

OLD NORTH CHURCH

*Our mission is to follow Christ and proclaim his word
in a lost and broken world so loved by God.*

October 18, 2026

9:30 A.M.

We Prepare Our Hearts for Worship

*“The love we give to a pet, and receive from a pet, can draw us more deeply into the
larger circle of life.” – Anonymous*

Rev. Debbie Rundecker
Pastor

Young Suh
Guest Musician

WE APPROACH GOD

PRELUDE

GREETINGS AND OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN #57 “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

*CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted umcdiscipleship.com

The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies, the earth, and the sea.

They share in the fortunes of human existence

and have a part in human life.

God, who confers gifts on all living things,

has often used the service of animals

or made them reminders of the gifts of salvation.

Animals were saved from the flood

and afterwards made a part of the covenant with Noah.

*HYMN #356 “All Creatures of Our God and King”

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

adapted from the pastorsworkshop.com

Gracious God, grant us a deeper sense of care and responsibility with all living things,
to whom in common with us You have given this earth as home. We recall with regret
that in the past we have acted shamefully and cruelly in exercising our dominion over
them, whose song should have risen to you in praise, has turned into a groan of
suffering. Teach us that all these creatures also live for themselves and for you, not for
us alone. They too love the sweetness of life, as we do and serve you better in their way
than we do in ours. Amen.

...a time of silence is kept...

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ, have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SHARING OF THE PEACE

THE PEACE OF CHRIST BE WITH YOU!

AND ALSO WITH YOU!

LIVING THE WAY OF JESUS

*GLORIA PATRI #805

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost!

*As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end; Amen, Amen.*

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

YOUNG DISCIPLES TIME

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:18-22

SERMON HYMN #52

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

SERMON

“The Creation Waits”

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY #809

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise

Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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. Amen.

*HYMN #53

“Let All Things Now Living”

***BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

St. Francis' Prayer for All Created Things

God created us and placed us on the earth to be stewards of all living things, therefore let us proclaim the glory of our Creator, saying:

O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.

Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; you create the animals and give us the ability to train them to help us in our work.

Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; you give us food from animals to replenish our energies.

Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; for the sake of our comfort you give us domestic animals as companions.

Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; you care for us even as you care for the birds of the air.

Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; you offered your Son to us as the Passover lamb and in him willed that we should be called your children.

And so we are!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Please move to the center aisle to line up for an individual blessing for your pet. If you would prefer raise your hand and the pastor will come to you.

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING SONG**

**May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.
Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor.
Lift up your eyes and see his face and his grace forever.
May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.**

POSTLUDE

Please rise, in body or in spirit.* **Bold words indicate unison participation.

Today we welcome Young Suh as our guest musician. Young Suh is a resident of Dumont and was raised in Tenaflly. She graduated from Lehigh University with a BA in Neuroscience and graduated Temple University with a BA in Music and MA in Opera. Young Suh has been a High School Music Teacher in Paterson, NJ for 21 years. She has played the piano all her life, having a mother as an organist. In the summers she is an accompanist for services in Ocean Grove each week.

THE CONSISTORY OF OLD NORTH

ELDERS: Jena Rand-Babicz, Jon Babicz, Rich Schmude, Carol Sushko

DEACONS: Nick DiBella, Tim Frohlich, Rene Gallagher, Brianna Polbos



OLD NORTH REFORMED CHURCH

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Website - <https://oldnorth.church>

Welcome to worship at Old North Reformed Church!

If you are a visitor, please sign our guest book at the entrance to join our mailing list. Please fill out a welcome card if you would like more information about Old North or a visit from our Pastor. We are so glad you are here today.



The **Blessing of the Animals** is a traditional religious service—most notably observed in Christian traditions—where pets, livestock, and other companion animals are brought to a church or outdoor space to receive a blessing. The practice honors Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the environment, whose feast day is celebrated annually. The service acknowledges the bond between humans and animals, expresses gratitude for their companionship and work, and asks for God's care and protection over all living creatures. Animals Involved: While dogs and cats are the most common, ceremonies can include birds, rabbits, hamsters, horses, and sometimes farm or working animals.

Prayer Chain: If you wish to add the power of prayer in times of celebration, healing, or transitions in life, please call Pat Hooey, 201-843-4456. Your prayer requests are uplifted by our prayer team, and confidentiality is honored.



Church Family Prayer List:

• Katie • Michael • Tom

For those chronic conditions and their loving caregivers; those seeking employment or vocation; those facing medical procedures or recovering from surgery, and safety for all who are traveling. Prayers for all who serve in the military and for all first responders.

Scheduled to serve today with our thanks.
Ushers & Greeters – Caren Pane, Carol McCarthy
Thank you to Linda Treacy for hosting Coffee Hour.

	Ushers & Greeters	Coffee Hour Hosts
10/25	Ethel Reistema, Kay Hughes	Deb Connolly & Brianna Polbos
11/1	Steven Cordova, Scott Benell, Rich Schmude	The Frohlich Family
11/8	Marrienne & Mikayla Schmude	Ethel Reitsema

Congratulations to all our Church Family who are celebrating a special event!



Happy Birthday!
10/7 Dorothy Reisser – 10/12 Bob Hashway – 10/22 Ethan Cordova
10/27 Skylar Hashway
Happy Anniversary!
10/7 Sandra & Ben Toscano



Upcoming Meetings Following Sunday Worship
CONSISTORY – October 18th

Old North Thrift Shoppe: Thank you to all of our volunteers for their hard work. We are accepting donations on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. with the exception of the week before a sale. Our next sale is on November 7th.

Food Drive: Thank you to all participants for donating items or volunteering to collect them. Mark your calendars for our upcoming Food Drives on 11/14 & 12/12.

Bible Study: We will resume on October 29th. There is so much in popular culture about angels. Are they good? Are they bad? What are demons or dark angels? Join us Thursdays at Noon or 7 p.m. to see what the Bible says about angels.

Bergen County Housing & Human Services: We are collecting gloves, hats, scarves, socks, toiletries, deodorant, shaving cream, razors, toothpaste, tooth brushes, etc..... Bring your donations on Sundays and place them in the baskets in the sanctuary. There will also be a container in the Auditorium. If you have any questions, contact Donair Karkkainen. Deadline to drop off items is 10/25. **ONLY NEW ITEMS PLEASE!**



Hosting the Classis of Greater Palisades: Thank you to all who volunteered. It was an honor to host!

Ray Ruffley would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, thoughts, gifts and visits. He is looking forward to seeing you all at worship soon.