.

Today's Deacons are: Rebecca Ehrhardt and Ruth Duell at the 8am and Rebecca Ehrhardt at the 10am (reading today's Scripture Lesson).

New Water Stations— We're excited to announce a new installation of two new filtered water refill stations in the church. We encourage you to bring a reusable water bottle and refill it when attending worship services and church events. Thank you for helping us create a healthier, greener church community!

Give Your Input on Marblehead's Future—Marblehead Community Master Plan SurveyThe Marblehead Comprehensive Master Plan 2037 Advisory Group is working toward a 2027 goal of the first Master Plan update in more than 35 years. As an important part of that process, the group is collecting feedback from all members of our community via a detailed survey, which you can see, and hopefully complete, prior to August 4th: mapc.ma/Survey-Marblehead-2037 or via the QR code.



Rev. Lindsay and ONC member Dave Weber serve on the Advisory Group, and are happy to answer any questions!

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 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.

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 hares8carrots@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 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.