

The Dover Church

A WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND SERVICE SINCE 1762



AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, May 12, 2024 - 10:00 AM

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Ascension of our Lord & Mother's Day

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

Eternal Life

Olive Dungan

Jordan Knapick, soprano

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.

INTROIT

My Favorite Things

Richard Rodgers

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Chapel Bell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 100

Pastor: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

People: Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him; bless his name.

All: For the Lord is good;

**his steadfast love endures forever
and his faithfulness to all generations.**

HYMN OF ADORATION

Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him

S7

CONFESSIO

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HONORING CHURCH MOTHERS

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 lesson this morning. Amen.

from the GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

Luke 24:44-53

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Embodied Love"

HYMN

All Glory, Laud and Honor

178

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

OFFERING OURSELVES TO THE SPIRIT & THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

No One Is Alone

Into the Woods
Stephen Sondheim

Jordan Knapick, soprano

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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Lord's Prayer Albert Hay Malotte
Jordan Knapick, soprano

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN OF PARTING **This Is My Father's World** 60

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

You'll Never Walk Alone *Carousel*
 Oscar Hammerstein II and
 Richard Rodgers
Jordan Knapick, soprano

This is Jordan's last Sunday singing with our choir. We are so grateful for her time with us. She will be missed!

THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF
ELIZABETH BOLES GUTTERSON
 BY HER DAUGHTER ELIZABETH LYNCH

LAY LEADERS IN TODAY'S SERVICE
DEACON ON DUTY: Lindie Wilson
USHERS: Bill Barrett & Linda Pettit
LITURGIST: Ham Hackney
SCRIPTURE READER: Linda Pettit
SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP: Men's Group

*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: **Bill Fallon, David Weden, Dick Hodgson, Sally Shoemaker, Laury Hunt, Olivia Bedard and Nancy Taber.**

Birthday wishes are for May 12, 2024 to May 18, 2024. Please let us know if we have forgotten anyone!

Announcements

Help A Place to Turn Prepare for the Summer Months Ahead

The Mission in Action committee will be sponsoring a spring donation drive from **May 19th – June 9th** to help our mission partner A Place to Turn restock their shelves in anticipation of high summer demand. A Natick-based food bank that has been serving our Metrowest neighbors in need for 45 years, APTT has seen a 28% increase in the number of families served since last year.

Most requested items include:

- Cereal
- GOYA dry black beans
- Spaghetti
- Tuna/Canned Chicken
- Canned Fruit
- Diapers of all sizes (especially 4, 5, and 6)
- Baby wipes
- 1-pound bags of rice
- Mac and Cheese
- Personal care items (deodorant, body soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner)

Please make sure that food donations are NOT expired or past their sell by date.

- APTT is also looking for donations of gently used handled paper bags.

Monetary donations may also be made online at:

<https://www.aplacetoturn-natick.org/>

A Place to Turn uses your tax deductible monetary donations to purchase perishable foods at discounted prices, thanks to their relationship with local grocers and the Greater Boston Food Bank.

A donation drop-off bin will be located outside the admin wing door while the donation drive is underway. Thank you for your support!

Birthday Wishes for children who are homeless

Thank you for the outreach in support of our High School Youth Group's Birthday-In-A-Box campaign. The BIAB Program allows the Birthday Wishes organization to reach homeless children in almost any living situation.

We still need several donations to be able to assemble our 24 kits on May 19th. 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

Women's Spiritual Friendship Group:

Our Women's Spiritual Friendship Group will be meeting on Wednesday, **May 15th at 9:15 AM** in the Church Library. All are welcome to join us, whether you have joined us before or not. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kayla (kayla@thedoverchurch.org) or Leslie Decker.

Men's Breakfast Group

Our Men's Breakfast Group will meet on **Friday, May 17 at 7:30 AM** at the home of Steve Karlson, 7 Adams Lane, Dover. 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.

Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation Day , **June 2**, we will lift up the 8th graders who have been journeying together through this process all year. They'll lead elements of worship, and then you'll get to hear a bit about what they believe, in their own words, before we as a congregation bless and affirm them, and welcome them into adult membership in the church!

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

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

Adult Help Needed for the Summer 2024 Mission at the Eastward Trip

Our Mission at the Eastward trip for 2024 is off and running! We have already met as a group several times to learn about poverty and to do team building exercises. We are looking for more adults, especially women, to chaperone our trip **June 23rd-29th**. All levels of skill are welcome. We need 4 more adults to be able to safely take our group to Maine. Please reach out to Kayla for more information!

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, 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. 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.

Pilgrim Bluegrass Gospel Band

Hosted by the Dover Council on Aging, on **Tuesday, May 21, 2:30-3:30pm** In Kraft Hall, The Dover Church, 17 Springdale Ave

The Pilgrim Bluegrass Gospel band returns for an afternoon of music! The group includes Geoff and Michele Sauter on vocals and mandolin, 5-string banjo, and resophonic guitar, Bob Cocks on guitar and vocals, Francesca Wier on vocals, and Greg Algieri on upright string bass and vocals. Come enjoy refreshments and songs dating back to the 19th century, all in a bluegrass format with amazing vocal harmonies.