



The Dover Church

"A Welcoming Community of Faith and Service since 1762"

October 1, 2024

Volume 15, Issue 6

News from Meeting House Hill

To the church of God's beloved in Dover:

May grace and peace be yours beyond your wildest dreams, from God our Creator and Our Lord Jesus Christ!

Thanks largely to the efforts of our augmented Personnel Committee, we have a new Director of Congregational Life! Thank you, Maggie Danielski and Betty Brady, who did so much of the interviewing. And thanks to Kayla Edstrom and George Hong for their vital input.

In the final round, we had two outstanding candidates and it took real prayerful discernment on my part to make a final decision. Drum roll please.

We are delighted to welcome Ana Sanchez as our new DCL. Ana will be starting on October 1. Ana comes to us from a 20+ year career in Project and Vendor Management, most recently with Amazon. Ana is fully tri-lingual. A native speaker of Spanish (Ana is from Spain), Ana also speaks, reads and writes French, having studied translation in Paris, and English flawlessly.

Ana was interested in our position as she has wanted to step out of the corporate world and into something more spiritually rewarding. Her organization skills and penchant for collaborative teamwork are outstanding. Perhaps her most outstanding skills are her kindness, warmth, compassion, and her ability to listen. Ana lives in Roslindale with her husband and dog. Their two kids are away at college.

We look forward to her onboarding, even knowing that church is relational and it will take some time for Ana to get to know everyone and begin forming those relationships.

Every time a new person joins our congregation, God is trying to do a new thing. Think of it in terms of chemistry: the introduction of a new element changes everything. I am excited to see what new thing God has in store for us.

In faith, hope, and love,
Max

By the grace of our Lord,
(One of) your pastor(s)

LOOKING AHEAD

Grief Workshop
Wednesday, October 2
10:00-11:00 AM

Blessing of the Animals
Saturday, October 5th
4:00 PM

Parenting Spirituality Group
October 6th
11:15 AM

Saging
Wednesday, October 9
9:30-10:30 AM

**Women's Spiritual
Friendship Group**
Wednesday, October 16th
9:15 AM

Men's Breakfast Group
Friday, October 18th
7:30 AM

Bingo Night
Saturday, October 19th
6:00-7:30 PM

SHYG Intergenerational Dinner
October 20th
6:00-8:00 PM

All Saints Sunday
October 27th at 10:00 AM

To reach Max or Kayla, call cell phone:
Max: 508-982-0422
Kayla: 508-269-8406

See inside calendar for more details

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admin@thedoverchurch.org • www.thedoverchurch.org

the Rev'd Dr. C. Maxwell Olmstead, *Senior Pastor* • max@thedoverchurch.org

the Rev'd Kayla Edstrom, *Associate Pastor* • kayla@thedoverchurch.org

An Open and Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ.



Upcoming Worship Services

We hope you will join us this month for worship on Sundays at 10:00 AM.

Monthly Worship Services at Fox Hill Village

This month, Max will be offering a traditional Protestant worship service at Fox Hill Village on **Sunday, October 20, 2024 at 1 pm**. Max is hoping to continue with a hymn sing at the start of the service. If you live at Fox Hill Village, we hope you will join us. Ask at the front desk for meeting location.

All Saints Sunday & Photos

Our All Saints Service will be on **October 27th at 10:00 AM**, where we remember with thanksgiving our loved ones (including pets) who have gone before us into eternity. **If you would like to email us a photo of your loved one(s)** with a name and dates, we will put together a video loop to watch as we light our candles.

If you would like to submit a photo, please send your photos to admin@thedoverchurch.org by Tuesday, October 22nd so we will be able to include them in our video.

Helping out on Sunday mornings

We invite you to volunteer on Sunday mornings! Are you are able to usher, serve as liturgist, or be a scripture reader? Would you like to grab a friend and host our coffee hour?

If you feel led to serve in any of these areas, please let Martha know or sign up online through the link in the eNews to help. Thank you!

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Stewardship News

Stewardship

This year again, we will launch our stewardship campaign during the fall season. The 2025 Stewardship kick off will begin in early November with a stewardship letter and a personalized pledge card mailed to all members and friends of the church. On Agape Sunday, November 24th, there will be a stewardship basket on the Agape Table where you can place your completed pledge cards during the service. Pledge card collection will continue through December and into January ahead of our 2025 Annual Meeting on January 26th. Stay tuned for more information on our 2025 Stewardship campaign or reach out with questions to Max or Nancy or our treasurer, Bruce Hain.

Faith Formation & Spiritual Growth

Prayer Chapel on Wednesdays at 12:30 PM

Looking for a way to connect with new and old friends? Wanting to build some time for your spirit into your daily routine? There are so many reasons to take part in TDC's zoom prayer chapel, which will continue meeting on zoom **Wednesday 12:30 to 1:00 PM**. Take time to check in with church family, share joys and sorrows, and be in prayer together. Please reach out to either Max or Kayla if you have any questions.

Bible Study on Wednesdays at 2:00 PM

Reading the Bible, learning different ways of reading the Bible, learning what's actually in there, discovering how it speaks to us, these are all essential spiritual skills in our Christian tradition. I would like to begin doing this with you again. As with so many things that went to zoom, I am wondering whether we should go back to in person. If you would like to be part of a Bible Study, please let me know and if in person or via zoom is better. Thanks, Max

Grief Workshop Returns on Wednesday, October 2, 10-11 AM

Last year, we began a group to talk about our griefs at the church. We had to take a break during my sabbatical, but I would like to begin again. In this group, we share stories of our lives,

listen to one another, and delve into books that we may find helpful. Perhaps the greatest gift of this group is the safe space where we are able to put into words our deepest discord. People grieve losses of all kinds: a spouse or family member, an unwanted change in life, memories. The main point of this group is to remove any stigma from grief as a weakness or something to get better from. We are trying to integrate our grief and move forward into this new life.

I decided to try Wednesday mornings, as Sundays are quite literally too busy now with everything going on at the church. If you would like to be part of this group but cannot come on Wednesday mornings, please let me know and we'll see what we can do with scheduling. It may be possible to do a hybrid with people zooming in from home, but I think presence is essential, as one of the core components of so many of our griefs is the enormity of absence.

Let me know, Max

Saging starts this month, Wednesday, October 9, 9:30-10:30 AM

To quote last month's newsletter, "Saging" (comes from) from the word "sage" which means "wisdom or being a wise person." I would like to meet monthly to investigate various spiritual practices so that interested people can tap into their inner wisdom as well as the wisdom of our faith. We will seek to either discover something new that works for them, reinvigorate something they had left behind, but basically connect or reconnect with the divine within each of us. When I say spiritual practices, I mean some of the ones everyone thinks about: Mindfulness and prayer, praying the Bible, etc. But I want this to be expansive, so there will be sessions devoted to walking in nature, water color painting, ceramics, managing our calendars, writing our spiritual autobiographies, etc. We have several gifted artists in our congregation and I hope to elicit leadership from others who have a practice (say gardening) that feeds their soul.

October's theme will be gratitude or thanksgiving. We will discuss practices that will nurture a thorough sense of gratitude, as well as investigate how we came to have our glass half full or glass half empty way of going through life.

As with the Grief Workshop, I have chosen Wednesday mornings once a month for this group. If you would like to participate but cannot

on Wednesdays, please let me know and we'll look into better scheduling.

Women's Spiritual Friendship Group on Wednesday, October 16, at 9:15 AM

At our September meeting we discussed our first "bad girl" of the Bible - Eve. We'll meet this month on **October 16th at 9:15** to discuss Lot's wife. All are welcome, whether or not you have joined us before! This is a laid back group focused on friendship and discussion. Please reach out to Kayla or Leslie Decker for more information.

Church Membership

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

Music News

Here is what is coming up the next few Sundays in worship

- October 6 - "Come Here" by Kyle Pederson
- October 13 - solo by section leader Melanie Donnelly
- October 20 - "Sing Gently" by Eric Whitacre and "Benediction" by Peter Anglea
- October 27 - Dixieland Band
- November 3 - "Soon We Will Be Done" - Kyle Pederson, "Benediction" by Peter Anglea and a postlude 'mash-up' of at least two American Favorites

Youth Programming

Wonder Wednesdays

In September we had our first "Wonder Wednesday," our after school program for elementary schoolers on their half days! During our program, we ate a lunch of grilled cheese and tomato soup and enjoyed music class with Christine before diving into our theme of the day - "God takes care of us," explored through the story of Passover in the Book of Exodus. Our children helped us act out the biblical story, then broke up in teams to race to build pyramids out of cups - while blindfolded! We went back to biblical times and learned about a traditional Seder meal, tasting the different ele-



ments of a table and learning the meaning behind each one. We then crafted our own special Elijah cups with rhinestones, sequins and pompoms. We also learned about ancient

Egyptian papyrus, making our own version and decoding messages written in hieroglyphics.

A huge thank you to Laury Hunt, Gail Cobb Lopez, Alysia Poe, and Toni Richards who pitched in to make our first Wonder Wednesday such a success! We're looking forward to (and welcoming helpers for) **October 16th** when we'll learn about trusting God through the story of Elijah and the widow. We have

17 students registered for our fall program, and are already signing students up for the spring program! Please reach out to Kayla or visit our website for more information!

Youth Groups

We are delighted to continue our Middle School and High School Youth Groups collaboration with Pilgrim Church in Sherborn! Teaming up has allowed us a more robust pool of adult support and a larger pool of peers for our students. Pilgrim Church's Christian Education Director, Victoria Gaisford, will continue to take the lead on Middle School Youth Group, open to 6th, 7th and 8th graders which will meet two Sundays a month at Pilgrim Church (25 South Main Street, Sherborn) at 5:15 PM.

MSYG Fall Meetings

October

- 10/6
- 10/27

November

- 11/10: Miracle on Main - participation after worship

December

- 12/8
- 12/19: Service Trip to My Brother's Keeper

High School Youth Group

Our high school youth group has been off to a great start! We've played silly games, brainstormed future fundraisers, hand-tossed pizzas, made s'mores, and crafted care packages to send to our friends and siblings away at college. We're looking forward to a busy fall ahead, one full of lots of opportunities to serve our neighbors! Take a look at our at-a-glance schedule below. All students in 8th through 12th grade are welcome! We meet out of Kraft Hall every Sunday at 7 PM. Please reach out to Kayla for more information!



October

- 10/6: Pumpkin Painting & Hocus Pocus
- 10/13: NO HSYG, Indigenous People's Day
- 10/20: Intergenerational Dinner at TDC
- 10/27: Summer Youth Pilgrimage Planning

November

- 11/3: City Reach Donation Sorting & Games
- 11/10: Miracle on Main St , Pilgrim Church, 11-1
- 11/15 & 16: City Reach Mission Trip with common cathedral
- 11/17: NO HSYG, City Reach
- 11/24: Thanksgiving Dinner & Food Sorting & My Brothers Keeper Gift Planning

December

- 12/1: NO HSYG, Thanksgiving Break
- 12/8: My Brothers Keeper Wrapping
- 12/15: Christmas Cookies & Movie
- 12/22: NO HSYG, Christmas Break
- 12/29: NO HSYG, New Years

To learn more about any of these opportunities, please reach out to Kayla at kayla@thedoverchurch.org.

Intergenerational Dinner on 10/20

On **October 20th**, our High School Youth Group will host an intergenerational dinner to bring together our teens and the elder members of the communities. This is always a favorite tradition, where new connections are made and wisdom is shared all over delicious food. All elder members are invited, and just asked to RSVP to Max so we can plan for numbers. Our youth groupers will provide the food and drink. Dinner will take place from **6:15-7:30 PM in Kraft Hall**. Students are asked to arrive at **5:45 PM** and be ready to stay to help with clean up after **7:30 PM**. Carpooling can be arranged for those who would appreciate a ride. Hope to see you there!

Sunday School

Sunday School is off to a great start! With our new "Celebrate Wonder" curriculum, we are honoring the spiritual life of our children – their natural sense of awe, wonder, imagination, and curiosity – and helping to shape their growing faith. We have created an enriching environment where children can explore their faith and integrate it into their daily lives through memorable experiences, spiritual practices, and opportunities to deepen relationships with God and each other. We hope you will come wonder with us as we celebrate the Spirit of God in the lives of chil-



dren!

Registration for Sunday School can be found on our website or in our eNews.

Each Sunday children will remain in worship until the children's message and then head to Sunday School class with their teachers and fellow students. On long weekends, we will not have Sunday School. The Teddy Bear Room will be open every Sunday from 9:30-11 AM for our youngest members.

Parenting and the Spirit

Spirituality Group for Parents of All Ages & Stages Sunday, October 6th, 11:15 AM-12:15 PM

The everyday work, frustrations, and blessings of parenting is one of the major practices that dominates the lives of those who have children. This group aims to explore the spiritual dimensions of that work and make space for peer support and skill sharing. We hope to create a non-judgmental space for parents to share experience and questions as they approach the work of parenting with mindfulness and intention. We will pull from a variety of religious, spiritual, and mindfulness traditions as we think about how being a parent informs our spirits and how we can bring spirituality to bear in parenting. We hope to explore how folks can continue to be individual persons with interests and goals even as they parent, and support each other in the tensions that inevitably leads to.

This will be a laid back gathering, meeting monthly, with loosely-guided small group discussion, open to parents of all ages and stages! Child-care will be available during our meeting, and we will share a simple soup and bread lunch.

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.

RSVPs are not required, but if you know you'll be there, give Kayla a heads up so we can

more accurately plan for food!

Mission In Action: Serving Others

The Mission in Action Committee at The Dover Church has many opportunities for you to participate in both local and national mission outreach in October! Please contact Peggy Cross at peggyfcross@gmail.com or (508) 479-1432 if you would like further information.

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 Saturday, September 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.



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 and 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!

Fellowship Opportunities

Blessing of the Animals

Bring your beloved pets to the church on **Saturday, October 5, at 4:00 PM** for a special Blessing of

the Animals service in our Taylor Garden! We welcome all of God's creatures, large and small. If you are unable to bring your pet, bring a picture instead!

Men's Breakfast Group

Our Men's Breakfast Group will meet on **Friday, October 18th at 7:30 AM** at Steve Karlson's home for breakfast. For more information, please contact Glenn Jensen at glenn.jensen@nerc.com.

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! Invite your friends!

Bingo is a free event open to the whole community, whether or not you have children in the Sunday School program. For little ones not participating, we'll have supervised activities available downstairs. We'll gather at 6:00 PM for conversation and a potluck style dinner (pizza provided by the church) before diving into Bingo!

Please consider contributing to the potluck if you are able.

Tea and Check In, Thursdays at 3:00 PM

This is a fun way to check in with church friends, old and new. Come relax, enjoy tea, and cookies and bring your parish news. We meet in the church library. Please email martha@thedoverchurch.org to be added to the email reminder list

Upcoming Publication about The Dover Church

In 2018 Beth Benjamin and Sally Shoemaker started to write a booklet about many of the interesting facts about our church that we learned from building the archive of The Dover Church. As Beth's retirement approached, we decided to get busy and finish, and so we have. The title is *Buildings, design, artwork, provenance at The Dover Church*.

In this booklet you will find information about many aspects of our church. Did you know that, at one time, the church was three separate buildings, or that the sanctuary floor was once painted black, or where the furnishings came from? Did you know that the chancel has been re-configured at least three times or that the church has had four different organs? You'll find answers to these questions and more now that the booklet is finished. Reach out to Martha at martha@thedoverchurch.org to receive a copy.

October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>(This calendar receives many updates after publication. The most up-to-date calendar is the electronic one on our website: www.thedoverchurch.org).</i></p>						
		1 7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting	2 10:00 AM Grief Workshop 12:30 PM PrayerChapel	3 10:00 AM COA Program 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	4	5 4:00 PM Blessing of the Animals
6 World Communion Sunday 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual 11:15 AM Parenting Group 5:00 PM MSYG 7:00 PM HSYG	7 6:30PM Sanctuary Choir	8 12:15 PM COA Luncheon	9 9:30 AM Saging 12:30 PM PrayerChapel 7:30 PM Finance Committee meeting	10 10:00 AM COA Program 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	11	12
13 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual	14 6:30PM Sanctuary Choir	15 7:30 PM Church Council	16 9:15 AM Women's Group 12:30 PM PrayerChapel	17 10:00 AM COA Program 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	18 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast	19 6:00 PM Bingo Night
20 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual 1:00 PM Fox Hill Village 5:00 PM MSYG 7:00 PM HSYG	21 6:30PM Sanctuary Choir	22	23 12:30 PM PrayerChapel	24 10:00 AM COA Program 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	25 8:30 AM COA Senior Coffee	26
27 All Saints Sunday 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual 11:15 AM Music Committee 5:00 PM MSYG 7:00 PM HSYG	28 6:30PM Sanctuary Choir	29 12:15 PM COA Lunch	30 12:30 PM PrayerChapel	31 10:00 AM COA Program 3:00 PM Tea and Check In		



Join us on **October 27th** at **10:00 AM**, for our All Saints Service where we remember with thanksgiving our loved ones (including pets) who have gone before us into eternity.

THE DOVER CHURCH

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