



# The Dover Church

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

August 31, 2023

Volume 14, Issue 6

## News from Meeting House Hill

To the church of Jesus Christ in Dover:

Grace and Peace be yours from our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Creator!

Here we are. The beginning of another program year at The Dover Church. The beginning of another school year for families in that demographic. For me, this is the 14th time I have come to this time of new beginnings both at The Dover Church and with the school year. We're down to one sophomore at home now, but the threshold seems familiar.

When I think back on those fourteen years, I can remember a lot of facts, but mostly I remember the feelings. There were feelings of real excitement, like preparing for a race or an athletic season and all the exciting competitions I was going to be part of. It felt like I was entering either an intensified training period or the time to put my training to the test. This is going to be the greatest Fall of all time! Other years it felt like the bends. Now I have never had the bends, but I have heard them described, when a diver ascends too rapidly from deep water to shallow and the decompression messes everything up. Except, here in Dover with the school and sports and activities and church, it was not decompression, but compression. It was like I was getting squeezed when I looked at the calendar and my energy. "Can I get this done? Just make it to Christmas?" And I would want to be back in summer, with that slower, relaxed rhythm of life.

Always, it has felt joyous...even with the bends. To see everyone who has been away. To meet new people. To walk through the weeks of strong congregational worship traditions of the Fall and early winter, with the songs and decorations, maybe a baptism or two, children in church, coffee hour, and all the rest.

The last few years, however, I find myself coming to Labor Day wondering to myself, "what new thing is God going to do with us? Through us? To us? Among us?" Because there have been so many new things over the years. I look out at the gathering of God's people and realize that I am pastoring the second and a half church I have pastored here on our little hill. The vast majority of the people who were here when I came have departed, the second wave rolled in and is also half gone, and a new wave is rolling in. I know a number of people who are saddened by the change. They miss their old friends and

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Welcome Back Sunday**  
**Sunday School starts**  
**September 10 at 10 :00 AM**

**Sanctuary Choir**  
**Mondays at 6:30 PM**  
**Sundays at 9:00 AM**  
**Starts September 11**

**Chapel Bell Choir**  
**Tuesdays 6:00 PM**  
**Starts September 12**

**Men's Breakfast Group**  
**Friday, September 15th**  
**at 8:00 AM**

**Parenting Spirituality Group**  
**September 17**  
**11:15 AM**

**High School and Middle School**  
**Youth Group starts**  
**September 17**

**Women's Spiritual**  
**Friendship Group**  
**Wednesday, September 20th**  
**at 9:15 AM**

**The best way to reach**  
**Max or Kayla:**  
**Call Max on his cell phone,**  
**508-982-0422 and Kayla on her**  
**cell phone, 508-269-8406**  
**(Please note: Kayla will be on parental**  
**leave this fall)**

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the Rev'd Dr. C. Maxwell Olmstead, *Senior Pastor* • max@thedoverchurch.org

the Rev'd Kayla McKinsey, *Associate Pastor* • kayla@thedoverchurch.org

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



church cannot be the same. Others embrace the change, embracing the change as the norm.

I would like to invite you to a reframing of your Fall and Advent at The Dover Church. Rather than wondering where you are possibly going to find time to come to church on Sunday mornings, or any of the other times we have great social, educational or service gatherings, open your heart and mind to what new thing. Maybe it will be a new friend, a new awareness of the Holy in your life, a new appreciation of your life itself, a new sense of call to serve the world through our church.

Who's to say? Certainly not me. This is for each of us and all of us to find out for ourselves. Rather than thinking of our church as a venerable institution to squeeze yourself into, like (for those of us of a certain age) trying to get into your wedding suit for your 20th anniversary (btw - mine still fits), think of it as an adventure and we don't really know the destination. That's where I am right now. See you soon...I hope.

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

**Upcoming Worship Services**

**Welcome Back Sunday**

Please join us for worship on Welcome Back Sunday, **September 10th**, when we will be kicking off the program year at The Dover Church! Worship will begin at **10am** and will include a special blessing of the backpacks, so be sure to bring your backpack (or briefcase) with you! Our Sunday School will reopen, with options for children 0-7th

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grade. Following worship the Christian Education Committee is hosting coffee hour with treats for all ages. Hope to see you there!

**Monthly Worship Services at Fox Hill Village**

This month, Max and Kayla will be offering a traditional Protestant worship service at Fox Hill Village on **Sunday, September 17, 2023 at 1 pm**. Max is hoping to continue with a hymn sing at the start of the service. If you live at Fox Hill Village, we hope you will join them. Ask at the front desk for meeting location.

**Helping out on Sunday mornings**

We are looking for volunteers to help usher or to host coffee hour on September 17 and 24. Please let Martha know if you are able to help or sign up online through the link in the eNews to help. Thank you.

**Faith Formation & Spiritual Growth**

**Bible Study to Begin Again - Wednesdays**

Two of the promises I made at my ordination to Christian ministry in the United Church of Christ were, first, "to accept the word of God as the rule of Christian faith and practices," and second, "to be diligent in reading the scriptures."

As a pastor called to ministry in a local church, I further promised upon my Installation to keep these promises with the local church, i.e., YOU.

I know that Bible Study is not for everyone and that everyone's schedule cannot synch up with mine, but I wanted to make a pitch for what I do when leading Bible Study.

As a former professor of languages and literature, with a B.A. in History and training in Biblical Greek and Hebrew, and a Masters of Divinity, I am most interested in what the Bible says in its historical context, what it can teach us about God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, ourselves, being the church, and the meaning of life. I am not a literalist, but I do like to really read the full text rather than cherry pick verses that give me the answers I want.

I also do not do topical Bible Studies, like studying all the verses that tell Men how to be Men or Women how to be Women, and so on.

Right now, I have a thirst to either deep dive into one of the major prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah

## Music News

or Ezekiel, preferably one of the first two, or to read my way through the letters of Paul chronologically, starting with Thessalonians, which scholars think is the earliest letter, and ending with Romans.

I am open to either. So, if you would like to join Bible Study, let me know your preference. Also, I can do Bible Study **Wednesdays at 10 or 2**. We meet on zoom, which makes it just about as accessible as it could possibly be.

Looking forward to it,  
Max

### Prayer Chapel

Looking for a way to connect with new and old friends? Wanting to build some time for your spirit into your daily routine? There are so many reasons to take part in TDC's zoom prayer chapel, which will continue meeting on zoom **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 12:30 to 1:00 pm**. Take 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: Wednesday, September 20

All are welcome to come to our Women's Spiritual Friendship Group on **September 20th** in the church Library! We will begin our fall study of women in the bible as we focus on Hannah. Our group meets at **9:15 AM**, though many of us arrive by 9 to chat and check in. This is a laid back discussion-based group, no prior familiarity with our topic (or prior participation in the group) is necessary to participate! If you have any questions, please reach out to Leslie Decker 847-845-2497.



Our Music program starts up again in September. If you play an instrument or sing, please speak to Christine about including you in our music program. Opportunities for solo, ensemble, current established group or new talent always welcome. We are excited to have you join us!

### SANCTUARY CHOIR

- Open to all – no prior experience necessary
- Rehearsals: **Monday evenings, 6:30-8:00 PM and Sunday mornings, 9:00-10:00 AM** for 10:00 service with section leaders
- Rehearsals in the Sanctuary beginning **Monday, September 11, 6:30-8:00 PM**

- **FULL SCHEDULE:**

September 11, 18  
October 2, 16, 23, 30  
November 6, 13, 20  
December 4, 11, 18

- **December 24 – Sanctuary Choir sings at 4:00 and 5:30 Services**

January 8, 22, 29  
February 5, 12, 26  
March 4, 11, 18, 25

- **March 31 – Sanctuary Choir sings at 9:00 and 11:00 Services**

April 8, 22, 29  
May 6, 13, 20

### CHAPEL BELL CHOIR

- Interested in joining Chapel Bell Choir Fall 2023? Please speak to Christine
- Registration open until **September 4, 2023**
- Rehearsals resume **Tuesday evenings, 6:00-7:30 PM on September 12**

- **REHEARSAL SCHEDULE and SERVICE DATES:**

2023

Session I

September 12, 19  
October 3, 10, 17

- **RINGING OCTOBER 22**

Session II

October 24  
November 7, 14, 28  
December 5, 12

- **RINGING DECEMBER 17**



2024

Session III

January 9, 16, 23

- **RINGING JANUARY 28**

Session IV

January 30  
February 6, 13, (20 TBD)

- **RINGING FEBRUARY 25**

Session V

February 27  
March 5, 12, 19, 26

- **RINGING MARCH 31 - EASTER SUNDAY 9 and 11**

Session VI

April 9, 23, 30  
May 7

- **RINGING MAY 12 - MOTHER'S DAY**

Youth Programming

Youth Groups

We are delighted to continue our Middle School and Senior High Youth Groups collaboration with Pilgrim Church in Sherborn! Teaming up has allowed us a more robust pool of adult support and a larger pool of peers for our students. Pilgrim Church's pastor, John Hudson, will continue to take the lead on Middle School Youth Group, open to 6th and 7th graders which will meet two Sundays a month at Pilgrim Church (25 South Main Street, Sherborn). Our Senior High Youth Group, open to all young people in 8th through 12th grade, will meet out of Kraft Hall every Sunday night and be led by Kayla (and by Max while Kayla is out on parental leave).

Service with the Senior High Youth Group

This year our SHYG is continuing with its commitment to community service, taking on a handful of new projects and partnerships. Whether you are a teen looking to give back to the community, or an adult wanting a way to get involved, we have a role for you! There will be more information as opportunities approach, but here is an at-a-glance look at what service opportunities are on the docket for this fall:

**September**

- 9/24: Packing care packages to send to new college students (donations welcome!!)

**October**

- 10/15: Summer Service Trip to Mission at the Eastward (MATE) kick off meeting
- 10/22: Intergenerational Dinner at TDC

**November**

- 11/12: Miracle on Main Street food packing at Pilgrim Church
- 11/17-11/18: CityReach Service Trip to serve Boston's unhoused with common cathedral (accompanying clothing drive)
- 11/19: Food donation sorting and Thanksgiving Dinner at TDC

**December**

- 12/3: Christmas Present sponsorship and wrapping with My Brother's Keeper
- 12/10: MATE meeting

To learn more about any of these opportunities, please reach out to Kayla at [kayla@thedoverchurch.org](mailto:kayla@thedoverchurch.org). While Kayla is out on parental leave in the fall, please contact Max ([max@thedoverchurch.org](mailto:max@thedoverchurch.org)) for more info!

MSYG Dates/Times September/October 2023

**September**

- 9/17: Kickoff meeting - games & ice cream sundaes!

**October**

- 10/1: A Place to Turn food drive help
- 10/15: Scavenger Hunt with prizes!
- 10/29: Halloween party at The Dover Church

Sunday School

Sunday School is kicking off with a bang! We are so excited to begin on Welcome Back Sunday, September 10th! Following a Blessing of the Backpacks in worship, the children will be able to head down to Sunday School to get to know their



classrooms, teachers, and fellow students. The Teddy Bear Room, staffed by trained professionals from the organization "Mother's Helpers" will be open from 9:45-11 for our youngest members.

Pre-K through 1st grade will be diving into their Montessori-based curriculum Godly Play in the Little Lambs classroom, while our older kids will be together in the Lamplighters room.

On the first Sunday of the month, Little Lambs and Lamplighters will team up for a special activity Sunday, where they will get a hands-on play based lesson in Christian and community life! Registration for Sunday School can be found on our website or in our eblasts.

**Parenting Spirituality Group**  
**September 17th, 11:15-12:15**

Welcome back to another year of our Spirituality of Parenting Group at The Dover Church. The purpose of this group is to get to meet other parents, share the struggles and triumphs of parenting, brainstorm, get some resources for bringing our faith to our parenting, and love loving our kids.

Our first session is on **September 17**. Babysitting will be available. There will be soup and bread. We'll begin by welcoming new parents and catching up on our summers. Then we will talk about being created in the image of God, and how we model that image for our kids, and we can often see in their faces what we are modeling. YIKES! This should be fun. Hope you can make and invite your friends.  
Kayla & Max

**Care Packages with the SHYG**

On **September 24th**, the Senior High Youth Group will be assembling care packages to send to our church's college students, especially freshman and sophomore students as they settle into campus. If you have a student who you would like to receive a care package, please send their name and school address to Kayla (kayla@thedoverchurch.org) and Max (max@thedoverchurch.org). Donations of cards, candies, snacks, or funds are always welcome to help make this beloved tradition happen!

**Intergenerational Dinner on 10/22**

On **October 22nd**, our Youth Group will host an intergenerational dinner to bring together our teens and the elder members of the community. This is always a favorite tradition, where new connections are made and wisdom is shared all over delicious food. All elder members are invited, and just asked to RSVP to Max so we can plan for numbers. Our youth

groupers will provide the food and drink. Dinner will take place from **6:15-7:30 PM in Kraft Hall**. Students are asked to arrive at **5:45** and be ready to stay to help with clean up after **7:30**. Carpooling can be arranged for those who would appreciate a ride. Hope to see you there!

**Mission In Action:  
Serving Others**

**The Mission in Action Committee** at The Dover Church has many opportunities for you to participate in both local and national mission outreach in September! Please contact Peggy Cross at [peggyfcross@gmail.com](mailto:peggyfcross@gmail.com) or (508) 479-1432 if you would like further information.

**Diaper Drive for A Place to Turn**

In honor of National Diaper Need Awareness Week, we are collecting disposable diapers between **September 17th-October 8th** to support A Place to Turn's Diaper Project. APTT provides Metrowest families in financial distress with up to one week of diapers every 30 days to keep their babies and toddlers clean, dry, and healthy.

Donations may be dropped off at collection bins placed at the church's admin wing door and the entrance to Kraft Hall. Most requested sizes include 5, 6, and 4T-5T pull-ups for boys and girls.

**Hawaii Wildfire Relief Effort**

The devastating Hawaiian wildfires in August burned over 2,000 acres in the historic city of Lahaina as well as hundreds of acres in Kula and Olinda on the island of Maui. More than 100 people are known to have died in the wildfires and more than 11,000 have been evacuated. A staggering number of homes and businesses have been destroyed.

The Mission in Action committee invites you to contribute to a special offering on **Sunday September 17** to support emergency and long-term recovery efforts in Hawaii. Watch for upcoming details on which organization(s) MIA will select for this special offering.

**Family Promise Metrowest Hosting Week**

The Mission in Action committee is actively seeking volunteers for The Dover Church's upcoming "hosting" week at Family Promise's permanent

shelter site in Natick center, taking place on the evenings of **Monday September 18th - Thursday. September 21st**. We need two adult volunteers to provide evening support each of these days (sharing dinner and socializing with the families) and one or more cooks to prepare and drop off dinner for the families. Volunteers are also needed to purchase groceries for the hosting week. An online groceries sign-up list will be available just before this time. Please contact Peggy Cross if you are interested in volunteering!

FPM serves low- and moderate-income families with at least one child under the age of 18 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Families served in FPM's Shelter Program in Natick center are Massachusetts residents, with priority given to families from the Metrowest region. More information can be found at [www.familypromisemetrowest.org](http://www.familypromisemetrowest.org).

## Fellowship Opportunities

### Men's Breakfast Group

Our Men's Breakfast Group will meet on **Friday, September 15th at 8:00 AM** at the church for breakfast. For more information, please contact Glenn Jensen at [glenn.jensen@ne-rc.com](mailto:glenn.jensen@ne-rc.com).

### Tea and Check In

**3:00 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))



# September 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
3 <b>Labor Day Weekend</b> 9:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual	4 <b>Labor Day</b>	5	6 11:00 AM Meditation 12:30 PM Prayer Group 1:30 PM Bible Study	7 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	8 12:30 PM Prayer Group	9 <b>Dover Days Fair</b>
10 <b>Welcome Sunday</b> 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual	11 12:30 PM Prayer Group 6:30PM Sanctuary Choir	12 12:15 PM COA Luncheon 6:00 PM Chapel Bell Choir	13 11:00 AM Meditation 12:30 PM Prayer Group 1:00 PM COA Program 1:30 PM Bible Study 7:30 PM Finance Com. meeting	14 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	15 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:30 PM Prayer Group	16
17 <b>MATE Sunday</b> 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual 11:15 AM Music Committee Meeting 11:15 AM Parenting Group 5:15 PM MSYG 7:00 PM HSYG	18 <b>Family Promise Hosting</b> 12:30 PM Prayer Group 6:30PM Sanctuary Choir	19 6:00 PM Chapel Bell Choir	20 9:15 AM Women's Group 11:00 AM Meditation 12:30 PM Prayer Group 1:00 PM COA Program 1:30 PM Bible Study	21 10:00 AM NNS Sports program 3:00 PM Tea and Check In 6:00 PM Leadership Potluck	22 12:30 PM Prayer Group	23
24 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual 1:00 PM Fox Hill Village 7:00 PM HSYG	25 12:30 PM Prayer Group	26	27 11:00 AM Meditation 11:00 AM COA Program 12:30 PM Prayer Group 1:00 PM COA Program 1:30 PM Bible Study	28 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	29 9:00 AM COA Program 12:30 PM Prayer Group	30

# Welcome Back!



Join us on **Sunday, September 10**, at **10:00 AM**, for our Welcome Back Sunday service. We are excited to see everyone after being apart this summer.

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#### THE DOVER CHURCH

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