

The Dover Church

A WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND SERVICE SINCE 1762



AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, April 27, 2025 - 10:00 AM
Second Sunday of Easter

The Dover Church is an Open and Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ, which means "no matter who you are, or where you are on your life's journey, you are welcome here." We welcome, include and celebrate people of all gender identities, family structures, faith expressions, abilities, ages, and backgrounds in worship and fellowship, to baptism, confirmation, and marriage, taking seriously the Apostle Paul's admonition to the churches in Roman: "welcome one another, just as Christ welcomed you, to the glory of God." (Romans 15:7, NRSV)

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

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

Psalm 150

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!

People: Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

Praise God with trumpet sound; praise the Lord with lute and harp!

Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!

Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crowns

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SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Calder & Freya Bentley
Son & Daughter of Sarah & Jonathan
Godparents: MacKenzie & Eli Schwartz, Carolyn & Tim Doolin

SENTENCES & QUESTIONS OF THE PARENTS

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Linda Pettit, Deacon

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 these your children 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 these new members of the
body of Christ.
Bless Calder and Freya. May they be filled with joy; may they never be
ashamed to confess their faith in you.**

Bless Sarah and Jonathan. May they always show their gratitude for the life you have given them by loving and caring for Freya and Calder. Give to Calder and Freya 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*)

**Calder and Freya, 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.**

**Freya and Calder, 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.**

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

John 20: 19-31

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

All: Thanks be to God.

ACT OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

SERMON

“Inner Peace and Forgiveness”

HYMN

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

424

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S GRACE

OFFERING OURSELVES TO THE SPIRIT & THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

RECEPTION OF OUR GIFTS

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

The Day of Resurrection!

216

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF
DEAN AND BETSY CLEWLEY AND YOLANDA SCHULTZE
BY LIESL SCHULTZE

LAY LEADERS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

DEACON ON DUTY: Linda Pettit

USHERS :

FELLOWSHIP:

*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: **Abby Wilson, Scarlett Banty, Matt Carothers, Dave Tucker, Victoria Kane, Lilly Poole, Wyatt Sexton and Catherine Miles.**

We wish Happy Anniversary to **Steve and Heather DePaola.**

Birthday and Anniversary wishes are for April 27, 2025 to May 3, 2025. Please let us know if we have forgotten anyone!

Announcements

Interested in Joining The Dover Church?

One of our great joys here at The Dover Church is welcoming new people into our faith and fellowship, because we believe that every new person is a gift from God. With every new person who comes to be with us, God is doing a new thing. For that, we rejoice.

If you're interested in joining The Dover Church or finding out what this is all about, Max or Kayla would love to talk with you. We are receiving new members into the church on **Mother's Day, May 11th**, in worship.

We will be celebrating our new members – those who have recently joined, as well as those who are about to join, along with our volunteer leaders. We warmly invite you to join us at the parsonage for an evening of food and fellowship with The Dover Church on **Friday, May 9th, from 5:00-8:00 PM.**

Cornhole Tournament

Mark your calendars for **May 3rd from 3-5pm!** Our Youth Group, with help from our Christian Education Committee, is hosting a Cornhole Tournament to raise money in support of our youth pilgrims. There will be good music, yummy food, friendly competition, and cool prizes, all in support of a good cause.

You can register using the QR code below. \$30 per team of two or more. Please reach out to Kayla if you would like to learn more about supporting this event!



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!!

Men's Spiritual Friendship Group

We'll have the next meeting of the Men's Spiritual Friendship Group on May 16th, 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.

We use 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. We hope you can join us.

Wonder Wednesdays

We are looking forward to gathering again on **May 7th** for our last session of this spring semester!

This semester we explored God's creation, focusing on the wonder and abundance of the watery corners of creation - oceans, lakes, rivers, and streams.

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.

Playgroup for Children and their Caring Adults

As you likely know, our weekly play group at TDC began in January and wrapped up last week on the last Thursday in March. But we have so enjoyed spending time together that we weren't ready to totally end the group, even as spring seems to have finally arrived. We put a couple of dates on the calendar for April and May to get together, so we wanted to be sure to let you know! We'll gather **May 8th**, and **May 22nd** from 9-10:30. We hope you to see you there!

True North VBS**August 4, 2025-August 8, 2025**

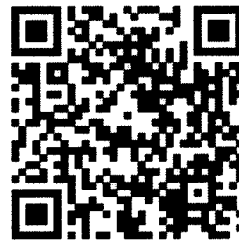
It's time to hit the trail...for adventure! This August we invite you to join us for True North VBS!

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 with any questions.

Register for VBS using the QR code:

**Join Our Team: Volunteers Needed for True North VBS This Summer!**

We're looking for passionate and dedicated volunteers to join us for our True North VBS this summer! Help make our Vacation Bible School an incredible experience for kids! Whether you have a talent for storytelling, making snacks, playing music, or organizing games, there's a place for you on our team!

Adults and youth entering Grade 7 or above are invited to volunteer. Volunteers 18 and older must complete a CORI and Background Authorization form.

If you're ready to embark on this incredible adventure, please sign up using the QR code below. Reach out to martha@thedoverchurch.org with any questions.

Join us in pointing kids toward Jesus...their True North! We can't wait to see how God will work through you this summer!



Family Promise Metrowest – Walk to End Homelessness

The annual FPM “Walk to End Homelessness” will take place on **Sunday May 4th from 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm**, starting and ending at Natick High School. Mark your calendars for a fun-filled event including a 2.3-mile walk dedicated to raising funds and awareness about the urgent need for affordable housing for Metrowest families in need. The Dover Church will be organizing a walking team, so stay tuned for details!

Spring Bike Drive

If you have an old bicycle or two you’d like to donate to a great cause, now is your chance! The Lowell Bike Connector, in conjunction with the Dover Recycling Committee, will be holding a bike drive at the Dover Transfer Station on **Sat. May 17th**. The Mission in Action committee will be assisting with this effort by arranging to have The Dover Church parking lot as an additional designated drop-off site. The Bike Connector is a non-profit, volunteer bicycle collective that provides low cost or free recycled bicycles and parts to needy children and adults.

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 are 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.

The Dover Historical Society: Upcoming Exhibition

The Dover Historical Society will present the "*Amelia Peabody: Artist, Philanthropist and Visionary*" Exhibition, **April 19th through June 2025**, at the Sawin Museum and Fisher barn/Caryl farm which will explain "Who was Amelia Peabody?"

The Dover Church's bronze sculpture, "Flight to Egypt", made and donated to the church by Amelia Peabody, will feature at the exhibit.

For more information visit www.doverhistoricalsociety.org

TDC is an "Open and Affirming" (ONA) congregation in the United Church of Christ, which means "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." While we aim to extend this extravagant welcome to all, ONA is the United Church of Christ's (UCC) designation for congregations which make a public covenant of welcome to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. As an ONA congregation, we acknowledge the history of the institutional church in condemning and excluding gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people, and in condoning such discrimination by its silence. We commit ourselves to work diligently to end such oppression and discrimination following the model of our God. While we have ample room for growth, we take seriously the Bible's admonition to "accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God" (Romans 15:7) and commit to taking up this work in our communal life together.