

The Dover Church

A WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND SERVICE SINCE 1762



AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, February 25, 2024 - 10:00 AM
Second Sunday in Lent

Welcome to The Dover Church. Sunday morning worship is perhaps the only occasion where people of all generations spend time together in the same public place. This is one of our great joys. Different people at different ages worship in different ways. Some are bouncy and some are silent. We ask that everyone welcome each other and embrace these differences.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts Emma Lou Diemer

WORDS OF WELCOME

All are invited to join in speaking or singing when bolded words appear.

If you have a prayer request card, the ushers will come by after the sermon to collect them.

BELL CHOIR CHAPEL To a Wild Rose from Woodland Sketches
Edward MacDowell arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

A GATHERING PSALM

Psalm 23

I want for nothing, for the Lord is my shepherd:

It is God who lets me lie down in pastures of grass and who leads me to calm waters

to restore my spirit, who walks me in level pastures as befits a shepherd of sounds reputation.

Even though I must sometimes pass through dark valleys, I fear no harm for You are with me; indeed, Your crook and Your walking stick are sources of constant comfort for me.

**You set a table for me in the presence of everything that causes me distress
and binds me;**

**You have anointed my head with so much fine oil that I feel like an over-
flowing cup.**

**Nothing but goodness and mercy pursue me all the days of my life; indeed,
I feel certain that I shall dwell in the House of the Lord for days without
end.**

HYMN OF ADORATION **Be Still, My Soul** 95

A TIME OF GUIDED MEDITATION

RESPONSE

God loves you and there's nothing you can do about it.

God loves you and there's nothing you can do about it

HYMN **Breathe on Me, Breath of God** 220

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

EXCHANGING SIGNS OF PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CHILDREN MAY LEAVE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

GOD'S WORD FOR US

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Lord our God, you offer us in scripture words of life, which, through faith, become our word of life. Help us to listen for that word in our lessons this morning. Amen.

from the TORAH

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

from the GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

Mark 8: 31-38

READER: The Word of God for the people of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ACT OF PRAISE

O Bless the Lord

O bless the Lord, my Soul!

God's grace to thee proclaim.

And all that is within me join

To bless God's holy name. Amen.

SERMON

Taking up our Crosses Reimagined

HYMN

Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated

464

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

OFFERING OURSELVES TO THE SPIRIT & THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM. **Bridge Over Troubled Waters**

James Taylor, arr. Kirby Shaw

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN OF PARTING

God of Grace and God of Glory

477

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Dialogue sur les grands jeux from Mass for the Convents

Francois Couperin

*Please join us for coffee and fellowship
in Kraft Hall following our service this morning.*

LAY LEADERS IN TODAY'S SERVICE
DEACON ON DUTY: David McOsker
USHERS: Ham Hackney
SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP: Randa Tarazi

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Birthdays and Anniversaries

We wish Happy Birthday to the following people: **John Fattore and Andrew Slotnick.**

Birthday wishes are for February 25, 2024 to March 2, 2024. Please let us know if we have forgotten anyone!

Announcements

Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Sanctuary Choir - Rehearsals on **Mondays, 6:30-8:00 PM**. All are welcome.

Chapel Bell Choir—New Time! Rehearsals on **Tuesdays 1:00-2:30 PM** New members welcome. Please speak to Christine if you are interested in our Chapel Bell Choir.

Parenting and the Spirit

February 25th (during coffee hour)

Our Parenting Spirituality Group meets **this morning**, during Coffee Hour. We will talk about how we aspire to show up as parents and work together to create a blessing incorporating those themes. Childcare will be available. We hope you can join us!

Confirmation Class

Confirmation classes run from **5:00-6:30 PM** and will be held at the Dover Church. We will ask families to volunteer to bring a simple meal for the group to share, and for one parent to volunteer to stay and help chaperone during the class. Please email Kayla to sign your youth up for Confirmation.

Below is the tentative confirmation class schedule:

- **Sunday, Feb 25th NO CLASS**
- Friday March 1 - Saturday March 2nd: Confirmation Retreat at Craigsville UCC Retreat Center

Middle School Youth Group

All meetings on Sundays, 5 to 6:30 pm, unless otherwise noted, and feature a program, games and a snack. Open to 6-8th grade youth from Pilgrim Church, the Dover Church and the community

2/25—Game Night—board games, card games, GAMES!

3/10—What Is God's Call for Me?

3/23-24—7 pm to 11 am—Overnight Sleepover and lock-in at the church!

4/7 – TBD – to be determined

4/28 – TBD

5/5 – Celebrating God's Creation

5/19 – Outside Local Service project

6/9 – Final meeting before summer – Bowling and Pizza party!!!!

We hope you are excited as we are to continue to nurture the spiritual and community lives of the young people we serve at our two churches and from the wider area. As always, bring a friend!

In Peace and Hope For the Days Ahead,
Pastor John Hudson, Victoria Gaisford, Eric Brooks and Dan Hartman

High School Youth Group
"Power of Flower" Fund 2024

The Pilgrim and Dover Church High School Youth Group is raising money for common cathedral - a ministry for Boston's unhoused. Each fall, our youth groupers travel to Boston to spend 20 hours learning with and from the homeless while distributing food and winter gear, but they want to do more!

On March 24th, we will be arranging flowers for purchase. All proceeds from this flower sale will go to common cathedral to support the work they do providing warmth, nourishment, community, and belonging to those experiencing chronic homelessness. We will be making small (\$25), medium (\$35), and large (\$45) arrangements in cheerful spring colors. Purchase one for your table or as a gift, and know that you are supporting a good cause! **Pre-order using the QR code below:**



Pre-order will close on **March 18th** or when we reach our capacity. Pick up will be available Monday-Wednesday from 9-5 at either The Dover Church (17 Springdale Ave, Dover) or the Pilgrim Church (25 S Main Street, Sherborn). When pre-ordering, you can select where you would like to pick your flowers. Flowers will have a tag attached with the name you provided on the form. Please bring a check made out to The Dover Church with the memo line "*youth group flower fund.*" If you have questions or need special accommodations, please contact Kayla at kayla@thedoverchurch.org.

Feel free to reach out to Kayla Edstrom (kayla@thedoverchurch.org) with any questions!

Flower Container Collection

The Dover Church & Pilgrim Church High School Youth Group are organizing a fundraiser to benefit common cathedral (a ministry for Boston's unhoused that hosts our group for an overnight every fall). Our youth groupers will be assembling and selling flower arrangements to raise money for this worthy cause!

We are looking for containers to hold our arrangements. Small, medium, and large sizes of all shapes are welcome! If you have any vases, jars, or containers from past flower deliveries/that are going unused, please drop them off to The Dover Church so they can be repurposed to the benefit of those in need! We need all containers by **March 17th**. Please contact Kayla (kayla@thedoverchurch.org) with any questions!

Men's Breakfast Group

Our Men's Breakfast Group will meet on Friday, **March 15 at 7:30 AM** at the home of Steve Karlson, **7 Adams Lane, Dover**.

Please note: here will be NO men's breakfast in February.

This group is open to men of all ages. They meet monthly for community building and to socialize. All are welcome. If you are interested in learning more about joining this group, please contact Glenn Jensen, glenn.jensen@ne-rc.com.

Acolytes and Readers

Every Sunday we love to see children in our congregation participate in worship by being an acolyte and/or a reader. An acolyte's responsibilities are ringing the church bell before the service, leading the pastor down the aisle to the chancel and lighting the candles on the altar. A reader's responsibility is to practice their reading slowly and clearly during the week so they will be ready and confident to read on the lectern by Sunday. The readings may vary from scripture from the bible, a prayer, announcements or "call to worship". Please email Beth Benjamin, beth@thedoverchurch.org, if your child is interested in participating as a reader or an acolyte.

Prayer Chapel

Meets on zoom **Wednesday from 12:30 to 1:00 PM**. It's a time to check in with church family, share joys and sorrows, and be in prayer together. Zoom links for meetings can be found on the church's website calendar of events.

Tea and Check-In

We meet **Thursdays, at 3:00 PM** in the library. A time to check in on your friends and to hear the news of the parish.

Volunteer on Sunday Mornings

Are you able to help on a Sunday morning with ushering, being our liturgist, or scripture reader, or by hosting our coffee hour? To volunteer, Use the link in the e-News, sign up during coffee hour or contact the church office admin@thedoverchurch.org. Please sign up as you are able.

Dedicate Flowers on Sunday Morning

On Sundays we have a beautiful flower arrangement on the altar that is dedicated to a loved one. If you would like to dedicate flowers for Sunday morning, please speak with Betty Brady on Sunday morning to claim a date, or look for the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in Kraft Hall during coffee hour.

Save The Date! TDC's Christian Ed Committee Presents Trivia Night

Sat. 4/6, 5:30-7pm

All are welcome to join in the fun of TDC's Trivia Night on Saturday, April 6th from 5:30-7pm in Kraft Hall! Enjoy dinner, test your trivia chops, connect with friends, and win prizes!! This has been a church tradition since the pandemic, and we are looking forward to another great evening together!

Trivia night is open to the whole family - all are welcome to play trivia, but we'll have high school sitters on hand to care for any little ones who aren't up to participate. This is a potluck event - the CE Committee will provide pizza and ice cream but we hope that our community can provide drinks and sides! Please sign up to attend on our sign up genius below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0844A5A72AAB9-47934766-46tdc#/>

If you have questions, please contact Kayla at kayla@thedoverchurch.org.

Lost & Found

We have a growing collection of travel coffee mugs and water bottles here at the church office. If you think one belongs to you, please claim it! Thank you.

SAGES & SEEKERS at The Rivers School

7-Week Volunteer Opportunity

LOOKING FOR SENIORS TO SHARE THEIR PERSONAL HISTORY

The non-profit organization Sages & Seekers and The Rivers School in Weston are recruiting older adults (age 65+) to participate in a 7-week intergenerational storytelling program with high school students at The Rivers School.

Seniors

("Sages"), come share your life experience and invaluable knowledge. You have so much to offer the world; your maturity and experience allows for a larger

perspective on life from which younger generations (“Seekers”) can learn. You will be paired with a 10th grade student (the same student each week) with whom you will meet once a week for 7 weeks to share your life experiences. Past participants are welcome and rave about the program!

Your commitment is 75 minutes, once a week for 7 consecutive weeks. Classes meet on campus at The Rivers School, 333 Winter Street, Weston, MA. Classes run from April 2 – May 15, 2024 during the school day on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. There are 6 class time/day options to choose from. Interested? Please contact us for more information: riverssagesandseekers@gmail.com