

# The Dover Church

A WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND SERVICE SINCE 1762



AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION  
IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, April 28, 2024 - 10:00 AM  
Fifth Sunday of Easter

*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

Spring

Antonio Vivaldi

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.

This week in worship we are glad to welcome Chris DeLisle, Executive Director of our partner Mission at the Eastward. Chris's work with MATE makes our summer service trip possible, and we are excited to welcome him to our pulpit today!

CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Thom Shuman's prayer

One: We come into God's house:

**Many: Where the hungry are served first, where the thirsty drink life's water.**

One: We come into God's house:

**Many: Where the naked are clothed in robes of hope; where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost prodigal.**

One: We come into God's house:

**Many: Where the imprisoned are set free, where the sick are cradled in**

God's peace.

**All: Let us worship together in the house of the Lord!**

HYMN

**The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound**

Insert

CONFESSON

“Matthew 25,” PCUSA

**Merciful God, we confess that we have wandered from your way of truth and life. You call us to share all that we have and work together for the common good, but we hoard up treasures for ourselves and deny others their daily bread. You call us to set the captives free and seek justice for the oppressed, but we live in fear of our neighbors and hide ourselves from our own kin. You call us to walk in the newness of life and to be witnesses to the resurrection, but we dwell in the valley of dry bones and keep silent about your saving love. Forgive us, God of grace. Set us free from sin, death and fear so that we may serve you with gladness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

CHILDREN 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 lesson this morning. Amen.**

from the GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

Matthew 25: 31-46

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Chris DeLisle, Executive Director of MATE

HYMN

**Whatever You Do**

**Insert**

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

## OFFERING OURSELVES TO THE SPIRIT &amp; CALL TO OFFERING

Today's offering will benefit our mission partner Mission at the Eastward and the vital work they do for our neighbors up north.

SPECIAL MUSIC

I'm Feelin' Fine

Joe Liles

Come on Get Happy

Aaron Dale

*Harmonic Imbalance*

RECEPTION OF OUR GIFTS

## 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.**

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Today we will join in intercessory prayers, with the response printed below:

One: Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayers.**

## 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

**There's a Spirit in the Air**

**231**

## COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

**Come What May** from *Moulin Rouge*  
 David Baerwald and Kevin Gilbert  
 arr. Kevin Keller

*Harmonic Imbalance*

WE WELCOME OUR SPECIAL GUEST MUSICIANS THIS MORNING:

***Harmonica Imbalance***

with John Borths,  
Ben Lane,  
Thomas Hodge and  
Ashen Schultze

THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF

**BILL KNOWLES, SR.**

BY THE KNOWLES FAMILY

**LAY LEADERS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

DEACON ON DUTY: Liesl Schultze

USHERS: Ham Hackney & Linda Means

LITURGIST: Youth

SCRIPTURE READER: Dottie Rother

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP: Lori & Caroline Johnson

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

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## **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

We wish Happy Birthday to the following people: **Teddy Cross, Scarlett Banty, Matt Carothers, Dave Tucker, Victoria Kane, Lilly Poole, Wyatt Sexton, Catherine Miles, Vivian Bedard and Monica Smith.**

Happy Anniversary to **Steve and Heather DePaola.**

Birthday and Anniversary wishes are for April 28, 2024 to May 4, 2024. Please let us know if we have forgotten anyone!

## **Announcements**

### **Special Offering**

A few times a year we collect for outside organizations during worship service. In worship today there will be a special offering in support of Mission at the Eastward. MATE serves the economically disadvantaged by creating safe places to live and building resiliency in Central Western Maine communities.

Please prayerfully consider contributing to this special offering. Special Offering envelopes can be found in the pews. All collections for this Sunday's service will go to support MATE unless specified otherwise.

Thank you for your support and generosity.

### **Family Friendly Community Service at Coffee Hour** **Painting Flower Pots for Families In Need**

Following worship this morning, we will paint flower pots in Kraft Hall. These pots will be given by our teen volunteers as housewarming gifts to the families they serve this summer at MATE. While we need our teens to help guide this process, it is our hope that this project will help engage our wider congregation and families with younger children.

Please join us as we come together as a community in service of others!

### **Special Request in Support of our Refugee Family from Guatemala**

The Alvarez Marin Family is in need of a laptop. If you have a gently used (not too old) laptop that you would be willing to donate, we would be grateful for your generosity. Your contribution would make a meaningful difference in the lives of this family as they rebuild and establish themselves in their new community. Please reach out to [admin@thedoverchurch.org](mailto:admin@thedoverchurch.org) if you are

able to donate a laptop. Thank you for your continued support of our efforts to serve the needs of the Alvarez Marin family!

### **Update on Alvarez Marin Family (April 17, 2024)**

More encouraging news about our refugee family from Guatemala! A leadership group from The Dover Church and two representatives from Jewish Family Services are now meeting weekly via Zoom to coordinate and update each other about the family's progress.

Originally coming from a rural village in Guatemala, adjusting to life in the United States is quite a change for our sponsored family, but they are responding positively. Zuly (mom) and Alejandro (dad) are work-authorized, and eager to find employment. Some possible work leads include landscaping work for Alejandro and shifts at Dunkin Donuts for both Zuly and Alejandro.

The girls Victoria (11 years) and Flor de Maria (15) are bright and friendly, and will start school next week. Flor will be at Framingham High School, but we are looking into the possibility of her enrolling in Keefe Tech Regional School in Framingham in September. Victoria will be attending Fuller Middle School. The girls are eager to master English and have requested TDC volunteers to only speak to them in English!

Beth Benjamin has connected them to our mission partner A Place to Turn in Natick for temporary food supply assistance, and our vetted volunteers from The Dover Church will be transporting them in the days ahead to medical appointments at Boston Medical Center and to Market Basket in Ashland. Thanks to Beth and other volunteers, the family has also been connected to the Framingham Library and public bus system. A new smart TV in their apartment (thanks again, Beth!) will enable them to work on their English skills while also having the familiar comfort of Spanish channels.

We are seeking volunteers to work with the family on ESL and/or to provide transportation. Please reach out to Peggy Cross at [peggycross@gmail.com](mailto:peggycross@gmail.com) if you would be interested in volunteering to help this wonderful family.

### **Birthday Wishes for children who are homeless**

Our High School Youth Group will be putting together Birthday-In-a-Box kits in May. The Birthday-in-a-Box program was created in 2005 to serve homeless children in domestic violence shelters, scattered sites, motels, and oth-



er locations which cannot accommodate Birthday Wishes Party Coordinators. The BIAB Program allows Birthday Wishes to reach homeless children in almost any living situation.

Party supplies are carefully packaged inside a brightly wrapped box and delivered to the program, agency, motel, or other facility for distribution to families, along with a bag of wrapped gifts for the birthday celebrant. Each birthday box contains everything necessary for a great birthday celebration. This program empowers and bonds families, helping them maintain this important tradition while in a shelter.

We have put together a wish list of needed items and hope that our church community will help us put together 25 boxes. If you would like to help us, please use the link found in the e-news to purchase items from our wish list. Items will be shipped directly to the church office.

Thank you for your support of our high school youth group mission efforts.

**Save the Date: Sunday, May 5th, 10:00 am Worship with Reception to follow, in honor of Beth Benjamin's Retirement**

Please join us in celebrating and thanking Beth Benjamin for her hard work, passion, and unwavering commitment to our church. On May 5th, we will honor Beth in worship at 10:00 AM followed by a reception in Kraft Hall.

We look forward to seeing you there as we come together to show our appreciation and gratitude for Beth's many years of faithful service to our church community.

RSVP's greatly appreciated to: [admin@thedoverchurch.org](mailto:admin@thedoverchurch.org)

**Join The Dover Church's team in the Walk to End Homelessness**

The Dover Church has formed a team to support Family Promise in the 2.3-mile Walk to End Homelessness on **Sunday, May 5 at 1 pm** at Natick High School. Pilgrim Church will also have a team participating. We would like at least 10-12 walkers. Register using this link to join The Dover Church team. You can also donate to support the team's Family Promise fundraising goals at the same link. Contact Lori Johnson at [loriajohnson@comcast.net](mailto:loriajohnson@comcast.net) for more information.

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord!**

Sanctuary Choir - Rehearsals on Mondays, 6:30-8:00 PM and Sundays at 9:00 AM in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to join us.

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.

**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

4/28 – We will play silly games, make a pollinator house in honor of Earth Day because God made us stewards of creation (and what is a steward? We'll find out.) Brainstorm designs for the new Youth Room. Have snacks! Bring a friend! We're always wide open to new members.

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

**Mother's Day Cards Support Women's Lunch Place**

Each year, WLP commissions a guest of Women's Lunch Place to design a Mother's Day card, which they then sell to raise funds for their Healthy Meals program. Every card provides a week of meals for a woman in need. They are the perfect way to honor a special woman in your life.

This year's card was designed by Marlo. Marlo grew up in foster care and has experienced homelessness on and off for over a decade. Recently, she moved to Boston and began visiting the WLP community. She enjoys their scratch-made meals, shower facilities, and therapeutic art classes.

"I've been working as a cashier, but I'm looking for a change," said Marlo, who can use WLP's Resource & Empowerment Center to build her skill set

and search for jobs.

"I am always inspired by everyday life. I think life is beautiful and I want to turn that into a lasting, lingering feeling. You can do that through art because art is timeless."

If you would like to support the Women's Lunch Place, cards can be purchased online at: <https://womenslunchplace.org/mothers-day> or by using the link in the e-news.

**Save the Date: SPAN DS (Substance Prevention and Awareness Network at Dover-Sherborn presents:**

"Screenagers Under the Influence: Addressing Vaping, Drugs and Alcohol in the Digital Age"

Please join us for an important documentary on the very real challenges that adolescents face as modern technology reshapes their experience with substance abuse. Screenagers will be shown at the **Sherborn Community Center (3 Sanger Street) on Tuesday, April 30th from 7 to 8:30 pm**

This movie is grounded in teens' real life experiences and lifts up the ways in which teens are using their wisdom and strength to help each other navigate this complicated terrain.

Discussion to follow. All are welcome!

**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 Martha DePaola, [admin@thedoverchurch.org](mailto:admin@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 you do not need to be a member. Use the link in the e-News, sign up during coffee hour or contact the church office [admin@thedoverchurch.org](mailto: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.

### **Paper Boxes**

We are saving boxes from a case of paper (see image) for a HSYG project in May. If you have a box, or 2, to donate, please drop it by the church office. Many thanks!

