



The Dover Church

"A Welcoming Community of Faith and Service since 1762"

May 1, 2025

Volume 16, Issue 5

News from Meeting House Hill

To the gathering of Christ's disciples in Dover:

May the peace of our Lord Jesus fill you with a sense of wonder, blessedness and possibility!

Now that Easter is behind us, the spiritual practice is not to put Easter behind us. The work before us as Christ's disciples is to live Resurrection.

Easier said than done and certainly easy to say but hard to know what any of that means.

So here are some suggestions:

Is there a place in your life where you feel buried, hopeless, without a future, unable to move forward? That is an enormous question, I know. Most of us do everything we possibly can to not notice, minimize, or trivialize the tombs of our lives. It is not a good feeling to acknowledge hopelessness. As Americans, we are supposed to always be buoyant, can-do sorts of people. Nonetheless, these are the places to begin living resurrection. Pick one and try to get up. Make it your hourly prayer: "Lord, raise me up from this tomb." Speak to Kayla or me and we will both pray for you and try to give you a hand. The first step is naming a tomb for what it is. And then, seeing if that stone holding you inside really is immovable or not.

Where do you see hopeless dead ends in the world around you? I know you are thinking, "where do I begin? There are so many." Pick one and go to that place and start putting your hands to rolling the stone away. I can tell you that just getting down on my knees and helping people in desperation has an amazing way of opening my eyes to the power of the Resurrection in the world. Once again, if you don't know where to begin, speak with Kayla and me. Maybe this is something that others in the church would like to lend a hand at.

What has you afraid, even terrified in your life? Fear was the motivating emotion that kept so many of the first disciples from seeing the power of the Resurrection. It was the women who went to the tomb anyways who were the witnesses. You may think I am crazy for even suggesting this, but naming your fear and going towards it is the way into the Resurrection. I am not saying go alone. Perhaps a little research on-line will show you that others share your fear and are organizing.

LOOKING AHEAD

**Church Social, Art Sale,
Cornhole Tournament and Bake
Sale to benefit our Youth Group
Pilgrims**

**Saturday, May 3, 3 – 5 PM
Childcare available
All Are Welcome!**

**Worship at Fox Hill Village
Sunday, May 4, 1 PM**

**Bus from Fox Hill Village
Sunday, May 11**

**Reception of New Members
May 11 at 10:00 AM**

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

**Wonder Wednesdays
Thursday May 7, 11:45 AM – 2:15 PM**

**Family Playgroup
Thursdays, May 8 & 22, 9 AM**

**Women's Spiritual
Friendship Group
Wednesday, May 21, 9:15 AM**

**Men's Spiritual
Friendship Group
Friday, May 16 at 7:00 AM**

**The best way to reach Max is to call
his cell phone, 508-982-0422.**

Kayla: 508-269-8406

See inside calendar for more details.



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admin@thedoverchurch.org • www.thedoverchurch.org

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

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

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



Trying any one of these things will be sure to change your life more than you can imagine. That is my prayer this Eastertide for each of us and all of us.

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

What Do You Long For?

Help Kayla with her 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



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answer anonymously through the [google form linked](#) in the e-News, the QR code included here, or you can text, email, or tell Kayla your response the next time you get a chance! Thank you!

Upcoming Worship Services

We hope you will join us this month for worship on Sundays at 10:00 AM.

If you cannot join us in person, we hope you will join us virtually. Use this link to access the YouTube link, worship bulletin, and music: <https://thedoverchurch.org/worship/online/>.

Welcoming New Members

We will be receiving new members during worship on **Sunday, May 11th** at our 10:00 AM service. Join us to welcome our new members, and celebrate Mother's Day.

Monthly Worship Services at Fox Hill Village

Max, Kayla and Dan will be offering a traditional Protestant worship service at Fox Hill Village on **Sunday, May 4 at 1 PM**. If you live at Fox Hill Village, we hope you will join them. Ask at the front desk for meeting location.

This month, we will have a bus that will bring our Fox Hill Village congregants to The Dover Church on, **Sunday, May 11**. Check with the front desk for departure time. All are invited to stay for Coffee hour after worship.

Helping out on Sunday mornings

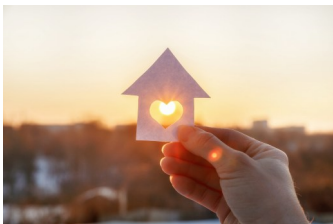
We invite you to volunteer on Sunday mornings! Are you able to usher, serve as liturgist, or be a scripture reader? Would you like to grab a friend and host our coffee hour? If you feel led to serve in any of these areas, please let Martha know or sign up online through the link in the e-News or this QR code to help.



Stewardship Update

Exciting news from the accounting corner of your church! Your prayerful abundance has brought us to a successful conclusion of the 2025 stewardship campaign. We reached our \$417,000 goal thanks to the generosity of 148 different families. Looking collectively at only those families who pledged last year and this year, pledges increased

this year over last year by 1.9%. Looking at just the first-time pledgers, we had 21 new families participate this year who collectively pledged more than \$25,000. Overall, the average pledge was \$2,823 with the range of pledges running from \$50 to over \$10,000. Many grateful thanks from the stewardship committee to all of you. You did it!



From the Board of Deacons

CPR Training at Dover Church: On Our Knees and Being Prepared

We were literally on our knees—being prepared. Six Dover Church Deacons, three staff members, and one church member successfully completed CPR training in April.

One of the first lessons: if someone is in serious distress, it's essential to get them onto the floor before beginning CPR. The training also included a demonstration and update on how to use our two onsite defibrillators—located in the Narthex and Kraft Hall.

Thanks to our terrific instructor, the 90-minute session ended with official certification valid for two years.

In attendance: Glenn Jensen, Dave Mahr, Linda Pettit, David McOsker, Liesl Schultze, Connie Sweeney, Steve Karlson, Martha, Ana, and Nancy.

Faith Formation & Spiritual Growth

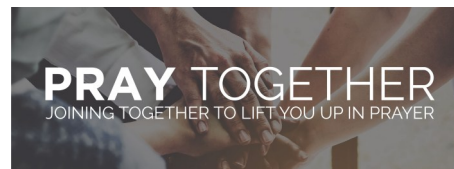
Men's Spiritual Friendship Group **May 16 at 7 AM**

The Men's Spiritual Friendship Group meets one Friday each month at 7:00 AM in Kraft Hall. The men enjoy breakfast together while engaging in meaningful conversation and reflection. Max will send a text with the date and a short reading ahead of time so you can come prepared. The next gathering will be on Friday, May 16. If you'd like to join the group or receive the monthly text, please contact Max at:

Max@thedoverchurch.org.

Women's Spiritual Friendship Group **May 21, 9:15 AM**

Join our Women's Spiritual Friendship Group on May 21st at 9:15 for our spring fellowship celebration! After a busy year - studying the "bad girls" of the Bible and planning a worship service, we will spend this meeting enjoying treats and each other's company. Feel free to bring a breakfast-y dish to add to the potluck, there is always more than enough! Reach out to Kayla or Leslie Decker for more information. All are welcome!



Prayer Chapel **Wednesdays 12:30 PM on Zoom**

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 **Wednesdays 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 on the website public calendar. Please reach out to Max or Kayla if you have any questions.

Youth Programming

Communion Class Wrap Up

On Palm Sunday we celebrated our elementary Communion Class in worship. The class shared the story of the Last Supper with us, before being presented with Bibles and hand-painted stoles. This was the culmination of a 6 week effort on the part



of our 9 second, third, and fourth graders. They spent Lent meeting each Sunday night to learn about the sacrament of communion through storytelling, games, crafts, and cooking. This class in particular brought a level of curiosity and openness that was really extraordinary! A big thank

you to all the families who participated and a huge thank you to Harrison DePaola, who volunteered to help lead every class as part of his National Honor Society community service.

Sunday School News

Sunday School for May 2025

Each Sunday children will remain in worship until the children's message and then head to Sunday School class with their teachers. Childcare is available every Sunday starting at 9:40 AM and is available in our Teddy Bear room during our 10 AM service for 0 through 3-year-olds.

Before each Sunday, register for Sunday School on our website so we are ready to welcome your children:

<https://thedoverchurch.org/children-youth/sunday-school/> or use this QR code:



Looking ahead in May:

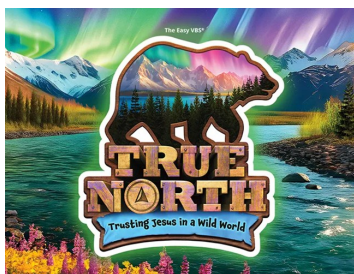
- 4th - Breakfast on the Beach
- 11th - Guaranteed Forever; Happy Mother's Day
- 18th - A New Commandment
- 25th - Peace of Mind and Heart

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!

For grades pre-K through Grade 6. Potty trained younger siblings welcome. If you have any questions, reach out to martha@thedoverchurch.org.



Join Our Team: Volunteers Needed for VBS

August 4 – August 8, 2025

Join us as a volunteer for True North VBS this summer!

Help create an unforgettable experience for kids with your talents in storytelling, snacks, music, or games. Open to adults and youth entering Grade 7+. Volunteers 18+ must complete a CORI/background check. Sign up with the QR code and contact martha@thedoverchurch.org for questions. Let's point kids toward Jesus, their True North! Sign up using the QR code to the right.



Middle School Youth Group

Our next Middle School Youth Group Meeting is May 4th when the group will participate in a service project. More information to follow.

Looking ahead:

May:

- 4: Service Project TBA
- 11: NO MSYG, Mother's Day
- 18: Year-End Celebration
- 25: No MSYG, Memorial Day

June:

- 1: Bowling



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.

May

- 3: Cornhole Tournament (Saturday, 3-5)
- 11: NO HSYG, Mother's Day
- 18: Birthday Boxes for Unhoused Kids
- 25: NO HSYG, Memorial Day

June

- 1: Summer Youth Pilgrimage - Bag Check
- 8: Time Capsule
- 15: NO HSYG, Father's Day
- 22nd-July 5th: Summer Youth Pilgrimage to Taizé (France)

Spring Social: Cornhole, Art & Bake Sale

May 3, 3PM-5PM

Our High School Youth Group is hosting a Spring Social to raise funds in support of their pilgrimage to a monastery in France this summer.

We'll have cornhole on the church lawn, babysitters on the church playground, a bake sale, art sale and silent auction of local art in the church hall. Win prizes and rock out with live music from TBD- the Band! All ages welcome!

All those competing in cornhole must pre-register to be put in the bracket! Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/2025Cornhole> or using the QR code.

For a sneak peek at the art auction & sale items:

Register to play cornhole:



Art auction & sale sneak peek:



Senior Project

Hi everyone! Our names are Annie Loeffler and Katie Paster, and we are doing our Senior Project with The Dover Church. We really wanted to work with The Dover Church as they have had a huge influence on our high school experience.

We are both part of the high school youth group and have also gone on the



MATE service trips for many years. We love to get involved with the community and thought that doing our senior project here would be a great way for us to give back to the church.

We are both planning on majoring in business in college and we have loved helping out with the marketing and event planning here at the church. We want to say a big thanks to everyone who works at the church and has helped show us the ropes and lead us in our Senior Project.

We are so excited to spend the next 6 weeks with The Dover Church!

Thanks!

Annie and Katie

Mission In Action: Serving Others

Walk to End Homelessness

May 4th from 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Family Promise Metrowest – The 15th annual FPM “Walk to End Homelessness” event 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.



Check in at Natick High School starts at 12PM. Enjoy free music, food, massages and family fun activities while we get ready to walk together to end homelessness as a community.

Join members of The Dover Church's walking team by registering online at <https://tinyurl.com/WEH2025>. Or, donate to The Dover Church team at: <https://www.justgiving.com/team/thedoverchurch>.



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 and TDC's Mission in Action committee, will be holding a bike drive in Dover on Sat. May 17th.

Your bike donations may be dropped off either at The Dover Church parking lot or the Dover Transfer Station that day. (Drop-off hours to be posted asap.)

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.

Update on our Guatemalan Refugee Family

Alejandro, Zuly, and children Flor, Victoria and little Josue arrived in Boston in March 2024, and have been supported ever since through their host organization Jewish Family Services in Framingham and our congregation at The Dover Church. Excitingly, the family is now eligible to apply for their Green Cards -- an important milestone in this time of national insecurity around refugee and immigrant status.

The support team at The Dover Church is thrilled to announce that the family has successfully undergone the required Civil Surgeon examinations and will be meeting with an immigration support team on May 1st for the final interview process.



Volunteer Day Opportunity at The Women's Lunch Place

Friday, June 13

This longtime mission partner of The Dover Church 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.

The Dover Church has a small team of volunteers going to the WLP on June 13th to help prepare and serve lunch between 11:00 am - 2:30 pm. There are still two volunteer openings and if you'd like to join us please contact Peggy Cross at peggyfcross@gmail.com.

We hope to schedule two additional volunteer dates. If this date doesn't work for you, please reach out to Peggy to let her know your availability on other dates in June.

Seeking Donation of a Double Toddler Stroller

The Mission in Action committee is hoping to find a gently used double stroller for two toddlers for

our sponsored Guatemalan refugee family.

Mom Zuly has started babysitting for a neighbor's toddler daughter, and this will enable her to take this little girl as well as toddler Josue on neighborhood walks and errands.

Please contact Peggy Cross at peggyfcross@gmail.com if you have a double stroller to donate. Thank you!



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.

Cultural Events

Amelia Peabody: Artist, Philanthropist, and Visionary

Exhibition: April 19th - June 2025

at the Sawin Museum and Fisher Barn, Caryl Farm

Amelia Peabody (1890-1984) may not be widely known, but her impact on arts, education, science, agriculture, and philanthropy in Massachusetts was profound.

This exhibit at the Sawin Museum and Fisher Barn highlights her life as a sculptor, featuring works like the bronze Flight to Egypt, which she donated to the Dover Church. For more information, visit www.doverhistoricalsociety.org.

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

Exhibition: April 12th – June 29th at Cape Ann Museum Green Campus, 13 Poplar Street, Gloucester, MA 01930. This special exhibition will explore the intersection of art and music through the work of Gloucester based C. B. Fisk Organ company.

C.B. Fisk: An Offsite Tour

May 8, 10:30 AM

Tour the 25,000 square foot workshop and meet the team! Cape Ann Museum members only. Registration required:

<https://tinyurl.com/FiskTour2025>.

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
(This calendar receives many updates after publication. The most up-to-date calendar is the electronic one on our website: www.thedoverchurch.org/calendar .)						
				1 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	2	3 3 PM Spring Social, Art & Bake Sale 
4 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual 1:00 PM @ Fox Hill 5 PM MSYG 7:00 PM No HSYG	5	6 6:30 PM Fox Hill Garden Club 7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting	7 11:45 AM Wonder Wednesdays 12:30 PM Prayer Chapel (Zoom)	8 9AM Family Playgroup 9AM NNS Mother's Day Event 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	9 5 PM New Members & Leadership dinner (by invitation)	10
11 Happy Mother's Day 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual 10 AM Bus from Fox Hill 5PM No MSYG 7:00 PM No HSYG	12	13 7:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting	14 12:30 PM Prayer Chapel (Zoom) 7:15 PM BSA Troop 1	15 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	16 7:00 AM Men's Spiritual Friendship Group	17 Spring Bike Drive Drop Off (Time TBA) 
18 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Worship In-Person & Virtual 5PM MSYG 7:00 PM HSYG	19	20 7 PM Church Council Meeting	21 9:15 AM Women's Spiritual Friendship Group 12:30 PM Prayer Chapel (Zoom) 7:15 PM BSA Troop 1	22 9AM Family Playgroup 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	23	24
25 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual 5:00 PM No MSYG 7:00 PM No HSYG	26	27	28 12:30 PM Prayer Chapel (Zoom) 7:15 PM BSA Troop 1	29 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	30	31

Join Our Team: Volunteers Needed for True North Vacation Bible School This Summer!

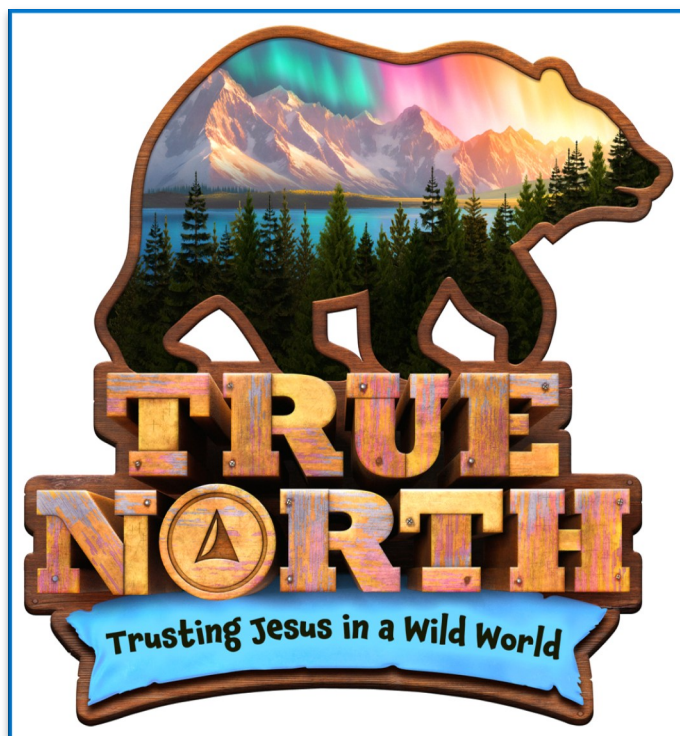
Save the Date: August 4 – August 8, 2025

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. Reach out to martha@thedoverchurch.org with any questions.



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For grades pre-K through Grade 6. Potty trained younger siblings welcome. Register using the QR code. If you have any questions, reach out to martha@thedoverchurch.org.

May Reflection

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul." — Psalm 23:1-3

As spring brings renewal to the earth, may we be reminded of the Shepherd who renews our spirits daily. In stillness, in beauty, and in trust, may we find peace in His care.



Art credit: Nancy Mackay

THE DOVER CHURCH

Facebook: @thedoverchurch.org **Instagram:** @thedoverchurch **YouTube:** @thedoverchurch
