

# The Dover Church

*"A Welcoming Community of Faith and Service since 1762"*

February 1, 2025

Volume 16, Issue 2

## News from Meeting House Hill

To the church of Jesus Christ in Dover:

May the peace of our Creator and the grace of our Lord be the rock on which you stand!

This has been the coldest winter we have had in many years. Not as much snow as I would have liked, but the pond ice has been great for skating.

So many people I know have started complaining about the winter: the cold, the dark, the wind, the continuity. "It gets right into your bones so you can't get warm. It goes on and on. Oh, to get away to the Caribbean to feel the sun!"

I myself love the winter. I find something so elemental about putting on three layers of running clothes and setting out with the dog before work first thing in the morning for a little 4-5 mile run around one of the local Trustees of Reservation Properties. The thermometer reads 19 degrees. The snow on the ground creates a stark clarity, with each sapling and blade of grass standing distinctly, where before it blended into a carpet of similarity. The red of the rising sun paints the treetops with an extravagant glow. Once I get into the flow and my body is warm, with just the front of my face exposed out of my hood, the crunch of snow under foot cushioning my stride where before it was all bumpy and hard rocks and tree roots.

Winter has much to offer us, even if it seems unpleasant in comparison with the other three seasons. Looking to the animals and trees who go inward this time of year, who go right to bare essentials to make it through, who depend upon this fallow time of hibernation to regenerate new life, we might be wise to think of the ways to use this season to clear away our spiritual clutter and recognize the essentials, allowing them to be our tap roots, our stored energy for the time when we emerge in the Spring.

I have been reading a truly delightful book called *Wintering. The power of rest and retreat in difficult times* by Katherine May. May delves into

### LOOKING AHEAD

**Worship at Fox Hill Village  
Sunday, February 2nd at 1 PM**

**Bus from Fox Hill Village  
Sunday, February 16th**

**Saging  
Sunday, January 16  
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

**Prayer Chapel  
Wednesdays 12:30 – 1 PM  
Zoom in website calendar**

**Family Playgroup  
Thursdays 8:30 AM – 10 AM  
No RSVP required**

**Tea and Check-In  
Thursdays 3 PM**

**Wonder Wednesdays  
Spring Semester will meet on  
2/5, 3/5, 3/12, 4/2, and 5/7  
11:45 AM – 2:15 PM  
\$180 for the semester**

**Women's Spiritual  
Friendship Group  
Wednesday, February 26  
9:15 AM – 10:15 AM  
No RSVP required**

**Men's Spiritual  
Friendship Group  
Friday, February 28 at 7:00 AM**

THE DOVER CHURCH • P.O. Box 305, Dover, MA 02030 • Tel/fax: 508-785-0957

admin@thedoverchurch.org • www.thedoverchurch.org

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

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

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



these ideas much more deeply and eloquently than I can in a brief newsletter. For the sake of brevity, I encourage you to not try to ignore the season or just try to get through it, but to see what God would show each of us about who we are, what brings us life, and who we might yet be.

In faith, hope and love,  
Max  
By the grace of our Lord,  
(One of) your pastor(s)

**Upcoming Worship Services**

**Monthly Worship Services at Fox Hill Village**

This month, Max will be offering a traditional Protestant worship service at Fox Hill Village on **Sunday, February 2nd, 2025 at 1:00 PM**. If you live at Fox Hill Village, we hope you will join them. Ask at the front desk for meeting location.

We will also have a bus that will bring our Fox Hill Village congregants to The Dover Church on , **Sunday, February 16th**. Check with the front desk for departure time.

**Fat Sunday**

Join us on Sunday, March 2nd, at 10 AM for our Fat Sunday worship Service. Following worship, we hope you will join us for a pancake breakfast in Kraft Hall. On last indulgence before Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5th.

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**Stewardship Update**

**Stewardship 2025**

The Annual Meeting is behind us, and officially, the new year has begun. New ideas have been floated and are being pursued. The “Good Church” that Max preached about last Sunday is taking shape here on Meeting House Hill in new twists on established programs and in new ways altogether – new ways to worship, new ways to welcome and embrace, new ways to connect kids with Jesus, and new ways to live our faith every day. Our church is as good as each and every one of us. It is all of us who deliver the friendship and smiles, it is all of us who offer our time and talents on committees and projects, it is all of us who bring new ideas to help kids know Jesus and feel his love, it is all of us who carry God and His Spirit out our sanctuary doors on Sunday mornings and spread His love among the communities through which we pass during the week. All of us are doing the good, and all of us are the “Good Church” of Max’s Sunday sermon. As he said, it is not rocket science. It is just us being us. 2025, let’s go.

This year’s operating budget was approved at Annual Meeting and with it our Stewardship monies. Pledge promises continue to be sent in, and church leaders are confident the full \$417,000 pledge goal will be reached. This pledge total represents 60% of our operating budget for 2025. These funds are critical to realizing the promises of 2025 and are critical to our being the “Good Church”. If you have not yet pledged your financial support to the church for this year, please consider doing so now and help us secure the remaining \$60,000 needed to reach our budget goal. Be a steward of God’s unconditional love through your pledge and watch the “Good Church” happen!

**How to give:**

You may submit your pledge by completing the pledge card mailed to you in November, completing a pledge card from the pews and adding it to the collection plate on an upcoming Sunday morning, sending an email to our assistant treasurer at [nancy@thedoverchurch.org](mailto:nancy@thedoverchurch.org), making an online pledge at [www.thedoverchurch.org/giving](http://www.thedoverchurch.org/giving) or by following this link: <https://tinyurl.com/TDC2025Stewardship>. As vital parts of the “Good

Church" we all are on our way to changing the lives of those around us and to changing our own lives.

## Faith Formation & Spiritual Growth

### **MEN'S** SPIRITUAL FRIENDSHIP GROUP

#### **Men's Spiritual Friendship Group** February 28th, 2025 at 7:AM

In February, we'll have the second meeting of the Men's Spiritual Friendship Group. This is a more structured men's fellowship that actively tries to involve men who are newer to our congregation. The great joy of our church like ours is that people connect with others outside their age group or friend group.

In January, we set up a texting platform to easily reach out to the men in our congregation. If you have not received a text from The Dover Church inviting you to join the Men's Spiritual Friendship Group, please let our DCL, Ana, know: [ana@thedoverchurch.org](mailto:ana@thedoverchurch.org).

Our next meeting will be on **February 28, 2025 at 7:AM**. We hope you can join us.

#### **Saging**

The purpose of this group is to help those who attend to get in touch through various time-tested practices from various faith traditions.. Our Saging group will gather on **Sunday, February 16th from 11:30 AM-12:30 PM**. We will meet in the Church Library.



#### **Prayer Chapel**

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 on **Wednes-**

**days 12:30 to 1:00 PM**. Take time to check in with church family, share joys and sorrows, and be in prayer together. You can find the zoom link in the website public calendar. Please reach out to Max or Kayla if you have any questions.



#### **Women's Spiritual Friendship Group:** **Wednesday, February 26th at 9:15 AM**

Our Women's Spiritual Friendship is enjoying our study of women of the Bible. We're really looking forward to March when we'll have the opportunity to share some of what we've learned in worship! We will be leading worship on March 16th and plan to craft our service around Ruth. We'll be meeting on February 26th at 9:15 to dive into her story and workshop different elements of the service. All are welcome to join in our efforts! Please reach out to Kayla or to Leslie Decker for more information. We hope to see you there.

## Youth Programming

#### **Communion class**

Around ages 8 or 9, children begin to develop a more independent faith and intellect, a shift recognized by many religious and secular traditions. For example, some Christian denominations wait until this age to baptize children, and Catholic children take a special course before receiving communion. Our communion class aims to honor this growing faith by helping children un-



derstand communion more deeply and celebrate this transition.

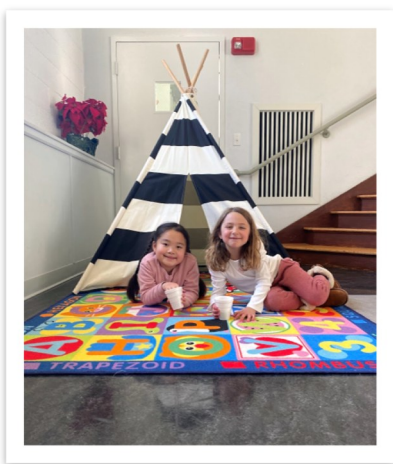
The class will meet Sundays from 5:30-6:30 during Lent (3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, and 4/6), using games and hands-on activities like Bible stories, crafts, and making bread and grape juice. While children are always welcome at the communion table, we hope this class will enrich their experience, deepen their faith, and connect them with peers and the church community. The class will culminate on Palm Sunday, April 13th, with a celebration during the service. Family and friends are encouraged to attend!

Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/2025Communion>

Feel free to reach out to Kayla with any questions!

### Wonder Wednesdays

We enjoyed our kickoff Wonder Wednesday of the semester in January and are excited to gather with our group (15 kids and counting) several more times before the end of school! If you'd like to learn more about our program, whether to sign up your child or to volunteer as a helper, please reach out to Kayla!



### Middle School Youth Group Dates

 A colorful poster for the Middle School Youth Group (MSYG) at Pilgrim & Dover Churches. The poster features a red and orange background with a white border. The text includes the church name, 'MSYG Middle School Youth Group', and a 'Winter/Spring Schedule' with dates and activities. At the bottom, it provides contact information and a website.
 

**Pilgrim & Dover Churches**  
**MSYG**  
Middle School Youth Group

**Winter/Spring Schedule**

January 12	Board Games & Youth Room Decorating
January 26	Fire Pit & Winter Games (Dress Warm)
February 9	Souper Bowl of Caring (AM meeting)
March 9	Movie Night & Popcorn
March 23	Serving @ New Life Furniture Bank
April 6	Easter Baskets for the Elderly
April 27	Earth Day Clean Up
May 4	Service Project TBA
May 18	Year-End Celebration
June 1	Bowling

Register & Learn More  
[www.pilgrimsherborn.org](http://www.pilgrimsherborn.org)

25 South Main St.  
Sherborn, MA

### High School Youth Group Dates

Look ahead at everything in store for the High School Youth Group these next couple of months. All teens grades 8-12 are welcome! Contact Kayla for more information.

#### February

- 2: SYP – Pressed Flower Candle Making
- 9: **NO HSYG, Superbowl Sunday**
- 16: **NO HSYG, Feb Break**
- 23: **Among US & Snacks**

#### March

- 2: Seed Starting & S'mores
- 9: SYP Meeting
- 14: DS School Play (Friday Night Meeting)
- 16: **NO HSYG, Friday Night Meeting**
- 23: TBD - Movie Night?
- 30: Intergenerational Dinner @ TDC

#### Sunday School for February 2025

- 2nd - The Five Friends
- 9th - Healing the Man with the Withered Hand
- 16th - **No Sunday School**
- 23rd - A Servant is Healed

**Childcare is available every Sunday** starting at 9:40 AM and is available during our 10 AM service for 0 through 3-year-olds.

## Vacation Bible School (VBS)

**Save the Date: August 4 – August 8, 2025**

It's time to hit the trail... for adventure! This August we invite you to join us for True North VBS!

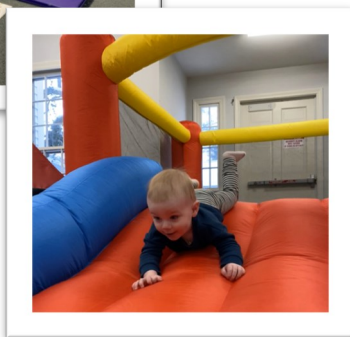
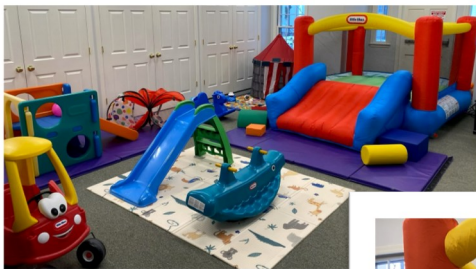
You can expect a week of epic adventures filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences kids will see, hear and touch, hands-on science experiments, team building games, unforgettable Bible songs, and tasty treats! Get Ready for the summer event that points kids to Jesus, a faithful friend we can always trust in a wild world!



## Family Playgroup

Our playgroup has been off to a great start, welcoming six different families over our first couple of meetings. Families have shared that this is a welcome way to get out of the house with little ones, especially in the cold winter weather. We're looking forward to continuing together through March!

The TDC Family Playgroup meets in the music room on Thursday mornings, 8:30-10am. We provide toys, snacks, and climbing structures for babies and toddlers and an opportunity for caregivers to connect. The group is **free, no RSVP or registration required.** **All are welcome! Spread the word!**



## Mission In Action: Serving Others

# MISSION IN ACTION



## Winter Donations Collection for Women's Lunch Place

The Mission in Action committee is leading a late winter donation drive through to Feb. 16 on behalf of the Women's Lunch Place, a daytime shelter and advocacy center in Boston serving women experiencing hunger, homelessness and poverty. A donations drop-off box is located just outside the Admin Wing door.

Please note that the WLP is **only accepting NEW items** at this time. We are collecting the following items most urgently needed at the Women's Lunch Place as they prepare for early spring:

- ◆ Light jackets (especially sizes L and XL)
- ◆ Reusable rain ponchos
- ◆ Travel-sized toiletries: packets of tissues, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash, bars of soap, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, lotion (body and facial), nail clippers, hand warmers, toe warmers.

## women's lunch place

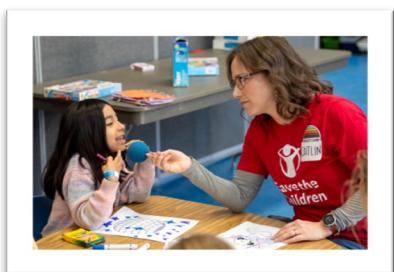
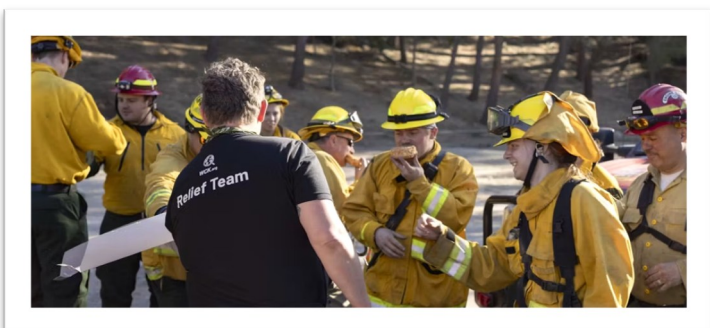
If you would prefer to make a financial donation, MIA members would be happy to purchase items from this list on your behalf. Please send checks, payable to The Dover Church, to the attention of Nancy Simms, Assistant Treasurer, with "WLP Special Offering" written in the memo space.

A more extensive listing of urgently need items may also be found at <https://womenslunchplace.org/in-kind-donations>, including a link to WLP's Amazon wish list site.

## January 26 Special Offering for Southern California Wildfire Relief

Many thanks to all who contributed to this special offering! As of January 29, a total of \$2,919 was collected. These funds and any additional donations still to come in will be distributed equally between Save the Children’s Emergency Fund and World Central Kitchen. Both these non-profits are providing emergency support and recovery efforts in the greater Los Angeles areas impacted by these devastating wildfires. The Mission in Action committee is additionally contributing \$500 to each organization.

If you have not yet donated and would like to do so, please send a check, payable to The Dover Church, to the attention of Nancy Simms, Assistant Treasurer. Please write “California Relief Effort” in the memo line. You can also donate directly online at [savethechildren.org](http://savethechildren.org) and [wck.org](http://wck.org).



## A Few Updates on our Sponsored Guatemalan Refugee Family

In partnership with our sponsoring agency, Jewish Family Services of Metrowest, a small team of volunteers from The Dover Church has been providing support to the Marin Alvarez family since their arrival in the U.S.A. last March. Much has happened during that time, including the family’s application being accepted last September for residency at a newly-renovated affordable housing apartment complex in Framingham, considerably lowering their monthly rental expenses.

Mom Zuly has recently found part-time employment at a neighborhood restaurant, while

Alejandro was able to have his worksite placement with the Framingham Public Schools food service reassigned to another FPS school located right across the street from their apartment.

Did you know?

“Refugees are forced migrants who have fled their home country to escape conflict, violence, or persecution and have sought safety in another country. Refugees who are approved to resettle to the U.S. undergo a rigorous vetting process including background and medical checks. They are granted refugee status prior to entering the country, so that upon entry, they immediately have legal rights and are on track to become permanent residents and eventually citizens, allowing them to rebuild their lives in safety and with dignity.”

[RefugePoint.org](http://RefugePoint.org)

## Fellowship Opportunities

### Tea and Check-in 3:00 PM on Thursdays

This is a fun way to check in with your fellow members. Come relax, have a cup of tea and cookies and bring your parish news. We meet in the church library.

### Safari Supper – Saturday, March 15, 2025

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 are looking for volunteers for volunteers:

- \* To help organize this 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

Please call or email Ana to discuss how you may be able to help. All help big and small is appreciated! [ana@thedoverchurch.org](mailto:ana@thedoverchurch.org).



# February 2025

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: <a href="http://www.thedoverchurch.org/calendar">www.thedoverchurch.org/calendar</a>.)</i></p>						
<p><b>Childcare is available every Sunday</b> starting at 9:40 AM and is available during our 10 AM service for <b>0 through 3-year-olds</b></p>						1
<p><b>2</b>  <b>9:00 AM</b>            Choir Rehearsal  <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship            In-Person &amp; Virtual  <b>1:00 PM @</b> Fox Hill Village  <b>7:00 PM</b> HSYG</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b>  <b>9:00 AM</b>            Fox Hill Garden Club    <b>7:00 PM</b>            Deacon's Meeting</p>	<p><b>5</b>  <b>11:45 AM</b>            Wonder Wednesdays  <b>12:30 PM</b>            Prayer Chapel  <b>7:15 PM</b> BSA Troop 1</p>	<p><b>6</b>  <b>8:30 AM</b> Family Playgroup    <b>3:00 PM</b>            Tea and Check In</p>	<p><b>7</b>  <b>2:30 PM</b>            Daisy 77223</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>
<p><b>9</b>            MSYG—Morning meeting            (@Pilgrim Church)    <b>9:00 AM</b>            Choir Rehearsal    <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship            In-Person &amp; Virtual</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b>  <b>7:30 PM</b>            Finance Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>12</b>  <b>12:30 PM</b>            Prayer Chapel    <b>7:15 PM</b> BSA Troop1</p>	<p><b>13</b>  <b>8:30 AM</b> Family Playgroup    <b>3:00 PM</b>            Tea and Check In</p>	<p><b>14</b>  <b>2:30 PM</b>            Kindergarten            Girl Scouts</p>	<p><b>15</b></p>
<p><b>16</b>  <b>9:00 AM</b>            Choir Rehearsal    <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship            In-Person &amp; Virtual            Bus from Fox Hill Village            No Sunday School    <b>11:30 AM</b> Saging</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b>  <b>7 PM</b> Church Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>19</b>  <b>12:30 PM</b>            Prayer Chapel    <b>7:15 PM</b> BSA Troop 1</p>	<p><b>20</b>  <b>8:30 AM</b> Family Playgroup    <b>3:00 PM</b>            Tea and Check In</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
<p><b>23</b>  <b>9:00 AM</b>            Choir Rehearsal  <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship            In-Person &amp; Virtual    <b>7:00 PM</b> HSYG</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b>  <b>9:15 AM</b>            Women's Spiritual Friendship Group  <b>12:30 PM</b>            Prayer Chapel  <b>7:15 PM</b> BSA Troop 1</p>	<p><b>27</b>  <b>8:30 AM</b> Family Playgroup    <b>3:00 PM</b>            Tea and Check In</p>	<p><b>28</b>  <b>7:00 AM</b> Men's Spiritual Friendship Group</p>	

**Fat Sunday Service  
10 AM, March 2nd, 2025**

**Worship followed by pancake breakfast!**

**We hope you will join us.**



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**THE DOVER CHURCH**

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