

# The Dover Church

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

February 28, 2023

Volume 14, Issue 2

## News from Meeting House Hill

To the gathering of Resurrection people in Dover:

Grace and peace from our Lord Jesus the Christ and God our Creator!

Lent is upon us, that season of the year that falls so conveniently in what I always feel is an in between time of the non-church year. Winter is coming to an end in late February and Spring will come around Easter. In short, if it were any other place than towns like ours in any other time in the human experience (i.e., before the internet and 24/7 busy-ness and acquired ADD of GO GO GO), Lent is the perfect time to step back from our lives to take an inventory:

- What is really important to me?
- Is that what I am actually spending my life on?
- How is my soul? Does it hurt? Rejoice? Flee? Fly?
- How are my relationships? With those closest to me? With God?
- Do I Feel like I am living the life I am called to? Or am I doing something else?

I already know that many of you for whom this is intended will not have taken the time to read it. You have too much else going on. I also already know that many of you who have taken the time to read these words will already be inwardly (or outwardly) sighing in frustration, thinking: "who has time to step back from their lives? If I step back, my life will either come to a screeching halt or run away from me?"

Nonetheless, I offer you Lent and hope that you can do one reflective thing to help you along your faith journey. Our lessons in church on Sunday mornings are going to be about temptation and how our Lord can help us turn them into glory. If you cannot find time to come to church, tune in to the Youtube Livestream. I can assure you, we are all dealing with the push and pull of temptation and there will be some nuggets for everyone.

If you take the time to work your way through the rest of this newsletter, you will see numerous ways that you can step back a bit and lean into your faith with your friends here at the church.

If not, I hope to see you on Easter. One word of spiritual caution, it is hard, if not impossible, to experience the Resurrection to new

### LOOKING AHEAD

**Meditation during Lent**  
Tuesdays @ 12 noon

**Bible Study during Lent**  
Wednesdays, 1:30 PM

**Women's Spiritual**  
**Friendship Group**  
leads worship  
Sunday, March 12

**Parenting Spirituality Group,**  
March 12th, 11:20-12:20

**Men's Breakfast Group**  
Friday, March 17  
8:00 AM

**Trivia Night**  
March 18  
5:30 PM

*See inside calendar for more details.*



**Set your clocks ahead one hour at  
2 pm on Sunday, March 12th.**

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



life if you have skipped over the reflection, shredding and dying of Lent and Holy Week.

In faith, hope, and love,  
Max  
By the grace of our Lord,  
(One of) your pastor(s)

Faith Formation & Spiritual Growth

**Meditation During Lent - Zoom with Max**

As I mentioned in my primary reflection for this newsletter, Lent is a great time to reflect through some form of spiritual practice. Meditation is one I would like to do more of myself and one I would encourage many of you to try for a few weeks. With that in mind, I will be offering a Zoom meditation group on **Tuesdays @ 12 PM**. **Look for the link on the church website**. There will be some teaching, some time for reflecting, a practice with others.

**DovaYoga with Max During Lent**

If you feel like you cannot sit still for meditation, you should try yoga. Max teaches yoga on **Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30-9:30**.

**Bible Study During Lent**

Spending some time with the Holy Week readings is a great Lenten practice. Most of us have little to no familiarity with these most consequential chapters from the Gospels, for the simple reason that the days of holy days of devotion when businesses and schools closed so the devout could draw closer to God in preparation for Easter are far behind us. **Look for the link on the church website - Wednesdays at 1:30 PM**

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**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.

**Practicing Jesus, Fridays at (2:00 PM)**

Several years ago, Max started writing a book on spiritual formation for Christians like us. He has used this book in small groups and received positive feedback. Rather than publish the book, Max is going to walk through it with people via zoom every Friday. If you ever have had lots of unanswered questions about your faith, this is a great forum to start digging in. Look for the zoom link on the church calendar.

**Women's Spiritual Friendship Group Leads Worship - March 12th**

In honor of International Women's Day, TDC's Women's Spiritual Friendship Group will be leading Sunday worship on March 12th. The group has been gearing up for this service for months! Join us to experience a creative liturgy written and led by members of the group. This service will focus on the story of the Woman at the Well of John 4, and will be a celebration of the leadership and impact of women from the very earliest days of the Christ movement. See you there!

Church Membership

Dear Friends,

One of the great joys of being the church together is receiving new members into our faith and fellowship. To see new folks, to get to know them, to see what gifts from God they bring to our ministries and missions - it is exhilarating. In our congregational way, we regularly receive members in during a service of worship on a Sunday morning.

If you would like to explore what joining The Dover Church is all about, we will be having a new members orientation and a reception in late April/early May. Watch the e-News for the time and date. There is no commitment to come to the orientation. It is a place and time for you to ask your questions and



find out if The Dover Church is the place for you. If you would like to talk this over with one of our pastors, please reach out to Max and/or Kayla via email. max@thedoverchurch.org or kayla@thedoverchurch.org.

## Music News

### March Music Notes

- March 5- Chapel Bell Choir rings "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" and Sanctuary Choir sings a new octavo arrangement of "What Wondrous Love Is This"
- March 19 - Music for St. Patrick's Day

All are welcome to join the Sanctuary choir at any time. Our current members and section leaders are always open to new voices! Rehearsals Mondays at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary



### Holy Week/Easter Sunday Choir

The choir will be singing for all Holy Week services beginning Palm Sunday along with our new section leaders. Services are Palm Sunday, April 2 at 10 AM, Maundy Thursday April 6 and Good Friday April 7 at 7:30 PM. Easter Sunday we are singing at both 9 AM and 11 AM services. You are welcome to join any or all of the services. Speak to Christine about specific repertoire for when you are available.

### Easter Sunday Chapel Bell Choir

All who are interested in joining the next session of Chapel Bell Choir are welcome. We begin rehearsing March 7 - please let Christine know if you would like to join by March 5 so she can set a part aside for you.



## Youth Programming

### TDC Social - Trivia Night March 18th 5:30-7:30

Join The Dover Church's Christian Education Committee on Saturday, March 18th from 5:30-7:30pm for Trivia Night!! We are excited for another iteration of what is becoming TDC's new favorite tradition! Come ready to reconnect with church friends and laugh a lot!

While adults play trivia upstairs, we'll have supervised games and a movie available for kids downstairs. Middle school aged kids and up are welcome to compete in trivia too! We'll gather at 5:30 for conversation and a potluck style dinner (pizza provided by the church). At 6:15 the children will head downstairs for their own fun while the adults begin trivia!

For the next hour, we'll work in teams to test our knowledge on all sorts of topics, silly and serious. At 7:15, the children will come back up for dessert!

This is a free event, though please consider contributing to the potluck if you are able and bringing a children's book (prek - 5th grade) for our ongoing book drive! This event is open to the whole community, whether or not you have children in the Sunday School program, so please invite your friends!



### Lenten Children's Book Drive

During Lent we will be collecting new or gently used children's books (pre-k through 5th grade) to donate to an elementary school in Fall River where 86% of students are low income and 89% are high needs. These books will stock classroom libraries and be sent home with students to build families' home collections. If you have books to donate, please bring them by the church office. We will have collection boxes in the nar-





them, the church office and Kraft Hall.

And mark your calendars for April 2nd, when we will have an intergenerational book sorting extravaganza during our Palm Sunday coffee hour!



### **Parenting Spirituality Group,** **March 12th, 11:20-12:20**

We are trying a new thing and we hope that you will be part of it!

The everyday work, frustrations, and blessings of parenting is one of the major practices that dominates the lives of those who have children. This group aims to explore the spiritual dimensions of that work and make space for peer support and skill sharing. We hope to create a non-judgmental space for parents to share experience and questions as they dip their toes into approaching the work of parenting with mindfulness and intention. We will pull from a variety of religious, spiritual, and mindfulness traditions as we think about how being a parent informs our spirits and how we can bring spirituality to bear in parenting. We hope to explore how folks can continue to be individual persons with interests and goals even as they parent, and support each other in the tensions that inevitably leads to.

This will be a laid back gathering with loosely -guided small group discussion, open to parent's of all ages and stages! Childcare will be available during our meeting. Please reach out to Kayla with any questions!

### **Sunday School Schedule**

#### **March**

- 5th: Children's Church
- 12th: TS (Parenting and the Spirit after worship)
- 19th: TS
- 26th: TS



#### **April**

- 2nd: Palm Sunday, No Sunday School - Palm Parade, Communion Celebration
- 9th: Easter Sunday!
  - ◇ 6am - Sunrise Service
  - ◇ 9am - Family Oriented Worship (Teddy Bear Room Open)
  - ◇ 10am - Egg Hunt and Brunch
  - ◇ 11am - Worship (No TBR)
- 16th: TS
- 23rd: TS
- 30th: TS



### **Senior High Youth Group**

All high schoolers are welcome at our Senior High Youth Group which meets on Sunday nights in Kraft Hall from 7-8:30. See our March and April schedule below, and reach out to Kayla with any questions!

#### **Meeting Dates**

##### **March**

- 5: Game Night
- 12: Baking
- 19: MATE NIGHT
- 26: Easter Eggs & Board Games

##### **April**

- 2: Intergenerational Dinner @ Pilgrim
- 9: NO HSYG, Easter
- 16: NO HYSG, April Break
- 23: Manhunt
- 30: MATE NIGHT

### **Middle School Youth Group**

Note: meetings will now begin at 5 pm on Sundays and run until 6:30pm. (Pastor John is teaching confirmation in the winter and spring on Sunday nights.)

**MSYG Dates/Times March 2023**

- March 5th, 5 pm, Pilgrim church,
- March 19th, 5 pm, Pilgrim church,
- April 2nd, 5 pm, Pilgrim church,
- April 30th, 5 pm, Pilgrim church



**MATE Coffeehouse Fundraiser**  
**Sunday May 7th, 6:30-8pm**

We are excited to announce an upcoming fundraising event for MATE - a MATE "Coffeehouse" on May 7th. This event is open to folks from the whole community! Our Summer Service Trip students will host - performing on Kraft Hall Stage and waiting tables and serving a variety of homemade bake sale treats. The event is free, but there will be the opportunity to purchase bake sale items or make a donation, with all money raised going towards the 2023 MATE fundraising efforts. It will be a fun evening, as well as a great way to support our teens and get a glimpse of what the MATE trip is all about!



**MATE Adult Volunteers Still Needed!**

We are in real need for more adult volunteers!!! This year, we have a bigger crew than ever of teens who want to be part of MATE and make a difference. We have 56 teens signed up for the trip, and more on the waitlist. We anticipate even more students reaching out in the weeks to come.

With more interest than ever, we also have less adults than usual signed up to chaperone. In order to make our MATE trip happen, we need parents and community members to say yes to being part of our MATE team! We need at least 6 more adults to be able to run our MATE trip. Please take some time to consider if you might be able to volunteer with us this summer. If you are interested, or have any questions, please reach out to Max or Kayla. It certainly takes a village, and we need you to make MATE 2023 happen!

**MATE Meeting Dates**

- 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

**Family Promise Hosting Week**

We will be "hosting" our family promise guests March 27th to March 30th. During these days, we will provide dinner each evening. Evening hosts will eat dinner with our families and then stay at the FP shelter in the evenings until the overnight volunteer arrives. (6 to 8:30 PM). We may al-



so need grocery shoppers at the start of the week. If you are able to help with making a meal, serving and staying with our families in the evening or purchasing groceries, please contact Beth Benjamin.

With the reduction in SNAP benefits, the FP LIFE families are also in need. The Local Initiative for Family Empowerment (LIFE) Program is a homelessness prevention and shelter diversion program that supports families who are at risk of eviction and/or shelter entry. If you would like to make a donation to support these families, gift cards from Target, Walmart, Stop & Shop, etc., would be greatly appreciated.

**Women’s Lunch Place Winter Donations Drive a Success!**

Many thanks to all of you who contributed to the recent donations drive at The Dover Church of winter essentials for the Women’s Lunch Place in Boston! Including donations shipped directly to the WLP in Boston, we collected a total of 22 brimming bags holding an assortment of gift cards, winter boots and coats, sweat pants and sweat shirts, thermal underwear, hand warmers, toiletries, and many other requested items.

**Fellowship Opportunities**

**Tea and Check In:**

**3 pm on Thursdays.** This is an enjoyable way to check in with your fellow members. Come relax, have a cup of tea and some goodies, and bring your parish news.

We meet in the church library. All are welcome to join us.



**Men’s Breakfast Group**

It is Saint Patrick’s Day and the Men’s Breakfast group is preparing something fun! Think of your favorite book, “Green Eggs & Ham” along with Irish Soda Bread. Please to join us on **Friday, March 17th at 8 AM** in Kraft Hall. Please let Glenn Jensen know if you plan to attend. glenn.jensen@ne-rc.com



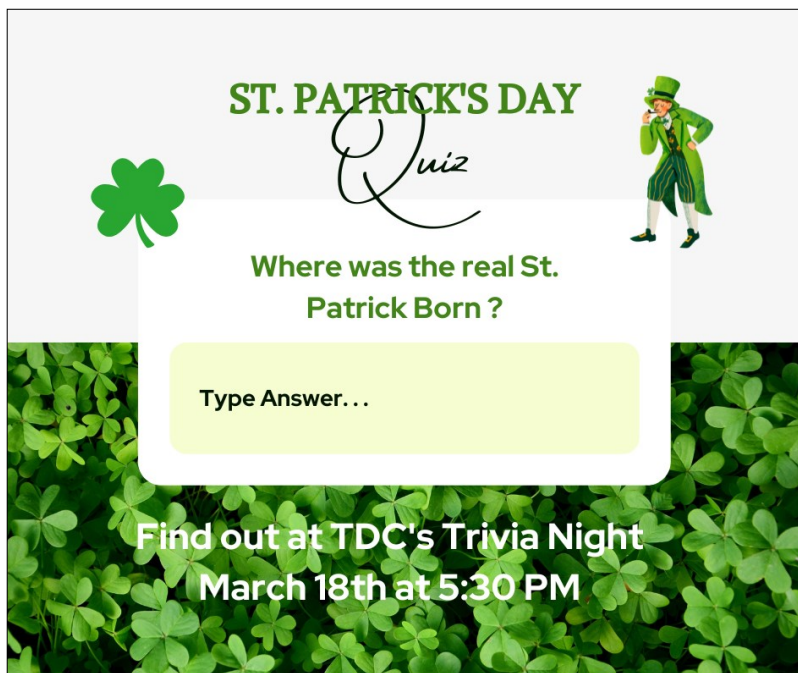
**Friday Walking Group**

Will start up again on March 10th! Reach out to Beth Benjamin if you are interested in learning more about this fun fellowship opportunity.



# March 2023

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>						
			1 12:30 PM Prayer Group	2 8:30 AM DovaYoga 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	3 12:30 PM Prayer Group	4
5 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual 11:30 AM Deacons 5:00 PM MSYG 7:00 PM HSYG	6 12:30 PM Prayer Group 6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir	7 8:30 AM DovaYoga 6:00 PM Chapel Bell Choir	8 9:00 PM Women's Group 12:30 PM Prayer Group 1:30 PM Bible Study	9 8:30 AM DovaYoga 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	10 9:00 AM Walking Group 12:30 PM Prayer Group 2:00 PM Practicing Jesus	11
12 Daylight Savings Time 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual 1:00 PM Fox Hill Village	13 12:30 PM Prayer Group 6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir	14 8:30 AM DovaYoga 11:00 AM COA Lunch 6:00 PM Chapel Bell Choir	15 12:30 PM Prayer Group 1:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Finance Committee	16 8:30 AM DovaYoga 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	17 9:00 AM Walking Group 12:30 PM Prayer Group 2:00 PM Practicing Jesus	18
19 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual 5:00 PM MSYG 7:00 PM HSYG	20 12:30 PM Prayer Group 6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir	21 8:30 AM DovaYoga 6:00 PM Chapel Bell Choir	22 12:30 PM Prayer Group 1:30 PM Bible Study	23 8:30 AM DovaYoga 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	24 9:00 AM Walking Group 12:30 PM Prayer Group 2:00 PM Practicing Jesus	25
26 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual 5:00 PM Communion class 7:00 PM HSYG	27 12:30 PM Prayer Group 6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir	28 8:30 AM DovaYoga 6:00 PM Chapel Bell Choir	29 12:30 PM Prayer Group 1:30 PM Bible Study	30 8:30 AM DovaYoga 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	31 9:00 AM Walking Group 12:30 PM Prayer Group 2:00 PM Practicing Jesus	



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