

# 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 19, 2025 - 10:00 AM  
Second Sunday after Epiphany



## A TIME FOR REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: God loves you and there's nothing you can do about it.

**People: God loves you and there's nothing you can do about it.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## 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 lesson this morning. Amen.**

from the GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

John 2: 1-11

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

"Looking for Signs"

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

## OFFERING OURSELVES TO THE SPIRIT &amp; THE OFFERING

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Hear My Prayer

Moses Hogan

## 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.**



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

We wish Happy Birthday to the following people: **Diana Eng King, Joan Parsons and Eli Willems.**

Birthday wishes are for January 19, 2024 to January 25, 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](mailto:ana@thedoverchurch.org), for the zoom meeting ID information. Please request the zoom information before the start of worship.

### January 26 Special Offering for Southern California Wildfire Relief

As we've all seen in the news, a series of devastating wildfires have engulfed the Los Angeles metropolitan area and surrounding regions since early January, killing at least 25 people, forcing thousands to evacuate their homes, and damaging or destroying more than 12,500 structures.

The Mission in Action and Christian Education committees invite you to contribute to a special offering on Sunday January 26 which will be directed to two non-profit organizations providing emergency support and recovery efforts in these impacted areas:

- **Save the Children's Emergency Fund** - This effort is focused on reaching the most vulnerable communities in Los Angeles County with long-term recovery efforts, including getting kids back to learning, helping child care providers to re-open, and protecting children's mental health and well-being through their psychosocial counseling services. They are also helping provide critical supplies like hygiene kits, water bottles, blankets and portable chargers.
- **World Central Kitchen** - By partnering with organizations on the ground and activating a network of food trucks and emergency kitchens, World Central Kitchen's Relief Team in Southern California is providing nourishing meals to first responders and displaced families impacted by the wildfires in the Los Angeles area.

\*Checks, payable to The Dover Church, may also be mailed to the attention of Nancy Simms, Assistant Treasurer. Please write "California Wildfire Relief" in the memo line.

\*To donate directly online:

World Central Kitchen - [wck.org](http://wck.org)

Save the Children's Emergency Fund - [savethechildren.org](http://savethechildren.org)

### **Family Promise Metrowest Hosting Update**

The Dover Church is blessed to have several longstanding local mission partners, one of which is Family Promise Metrowest in Natick. Amazingly, TDC has partnered with Family Promise since its founding in 2008, being among one of its original supporting "host" congregations.

FPM serves low- and moderate-income Metrowest families with at least one child under the age of 18 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The Dover Church's involvement is with FPM's shelter program, which supports unhoused families during the time they are in residence at FPM's incredible shelter facility in Natick center.

Right now, TDC is in the midst of the first of our four 2025 designated hosting weeks at Family Promise's shelter, a time during which volunteers from The Dover Church and its hosting partner St. Mary's Church of Holliston provide hot dinners and requested groceries for the families currently residing in the shelter's apartments.

What makes this particular hosting week unique is that all the volunteer slots were quickly filled in advance by St. Mary's parishioners and MIA members, so that the Mission in Action committee didn't need to appeal to our congregation at large to assist!

If you would like to learn more about Family Promise or are interested in helping out at our next hosting session March 17-20, please get in touch with Peggy Cross at [peggyfcross@gmail.com](mailto:peggyfcross@gmail.com)

### **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 kicked off its second semester on January 8th! This semester 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.

### **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.

### **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**

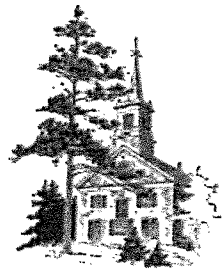
Are you able to help on a Sunday morning with ushering, being our liturgist, or scripture reader, or by hosting our coffee hour? To volunteer you do not need to be a member. Use the link in the e-News, sign up during coffee hour or contact the church office [admin@thedoverchurch.org](mailto:admin@thedoverchurch.org). 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](mailto:nancy@thedoverchurch.org), or she may be reached by phone at 508-785-0957.



## 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](mailto: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 17, 2025, we had received no new gifts. To date, we have received 121 gifts, and one gift increase, totaling \$355,217 (85.1% of our \$417,000 goal)

- 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 Gavrilu-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.