

The Dover Church

Sunday, December 22, 2024 - 10:00 AM

Fourth Sunday in Advent



Slothicks

THE DOVER CHURCH IS AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

A WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND SERVICE SINCE 1762

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

WALKING IN MUSIC

SOME VICTORIAN CAROLS

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.

LIGHTING OF OUR ADVENT WREATH

The Candle of Love
The Lin Family

Reader 1: Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ, the candle of Peace, remembering God's dream of a peaceful world, the candle of Joy, remembering the Spirit within us who brings joy.

Reader 2: Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love.

Reader 1: Scripture tells us "There is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear." God created this world in love and this world will end in the love of God. God's love pervades all aspects of this life. From birth to death, pain to delight, strangers to lovers, God's love is there.

Reader 2: We light this candle of Love.

The Story of Miriam

Exodus 2: 1-10, 15: 20

The Story of Mary

Luke 1: 26-38, 46-55

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

All: Thanks be to God.

ACT OF PRAISE

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to thee, O Israel!

Amen.

SERMON

“Being Mary”

SONG

What Child is This?

Laurel and Grace Barnett

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S GRACE

CALL TO PRAYER AND OFFERING

RECEPTION OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Come Unto Him – from Messiah

by G.F. Handel

Jennifer Paxton

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERING OURSELVES TO THE SPIRIT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you.
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 **Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus** 121

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

SOME VICTORIAN CAROLS

WALKING OUT MUSIC

LAY LEADERS IN TODAY'S SERVICE
 DEACON ON DUTY: Leslie Decker
 USHERS: Ham Hackney & Glenn Jensen
 SCRIPTURE READER: Ham Hackney
 SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP: Linda Hain
 BULLETIN COVER ARTIST: Slotnick Girls

*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: **Joy Bushman, Wendy Leeds, Elizabeth Newport, Sylvia Chang, Nick Novitch, Rui Huang, David McOsker, Addison Spalding, Josie Danielski and Seth Novitch.**

Happy Anniversary to: **Drew & Karen Hussar and George & Anna Whiting.**

Birthday wishes are for December 22, 2024 to January 4 2025. Please let us know if we have forgotten anyone!

Announcements

Wonder Wednesdays

Our Wonder Wednesday program kicks off its second semester on **January 8th!** We'll be exploring God's creation, focusing on the wonder and abundance of the watery corners of creation - oceans, lakes, rivers, and streams. If you know of a K-5 student at Chickering or Pine Hill, spread the word!

Wonder Wednesdays, which runs from 11:45-2:15, is a faith formation experience focused on the goodness of creation, the call to serve, and the never-ending love God has for each of us. Each day we'll explore Bible stories, play games, get crafty and creative, and run around outside. Contact Kayla or Martha for more information.

Register on our website or through the e-news.

The Dover Church's New Family Playgroup

You're invited to join the Family Playgroup at The Dover Church, 8:30-10:00 AM, on Thursdays beginning on January 9th through March 28th. This is a free playgroup for parents/caregivers and littles (babies & toddlers). Littles can burn winter energy with toys, slides, climbing structures and a little bounce house while adults enjoy coffee, treats and connection.

While this group is sponsored by The Dover Church, it is not a religious offering. Caregiving to young children is an incredibly important vocation, but it can be isolating. Our hope is that this group will be a gift to all in the community, providing young families with a place to connect and to blow off steam, especially during a long New England winter.

Please spread the word about this exciting new group! All are welcome. No fee, registration, or RSVP required.

Men's Spiritual Friendship Group

Men's Spiritual Friendship will meet on the last Friday of the month at 7:00 AM in Kraft Hall for breakfast, fellowship and spiritual conversation prompted by Max. We

will be reaching out to you by text. If you would like to help with breakfast, please reach out to Max.

Yoga with Max

The newly published session of Yoga with Max, scheduled to begin in January, has been postponed.

Candles for our Teen Pilgrims

Our Women's Spiritual Friendship Group has crafted some beautiful candles, many of them Christmas themed, that are for sale in support of our teen pilgrimage this coming summer. You can see the candles for sale in coffee hour or by stopping by the church office during the week. Suggested donations are \$10 or more per 3 inch pillar candle or pair of taper candles, \$15 or more for 6 inch pillar candle. All proceeds will mitigate the costs for our teens traveling to the Taize monastery. 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. 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.

2025 Offering Envelopes Available

If you would like a boxed set of weekly offering envelopes for 2025, please let Nancy know and she will set them out for you in the narthex. Each set is numbered to

make record keeping clear and convenient and to save you the time it may take to write your name and date on the general envelopes found in the pews. Nancy's email address is nancy@thedoverchurch.org, or she may be reached by phone at 508-785-0957.

Dover & Sherborn Community Read

Join us on **Thursday, January 23, 2025**, at 7:00 PM at the Sherborn Community Center for discussion on the New York Times bestseller, *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt. Guest panel speakers include Pastor John Hudson, Dr. Mary Ellen J. Crowley and Stacy Creamer. Co-sponsors of this event are: The Dover Church, Dover Town Library, Challenge Success, Pilgrim Church and the Sherborn Library.



*The Poinsettias on the altar are given in appreciation of the
HOPE, PEACE, LOVE and JOY of Advent and:*



In Memory of
Brian Brady
given by Jenni Brady

In Memory of
Peter C. Forrester
given by The Forrester Family

In Memory of
Tim McInerney
given by Jenni Brady

In Memory of
Frances S. Brooks
given by The Forrester Family

In Memory of
D. Barr Clayson
given by Pam Clayson

In Memory of
Rose Hain
given by the Hain Family

In Loving Memory of
John Cross
given by Peggy Cross

In Memory of
Lloyd and Adrienne Hain
given by the Hain Family

In Loving Appreciation of
Teddy, Charlie, Becky, Olivia and William
given by Peggy Cross

In Appreciation of
Betty Brady
given by the Hain Family

In Honor of
The Dover Church Staff and Leaders
given by Peggy Cross

In Memory of
Louise Norman
given by the Hain Family

In Appreciation of
our loving families
given by the Danielski Family

In Memory of
Evelyn Norman
given by the Hain Family

In Honor of
our grandchildren
given by Carolyn & Tom Develin

In Honor of
Westell Norman
given by the Hain Family

In Memory of
Keith Horton
given by the Hain Family

In Appreciation of
Lily Horton
given by the Hain Family

In Honor of
Kaylee and Ella
given by the Hain Family

In Memory of
Herb Hadfield
given by Linda Hain

In celebration of
our daughter, Shannon, her husband, Ben,
and our grandchildren; Augusta and
Everett
given by Laury & Jack Hunt

In celebration of
our son, Ryan, his wife, Carolina and our
grand-dog Millie
given by Laury & Jack Hunt

In Memory of
Robert "Tato" Hussar
given by Sebastian Hussar

In Memory of
Mary Louise and Dick Leeds

given by Tom & Wendy Leeds
In Memory of
Shirley M. Buck
given by Tom & Wendy Leeds

In Memory of
S.C. Lin
given by the Lin Family

In Memory of
Joy Long
given by Charlie Long

In Memory of
Linda Foehl
given by Charlie Long

In Honor of
The extended Moore Family
given by Jane Moore

In Memory of
Ann & Edmond Patey
given by David & Carol Patey

In Memory of
Ruth & Howard Boehret
given by David & Carol Patey

In Honor of
our grandkids; Brady, Anna, Declan,
Nathan, Zachary, Layla and Violet
given by Linda & Bo Pettit

In Memory of
my Mom and Dad; Mr. & Mrs. Joseph
Katchuk
given by Toni Jo Richards

In Memory of
my sister; Sonya Tappan
given by Toni Jo Richards

In Memory of
my nephew; David Robbins
given by Toni Jo Richards

In Appreciation of
The Dover Church Community
given by Toni Jo Richards

In Memory of
Walter Robb
given by Anne Robb

In Memory of
Esther Lovell Bell
given by Anne Robb

In Loving Memory of
my dear husband, Alan Rother
given by Dottie Rother

In Loving Memory of
my dear brother, Phil Meeks
given by Dottie Rother

In Loving Memory of
our parents and grandparents
given by Dottie Rother

In Memory of
Betsy and Dean Clewley
given by the Schultze Family

In Memory of
Yolanda Schultze
given by the Schultze Family

In Memory of
my mom; Betsy Heath Gleason
given by Nancy Simms

In Appreciation of
my dad; Robert W. Gleason
given by Nancy Simms

In Appreciation of
my wonderful Family
given by Nancy Simms

In Honor of
our three grandchildren; Yarrow,
Amelia & Ava
given by Gina & Steve White

In Loving Memory of
my dear sister, Cassandra Anne
given by Mikayla Williams

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 noon on Friday, December 20, 2024, we had received 105 gifts totaling \$334,799 (80.3% of our \$417,000 goal) from:

- Caroline Abernathy
- Victoria Babcock
- Brad & Barbara Baker
- Keith & Amy Barnett
- Judith Barr
- Bill Barrett
- Ben & Lana Beal
- Mike & Beth Benjamin
- Bob & Sandy Boynton
- Bob Brace
- Betty Brady
- Judith Bursiek
- Jim Cardell
- Jeff & Anne Carter
- Joe & Soo Chang
- Jerry & Rui Chen
- Paul Cichocki & Cindy Ostrowski
- Pam Clayson
- Melvin & Marian Clouse
- Mark & Valerie Constant
- Peggy Cross
- Tom & Maggie Danielski
- Bob & Judy Davis
- Sarah Decker & Luis Camilo Novelo Rosas
- Scott & Leslie Decker
- Ed & Kristen Dennison
- Margi Derian
- Tom & Carolyn Develin
- Burley & Amanda Dickerson
- Darin & Christina Dougherty
- Walter & Kayla Edstrom
- Charlie & Katie Engle
- Bob & Janine Everts
- Romeo Filip & Alina Gavrilă-Filip
- Edie Forrester
- Chip & Liz Gibson
- Bob & Lee Graham
- Scott & Kristen Griebel
- Ham Hackney
- Betty Hagan
- Bruce & Linda Hain
- Jimmy Hain
- Jon & Liz Hartnett
- Kevin & Stephanie Hedrick
- Gunnar & Vida Heskestad
- Dick Hodgson
- George & Lynne Hong
- Gene & Mary Hornsby
- Jack & Laury Hunt
- Glenn & Cynthia Jensen
- Chad & Lori Johnson
- Bill & Victoria Kane
- Steve & Beth Karlson
- Mike Kendall & Alida Coe-Kendall
- Joan King
- Tom & Wendy Leeds
- Sam & Val Lin
- Charlie Long
- Paul & Gail Lopez
- Nancy Mackay
- David Mahr

A Stewardship Update (*continued*)

- Eli & Anne Manchester
 - Jim & Sara Jo Marble
 - Roger & Dottie Mark
 - Beth McGaw
 - David & Callie McOsker
 - Linda Means
 - Jane Moore
 - Doug & CynDee Novitch
 - Don & Jane Ocker
 - Max Olmstead & Marie-Laure Grillet
 - Bradley & Kimberly Paster
 - Dave & Carol Patey
 - Alexia Pearsall
 - Greg & Mary Petrini
 - Bob & Linda Pettit
 - Craig & Jeanne Rafter
 - Flo Revers
 - Hadley & Jeannette Reynolds
 - Greg Rice
 - Toni Richards
 - Anne Robb
 - Olga Robinson
 - Dottie Rother
 - Sally Shoemaker
 - John & Jody Shue
 - Nancy Simms
 - Dickson & Monica Smith
 - Ford & Chip Spalding
 - Payson & Janie Swaffield
 - Daniel Swayne-Gerrish
 - Connie Sweeney
 - Dick & Janie Sylte
 - Nancy Taber
 - Nakhle & Randa Tarazi
 - Ben & Kelly Taylor
 - Newton & Kathy Thompson
 - Lawrence Tsen
 - Jeanne Waldinger
 - Trudy Walsh
 - Dave & Sheryl Weden
 - Steve & Gina White
 - Gunnila Whiting
 - Eli Willems
 - Eileen Wong
 - June Wright
- Thank you for your continued support of our church.
- Our next 2025 stewardship update will be posted on Sunday, January 5.
Happy New Year to all!