



The Dover Church

"A Welcoming Community of Faith and Service since 1762"

June 1, 2025

Volume 16, Issue 6

News from Meeting House Hill

To Christ's disciples who have been called to be the Church in Dover:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

In less than a month now, Kayla and I will be leading nine teens from our youth group on a pilgrimage to Taizé (pronounced Tai-zay) in France, by way of several days hiking in Chamonix, also in France. This has been a dream of mine as long as I have been at The Dover Church, as it was just about the last thing I did in my last church. Sixteen years ago now, I took fourteen teens from Higganum and Haddam, CT, to Paris and Taizé. When I first mentioned this sort of trip as something I would like to bring to our community, it fell on deaf ears: "The Dover Church youth group is not religious. The senior minister is not involved in the youth group. The youth group always goes on work camp. Everyone has already been to France. Etc."

It is probably happening now because when I mentioned this as an idea to Kayla, she was very enthusiastic. The teens in our youth group love Kayla, so they want to go. And so, we're going. I am happy that there has been a change of heart.

Why Taizé? What's so special about Taizé? Taizé is an ecumenical monastic community in Burgundy that was founded after the Second World War with the intention of bringing young people from different countries together to foster peace and to promote youth discernment about the call of God in their lives. That alone should be enough of an answer.

However, when I arrived (I went first by myself to scout it out and then with the Higganum Congregational Youth Group) and found myself kneeling in a church surrounded by 6,000 young people from all over the world, singing psalms in different languages, listening to the youth Bible studies lead by the monks, watching young people interact and joyfully do the work of the monastery (cleaning, scrubbing, singing in the choir, etc.), participating in my own adult Bible study where we were asked to prayerfully consider questions like "what is God calling you to do with your life? How is God moving in your life? What scares you on your faith journey?" Well... the presence and power of the Holy Spirit was palpable.

LOOKING AHEAD

Celebrating our Open and Affirming Covenant
Sunday, June 1

Dover-Sherborn Interfaith Council
Baccalaureate Service - Class of 2025
Church of the Most Precious Blood,
Dover MA

Monday, June 2, 7:00 PM

Celebration Sunday
Bus from Fox Hill Village
Sunday, June 8

Worship at Fox Hill Village
Sunday, June 15, 1:00 PM

Summer Worship Time Begins
Sunday, June 22, 9:00 AM

Prayer Chapel
Wednesdays 12:30 – 1:00 PM Zoom
Zoom on website calendar

Women's Spiritual
Friendship Group
Wednesday, June 18, 9:15 AM

Youth Group Pilgrimage
June 24 – July 7

Fundraiser for the Longest Day
Alzheimer's Association
Mah Jongg for Memories
Kraft Hall
Saturday, June 28
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.



THE DOVER CHURCH • P.O. Box 305, Dover, MA 02030 • Tel: 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 Edstrom, Associate Pastor • kayla@thedoverchurch.org

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



You may be thinking, “our kids won’t want to go to church three times a day, clean pots after supper, go to Bible study, and talk about God, Jesus and vocation with kids from Moldova for a whole week.” I know that I was apprehensive before I took my old youth group, until I watched them get embraced by the love. “Where’s Joe?” I asked the group. “Oh, he joined the choir.” “Where’s Danny?” “Oh, he’s playing Hacky Sack with some Chinese kids.”

The funny thing that I just realized is that Smartphones as we now know them had not been invented the last time I went. I myself had a flip phone. This time, the willingness to put the Smartphone away will be a great spiritual challenge. Pray for 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 July sermon! Instead of Descartes' "I think, therefore I am," St Augustine is popularly believed to have said "I desire, therefore I am."

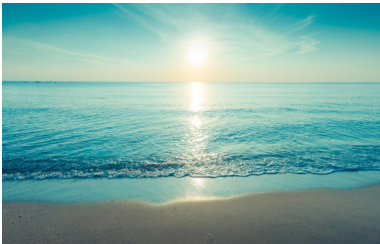
We all have longings. Some that we build our lives around, some that we try to ignore. How do these longings fit into our faith? How do they point us towards God? How do they distract us from walking in God's way?

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 Rol-

heiser'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 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. Please note that beginning June 22, we will switch to our **summer worship time**, with services starting at **9:00 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/>.

Celebrating Our Open and Affirming Covenant
Join us on **June 1** 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)

In this issue:

From The Pastor	p. 1
What Do You Long For?.....	p. 2
Upcoming Worship Service.....	p. 2
Faith Formation & Spiritual Growth	p. 3
Sunday School News.....	p. 3
Youth Group.....	p. 4
Mission in Action	p. 5
Fellowship Opportunities	p. 6
Cultural Events.....	p. 6
Calendar	p. 7

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!



Dover-Sherborn Interfaith Council
Baccalaureate Service – Class of 2025
June 2nd, 7:00 PM

Join us for a special Interfaith Graduation Service honoring the Class of 2025! This community-wide celebration welcomes graduates, families, and friends of all faith traditions to come together in a spirit of unity, gratitude, and hope. Through shared prayers, reflections, and blessings, we'll recognize the accomplishments of our local graduates and send them off with encouragement for the journey ahead. All are welcome – graduates from any school, community members of any (or no) religious affiliation. The evening will include inspirational messages, music, and a time of prayer and reflection. Reception to follow.

Let's unite to honor our graduates and lift them up as a community. We hope you'll join us for this meaningful celebration and time of connection afterward!

Monthly Worship Services at Fox Hill Village

This month, we will have a bus that will bring our Fox Hill Village congregants to The Dover Church on, **Sunday, June 8**. Check with the front desk for departure time. All are invited to stay for Coffee hour after worship.

Max will be offering a traditional Protestant worship service at Fox Hill Village on **Sunday, June 15 at 1:00 PM**. If you live at Fox Hill Village, we hope you will join him. Ask at the front desk for meeting location.

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 Mar-



tha know or sign up online through the link in the e-News or this QR code to help.

**Faith Formation &
Spiritual Growth**

Men's Spiritual Friendship Group

The Men's Spiritual Friendship Group will resume at the end of the summer.

Women's Spiritual Friendship Group
June 18, 9:15 AM

Join our Women's Spiritual Friendship Group on June 18 at 9:15 AM. After a lively year exploring the "bad women" of the Bible, our women's spiritual group will enjoy a more relaxed summer season filled with casual yet spiritually rich conversations. 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 your church family, share joys and sorrows, and be in prayer together. You can find the zoom link on the website public calendar. **Note: Prayer Chapel will not meet on June 25**, as Max and Kayla will be in France with the Youth Group. Please reach out to Max or Kayla if you have any questions.

Sunday School News

Sunday School for June 2025

- 1st - We Are One
- 8th - Celebration Sunday

Sunday School will meet on Sunday, June 1. Please register your children on our website so we are ready to welcome your children:

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



Celebration Sunday

June 8, 10:00 AM

Join us for Celebration Sunday on June 8, 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 Confirmation 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.



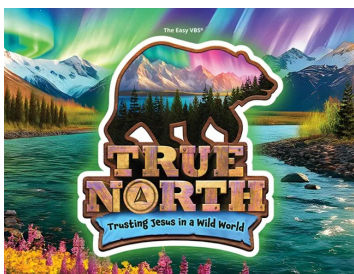
Vacation Bible School (VBS)

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

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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.



Middle School Youth Group

Our last Middle School Youth Group Meeting of the school year is June 1. We will meet up to go bowling!



High School Youth Group Dates

June

- **1:** Youth Pilgrimage - Bag Check & Meeting with Documentary filmmaker!
- **8:** S'mores, keychain making & a photo slideshow. Come celebrate the seniors that are graduating!
- **15: NO HSYG, Father's Day**
- **24 June – July 7:** Summer Youth Pilgrimage to Taizé (France)

Spring Social:

Fun, Fellowship, and Fundraising Success!

On Saturday, May 3, our High School Youth Group hosted a Spring Social to raise funds in support of their pilgrimage to a monastery in France this summer. Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$1,800 for our Youth Pilgrims through art, music, cornhole, and community spirit!



Taizé: A Pilgrimage of Trust

On June 24, our Youth Group will embark on a spiritual journey to the monastery of Taizé in France. This meaningful experience will be part of a new documentary capturing the essence of this sacred pilgrimage rooted in faith, community, and trust.

Watch the teaser using the link or QR code, and consider supporting the film as it brings this powerful journey to life: <https://seedandspark.com/fund/taize-a-pilgrimage-of-trust>



Mission In Action: Serving Others



New Life Furniture Bank

Donation Drive Through June 8

The Mission in Action Committee invites you to support the New Life Furniture Bank of MA by participating in our donation drive, now through

June 8. We are collecting kitchen essentials to help individuals and families transitioning out of homelessness.

Please place your donations in the collection bin located outside the Admin Wing door at The Dover Church. A list of needed items can be found in this week's e-news.

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.



Recycling furniture. Rebuilding lives.

Walk to End Homelessness – Update

Thank you to everyone who walked or supported the annual Family Promise "Walk to End Homelessness" on May 3 in Natick.

The Dover Church team raised \$650, contributing to the overall total of \$96,000 – an incredible 84% of the goal – to help families on their journey toward housing stability.



women's lunch place

Volunteer Day Opportunity at The Women's Lunch Place

Friday, June 13, July 30 and August 22

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, July 30 and August 22 to help prepare and serve lunch between 11:00 am - 2:30 pm. There are still volunteer openings on the last two dates and if you'd like to join us please contact Peggy Cross at peggyfcross@gmail.com.



Fellowship Opportunities

Tea and Check In 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. Watch the eNews for our summer schedule.

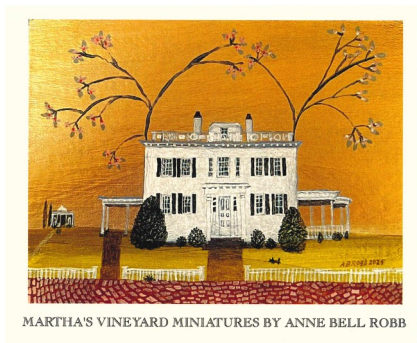
Mah Jongg for Memories – Alzheimer's Fundraiser Saturday, June 28, 2:00 PM

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 mah-jonggnextgeneration@gmail.com if you plan to attend. Arrive between 1:00-1:45 PM. Mah Jongg games start promptly at 2:00 PM.



Cultural Events

Martha's Vineyard Miniatures by Anne Bell Robb Though June 22



In celebration of the Vineyard Preservation Trust's 50th anniversary, artist Anne Robb created a miniature series of iconic landmarks from the Island. These stunning pieces are showcased at The Carnegie this season, offering a unique and intimate perspective on the Vineyard's most cherished sites. Don't miss the chance to experience Anne Robb's detailed artistry

and her tribute to the Island's rich heritage.

At the Carnegie
58 North Water Street
Edgartown, MA

Amelia Peabody: Artist, Philanthropist, and Visionary

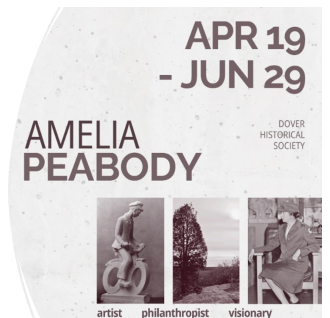
Exhibition: April 19th - June 2025
at the Sawin Museum and Fisher Barn, Caryl Farm

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. The exhibit is open on Wednesdays from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Saturdays from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, and Sundays from noon to 5:00 pm.

For more information, visit

www.doverhistoricalsociety.org.

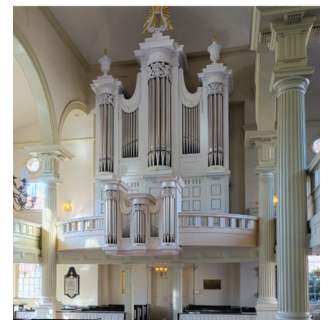


Breath of Life - C.B. Fisk, Designers & Builders of Pipe Organs

April 12th – June 29th

Exhibition 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.



Dover COA – Annual "Up In Smoke" BBQ Wednesday, June 11, 4:00 PM

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

June 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: www.thedoverchurch.org/calendar.)</i></p> <p><u>* SUMMER WORSHIP STARTS JUNE 22 *</u></p>						
1 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual 5:00 PM MSYG Final Meetup 7:00PM HSYG	2 7PM Dover-Sherborn Interfaith Council Baccalaureate Service Class of 2025 at Most Precious Blood Church, Dover MA	3 7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting	4 12:30 PM Prayer Chapel (Zoom) 7:15 PM BSA Troop 1	5 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	6 2:30 PM Girl Scouts Troop # 63303	7
8 CELEBRATION SUNDAY 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual 10 AM Bus from Fox Hill 7:00PM HSYG	9	10 7:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting	11 12:30 PM Prayer Chapel (Zoom) 7:15 PM BSA Troop 1	12 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	13 9:00AM NNS Graduation	14
15 Happy Father's Day 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual 1:00 PM @ Fox Hill 7:00 PM No HSYG	16	17 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	18 9:15 AM Women's Spiritual Friendship Group 12:30 PM Prayer Chapel (Zoom)	19 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	20 World Refugee Day	21
22 SUMMER WORSHIP TIME BEGINS * 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual	23	24 Youth Group Pilgrims leave for Taizé, France! 	25	26 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	27	28 1:00 PM Fundraiser for the Longest Day Alzheimer's Association Mah Jongg for Memories 
29 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual	30					

Join The True North VBS Team!

August 4 – August 8, 2025

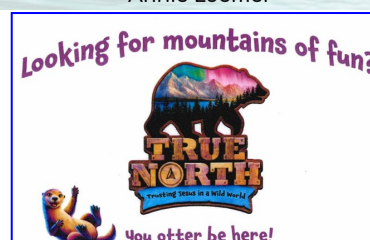
9:00AM – 12:00 PM

We're looking for passionate and dedicated volunteers to help make this summer's True North Vacation Bible School an unforgettable experience for kids!

Whether you love storytelling, music, snacks, games, or simply supporting behind the scenes, there's a place for you on our team.

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

Ready to join the adventure? Scan the QR code to sign up, and contact martha@thedoverchurch.org with any questions.



THE DOVER CHURCH

P.O. Box 305 • Dover, MA 02030 • Tel: 508-785-0957 • Fax: 508-785-0957 • admin@thedoverchurch.org

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

August 4 – August 8, 2025

9:00AM – 12:00 PM

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

* New Friends * Amazing Experiments * Creative Games * Super-Fun Snacks * Surprising Adventures * Incredible Music

Get ready for the summer event that points kids to Jesus, a faithful friend we can always trust in a wild world! Sign up using the QR code:



Please reach out to martha@thedoverchurch.org with any questions.

For grades pre-K through Grade 6. Potty trained younger siblings welcome.

June Reflection

"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." — Colossians 3:14

In this season of celebration, we remember that love is the heart of our covenant — a love that welcomes, affirms, and uplifts every person as God made them. May our community be a reflection of God's inclusive grace, where all are seen, known, and embraced.



THE DOVER CHURCH

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