

# The Dover Church

A WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND SERVICE SINCE 1762



AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION  
IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, February 23, 2025 - 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

PRELUDE

Tallis' Ordinal

Charles Callahan

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;

GATHERING HYMN

As We Gather at Your Table

314

## A TIME FOR REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

**God of holiness and glory, wonder and majesty, the heavens and the earth show forth your splendor. Our lives overflow with moments of wonder, the testament of your love for us: in the beauty of all that You have created; in the miraculous faces of our neighbors; in the unique knitting together of our very selves. We confess that all too often we take this love for granted or fail to celebrate your abundant goodness. We allow our eyes and hearts to be dulled by tedium and monotony. We keep our heads down in busy-ness and anxiety rather than lifted up in adoration and praise. We struggle to feel your love in our hearts and fail to embody your love in our actions. Help us, O God. Wash us in the mercy, hope, and healing of your love. Put a new and rejoicing heart in us this day, we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

## 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

## I Come With Joy

313

## 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

Luke 6:27-38

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

"What is Love?"

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

OFFERING OURSELVES TO THE SPIRIT & THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis

## 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

**Blest Be the Tie That Binds****368**

## COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in B-flat Major

J.S. Bach

THE FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
**FRANCES SEAVER BROOKS**  
BY EDIE AND LINDIE

LAY LEADERS IN TODAY'S SERVICE  
DEACON ON DUTY: Lindie Wilson  
USHERS: Carol Patey  
SCRIPTURE READER: Peggy Cross  
SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP: Sarah Decker & Camilo Novelo

*Please join us for fellowship and refreshment in Kraft Hall  
following this morning's worship service.*

*Permission to podcast/stream music in this service obtained from  
ONE LICENSE with license #A-708980. All rights reserved.*

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

We wish Happy Birthday to the following people: **John Fattore and Andrew Slotnick.**

Birthday wishes are for February 23, 2024 to March 1, 2025. Please let us know if we have forgotten anyone!

## **Announcements**

### **Late Winter Collection for Women's Lunch Place**

Today is the final day of our winter collection for Women's Lunch Place. Many thanks from the Mission in Action committee for supporting this wonderful organization!

- ⇒ New light jackets (especially sizes Large and Extra Large)
- ⇒ New reusable rain ponchos
- ⇒ Travel size toiletries:
  - Packets of tissues
  - Shampoo
  - Conditioner
  - Deodorant
  - Body Wash
  - Bars of soap
  - Hand Sanitizers and Disinfecting Wipes
  - Lotion (Body and Facial)
  - Nail Clippers
  - Hand Warmers
  - Toe Warmers

### **Candles for our Teen Pilgrims**

Our High School Youth Group has crafted some beautiful candles, using dried flowers, 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 \$5 + per taper candle, \$10 + for a 3 inch pillar candle or \$15+for a 6 inch pillar candle. All proceeds will mitigate the costs for our teens traveling to the Taize monastery. Thank you for your support!!

### **Tents for Taizé**

We need your help in securing tents for our Youth Group Pilgrimage to Taizé

this summer. We are specifically looking for:

- **3-4 multi-person tents**
- **3 double sleeping tents**

If you have any tents that you can lend us or if you know of someone who might, please let us know! Thank you for supporting our youth on this journey!

### 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

We had a great time during our Wonder Wednesday session on February 5th diving into the themes of the story of Moses found in the book of Exodus!

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.

We are looking forward to gathering again on **March 5th** and then just a week later on **March 12th**.

Register on our website or through the e-news. Contact Kayla or Martha for more information.



### Women's Spiritual Friendship Group

Our Women's Spiritual Friendship Group will be meeting on **February 26th at 9:15 AM**. We are enjoying our study of women of the Bible and 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. At our meeting on February 26th we plan 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.

### Men's Spiritual Friendship Group

The second meeting of the Men's Spiritual Friendship Group will be on **February 28, 2025 at 7:AM**. This is a more structured men's fellowship that actively tries to involve men who are newer to our congregation. The great joy of a church like ours is that people connect with others outside their age group or friend group.

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).

### Communion Class at The Dover Church

We are offering a communion class for 2nd - 4th graders to learn about what communion means, and to celebrate them as they step into a new phase of life and engagement in the church!

Our communion class will meet on **Sunday from 5-6:30 during Lent (3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, and 4/6)**. Through games and hands-on activities, we will learn about the meaning of communion. We'll act out Bible Stories, do crafts, and make bread and grape juice from scratch. While children will still be welcome at the communion table before/without completing this course, we hope that this course will deepen and enrich the communion experience, as well as strengthen connections between our children and their church peers, their church community, and their faith! We also hope this class provides a faith formation opportunity for families for whom Sunday School is difficult to attend due to other commitments. The experience will culminate on **Palm Sunday, April 13th**. As part of the service (already a fun one with a palm parade!) we will celebrate the class by inviting them forward at communion time to recognize their learning and their role in our congregation. Family and friends are encouraged to be there! We plan to offer this class every other year so that we have a robust group. We will only meet five times, so attendance is very important! Please sign up using the link in our e-News.

**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. One last indulgence before Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5th.

**If you are willing to lend a hand in preparing and serving our pancake breakfast, please let Martha know by reaching out to [martha@thedoverchurch.org](mailto:martha@thedoverchurch.org)**

**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.

**True North VBS****Save the Date: August 4, 2025-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!

Please reach out to [martha@thedoverchurch.org](mailto:martha@thedoverchurch.org) with any questions.

**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.

**Family Promise Metrowest Hosting Update**

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)

**RSVP for the Safari Supper**

Please RSVP to attend the Safari Supper on Saturday, March 15, 2025.using the QR code:





# 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

