



The Dover Church

"A Welcoming Community of Faith and Service since 1762"

November 22, 2022

Volume 13, Issue 9

News from Meeting House Hill

To the gathering of Christ's disciples in Dover:

Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to all people of good will!

The echoes of Christmas, of the heavenly host calling out to the shepherds in the fields, harken us to new beginnings in faith. Which is why I love Advent.

I know everyone wants to get the old Christmas carols dusted off and sung throughout December. Believe me, I have heard it every post-Thanksgiving of my pastoral life: "Can't we just start Christmas?" And yet, I still drag my feet.

We have to prepare, as everyone does who is expecting a baby or looking/hoping for a new beginning. We have to get ready. We don't even know how we have to prepare or get ready. We don't even know what may be lacking or going in the wrong direction, where our thinking or the movements of our souls may be actually standing between us and a new beginning. But the church calendar solves that for us by having this season of preparation.

We prepare by spending 3-4 Sundays, which is not nearly enough time but is all we have to spare this time of year, with crucial faith exemplars: Zechariah and Elizabeth and their son, John, aka "THE BAPTIST," Joseph son of Jacob (I bet you didn't know that was his father's name - most people know him because he was engaged to...), and Mary, Jesus' mother. Each of these people invite us to look deeply into the mystery and majesty of God and where we might be able to jump off of where we are right now into what Jesus called "eternal life," a life lived in the here and now with God.

This year, rather than devoting the first Sunday of Advent to John the Baptist as I have done every Advent, I am going to preach on Elizabeth, John's mother, who both made John possible, but was also the kinswoman of Mary and therefore the link between the "the one crying out in the wilderness "prepare the way of the Lord" I.e., John the Baptist, and his cousin, Jesus. These two women, one an old woman thought incapable of having a child, and the other a youth thought too young to be messing around making babies, hold several keys that open the doors of our hearts to God.

Boy, that sounds convoluted the way I just wrote it. But I hope

LOOKING AHEAD

**New Members
joining the church
December 4 at 10 AM**

**Advent Workshop
December 4 following
worship**

**Prayer Chapel on
Monday, Wednesday
And Friday at 12:30 PM**

**DovaYoga
Tuesdays and Thursdays
At 8:30 AM**

**Bible Study
Wednesdays at 11 AM**

**Practicing Jesus
Fridays at 2 PM**

**Women's Spiritual Friendship
Group meets
December 21 at 9 AM**

**Christmas Eve Services
4 PM, 5:30 PM and 11 PM**

**Conversation about CE
Sunday, January 8
Following worship**

See inside calendar for more details.

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to have it all sorted out by the First Sunday of Advent. Then we will hear the story of Joseph, Mary’s betrothed, and then Mary herself. Each is a window into the heart of God’s living love.

These Sundays really will be very good for your souls and absolutely will help you make Christmas more than a one day wonder extravaganza, but more of a deep dive into where Jesus might take you with God in the coming year.

I pray that you join us, whether in person or via YouTube.

In faith, hope, and love,
Max

By the grace of our Lord, (one of) your pastor(s)

New Member Information

Interested in Joining the Church

We will be receiving new members into the church on the second Sunday of Advent, **December 4, at 10AM**. 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.

A Conversation about CE

A Conversation about Christian Education with Your Pastors – January 8 after Worship

One of the big questions following Covid that we (your pastors) had was “will they come back?” We wondered whether the older folks would come back up the walkway or remain at home on YouTube. We wondered whether all the folks who had joined us via YouTube would ever

come in person at all. And finally, we wondered if families with Sunday School aged children would come back; whether they might have gotten out of the habit of Sunday morning church after so long away and found other ways to enjoy their weekends.

In short, we have been delighted to see so many young children at church this Fall, but we also realize that the challenges our traditional Sunday School model faced before Covid (two working families with little time to volunteer teach, parents’ spiritual need to be in worship and not in the classroom; Sunday morning sports and other activities, vacation homes, etc.) have been exacerbated by Covid and life has changed yet again.

Kayla and I would like to sit down after worship on January 8 to listen to where the Sunday School families are at. We want to know what you think about kids in worship vs. kids over in the Sunday School, the balance of sitting at a table instruction vs. kinetic learning, the tension between being a relaxed church where people come when they feel so moved and the need to have a fully staffed and curriculum full Sunday School ready to go every Sunday just in case everyone shows up.

At the heart of our Congregational tradition of doing church is not democracy or votes or voices, but discernment, and discernment is an exercise in listening and hearing how God is speaking. We could just mandate a program or allow a committee to run around throwing spaghetti at the wall and see what sticks, but that’s not how our tradition works. Having said that, it’s up to you to show up so we can hear what you have to say and you can hear what others have to say. We hope January 8 should be a good Sunday for everyone except the hardcore skiers. We hope and pray you can all make the effort to join us. We will arrange for extended nursery and childcare so that you can talk and listen without having to worry about your kids.

If you know that you cannot make it but want to be heard, or if you have any preliminary questions or comments you know who to write to @thedoverchurch.org, or give us a call at 785-0957.

Max & Kayla



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Stewardship 2023

2023 Stewardship Message

We are 2 1/2 weeks into our Stewardship Campaign, and our congregation continues to be generous! As of this printing, we have received 54 pledges totaling \$216,648. This puts us at 55.8% of our goal. THANK YOU very to those who have pledged and helped get us off to such a great start!!! We do still have a ways to go to meet our needs, so if you have not yet had an opportunity to pledge and are able to do so, please do! You also need not be a member to pledge in support of the work of the church. There are several ways to pledge:

- Fill out the pledge card that was mailed to you and return it by mail in the pre-addressed envelope, or deliver it in person either by adding it to the offering during worship or dropping by the church office. There will be extra pledge cards in the narthex and pews if you need one.
- Pledge online on our website: www.thedoverchurch.org/giving. Click on the "record your pledge" tab and fill in the form. (If you wish, after filling in the pledge form you can also make a one-time payment or set up automatic monthly payments by clicking on the "give online today" tab and setting up recurring payments beginning on the date of your choice.)
- Send a confidential email with your pledge to our Assistant Treasurer Nancy Simms at nancy@thedoverchurch.org, or call Nancy at 508-785-0957.

If you have any questions feel free to reach out to one of the members of the stewardship committee - Amy Barnett, Bruce Hain, Lori Johnson, Leah Hoover, Drew Hussar, and Callie McOsker - or to our assistant treasurer Nancy Simms. Thank you for your continued generosity to the church and best wishes to you as we enter this Advent season!

Faith Formation & Spiritual Growth

Prayer Chapel

Meets on zoom - on **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 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.

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.

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 group made. In November, we studied the Samaritan woman at the well of the Gospel of John.

For December, we will meet on the morning of **Wednesday the 21st at 9 am**. All are welcome, even those who have never joined before! Reach out to Leslie Decker or to Kayla for more information! Leslie Decker 847-845-2497



Music News

December Music Notes

- **December 4** - Sanctuary Choir sings "People, Look East" and Chapel Bell Choir Rings
- **December 11** - Sanctuary Choir and Chapel Bell Choir
- **December 18** - Festival Choir, Chapel Bell Choir, guest pianist and flute together in "On Christmas Night"
- **December 24** -
 - 4:00 PM - Beacon Brass Quintet and Festival Choir
 - 5:30 PM - Beacon Brass Quintet and Festival Choir
- **Christmas Day** - 10:00 AM - Organ and Carol Sing
- All are welcome to join the **Festival Choir** for December 18 and Christmas Eve services. Rehearsals Mondays December 5, 12 and 19 at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary
- **Christmas Eve only Festival Choir**, open to all, especially Christmas visitors, rehearsal December 19 at 6:30 PM in Sanctuary



January Chapel Bell Choir

All who are interested in joining the next session of Chapel Bell Choir are welcome. Registration open until January 1. Please let Christine know by January 1 if you wish to participate so we can reserve a place for you. Rehearsals resume Tuesday, January 10 at 6 PM.



Youth Programming

CityReach Update

In early November, our Senior High Youth Group headed into Boston to participate in the CityReach program with common cathedral. We arrived at the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul Friday night and got straight to it - meeting the CityReach staff (all folks who have experienced homelessness or are currently unhoused), packing up lunches to distribute, and taking a nighttime walk around downtown Boston guided by CityReach staff. The next day began bright and early as we set up for a time of hospitality where folks could come in and "shop" for all sorts of essentials. 17 of us made the trip, but so many more were present in spirit. We are so grateful for all who prayed for us, spread the word, and donated items for us to distribute. Our students worked hard to connect with every individual who came their way, and to help them find what they were looking for. It was incredibly moving to see the connections made and conversations had between our students and folks who faced very different daily realities.

Moved by the need, one of our Youth Group families is running their own donation drive for coats and jackets, to be dropped off to CityReach on December 2nd. If you'd like to contribute, please reach out to Kayla for more information!

Christmas Pageant

Premiers in worship, **Sunday December 18th**, All are welcome to be part of this year's Christmas Pageant! 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 with busy weekend schedules. If you would like to be part of the pageant, please let Kayla know! We will be recording many of our scenes during Sunday School on the 4th and 11th of December, so please try to be there! We do have some roles that will be filmed outside of Sunday morning, if you are interested in one of those, please let Kayla know as soon as you can!



Advent Workshop

After worship, **Sunday December 4th**

We are looking forward to another fun Advent Workshop full of all the old favorite activities (advent wreaths!) and a sprinkling of new! You won't want to miss it!



Sunday School Schedule

December

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

High School Youth Group Schedule

Here is our upcoming HSYG schedule:

December

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



MSYG Dates/Times Fall 2022

- 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

Advent Care Boxes for Cradles to Crayons

The Mission in Action committee invites you to support our Senior High Youth Group's upcoming day of service on January 7th at Cradles to Crayons' Newton Giving Factory location by participating in our Advent Care Boxes collection!

A Boston-based nonprofit, Cradles to Crayons provides children from birth through age 12, living in homeless or low-income situations, with the essential items they need to thrive – at home, at school and at play. These items are provided free of charge by Cradles to Crayons through engaging and connecting with local communities like ours.

Collection care boxes will be distributed at the Nov. 27th church service as well as available for pick-up at the church office during business hours M-F, 9:00 am – 3:00 p.m. Throughout the Advent season, individuals and families are encouraged to collect items from the list, on our handout, to place in their Advent Care Boxes for our SHYG students to bring with them when they volunteer at Cradles to Crayons on Jan. 7th. Boxes of donations may be dropped off at The Dover Church anytime between Christmas Eve and Jan. 6th.

Cradles to Crayons

Some statistics from Cradles to Crayons about Clothing Insecurity: Childhood poverty is a serious nationwide issue. More than one in three Massachusetts children, 12 years old and younger, live in low-income or homeless situations. Without adequate and appropriate clothing, children face unfair barriers and participate in life on an unequal playing field. Across most of the United States, only three (food, housing, energy) of four basic needs are supported by government safety net programs. Cradles to Crayons uses the term "clothing insecurity" as part of their efforts to formally recognize the issue, and increase awareness on this hidden basic need. For more information, please see <https://www.cradlestocrayons.org>

Fellowship Opportunities

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)



Friday Morning Walking Group:

9 am on Fridays. Everyone is welcome to join us! We walk weather 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)



Order Poinsettias for Christmas

Honor a friend or family member this holiday season with a personalized poinsettia dedication. We will fill our Meetinghouse with these beautiful Christmas plants for our 10:00am service on December 18 and for all three of our services on December 24. Please order your poinsettias by clicking the button below and filling in the online order form. You can pay online or mail a check to the church office. In order to ensure that your poinsettia order is fulfilled and that your dedication is included in the Christmas bulletins, please order by **Monday, December 12, 2022.**



PITS, POSTS AND PALISADES ARCHAEOLOGY OF 17TH CENTURY PLYMOUTH COLONY SETTLEMENT

Friday, **December 2nd** at the Dover American Legion, 32 Dedham Street, **7 PM**

The Dover Historical Society invites you to a talk by archaeologist Dr. David Landon. Come and learn about this crucial period in New England history from the person who is attempting to disentangle myth from reality.

This event is free of charge. Refreshments will be served. Cash bar.

December 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: www.thedoverchurch.org).</i></p>						
				1 8:30 AM DovaYoga 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	2 Arts Fair 9:00 AM Walking Group 12:30 PM Prayer Group 2:00 PM Practicing Jesus	3 Arts Fair
4 Second Advent Sunday Candle of Peace 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual 11:00AM Advent Workshop 11:30 AM Deacons 7:00 PM HSYG	5 12:30 PM Prayer Group 6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir	6 8:30 AM DovaYoga 6:00 PM Chapel Bell Choir	7 11:00 AM Bible Study 12:15 PM COA Program 12:30 PM Prayer Group	8 8:30 AM DovaYoga 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	9 9:00 AM Walking Group 12:30 PM Prayer Group 2:00 PM Practicing Jesus	10
11 Third Advent Candle of Joy 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual 5:15 PM MSYG 7:00 PM HSYG	12 12:30 PM Prayer Group 6:00 PM Chapel Bell Choir 6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir	13 8:30 AM DovaYoga	14 11:00 AM Bible Study 12:15 PM COA Program 12:30 PM Prayer Group 7:00 PM Finance Committee	15 8:30 AM DovaYoga 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	16 9:00 AM Walking Group 12:30 PM Prayer Group 2:00 PM Practicing Jesus	17
18 Fourth Advent Candle of Love 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual 2:30 PM Fox Hill Village 7:00 PM HSYG	19 12:30 PM Prayer Group 6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir	20 8:30 AM DovaYoga 7:30 PM Church Council	21 9:00 PM Women's Group 11:00 AM Bible Study 12:30 PM Prayer Group	22 8:30 AM DovaYoga 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	23 9:00 AM Walking Group 12:30 PM Prayer Group 2:00 PM Practicing Jesus	24 Christmas Eve Services 4:00 PM 5:30 PM 11:00 PM
25 Christmas 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual	26 Church Office Closed	27 Church Office Closed	28 Church Office Closed	29 Church Office Closed	30 Church Office Closed	31 New Year's Eve



We hope you will join us on **December 4th following worship** for our annual Advent Workshop.

This is a fun, intergenerational coffee hour with make your own Advent wreaths, candy nativity scenes and Christmas crafts. Lots of fun for the whole family.

THE DOVER CHURCH

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