

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 8, 2024 - 10:00 AM
Welcome Back Sunday

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 It Is Well with My Soul setting by
John Ness Beck

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

Pastor: We gather together
People: in the name of the One who is Love.
We gather together
to hear the Good News that we are loved.
We gather together
to sing praises to the One who teaches how to live love.
Come, let us worship together!

GATHERING SONG All Things Bright and Beautiful 63

CONFESSION

Holy God, we gather again as your people in this holy place to be reminded how necessary each and every one of us is, necessary, essential, needed, unable to be done without, for your life of love to flourish in this place. Each of us with our unique gifts and abilities, the once in forever ways we look on the outside and feel on the inside...essential for your love to thrive amongst us in all your astounding diversity and wonder. Help us begin again. Help us put aside every doubt we have in our loveliness. Help us let go of any disbelief that you love us. Help us embrace our true selves - your beloved children made in your own loving image. 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

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

467

verse 1

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

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 APOSTOLIC LETTERS

1 Corinthians 12: 1, 4- 7, 12-27

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

"Being the Body"

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

OFFERING OURSELVES TO THE SPIRIT & CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC Vocalise for cello, Op.34, #.14 Sergei Rachmaninov
Kevin Hedrick, cello 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

We Are One in the Spirit

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COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

WALKING OUT MUSIC

Fanfare on THAXTED

arr. Hogan

THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF
 HER DEAR HUSBAND **ALAN**
 BY DOTTIE ROTHER

LAY LEADERS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

DEACON ON DUTY: Leslie Decker

USHER: David Mahr & Connie Sweeney

LITURGIST: Daniel Swayne-Gerrish

SCRIPTURE READER: Linda Means

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP: CE Committee

*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: **Sara Jo Marble, Joan Seamster, Kelby Weden, Standish Carothers, Callie McOsker, James McOsker, Rafi Willems, Judith Bursiek and Riley Spalding.**

Happy Anniversary to **Mike & Beth Benjamin, Tom & Carolyn Develin, and Ham & Susan Hackney.**

Birthday and Anniversary wishes are for September 8, 2024 to September 14, 2024. Please let us know if we have forgotten anyone!

Announcements

Welcome Back!

Join us after worship today for a special Welcome Back coffee hour hosted by our Christian Education Committee. Can't wait to see you!

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.

Men's Breakfast Group

Our Men's Breakfast Group will meet on **Friday, September 13th at 7:30 AM** at Steve Karlson's home for breakfast. For more information, please contact Glenn Jensen at glenn.jensen@ne-rc.com.

Middle School Youth Group

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.

September 15: Kickoff meeting

Questions? Email Victoria Gaisford at education@pilgrimsherborn.org

High School Youth Group

We have a great fall in store, packed with opportunities for fun, fellowship, and service. We will meet most Sunday nights at The Dover Church, in Kraft Hall, from 7-8:30pm. HSYG is a welcoming and laid back community, where we focus on having fun and serving our neighbors. This fall alone, we have a handful of exciting opportunities to give back - including sending care packages to new college students, hosting our elders for an intergenerational dinner, and participating in the CityReach overnight in Boston.

Our Youth Group kick off meeting will take place Sunday **September 15 from 7-8:30pm!** We will meet at The Dover Church 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!

Wonder Wednesdays at TDC

We're excited to announce Wonder Wednesdays, a new program launching this fall at TDC! Wonder Wednesdays is an after school program for elementary students, K-5, on Chickering & Pine Hill half days. The program will run from 11:45 to 2:15 and will be a fun faith formation experience focused on the goodness of creation, the call to serve our neighbors, and the never ending love God has for each of us. It's our hope that this program will make families' lives easier as many have to scramble to piece together childcare and entertainment on half days. We also hope that this can be a fruitful opportunity for faith formation, especially as traditional Sunday morning Sunday School does not work for so many of our family schedules. At each session of Wonder Wednesdays we'll share lunch and snack, explore Bible stories, make music, play games, get crafty and creative, and run around outside. We'll try out science experiments, get messy, and travel back in time to immerse ourselves in the world of ancient Israel through story, food, crafts, and more.

Our Fall Semester, themed "Gathering at God's Table" begins on Sep-

tember 18th and will also meet on **10/16, 10/23, and 11/6** and will get us into the kitchen, learning about and experimenting with food that was eaten in biblical times.

Our Spring Semester, themed "God's Good Creation" will meet **1/8, 2/5, 3/5, 3/12, 4/2, and 5/7**, will give us a chance to get outside, hone our green thumbs, and celebrate the wonder of the natural world.

Students must register for each semester in its entirety as lessons will build on each other. The **fee for the program is \$30 per session** (so \$120 for the Fall and \$180 for Spring) to cover the costs of materials and food. Scholarship assistance is available for any family who needs it.

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.

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.

Exciting News About Our Sponsored Guatemalan Refugee Family

We have two very happy updates about the Alvarez Marin family, the Guatemalan refugee family that The Dover Church has been sponsoring since March in partnership with Jewish Family Services.

A New Home

The family's application was recently approved for a 3-bedroom unit at Carlson Crossing West, a newly refurbished affordable housing apartment complex in Framingham. Needless to say, these apartments are in great demand and very hard to come by.

What this means for Zuly, Alejandro, daughters Flor and Victoria, and baby Josue is a significantly lower monthly rent, a mere fraction of what their rental obligations would be were they to continue on at their current apartment at Eagle Rock Apartments. Jewish Family Services has also just confirmed that they will be able to place a newly-arrived refugee family from Syria in Zuly and Alejandro's Eagle Rock apartment, thereby ensuring a smooth transition in the lease arrangement.

The final move-in date should be finalized very soon, with the Alvarez Marin family moving to Carlson Crossing on either Fri. Sept. 13 or Sat. Sept. 14. Please watch for updates from the MIA Committee once the date is confirmed – we'd love to have a few volunteers from The Dover Church assist with the move! (And no strenuous lifting involved, as we'll be using a small local mover to handle the heavy stuff.)

ESL Classes for Alejandro

Jewish Family Services lucked out this summer by scoring the winning lottery "Golden Ticket" for a member of one of their sponsored refugee families to attend classes this fall with Framingham Adult ESL. This remarkable organization receives hundreds of applications each term for ESL classes and can only accommodate a small percentage of them. The Golden Ticket guarantees the awardee a spot in class.

Jewish Family Services was unanimous in presenting this precious prize to Alejandro, who will start evening in-person basic English classes on September 10th. Alejandro speaks both Q'eqchi' (one of the Mayan languages spoken in Guatemala) and Spanish (spoken by the other members in his family). He is eager to begin basic mastery of the English language and has been placed in a special class section led by Framingham Adult ESL's literacy specialist.

If you are interested in providing ESL tutoring to either Alejandro or Zuly this fall, please get in touch with Peggy Cross (peggyfcross@gmail.com), who will be coordinating this effort with Beth Benjamin.

Family Promise Update - Thank You from Shamer

Over the summer members of The Dover Church donated items to fulfill the dorm "wish list" of Shamer, a talented, outgoing student whose family is in Family Promise's LIFE program (Local Initiative for Family Empowerment). LIFE is a homelessness prevention and shelter diversion initiative that supports Metrowest families who are at risk of eviction and/or shelter entry. Shamer, who has just started her first year studying biology at Suffolk University, just sent us this lovely thank you note and dorm photo. As you can see, she's happily settled in with her studies and dorm life!

Dear Congregation,

Thank you so much for your support that you have given me and my family. I appreciate everything that you have done and will never forget it. Thank you for making this new chapter in my life more accessible.

*Thank you for everything,
Shamer*

