

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

August 2, 2026

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

8 & 10am

GATHERING

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

One: A love that never ceases,
All: **A creativity that designed the universe,**
One: A hope that cannot be quenched,
All: **A pursuit of reconciliation at any cost:**
One: These are the things that are of God.
All: **Let us worship God.**

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

from Psalm 146:6-9, alt.

Lord, You are the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—you remain faithful forever. You uphold the cause of the oppressed and give food to the hungry. You set prisoners free, you give sight to the blind, you lift up those who are bowed down, you love the righteous. You watch over the foreigner and sustain the orphan and the widow, but you frustrate the ways of the wicked.

LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

Rev. Christine Hribar

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. Lindsay Popperson

One: Our world is loud and distracting. We quiet our minds so that we might hear God calling us back.

SILENT PRAYER

All: Still-speaking God, we struggle to hear you beyond the noise of the world. We struggle to pay attention to your call amidst the many distractions in our lives. We forget that you are with us. We stray from your mercy. We allow our lives to be ruled by greed and competition; we scorn your way of justice and love, following instead the paths of least resistance. Guide us back. Focus our hearts. Forgive our sins. We pray this in the name of Jesus, and for love's sake. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

from Isaiah 30:15, 18

One: Proclaim to one another God's words of comfort from the prophet Isaiah:

All: **"In repentance and rest is your salvation,
in quietness and trust is your strength,
but you would have none of it.**

One: Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you. God rises to show you compassion.

All: **For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for the Lord!"**

One: By the tender mercy of our God, we are forgiven, restored, and blessed.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

**CELEBRATING
THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Madelyn Nancy Hall

Daughter of Alison Abigail Hall and Geoffrey Peter Hall

WELCOME BY THE CONGREGATION

One: Let us, the members of the Body of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our ministry.

All: We welcome you with joy into the common life of the Church, one in the unity of Christ. We promise you our prayers and support as we share the hopes and labors of our faith. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in the knowledge and love of God made manifest in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 46:1-4 from The Inclusive Bible

Bel is crouching;
Nebo is stooping.
Their images,
once carried among your possessions,
are now loaded on beasts of burden,
and weigh down the weary animals.

They stoop and crouch together,
these gods who cannot bring even bundles to safety
and they themselves go off into captivity.

“Listen to me, house of Leah, Rachel, and Jacob,
and the remnant of the house of Israel:
I carried you from your conception,
I supported you from your birth;

and even when you are old, I am with you,
and when your hair turns gray I will carry you still.
I created you and I will carry you;
I will sustain you and I will save you.

POETRY READING

Primary Wonder (by Denise Levertov)

Days pass when I forget the mystery.
Problems insoluble and problems offering
their own ignored solutions
jostle for my attention, they crowd its antechamber
along with a host of diversions, my courtiers, wearing
their colored clothes; cap and bells.

And then
once more the quiet mystery
is present to me, the throng's clamor
recedes: the mystery
that there is anything, anything at all,
let alone cosmos, joy, memory, everything,
rather than void: and that, O Lord,
Creator, Hallowed One, You still,
hour by hour sustain it.

SERMON

“God in Your Pocket”

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

*All are welcome to receive communion at Old North—young and old, baptized and not.
There is gluten free bread on each tray, and we serve only non-alcoholic grape juice.*

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

OFFERING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SENDING

BENEDICTION

Announcements Sunday, August 2, 2026

TODAY

Today's Deacons are: Dee Burgett and Bonnie MacDonald at the 8am and Katharine Redmond at the 10am (reading today's Scripture Lesson and Poem).

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!

Give Your Input on Marblehead's Future—Marblehead Community Master Plan Survey/The 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

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.

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.