

The Dover Church

A WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND SERVICE SINCE 1762



AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, January 12, 2025 - 10:00 AM
The Baptism of Our Lord

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

PRELUDE Prelude & Fugue in F Major J.S. Bach

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

Isaiah 60

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come,
People: and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth
 and thick darkness the peoples,
but the Lord will arise upon you,
 and God's glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light
 and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;

HYMN OF ADORATION

Take Me To The Water

Insert

THE STORY OF JESUS' BAPTISM

Luke 3:21-23

BLESSING OF THE WATERS

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Sarah Mae Rice

Daughter of Leah and Christian Rice

Godparent: Paige Stone

SENTENCES & QUESTIONS OF THE PARENTS

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Deacon, Connie Sweeney

All: We promise our love, support, and care.

PRAYER

ACT OF BAPTISM

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.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Gracious God, we give you thanks for this your child and for the grace
acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit.

Embrace us all as children in the one household of your love.

Grant us grace to receive, nurture and befriend this new member of the
body of Christ.

Bless Sarah. May she be filled with joy; may she never be ashamed
to confess her faith in you.

Bless Leah and Christian. May they always show their gratitude for the
life you have given them by loving and caring for Sarah.

Give to Sarah strength for life's journey, courage in time of
suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new
life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

BAPTISMAL HYMN

(to the tune of *Bunessan*)

Sarah, we greet you on this glad morning.

Your day of life we now recognize.

Here is the water! We are God's people.

Sing we our praises to Christ the Lord.

Sarah, we name you and with thanksgiving,
offer our prayers and sing you this song.

We are the Church, your spiritual family.

Sing we our praises to Christ the Lord.

Children we all are of God, Creator,
risking and loving, daring to see
the heavenly Kingdom growing among us.

Sing we our praises to Christ the Lord.

WE RENEW OUR BAPTISMAL VOWS

WE REMEMBER OUR BAPTISM

**I remember that I am a beloved child of God. In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

HYMN

Child of God

Projected

EXCHANGING SIGNS OF PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus 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
lessons this morning. Amen.**

from the GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

Luke 3:1-23

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Good News that Matters"

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

OFFERING OURSELVES TO THE SPIRIT & THE OFFERING

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

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

HYMN OF PARTING

Though I May Speak

68

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Slane - Irish Folk Tune

arr. Robert J. Powell

THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF
GINA WHITE'S MOTHER, **MARY TRAFTON SIMONDS**
BY GINA AND STEVE WHITE

LAY LEADERS IN TODAY'S SERVICE
DEACON ON DUTY: Connie Sweeney
USHERS: Gina White & Steve White
SCRIPTURE READER: Rebekah Partensky & Linda Pettit
SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP: Carol Patey

*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: **Alex Johnson, Jake Budd, Bob Everts, Brooks Miles and Bill Barrett.**

Birthday wishes are for January 12, 2024 to January 18, 2025. Please let us know if we have forgotten anyone!

Announcements

Annual Meeting

The 263rd Annual Meeting of The Dover Church will be held on **Sunday, January 26, 2025** directly following the 10:00 AM worship service. Please see the warrant posted around the church. All interested people are invited to attend and participate in the meeting. Only members and associate members may vote. We will be holding this meeting both in person and online. If you are interested in attending the meeting virtually, please contact Ana Sanchez, ana@thedoverchurch.org, for the zoom meeting ID information. Please request the zoom information before the start of worship.

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.

Wonder Wednesdays

Our Wonder Wednesday program has begun for the ! We kicked off the second semester this past Wednesday, **January 8th!** We are 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! We have some additional spots open.

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.

Women's Spiritual Friendship Group

After a couple of months of festive crafting and fellowship, our Women's Spiritual Friendship Group is excited to resume our study of women in the Bible. We'll be meeting at **9:15 on Wednesday, January 15th**. All are welcome for casual but meaningful conversation, whether or not you have joined in before. Please reach out to Kayla or Leslie Decker for more information or a scan of the next month's optional readings.

Men's Breakfast Group

The Men's Breakfast Group will meet on **Friday, January 17th at 7:20 AM** at Steve Karlson's home for breakfast. For more information, please contact Glenn Jensen at glenn.jensen@nerc.com.

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. Our first meeting will be on **January 31**. We will be reaching out to you by text. If you would like to help with breakfast, please reach out to Max.

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.

Fireside Cheer Cocktail Party

The Friends of Dover COA invite all to our "Fireside Cheer Cocktail Party." Join friends and lift your spirits to mitigate the winter doldrums! We will provide music, hot cider and hors d'oeuvres at \$5.00 per person. This event is on **Friday, January 17th**, from 4-6 PM at the Legion. A cash bar is available.

RSVP to contact@COAfriends.org.

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.



Save The Date

The Dover Church
is having
a **Safari Supper**
March 15, 2025
And You're Invited!



Join us for a fun-filled evening starting in Kraft Hall with appetizers and a lively "get-to-know-you" game. After the game, the safari continues as we head to different homes for dinner and dessert with fellow members of the congregation.



We're Looking for Volunteers:

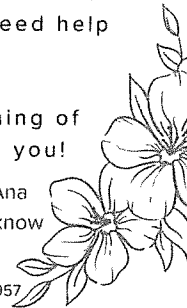
- To help organize the event
- To host a dinner at your home
- To bring an appetizer to share at Kraft Hall
- To offer rides to those who may need help getting home after dark



We can't wait to enjoy this evening of fellowship and connection with you!

Further details to follow. Contact Ana
ana@thedoverchurch.org to let us know
how you can get involved.

17 Springdale Ave, Dover MA 02030 - 508-785-0957



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, January 10, 2025, we had received 121 gifts totaling \$354,717 (85.1% of our \$417,000 goal) from:

- Caroline Abernathy
- Victoria Babcock
- Brad & Barbara Baker
- Paul & Mitsy Baranello
- Keith & Amy Barnett
- Judith Barr
- Bill Barrett
- Ben & Lana Beal
- Mike & Beth Benjamin
- Bob & Sandy Boynton
- Bob Brace
- Betty Brady
- Terry & Cindy Brennan
- Judith Bursiek
- Dale Cabot
- Jim Cardell
- Matt & Alison Carothers
- Jeff & Anne Carter
- Joe & Soo Chang
- Jerry & Rui Chen
- Paul Cichocki & Cindy Ostrowski
- Pam Clayson
- Melvin & Marian Clouse
- Bob & Susan Cocks
- Ken & Ginny Colburn
- 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 Gavrila-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
- Drew & Karen Hussar
- Glenn & Cynthia Jensen
- David Jimerson
- Chad & Lori Johnson
- Karl Johnson & Mary Yanke
- Bill & Victoria Kane

A Stewardship Update (*continued*)

- Steve & Beth Karlson
- Mike Kendall & Alida
Coo-Kendall
- Joan King
- Laura Kunkemueller
- Tom & Wendy Leeds
- Sam & Val Lin
- Tom & Lynn
Lonabocker
- Charlie Long
- Paul & Gail Lopez
- Nancy Mackay
- David Mahr
- Eli & Anne
Manchester
- Jim & Sara Jo Marble
- Roger & Dottie Mark
- Kyle & Heather
McBurney
- 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
- Sue Rice
- Toni Richards
- Anne Robb
- Olga Robinson
- Dottie Rother
- Doug & Jan Scott
- 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
- Rein Uritam & Justine
Kent-Uritam
- Jeanne Waldinger
- Trudy Walsh
- Dave & Sheryl Weden
- Ellen Weinberg
- Steve & Gina White
- Gunnila Whiting
- Eli Willems
- Eileen Wong
- June Wright

Thank you for your continued support of our church.