

The Dover Church

A WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND SERVICE SINCE 1762



AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, June 1, 2025 - 10:00 AM
Seventh Sunday of Easter
A Celebration of our Open & Affirming Covenant

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

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 100

Pastor: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

People: Serve the Lord with gladness;

All: come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;

All: we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving

and his courts with praise.

All: Give thanks to him; bless his name.

All: For the Lord is good;

his steadfast love endures forever

and his faithfulness to all generations.

GATHERING HYMN

All the Colors of the Rainbow

See Insert

A TIME FOR REFLECTION AND ReORIENTATION

Holy God, today we begin again in our pilgrimage of love with you and our neighbors. This love sounds so good, so nice and rosy, so warm and fuzzy, on paper. We know, however, that the love you call us to is not a Hallmark Card. We know that the deep loves in our lives require constant work and compromise. We confess that as we get to know each other better, we make each other uncomfortable: we do not agree; we have different preferences and habits; we really like to get our own way; every change threatens our status quo; every new person forces us to begin again. We know that acceptance and tolerance are not love, that we need to move to celebrating each others' unique gifts and life stories. Help us, O Lord. Help us to unclench our fists a bit so that we embrace a bit more. Help us to live into your blessed calling of love, first here in this space and in our homes, and then out into the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

PERSONAL REFLECTION IN SILENCE

RESPONSE

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

CHILDREN MAY LEAVE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

EXCHANGING SIGNS OF PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

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 APOSTOLIC LETTERS

Galatians 3: 25-28

from the GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

John 15: 9-17

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

“Always Taking the Next Step in Love”

THE OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT OF THE DOVER CHURCH

Adopted by Annual Meeting, January 31, 2016

We, the members of the Dover Church, following Jesus's great commandment to love God and one another, invite all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, into our community of Christian faith and declare that we are an Open and Affirming congregation. No matter who you are, whom you love, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. We open our hearts in love and extend our hands in welcome to all seeking Christian fellowship in our church, a community of faith and service since 1762.

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

OFFERING OURSELVES TO THE SPIRIT & THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

I am a Child of God

Mark Miller

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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Pastor: The Lord be with you,
People: And also with you.
Lift up your hearts:
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God:
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION PRAYER

**Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine.
Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may
be opened and may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each
other, in all your children, and throughout all of creation. Amen.**

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.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

Everyone is welcome to celebrate with us. You do not need to be a professing Christian, a member of this church, or even certain you know exactly what this is all about. Communion is about grace and blessing both of which depend upon God who welcomes you whoever and wherever you are. This morning, we are celebrating Communion by Intinction, (Latin for "dipping"), which means coming forward, as you are able, to be served. You will be offered bread (or a gluten free rice cake), which you can then dip into the wine or grape juice. If you are unable to come forward and would like to participate, please let our Deacons know and we will serve you in the pews. We will still say the traditional words, "The Body of Christ, broken for you," or "The Bread of Life," and "The Cup of Blessing." We encourage you to use the traditional response, "Amen" (Hebrew – "Let it be so.").

COMMUNION MUSIC

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Thank you, O Holy One, for life in the Spirit of Jesus: for gladness in the bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the glory of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own.

Give us the gifts of this Holy Communion: oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN OF PARTING

In the Midst of New Dimensions

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COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF

ROBERT W. HUSSAR

BY THE HUSSAR FAMILY

LAY LEADERS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

DEACON ON DUTY: Connie Sweeney

USHERS: Leslie Decker

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP:

Birthdays and Anniversaries

We wish Happy Birthday to the following people: **Barbara Baker, Scott Decker, Jim Cardell, Leo Olmstead, Grant Rice, Frances Wilson, Brad Baker and Elisha Lee Jr.**

Happy Anniversary to **Mark & Valerie Constant, John & Jody Shue and Charlie & Katie Engle.**

Birthday and Anniversary wishes are for June 1, 2025 to June 7, 2025. Please let us know if we have forgotten anyone!

Announcements

Mission in Action

The Mission in Action committee invites you to participate in our donation drive to support the New Life Furniture Bank of MA. The drive is running between **May 11 to June 8**. Donations from the provided list of kitchen needs can be dropped off in the collection bin located outside the Admin Wing door at The Dover Church. See QR code below.

NLFB of MA is a volunteer-led nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that provides new and gently used furniture and household items at no charge to individuals and families transitioning out of homelessness, fire survivors, those escaping domestic violence, military veterans and refugees.



Celebrate TDC's Open and Affirming Covenant

Join us on **June 1st** as we begin Pride Month by celebrating TDC's Open and Affirming Covenant. Most people know we start worship each Sunday by saying "No matter who you are or where you are on your life's journey, you are welcome here," the slogan of the Open and Affirming (ONA) movement. Come to worship to learn more about ONA, what it means, and how TDC came to be an ONA congregation. Feel free to wear bright and colorful clothing in celebration!

Celebration Sunday

Join us for Celebration Sunday on **June 8th**, as we lift up and celebrate the children and youth ministries of the past year and all who make it possible! We'll thank our teachers, youth group volunteers, and Christian Education team, celebrate a Con-

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firmation and honor our graduating seniors in worship. This fun and family-friendly service will be a great way to celebrate our kids and youth — we hope you can come! Children will remain in worship for the service. The Teddy Bear Room will be open.

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!



Dover-Sherborn Interfaith Council **Baccalaureate Service – Class of 2025**

Join us in honoring the graduating class of 2025 on Monday, **June 2nd**, 7:00 PM, at the Church of the Most Precious Blood in Dover. Reception to follow. The program,

sponsored by the Dover-Sherborn Interfaith Council, will include music, readings, student reflections and blessings from local faith leaders, all shared in a spirit of unity and hope.

All graduating seniors and their families are invited to attend. The event is inclusive and open to all.

Up In Smoke Barbeque

The community wide annual "Up In Smoke" BBQ will be held on **Wednesday, June 11th**, from 4:00-7:00 PM, under the back tent at the American Legion. Have burgers and dogs, salads and all the fixings! Cost is \$10 payable at the door. Kids under 10 are free! Entertainment by the Backwards Hats.

RSVP to: contact@coafriends.org

Mah Jongg for Memories – Alzheimer's Fundraiser

Stand up to the darkness of Alzheimer's and register to attend the Mah Jongg Next Generation fundraiser on **Saturday, June 28th, in Kraft Hall**, to raise funds and awareness for the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association. To register (\$36) or make a donation to the Alzheimer's Association use the QR code below. RSVP to mahjonggnextgeneration@gmail.com if you plan to attend. Arrive between 1:00-1:45 PM. Mah Jongg games start promptly at 2:00 PM.



What do you long for? Help Kayla with her July sermon!

Instead of Descartes' "I think, therefore I am," St. Augustine is popularly believed to have said "I desire, therefore I am." We all have longings. Some that we build our lives around, some that we try to ignore. How do these longings fit into our faith? How do they point us towards God? How do they distract us from walking in God's way? Kayla wants to preach on longing as part of a summer preaching series on books that have made an impact on her, in reference to Fr. Ron Rolheiser's 1999 book *The Holy Longing*. Help her out by answering the question "What do you long for?" Maybe it's that your perfect soul mate of a dog would live forever. Maybe it's for one more phone call with your mom. Maybe it's admission to your dream college, to have more time in the day, to secure the next promotion and some real financial security, to feel like

the work you do matters, to be able to better enjoy the moments in front of you. What is that aching longing in your life that seems to persist?

You can answer anonymously through the google form link in the e-News or you can text, email, or tell Kayla your response the next time you get a chance! 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

The Dover Historical Society 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

Breath of Life- C.B. Fisk, Designers & Builders of Pipe Organs

An exhibition on Fisk Organs at the Cape Ann Museum in Gloucester ! On view at the Janet & William Ellery James Center from **April 12 through June 29, 2025**. This special exhibition will explore the intersection of art and music through the work of Gloucester based C. B. Fisk Organ company.

Visit the website for more information.

<https://www.capeannmuseum.org/exhibition/breath-of-life/>

Summer Volunteer Day Opportunity at The Women's Lunch Place

The Mission in Action committee is organizing small teams of volunteers to go to the Women's Lunch Place in Boston on three dates over the summer to help prepare and serve lunch between 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. All 5 slots are now filled for our first volunteer outing on June 13th, but there are still a few openings for **Wed. July 30 and Fri. August 22**.

Please contact Peggy Cross at peggyfcross@gmail.com if you would be interested in volunteering. We hope you can join us and see firsthand the amazing work done by the WLP!

The Women's Lunch Place provides healthy meals, essentials, and one-on-one assistance as a daytime shelter and advocacy center in Boston dedicated to helping women experiencing homelessness, hunger and poverty.

Martha's Vineyard Miniatures by Anne Bell Robb

May 10 - June 22

Portraits of the Vineyard, Preservation Trust Properties

At the Carnegie, 58 North Water Street, Edgartown, MA