

The Dover Church

A WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND SERVICE SINCE 1762



AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, November 10, 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 Nun Danket Alle Gott Setting by Paul Manz

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 23

Pastor: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
People: He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
All: He leads me in right paths for his name's sake
Even though I walk through the darkest valley
I fear no evil,
 for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
 in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.
**All: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
 all the days of my life,
 and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
 my whole life long.**

GATHERING SONG **O Worship the King, All Glorious Above** 16

PRAYER OF INTENTION

Holy One, God of love, grace and mercy, we come together here as your people in this holy place to seek your presence and the fulness of our being in You. Help us to unclench the fists of our spirits and let fall everything that keeps us from coming face to face with you again. We hold tight to so much, God of compassion, our aspirations and ambitions, our property and reputations, our fears and angers, our grievances and regrets, so, so, very much, O God. Help us to unclutter our souls that your light might shine in; for we pray these things in the name of our Lord, Jesus the Christ. 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!

SONG **Now Thank We All Our God** 27

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you.

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 APOSTOLIC LETTERS

1 Kings 17: 8-16

from the GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

Mark 12: 38-44

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

"With Clenched Hands, or Not"

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

OFFERING OURSELVES TO THE SPIRIT & CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Royal Oak

setting by Robert Powell

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.**

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SONG OF PARTING

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

528

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

WALKING OUT MUSIC

On our way rejoicing (Hermas) arr. Mark Sedio

THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF
LT. COL. ROY MATHIS, U.S. AIR FORCE
BY ZEBBIE MATHIS

LAY LEADERS IN TODAY'S SERVICE
DEACON ON DUTY: Connie Sweeney
USHERS: Peggy Cross & David Mahr
SCRIPTURE READER: Daniel Swayne-Gerrish

*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: **Molly Lee.**

We wish Happy Anniversary to: **Keith & Amy Barnett.**

Birthday wishes are for November 10, 2024 to November 16, 2024. Please let us know if we have forgotten anyone!

Announcements

HSYG Collection for CityReach

Our HSYG will be attending CityReach with Common Cathedral November 15th and 16th. We are hosting a clothing drive and collecting the following items:

- All kinds of gently used carrying cases such as backpacks, tote bags, fanny packs, small suitcases with wheels.
- Travel-size toiletries (nothing containing alcohol)
- New white socks
- New underwear for both men and women, and bras
- Gently used and clean sleeping bags & blankets
- Gently used and clean, sweat shirts, sweat pants, outerwear (especially hooded sweatshirts)
- Monetary donations to be used to purchase clothing

Folks sleeping outside are looking for loose, sturdy, and warm clothing and tend to prefer larger sizes - think L-XXXL. Please keep this in mind when donating. We do not need any dress clothes, tightly fitted clothing, children's clothing, etc. Think about what you might want to go winter camping with.

Donations can be dropped off in the church office or left in the collection bin outside of the Office Wing door. Donations accepted through **Wednesday, November 13.**

Saging

Our "Saging" group will gather today after worship from **11:30 AM-12:30 PM** and on Wednesday, November 13th from 9:30-10:30 AM. We will meet in the Church Library unless otherwise noted. This group is going to help each of us develop our innate spiritual wisdom, as well as tap into the spiritual wisdom of our tradition. Mark your calendars for our future meeting dates on Sunday 12/1 and 1/5 and Wednesday 11/13 and 12/11.

Grounds Clean Up

Our Men's Breakfast Group invites all of our members, young and old, to join us on **Saturday, November 16th at 8:30 AM** for our fall grounds clean up. Bring your rakes, leaf blowers and tarps. Coffee and doughnuts will be served.

Backwards Hats

Please join us for worship on **Sunday, November 17th**, for a special service on "Belonging" and music from the Backwards Hats!

Parenting and the Spirit

Join us on **November 17th from 11:15 AM-12:15 PM** when our Parenting group will meet after worship to discuss holiday traditions - what we've inherited and what we want to build for our families. We'll talk about how we connect with our faith during holiday celebrations and what our hopes are for our families during festive and celebratory times. We'll also dive into a simple craft, creating "God's Gifts" Advent jars to try out this Christmas season. Thanksgiving and Christmas are right around the corner, so we thought this will be a good chance to take a deep breath and enter the season with some extra intention. We hope you can join us!

This is a laid back gathering, meeting monthly, with loosely-guided small group discussion, open to parent's of all ages and stages! Childcare will be available during our meeting, and we will share a simple soup and bread lunch. All are welcome, whether or not you have joined in before!

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

Women's Spiritual Friendship Group

Join us on **November 20th at 9:15 AM** as we take a break from our study of women in the Bible to make Christmas prayer candles. We'll discuss a poem while crafting candles to keep and to sell to benefit the youth pilgrimage. All are welcome regardless of crafting expertise or prior involvement in the group! Reach out to Kayla or Leslie Decker for more information.

Agape Sunday-Thanksgiving Food Drive

Our High School Youth Group asks you to support their Agape-Thanksgiving food drive in support of A Place to Turn in Natick. HSYG is collecting donations of non-perishable food items beginning now and culminating with the blessing of our donations at the Agape Sunday church service on November 24th.

Most requested items from APTT*:

- Tomato products
- Canned fruit
- Pasta sauce
- Evaporated milk
- Mac and Cheese
- Spaghetti
- Aldi and Market Basket gift cards

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

Youth Group and A Place to Turn thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Greening of the Church

SAVE THE DATE! Join us on Saturday, November 30th for our Greening of the Church event. This is a festive and fun time where we decorate the church with trees and greens. Come enjoy some Christmas music, goodies and cheer!

Watch the eNews for the time.

Calling all Artists for Advent Bulletin Covers!

We are starting to plan for Advent! And we are looking for young artists who would like to draw a picture for our bulletin cover - for the 4 Sundays in Advent and Christmas Eve, starting on December 1.

To sign up, use the link in the eNews or contact martha@thedoverchurch.org.

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting

Each Sunday in Advent and on Christmas Eve, one of our traditions is to have families light our advent wreath candles at the beginning of worship.

Sign up for a date that works for you using the link in the eNews or by contacting martha@thedoverchurch.org

Wonder Wednesdays

Registration is now open for our Spring Semester, which will meet on 1/8, 2/5, 3/5, 3/12, 4/2, and 5/7. Students must register for the semester in its entirety as lessons will build on each other. The fee for the program is \$180 for the semester. Scholar-

ship assistance is available for any family who needs it. Register on our website or through the e-news.

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, look for the sign up sheet in Kraft Hall during coffee hour, or sign up online using the link in the e-News.

A Stewardship Update

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a pledge – via the mail, email, or online – for our 2025 Stewardship campaign. As of Friday at noon, November 8, 2024, we had received 8 gifts totaling \$19,743 (4.4% of our \$417,000 goal) from:

- Keith & Amy Barnett
- Betty Brady
- Betty Hagan
- Mike Kendall & Alida Coo-Kendall
- Eli & Anne Manchester
- Nancy Simms
- Daniel Swayne-Gerrish
- Trudy Walsh

Thank you for your continued support of our church.