

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 5, 2026

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

8 & 10am

GATHERING

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

from Psalm 118:1, 8, 9, 24

One: O give thanks to the Lord, who is good;

All: God's steadfast love endures forever!

One: It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to put confidence in mortals.

**All: It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to put confidence in princes.**

One: This is the day that the Lord has made;

All: let us rejoice and be glad in it!

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

In Proverbs 31, we hear King Lemuel's mother speaking to him, instructing him on how to lead. She says, "Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out; judge righteously; defend the rights of the poor and needy." Our prayer of invocation today is a breath prayer, an ancient prayer practice where you silently repeat a phrase as you breathe in and out. As you inhale, pray silently "speak out"; as you exhale, pray silently, "judge righteously."

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
Popperson

Rev. Lindsay

One: A faithful life is a life of self-examination, a life where we are willing to admit where we have strayed and failed. If we insist we are always right, we lie to ourselves, but God is not fooled. We pause now to reflect on our lives. In this weekend of celebration, we also pause to reflect on the life of our nation. We confess our individual and communal sins.

SILENT PRAYER

One: God of all mercy,
**All: we have sinned against you,
our neighbors, and your creation.
Within ourselves and our communities,
our desire to do what is good
is at war with the evil that dwells in us.
We lament the evil that holds us captive.
We repent of the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us
for lives of compassion and courage
through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*1 John 4:12, 18, 19*)

One: People of God, hear this good news:
God's gift is love that liberates, hope that inspires,
grace that transforms.

**All: Each of us alone and all of us together
are forgiven and set free.**

One: Christ strengthens us to do good.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

LISTENING

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 10:17-22

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the Lord your God; him you shall serve; to him you shall hold fast; and by his name you shall swear. He is your praise; he is your God who has done for you these great and awesome

things that your own eyes have seen. Your ancestors went down to Egypt seventy persons, and now the Lord your God has made you as numerous as the stars in heaven.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

POETRY READING

The New Colossus (by Emma Lazarus)

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
“Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!” cries she
With silent lips. “Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

SERMON

“Complicated Stories”

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, July 5, 2026

TODAY

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.



Today's Deacons are: Mark Adams (reading today's Scripture Lesson, Gospel Reading and Poem) and Marge Adams at the 8am and Ruth Duell at the 10am (reading today's Scripture Lesson, Gospel Reading and Poem).

Deacons' Fund envelopes are in the pews and are available at the welcome table at the Lighthouse. The Deacons' Fund aids parishioners and community members who have emergency one-time needs with bills such as rental or utility payments, or medical expenses. Please see one of the ministers if you have questions or need assistance. Your donations to the fund help to provide much appreciated assistance to members of our community.

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.

The choir is off for the summer and childcare will not be offered.

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.

The next Leadership Board meeting with our new 2026-2027 roster will be on Thursday, July 9th at 7pm.

Rev. Christine is away on continuing education as a Winks Fellow to the *Heal the World Summit* in California, focusing on centering children in worship and intergenerational storytelling.

UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

Prayer Shawl will have their final meeting of the season on **July 8** at Stacey Street, 10:30-12. Materials and pattern are supplied. Contact Alexandra at **alexandradane@me.com** for more information.

First Summer Intergenerational Dinner at the Goldthwait Reservation – Join us Wednesday July 8th, 5-6:30 for a picnic dinner. These beloved dinners are an opportunity for people of all ages to gather in a gorgeous setting. Feel free to bring a dish or just show up! Please RSVP to Ana in the Church Office (**office@onchurch.org**).

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 **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.