

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

June 28, 2026

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

8am

GATHERING

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Maryellen Solomon-Auger

ONC's Open and Affirming Statement (adopted 2008)

One: We affirm our regard for the worth and dignity of all persons as beloved children of God.

All: **We recognize, celebrate and give thanks
for the many diverse gifts of God among us.**

One: We declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation, welcoming into full membership and participation in the Body of Christ persons of every race, language, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability and economic status.

All: **We commit ourselves to work to end all discrimination that afflicts
God's people, and to affirm all relationships founded on the
principles of God's love and justice.**

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Maryellen Solomon-Auger

Loving Spirit, gather us in.

Into a world full of cruelty and hatred, speak your mercy.

In chaotic times, show us how to live with faith.

Assure us of your love for us,

deepen our sense of belonging in your church,

and give us courage as we embody your love in this world

until the day when all people are free.

LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

**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: We live in a broken world; sometimes we are wounded, sometimes we wound others. God has love enough to mend all our brokenness, to wash away all our shame, to bring us to wholeness. We confess before God to be set free from shame, and take hold of the grace that God is holding out to us. Let us pray together:

If we have limited your love, if we have failed to see your image in all people and ourselves,

All: God, bring your grace.

One: If we have grown complacent with the ways of this world, if we have stood by silently while others are harmed, if we have allowed injustice to flourish,

All: God, bring your grace.

One: If we have become weighed down by guilt for what we have done and what we have left undone,

All: God, bring your grace.

One: If we struggle to live well in complex times, if we have been resistant to change,

All: God, bring your grace.

One: In the silence, we bring our fears, our doubts, our shame, and our grief into the presence of your grace.

SILENT PRAYER

One: God of never-ending grace, free us from guilt and shame. Free us to embody your love in this hurting world, in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

One: Let us together proclaim the good news of God's grace:

All: "No one has ever seen God. Yet if we love one another, God dwells in us, and God's love is brought to perfection in us.

One: There is no fear in love, for perfect love drives out fear.

All: We love because God first loved us."

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 John 4:16-21

Read by Ruth Duell

So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, “I love God,” and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

POETRY READING

Read by Rebecca Ehrhardt

“Only Love” by James Crews

Only love is big enough to hold all the pain of this world. – Sharon Salzberg

And so I imagine the entire earth
as one beating heart held in the space
of this universe, inside a larger body
we can't fathom, filling with enough
love to lead each of us out of the cave
of our personal pain and into the light—
enough love to lead all humans as one
out of collective fear, rage, and hate
into a place of peace that is found only
within our own hearts, beating in sync
with the pulse of this planet we were
born to inhabit, despite the daily storms
which overtake us and make us forget
we are the lifeblood pumped into these
veins, every particle of love we generate
running into rivers, lakes, and creeks,
evaporating into the air we breathe,
give back, and breathe again.

SERMON

“What Love Can Do”

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

SENDING

BENEDICTION

Announcements Sunday, June 28, 2026

TODAY

Pride Sunday Our church has been proudly Open and Affirming to LGBTQ+ people since 2008. Today in Pride Month, we will re-commit ourselves to the work of sharing God's love with all people, and seeing God's image in all people.

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

Life and Living Course Meets TODAY, "Friendships"—We are meeting today to discuss "Friendships" – it is our last session prior to a summer break and we will start up again this coming Fall. There is a timeless Swedish proverb: "*Shared joy is double joy. Shared sorrow is half sorrow*". I believe this captures the power of human connection. Close friends enhance our lives.

As always, we gather in person in the Great Room of Old North Church's Stacey Street Office, from 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M., or on-line via the QR code.



Topic: Life and Living

Time: 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Meeting ID: 894 6648 8441 Passcode: 979357

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.

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

Coffee Hour at the Lighthouse— Once again, the Welcome/Nurturing Committee of the Community Life Ministry Board will be providing coffee and homemade goodies after the 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.

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.