

# The Dover Church

A WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND SERVICE SINCE 1762



AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION  
IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, September 15, 2024 - 10:00 AM

*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

WELCOMING MUSIC

Largo from New World Symphony

Antonin Dvořák

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 90

Pastor: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**People: Before the mountains were brought forth  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

Teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

**Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**

Let your work be manifest to your servants  
and your glorious power to their children.

**All: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us  
and prosper for us the work of our hands—  
O prosper the work of our hands!**

GATHERING SONG

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

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## PRAYER OF INTENTION

**Dear God, we come rushing in here from our busy lives, not having had time to prepare our souls for You and what might just happen in worship. We hope for a quiet hour to reflect, maybe some words of wisdom, some touching music, but hardly dare to expect You to show up. We dream big dreams about our personal lives, what we might do, where we might go, what we might achieve, but our faith hopes and dreams tend to be more doubtful. Open our hearts and minds in this hour to the Biblical imagination of just how awesome you truly are and what living with that majesty would do for our lives. Help us to lift up our eyes from the tasks of our lives to see your wonder and glory all around us. Help us, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## MOMENT OF REFLECTION IN SILENCE

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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

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

WE SING OUR JOY

It's Me, It's Me, O Lord

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vs 1 &amp; 2

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

CHILDREN MAY LEAVE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

WALKING OUT SONG                      **O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing**                      39

GOD'S WORD FOR US

UNISON 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 TORAH

Exodus 3: 1-6

from the GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

Matthew 7: 7-11, 16: 13-17

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

ACT OF PRAISE

**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                      "What do you expect? Whom do you expect?"

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

OFFERING OURSELVES TO THE SPIRIT & CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Homeward Bound

Marta Keen  
arr. Jay Althouse

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

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: 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

SONG OF PARTING

**All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!**

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COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

WALKING OUT MUSIC

Autumn from "The Four Seasons" Allegro  
Antonio Vivaldi

THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF

**JIM MEANS**

BY HIS FAMILY

**LAY LEADERS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

DEACON ON DUTY: Connie Sweeney

USHERS: Linda & Bo Pettit

LITURGIST:

SCRIPTURE READER:

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP: Linda Hain & Toni Richards

*Please join us for fellowship and refreshment in Kraft Hall  
following this morning's worship service.*

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## Birthdays and Anniversaries

We wish Happy Birthday to the following people: **Ellie Danielski, Maggie Danielski, Christina Dougherty, Eric Smith and Judith Barr.**

Happy Anniversary to **Scott & Kristen Griebel.**

Birthday and Anniversary wishes are for September 15, 2024 to September 21, 2024. Please let us know if we have forgotten anyone!

## Announcements

### Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Sanctuary Choir - Rehearsals in the Sanctuary beginning **Monday, September 9, 6:30-8:00 PM.** All are welcome.

Chapel Bell Choir **-On Hold.** Due to the generous donations in memory of Lois Cardell, our bells are currently out for refurbishment. When we resume, rehearsals will be **Tuesdays 1:00-2:30 PM** in Music Room. We will let you know as soon as possible when we will resume. Please see Christine if interested in joining.

### Middle School Youth Group

Kickoff meeting tonight! For 6th and 7th grade youth (and friends) from The Dover Church and Pilgrim Church. All meetings are **5 to 6:30 pm**, at Pilgrim Church, 25 South Main Street, Sherborn.

Questions? Email Victoria Gaisford at [education@pilgrimsherborn.org](mailto:education@pilgrimsherborn.org)

### High School Youth Group

Our Youth Group kick off meeting will take place tonight **from 7-8:30pm!** We will meet at Kraft Hall and start the year with a fire, smores, and a mini (and wacky) Olympics. Please RSVP to Kayla if you are planning to attend so we can have enough smores fixings for all (and let her know of any dietary restrictions you might have)! All are welcome!

### **Women's Spiritual Friendship Group**

Our Women's Spiritual Friendship Group meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 9:15 in the church library. This fall, we'll be diving into a book called "Bad Girls of the Bible: Exploring Women of Questionable Virtue," beginning our study with Eve, "willful or wise?" on **Wednesday, September 18th**.

Our group meets for casual discussion, reflection, and fellowship. It's 100% possible to participate richly in the discussion, even if you haven't managed to read the reading ahead of time! All are welcome to join us, whether you have joined us before or not. If you would like a copy of the chapter, or have any questions, please reach out to Kayla (kayla@thedoverchurch.org) or Leslie Decker.

### **Another Diaper Drive for A Place to Turn!**

In honor of National Diaper Need Awareness Week, the Mission in Action committee is once again collecting disposable diapers of all sizes and baby wipes between **September 29-October 20** to support A Place to Turn's Diaper Project. As you can see, we are following in the mission footsteps of The Dover Church's Vacation Bible School with this effort!

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 the collection bin placed at the church's admin wing door. Most requested diaper sizes include 4, 5, and 6 and 4T-5T pull-ups for boys and girls. (Partially used boxes of new diapers are fine to donate.)

Thank you!

### **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. All are welcome.



**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 in Kraft Hall during coffee hour.

**Walpole CFCE Presents: Bonding with Your Baby**

Walpole CFCE is offering a Bonding with your Baby parenting series – a free 6 week program designed to help parents build strong connections with their babies on Mondays 11:15 AM–12:00 PM. Classes meet in the Walpole Public Library community room on the following dates: September 23, 30; October 7, 21, 28 and November 4th. Register online at: <https://tinyurl.com/cfcebaby>. Contact Yvette Sammarco with any questions at 774-315-5252

### **Interested in The Dover Church?**

One of our great joys here at The Dover Church is welcoming new people into our faith and fellowship, because we believe that every new person is a gift from God. With every new person who comes to be with us, God is doing a new thing. For that, we rejoice.

But what does it mean to join the church?

What more do I need to know about The Dover Church?

What's this congregationalism thing all about?

What is the United Church of Christ (the denomination (what's a denomination) of which we are part?

What does membership in The Dover Church entail?

Can't I just come to church without joining?

If you're interested in joining The Dover Church or finding out what this is all about, Max or Kayla would love to talk with you. We are receiving new members into the church on November 3 in worship, the 262nd birthday of the church.

You have plenty of time to get together with Max or Kayla, but don't wait too long. September and October fly by in Dover and November will be here before you know it.

Whether you join as a member or continue as a participant, we are so excited to see what God has in store for all of us.

Peace,

Max and Kayla

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