

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 29, 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

September Song

Alexis French

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

Christ calls us to come to worship

To rest from the things that are troubling us

Christ calls us to come to worship

To learn how to walk in peace and mercy

Christ calls us to come to worship

To understand our gifts and our calling

Christ calls us to come to worship

And so to return into the world to serve

Let us worship with hearts open to God

GATHERING SONG

Holy, Holy, Holy

10

PRAYER OF INTENTION

Loving God, you gather us together as your body, the church. You equip us with gifts for service and call us to be your hands and feet in the world. We come together in worship to strengthen ourselves for this work. However, all too often Sunday morning finds us with heads full of distractions and hearts full of doubts. Too often, we would prefer to keep to our own affairs, instead of reaching out to others in faith, hope, and love. We prioritize our own comfort, and we forget that Christ has no hands, no feet, no body on earth but ours. Help us to accept your love fully into our lives, and in so doing, to shine that love more fully into the world. 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

437

vs 1 & 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

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 GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

Matthew 17:1-9

Luke 9:1-6

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

"Love Letters"

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

OFFERING OURSELVES TO THE SPIRIT & CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

The Place Where Lost Things Go

from *Mary Poppins Returns*

Music by Marc Shaiman

Lyrics by Scott Whittman and Marc Shaiman

Jennifer Paxton, soprano and Christine Hogan, piano

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

Here I Am Lord

Insert

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

WALKING OUT MUSIC

THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF
DAVID ALAN NASS, SR
BY HIS DAUGHTER, BETH BENJAMIN

LAY LEADERS IN TODAY'S SERVICE
DEACON ON DUTY: David McOsker
USHERS: Beth Benjamin & David Mahr
SCRIPTURE READER: Linda Means
SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP:

*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: **Connor Knott**.

Happy Anniversary to **Tom & Wendy Leeds, Scott & Catherine Miles and Darin & Christina Dougherty**.

Birthday and Anniversary wishes are for September 29, 2024 to October 5, 2024. Please let us know if we have forgotten anyone!

Announcements

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

max@thedoverchurch.org (508-982-0422)

kayla@thedoverchurch.org (508-269-8406)

The Dover Church

Sunday, September 29, 2024

College Care Packages

Tonight, the Senior High Youth Group will gather from 7-8:30pm at the Dover Church to assemble care packages to send to our churches' college students, especially freshman and sophomore students as they settle into campus. Thank you to everyone who donated supplies to fill these special boxes! We're also asking for donations to offset the cost of shipping. Please reach out to Kayla, kayla@thedoverchurch.org or Martha, martha@thedoverchurch.org if you would like to make a donation.

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.

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!

Parenting and the Spirit

Spirituality Group for Parents of All Ages & Stages

Sunday October 6th, 11:15-12:15

This month, our discussion will center on "lessons learned" - So much of parenting is concerned with what and how we teach our children. What manners are they learning at the dinner table? What summer camps will help them grow their skills? What do we want them to learn in Sunday School? But our children are not the only ones learning in our family relationships. Becoming a parent is a constant journey of learning and growth. Many times, becoming a parent, and parenting our children,

teaches us more about ourselves than we would have anticipated. In this gathering, we'll discuss what we have learned from parenting, and what our children have taught us - about the world, about our faith, and about ourselves. Childcare will be available during our meeting, and we will share a simple soup and bread lunch.

RSVPs are not required, but if you know you'll be there, give Kayla heads up so we can more accurately plan for food!

TDC's Bingo Night

Join The Dover Church's Christian Education Committee on Saturday, **October 19th** from 6-7:30pm for Bingo Night!! Come ready to eat delicious food, connect with friends, win prizes, and laugh a lot!

Bingo is open to the whole family, but for little ones who aren't up to participate, we'll have supervised activities available downstairs. We'll gather at 6:00 for conversation and a potluck style dinner (pizza provided by the church) before diving into Bingo!

This is a free event, though please consider contributing to the potluck if you are able. This event is open to the whole community, whether or not you have children in the Sunday School program, so please invite your friends!

Please let us know you're planning to attend. RSVP link can be found in the e-news.

A New Home for Our Sponsored Guatemalan Refugee Family

Members of the Marin Alvarez family were excited to make the move to their new apartment on Sat. Sept. 14. Carlson Crossing West is a newly renovated, subsidized housing complex in Framingham that has just started accepting new tenants. The move means a substantially lower monthly rent for Zuly and Alejandro's family as well as the added benefit of being located on a public bus route. The unit is certainly very compact in size, but the family is thrilled to have gained a third bedroom and a small, private storage/laundry basement area.

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. 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.

Dover Unplugged is hosting another Meals for Ukraine event at St. Dunstan's Church on Friday, October 4th!

Please join us for a community service event for all the family hosted by Dover UNPLUGGED at St. Dunstan's Church, 18 Springdale Ave, Dover, where 18,000 Meals for people displaced from their homes in Ukraine and Haiti will be packed and shipped. For Ukraine: Meals will be rushed to a children's hospital burn unit for victims of the war and their families. For Haitians in Boston: Meals will be delivered to The Immigrant Family Service Institute to be distributed to recent Haitian migrants.

Please look for the link in the e-news, if you would like to sign up to volunteer.

Harvest Spirits Cocktail Party

The Friends of the Dover Council on Aging invite our neighbors to join us for our "Harvest Spirits Cocktail Party" as we celebrate Autumn in New England. We will provide music, delicious hors d'oeuvres and cider and drinks. The cost is \$5.00 per person to be paid at the door. This event will take place on **Friday, October 18th** from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. upstairs at the American Legion. A cash bar is available. Please register by October 15th at contact@coafriends.org