



# The Dover Church

*"A Welcoming Community of Faith and Service since 1762"*

October 26, 2022

Volume 13, Issue 8

## News from Meeting House Hill

To the gathering of Christ's disciples in Dover:

May the grace of our Lord, the love of God, and the joy of the Holy Spirit be with you!

I don't spend a lot of time surfing the internet, browsing Facebook or Instagram, but every now and then a "feel good" post that someone has shared from someone else who shared it and so on, infinity, pops up and catches my attention. I do not tend to save the ones that do bring me up short, short in appreciation...I try to just breeze through the ones designed to enrage or appall me.

Which is why I cannot quote verbatim the post I came across the other day. But it went something like this:

*"The day you are having right now with all its shortcomings, if you knew it might be your last, you would give anything to live it all over again."*

I think about that and know that it is true. Of the many people I have been with as they came to the end of their existence here on earth, not one has ever expressed a deep regret at not having a million dollars, not having played centerfield for the Red Sox, or not having gone on a date with Brad Pitt.

Everyone, without exception, would like to see one more sunrise, experience one more cup of coffee over breakfast with a husband or wife, go for one more walk through the autumn foliage holding that person's hand, have one more really good laugh with a good friend.

Think about your own life and see if this is not so.

You and I, no matter how challenging our average challenging days might be (I am not talking about the really catastrophic days of our lives - but the ones that feel like we are walking barefoot in the dark through a room full of Legos), have just about everything we really need to be happy. That person you love and would miss most. S/he is probably right there right now, or can be zoomed in with the push of a button. That sunrise is just an alarm clock away. The foliage will be gone soon, but no one's going to tie your shoes for you. That laugh... well, you get the idea.

### LOOKING AHEAD

**HSYG CityReach**  
November 4th and 5th

**Covenant Sunday**  
November 6 at 10 AM

**Sanctuary Choir**  
Mondays at 6:30 PM

**DovaYoga with Max**  
Tuesday, Thursdays at 8:30 AM

**Chapel Bell Choir**  
Tuesdays at 6 PM

**Bible Study on**  
Wednesdays at 11 AM

**Practicing Jesus**  
Fridays at 2 PM

**Fall Grounds Clean Up**  
Saturday, November 19  
At 8:30 AM

**Agape Sunday, November 20**  
Service at 10AM

*See inside calendar for more details.*



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*An Open and Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ.*



This may all sound so very cliched until it doesn't, until it sounds like the most true thing you've ever heard.

Take some time, any time, every day to count your blessings, the actual details of the goodness of your life: how much you enjoy your morning coffee, the feel of your bedsheets when you climb in, hot water on your face in the morning, fresh baked bread, your beloved's smile, your dog's joy.

The psalmist sings: "Teach us to count our days that we may gain wise hearts. Satisfy us with your steadfast love in the morning, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days" (Psalm 90).

It's all right there, "the secret to happiness," except it's no secret.

In faith, hope and love

Max

By the grace of our lord, your pastor

### New Member Information

#### Interested in Joining the Church

We are hoping to receive new members into the church on the second Sunday of Advent, **December 4, at 10 AM**. If you would like to discuss what membership in The Dover Church is all about, please speak with Max, Kayla or Beth soon. It will be a beautiful Sunday morning to join in covenant with us.

### Stewardship 2023

#### 2023 Stewardship Message

As you may have seen in our e-news, this year we will be returning to the tradition of hold-

ing our annual Stewardship Campaign in the fall. The campaign will begin on November 6th and run through 3 consecutive Sundays, ending after our Agape service on November 20th. During this time, we invite you to consider your blessings, as well as the ways in which The Dover Church has served your spiritual needs, as you determine your ability to offer financial support to the church in 2023. Packets including pledge cards will be mailed on November 5th and will also be available in the narthex and pews beginning on the 6th. As a reminder, during our stewardship season, we are asking only for your pledge; although pre-payments are always welcome, you do not need to begin fulfilling your pledge until 2023, in installments the timing of which may be chosen by you. Detailed information on how to pledge and make payments will be included on the pledge cards in your packets.

It has been a blessing to see the generosity of our congregation during covid, and we are fortunate that this support allowed the work of our church to continue and reach so many even when we were "shut down". As we emerge into a period of welcome renewal and reconnecting, the church's offerings and outreach are continuing to grow, but this growth as well as post-covid challenges require continued strong fiscal support from the congregation.

Stewardship is crucial to the funding of the operating budget that allows us to work, worship and continue outreach successfully. Please join in pledging with thanksgiving and joy in the knowledge that your generosity allows The Dover Church to continue God's work with fruitfulness and vitality!

### Staff Update

We welcome Martha DePaola to our staff team as our new Administrative Assistant. I have known Martha since Leo was in Chickering, with our paths crossing in the Cub Scouts, youth sports, the PTO, and friend groups around town. Martha will be doing reception in the office, answering the phone, producing our Sunday bulletin and newsletter, and generally helping all of us out. She is an exceptionally competent, lovely and warm person, whom I am sure everyone who stops by the office will be delighted to meet.

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Faith Formation & Spiritual Growth

**Bible Study - Wednesdays at 11 on Zoom**

We will be reading the traditional Advent texts as a way to prepare for the coming season. You can find the zoom link on the church website's calendar.

**Practicing Jesus - Fridays at 2 on Zoom**

Max has been working on a book called Practicing Jesus and using it in small groups. If you would like to check out what this experience is like, learn a bit about Jesus, make some new good friends, that sort of thing, the zoom link is on the church website's calendar.

**DovaYoga (with Max)  
Tuesdays and Thursdays - 8:30-9:30AM**

Right at the church in Kraft Hall - YOGA! FREE YOGA! Moderate yoga with an emphasis on individual exploration rather than a bunch of people trying to outdo each other as contortionists.

**Prayer Chapel**

Meet on zoom - on **Monday's, Wednesday's, and Friday's** from **12:30 to 1:00PM**. It's a time to check in with church family, share joys and sorrows, and be in prayer together. Please reach out to either Max or Kayla if you have any questions.

**Women's Spiritual Friendship Group:**

This year, our Women's Spiritual Friendship group has been exploring the stories of lesser known women in the Bible. In uncovering what is surprising or unexpected about these women, we've been asking ourselves what they can teach us about the role women have played in our faith from the very beginning, and what they can teach us about how we can live out our faith today. In September and October, we focused on Prisca (whose story is told in Acts) and Deborah (a judge of the Book of Judges) - you can get a glimpse of what we learned by looking at the posters the class made.

In November, we are excited to study the **Samaritan woman at the well** of the Gospel of John. We'll be meeting on the morning of **Wednesday the 16th** and all are welcome, even those who have never joined before! Reach out to Leslie Deck-

er or to Kayla for more information! All women of the church (and your friends) are welcome. **Wednesday, November 16 at 9:00AM** Looking forward to seeing you. Leslie Decker 847-845-2497

Music News



**Music Notes for November**

Our choirs have been rehearsing and are excited to share their musical gifts during worship in November.

- November 6 - Sanctuary Choir sings "You Do Not Walk Alone" by Elaine Hagensberg
- November 13 - Dottie Rother sings "He" by Richard Mullan and Jack Richards
- November 20 - Festival Choir sings for Agape/ Thanksgiving Sunday
- November 27 - Chapel Bell Choir rings "O Come, Little Children" for our First Sunday of Advent

All are welcome to join the Festival Choir on November 20 and should come to rehearsals Mondays November 7 and November 14 at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary



## Youth Programming

### Special Sunday School Activities

We are experimenting with a new model of Sunday School. On the first Sunday of every month (barring holiday weekends), students forgo the typical classroom lesson plan, and all of us combine into one group for a hands-on lesson. Many of these lessons involve getting outside, moving around, and getting our hands dirty. For those young people who get enough of sitting still in school, it's our hope that these alternative lessons will be a fun and impactful way to learn about an applied life of faith. In October, we had a blast planting daffodil bulbs and discussing how God is growing good things in us; our next Special Sunday School Activity will be on November 6th.

Our Teddy Bear Room will be open starting at 9:45 for our 0 through 3 year old's. Please be sure to register at the link in our CE eNews, and keep reading to learn more about what to expect in Sunday School this fall. See you there!

We hope the calendar below will give you a sense of what to expect - both in Sunday School and in worship!

### November

- 6th: Activity Sunday
- 13th: TS & Celebrating Family Promise
- 20th: TS & Agape Sunday
- 27th: Thanksgiving Weekend, No Sunday School, TBR Open

### December

- 4th: Activity Sunday & Advent Workshop
- 11th: TS
- 18th: Xmas Pageant, No Sunday School, TBR Open
- 25th: Christmas! No Sunday School, TBR CLOSED



### Christmas Pageant

All are welcome to be part of this year's Christmas Pageant, which will premier in worship on December 18th! We will be pre-recording our pageant again this year, as it has proven less stressful for our actors that way, and has allowed families to participate even if their Sunday morning schedules don't allow for regular church attendance. If you would like to be part of the pageant, please let Kayla know! Scenes can be shot at home, or times can be scheduled to meet with Kayla (and others) at the church or elsewhere to shoot a scene.



### Pilgrim & The Dover Church's Senior High Youth Group

This fall, we have been trying a new thing with our Middle and Senior High Youth Groups - we have been partnering with Pilgrim Church in Sherborn. So far, this experiment has gone really well! We have been glad to see both groups enjoy much higher attendance, and students have enjoyed getting to see more of their friends when they show up for youth group. And it's not just our tweens and teens who have gotten to know each other between churches.

In mid October, our Senior High Youth Group hosted an Intergenerational Dinner where 35 teens and elders gathered in Kraft Hall for food and fellowship. We were delighted that we had so many teens and elders from both church communities participate! We're looking forward to more cross-community collaboration in the future - like our upcoming Halloween Carnival put on by the High School Youth Group, to which children and families from both churches are very warmly invited, and Pilgrim's Miracle on Main Street food packing party, which will be supported by our middle and high school youth.

Middle School Youth Group meets over at Pilgrim Church every other Sunday from 5:15-6:45 -

reach out to pastorjohn@pilgrimsherborn.org. to contact Pastor John Hudson for more information.

Senior High Youth Group meets every Sunday from 7-8:30 at The Dover Church, contact Kayla, kayla@thedoverchurch.org, for more information.

Here is our upcoming HSYG schedule:

**November**

- 4 & 5: City Reach Mission Trip with common cathedral
- 6: NO HSYG, common cathedral trip
- 13: Miracle on Main Street at Pilgrim Church at 11:00 AM
- 20: Thanksgiving Dinner & Food Sorting
- 27: NO HSYG, Thanksgiving Break

**December**

- 4: Xmas Cards & Cookies
- 11: MATE NIGHT
- 18: Gingerbread Houses
- TBD: MBK Xmas Present
- 25: NO HSYG, Christmas

**Middle School Youth Group**

For Sunday, November 13th, we are helping with Miracle on Main Street, a mission project where we will help assemble 30,000 meals for neighbors facing food insecurity. We will gather at Pilgrim Church on Sunday, November 13th at 11 am (note early start time) and work until 1 pm. This is a TON of fun. It is Pilgrim Church’s biggest outreach ministry. More than 110 volunteers will be in the church! I’ve created a sign up genius.

Please sign up your son or daughter – it will be a huge sign of love to those in need and a chance for MSYG to put our faith into action.

Here’s the link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0e4caba923a75-miracle>

Looking ahead: On Saturday, November 19th, from 8am to 1pm, we will be going into Boston to help out at the Brighton Food Pantry in its Thanksgiving food distribution day. This will be an eye opening and energizing activity – lots of fun and learning about the city and some of its challenges. We need parent drivers too please. Please put this on your family calendar. I will send out a reminder next week.

**MSYG Dates/Times Fall 2022**

MSYG dates (all meetings take place at Pilgrim Church Sherborn, 25 South Main Street, Sherborn, MA from 5:15 to 6:45 unless otherwise noted)

- 11/13 (at Pilgrim Church: 11:00-1:00 – Miracle on Main Street Food packaging Event),

- 11/19 (Saturday morning in Brighton at Food Pantry: time 8AM.)
- 12/11
- (plus one more off site service project in December: being confirmed – more info to follow)

**HSYG MATE Schedule 2022-2023**

Please read the below the scheduled prep meetings leading up to the 2023 MATE trip. We may add one more meeting in 2023, tbd. We may also organize team fundraising opportunities (like car washes), those dates are yet to be determined as well. To be eligible for all 40 hours of community service, students must attend at least 5 preparatory events - be they meetings, group fundraising events, or individual or small group time helping Kayla & Max with trip-related tasks. Please join us on:

- December 11th, 7-8:30pm
- January 22nd, 7-8:30pm
- March 19th, 7-8:30pm
- April 30th, 7-8:30pm
- June 4th, 7-8:30pm
- MATE TRIP: June 24th-July 1st

Mission In Action:  
Serving Others

**Donations for CityReach**

Our High School Youth Group will be participating in City Reach on Friday, November 5th to Saturday, November 6th to serve the unhoused. They are collecting donations of warm outdoor clothing to bring with them.

**Most Needed Items:**

- All kinds of carrying cases such as backpacks, tote bags, fanny packs, small suitcases with wheels
- Travel-size toiletries (nothing containing alcohol)
- New white socks & underwear for both men and women, and bras
- Sleeping bags & blankets
- Sweat shirts, sweat pants, outerwear (especially hooded sweatshirts)
- Monetary donations to be used to purchase clothing

Please bring your donations to the church by Thursday, November 3rd. Many thanks.

### Keeping the Promise 2022

**Friday, November 18, 2022. 6 to 9:30 PM.** Join us in person or from the comfort of your own home... the choice is yours! Keeping the Promise 2022 is taking shape, and this year we are bringing you a hybrid event: an in-person gathering with live performances or the show live-streamed into your living room!

To find out more or to purchase tickets visit:  
<https://e.givesmart.com/events/mBx/>

### Agape Sunday Food Collection



**Feeding the Community**

On **Sunday, November 20th**, we will be opening our doors at **9 am** for food donations for A Place To Turn. For a list of needed items, please visit their website:  
<https://www.aplacetoturn-natick.org/donation-request-list/>  
 Thank you for your generous donations.

### Greening of the Church

We are excited to return to the tradition of gathering to “green” the church in preparation for the first Sunday of Advent! If you would like to come help, please join us on **Saturday, November 26th** from **6:30-8:30PM**. We will decorate the sanctuary with our garlands and greens while enjoying some Christmas music and treats before viewing our handiwork by candlelight once we are done. This is always both a festive and relaxing evening for adults and teens/older children to come together before the rush of the season begins. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Amy Barnett at [amy.barnett@comcast.net](mailto:amy.barnett@comcast.net) or Nancy Simms at [nancy@thedoverchurch.org](mailto:nancy@thedoverchurch.org).

### Tea and Check In:

**3 pm on Thursdays.** This is a fun way to check in with your fellow members. Come relax, have a cup of tea and cookies and bring your parish news. We meet in the church library or Taylor Garden if the weather is good. Please email Beth to let her know if you plan to join us. ([beth@thedoverchurch.org](mailto:beth@thedoverchurch.org))

### Friday Morning Walking Group:

**9 am on Fridays.** Everyone is welcome to join us! We walk weather permitting (even if it is cold!). Come join us as we enjoy the fresh air and great fellowship with our fellow members. Please email Beth to let her know if you plan to join us. ([beth@thedoverchurch.org](mailto:beth@thedoverchurch.org))

### Grounds Clean Up

Our Men’s Breakfast group invites all of our members, young and old, to join us on **Saturday, November 19th at 8:30 AM** for our fall grounds clean up. Bring your rakes, leaf blowers and tarps. Coffee and breakfast will be served.

### Bread and Grapes for Agape Sunday

We are happy to bring back our Agape Sunday tradition of serving quick breads and grapes during worship. We are looking for members to help by baking quick breads (pumpkin, lemon poppyseed, banana, etc.) or by providing grapes on **Sunday, November 20th**. If you are able to help, please email Beth Benjamin. Many thanks.



### Advent Bulletin Covers

We are starting to plan for Advent! And we are looking for young artists who would like to draw a picture for our bulletin cover. For each Sunday in Advent, November 27. To sign up, use the link in the eNews (and CE eNews) or sign up in Kraft Hall during coffee hour. Contact Beth Benjamin if you have questions.  
[beth@thedoverchurch.org](mailto:beth@thedoverchurch.org)

### Candle Lighting During Advent

One of our traditions is to have members and friends light our Advent candles during the 4 weeks of Advent and on Christmas Eve. We are asking people to sign up for a date that works for you. The sign up link will be in the eNews each week. And there will be a sign up in Kraft Hall during coffee hour. If you have questions, please contact Beth Benjamin.

### Altar Flower Dedications

If you would like to dedicate flowers for Sunday morning, **please contact Betty Brady** to select a date. Betty will arrange the flowers and you can take them home after worship.

Betty can be reached by email or on her cell phone, [doverhugh781@gmail.com](mailto:doverhugh781@gmail.com), or 339-225-5925. Or use the online sign up link in the eNews.

# November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>(This calendar receives many updates after publication. The most up-to-date calendar is the electronic one on our website: <a href="http://www.thedoverchurch.org">www.thedoverchurch.org</a>).</i></p>						
		<b>1</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> DovaYoga	<b>2</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Bible Study <b>12:15 PM</b> COA Program <b>12:30 PM</b> Prayer Group	<b>3</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> DovaYoga <b>3:00 PM</b> Tea and Check In	<b>4</b> <b>HSYG-</b> <b>CityReach</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Walking Group <b>12:30 PM</b> Prayer Group	<b>5</b> <b>HSYG-</b> <b>CityReach</b>
<b>6</b> <b>Covenant Sunday</b> <b>Daylight Savings Time</b> <b>10:00 AM Worship</b> In-Person & Virtual <b>11:30AM Deacons</b> <b>7:00 PM HSYG</b>	<b>7</b> <b>12:30 PM</b> Prayer Group <b>6:30 PM</b> Sanctuary Choir	<b>8</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> DovaYoga <b>6:00 PM</b> Chapel Bell Choir <b>7:30 PM</b> Finance	<b>9</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Bible Study <b>12:15 PM</b> COA Program <b>12:30 PM</b> Prayer Group	<b>10</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> DovaYoga <b>3:00 PM</b> Tea and Check In	<b>11</b> <b>Veterans Day</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Walking Group <b>12:30 PM</b> Prayer Group	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <b>10:00 AM Worship</b> In-Person & Virtual <b>11:30AM MSYG</b> <b>7:00 PM HSYG</b>	<b>14</b> <b>12:30 PM</b> Prayer Group <b>6:30 PM</b> Sanctuary Choir	<b>15</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> DovaYoga <b>6:00 PM</b> Chapel Bell Choir <b>7:30 PM</b> Church Council	<b>16</b> <b>9:00 PM</b> Women's Spiritual Friendship Group <b>11:00 AM</b> Bible Study <b>12:15 PM</b> COA Program <b>12:30 PM</b> Prayer Group	<b>17</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> DovaYoga <b>3:00 PM</b> Tea and Check In	<b>18</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Men's Breakfast <b>9:00 AM</b> Walking Group <b>12:30 PM</b> Prayer Group	<b>19</b> <b>8:00AM</b> MSYG <b>8:30 AM</b> Fall Grounds Clean Up
<b>20</b> <b>Agape Sunday</b> <b>10:00 AM Worship</b> In-Person & Virtual <b>11:30AM</b> Music Committee <b>1:00 PM</b> Fox Hill Village <b>7:00 PM HSYG</b>	<b>21</b> <b>12:30 PM</b> Prayer Group <b>6:30 PM</b> Sanctuary Choir	<b>22</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> DovaYoga <b>6:00 PM</b> Chapel Bell Choir	<b>23</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Bible Study <b>12:30 PM</b> Prayer Group	<b>24</b> <b>Thanksgiving</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>6:30-8:30PM</b> Greening of the Church
<b>27</b> <b>First Advent</b>	<b>28</b> <b>12:30 PM</b> Prayer Group <b>6:30 PM</b> Sanctuary Choir	<b>29</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> DovaYoga <b>6:00 PM</b> Chapel Bell Choir	<b>30</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Bible Study <b>12:15 PM</b> COA Program <b>12:30 PM</b> Prayer Group			



Join us on **November 20th** for our annual Agape Sunday service .

We will be sharing quick breads and grapes during the service, collecting food donations for A Place To Turn, and we ask that you return your 2023 pledge cards to the church on this day.

Read more about all of these things inside our newsletter!

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**THE DOVER CHURCH**

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**NEWS from Meeting House Hill**  
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