

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

August 16, 2026

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

8am

GATHERING

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Christine Hribar

Psalm 107:23-32

One: Some went down to the sea in ships,
plying their trade across the ocean;
they too saw the works of YHWH,
the wonders that God worked on the Deep.

**All: God spoke and raised a storm wind,
lashing up towering waves.
Flung to the sky, then plunged to the depths,
in the ordeal their courage melted away.**

One: They staggered and reeled like drunkards
with all their skill adrift.

Then they called to YHWH in their trouble,
**All: and God rescued them from their sufferings,
reducing the storm to a whisper
until the waves of the sea were hushed;**

One: overjoyed with the calm,
they were brought safe
to the port they were bound for.

**All: Let them thank God for this great love,
for the marvels done for all people.**

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Rev. Christine Hribar

Ever-present God, you are as close to us as our own breath, and as vast as the open ocean. Even so, sometimes we miss you. We forget your presence. We become preoccupied and distracted. But you never leave us. Appear to us now. Focus our attention on you. Soothe our frantic minds. Guide our wandering spirits. Bring us home to you.

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

Jess Easter

One: The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus, “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:13) Let us confess our lack of love and our need of grace.

All: **When we lose patience, when we are unkind,
When we are envious, when we are rude or proud,
When we are selfish or irritable, and when we will not forgive:
Have mercy on us, O God.
Help us not to delight in evil, but to rejoice in truth;
Help us always to protect, to trust, to hope and persevere:
Then we will see you face to face, and learn to love as you love us.**

One: Hear us, in the silence, as we bring our own confessions to you.

SILENCE

One: Have mercy, loving God. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jess Easter

One: Lift up your heads.

All: **God's love is wide and strong and we cannot be separated from it.
We live forgiven and set free. Thanks be to God!**

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 4:35-41

Frank Arren

On that day, when evening had come, [Jesus] said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion, and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” And waking up, he rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Be silent! Be still!”

Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

POETRY READING

“Against Panic”

Frank Arren

Molly Fisk

You recall those times, I know you do, when the sun
lifted its weight over a small rise to warm your face,
when a parched day finally broke open, real rain
sluicing down the sidewalk, rattling city maples
and you so sure the end was here, life a house of cards
tipped over, falling, hope’s last breath extinguished
in a bitter wind. Oh, friend, search your memory again—
beauty and relief are still there, only sleeping.

SERMON

“In Your Boat”

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

SENDING

BENEDICTION

Announcements Sunday, August 16, 2026

TODAY

Today's Deacons are: Andrea Gilgulin (reading the Scripture) and Marcia Hostetter (reading the Poem) at 8am and Frank Arren at 10am.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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.

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!

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!



Church School Open House! (August 19th 4:45-5:30pm?)—If our new classroom gets painted in time, we'll be hosting a Church School Open house where families can come and see the classrooms and meet the teachers before the first day of Church School on September 13th!

(Then you can walk right down to Gashouse Beach for the Intergenerational Dinner!)

This Fall we're adding a new classroom to church school. We'll have a nursery for ages 6 months through three, a classroom for 4-6 year olds and a classroom for 7-10 year olds. Drop Rev.

Christine a line for more information! (rev.christinehribar@gmail.com)

Intergenerational Dinner: Lawngames and Dinner at Little Harbor Boathouse Wednesday August 19th 5:30-7pm—Join us for games, food and a time to get to know folks of all ages in our church community! We'll have lawn games (but feel free to bring your favorite!) and pizza. You're welcome to bring a side or dessert or just come! RSVPs to Christine (rev.christinehribar@gmail.com) are helpful but not necessary. We hope to see you!

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.



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.



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

Men's Fellowship— *Sailing on the bounding main*—The men's fellowship took a break this week from the usual walking on various trails to sailing around the islands off of Marblehead. Herb Motley was the captain, and crew was Mike Bruce, Dave Hostetter and Richard Thibedeau. The weather was perfect and a good breeze filled the sail. A big thanks to Herb for hosting us on his boat.

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 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.

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.