



The Dover Church

“A Welcoming Community of Faith and Service since 1762”

October 2, 2025

Volume 16, Issue 8

News from Meeting House Hill

To the gathering of Christ’s disciples in Dover:

May the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus, and the joy of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always!

Something BIG happened at The Dover Church at the Church Council meeting on September 16. The Council reviewed the accessibility plans presented by Don Mills of Mills Whittaker Architects (who have done at least a couple of major projects here at The Dover Church) and voted unanimously to call a Special Congregational Meeting for October 26 to present these plans to the congregation for discussion and (just maybe) approval to move forward.

It feels like our church might actually become easily accessible to everyone! Let me back up a bit, as most of you will not have been part of these conversations.

As everyone who has ever come into our old church building knows, we are not a place for those who struggle to get around, whether that be parents with strollers or carrying infants and/or small children (and all the stuff that goes with them), people who are not fully able, or anyone who is even a little unsteady on their feet.

For generations we have avoided doing anything about this because it either did not seem like that big a deal to most of us (because we are here and are, of necessity, able and nimble) or because of the cost.

I confess that our inaccessibility has troubled me all these years as I have watched faithful members “age out” of church. Getting up and down the stairs and walkways and to a bathroom made it just too difficult and embarrassing.

I asked the Council to consider employing Mills Whittaker to do a study, which they did. Over the summer, Don Mills (of Mills Whittaker Architects) and Anna Curtis-Heald (of Crowley Cottrell Landscape Architects) studied our property and buildings and came up with absolutely stunning designs to make our church building accessible.

I plan to share with all of you the renderings and sketches between now and October 26 so that you can all come to that meeting with some idea of what we will be talking about. For the time being,

LOOKING AHEAD

Men’s Spiritual Friendship Group
Friday, October 10, 7 AM
Kraft Hall

Women’s Spiritual Friendship Group
Wednesday, October 15, 9:15 AM

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

Wonder Wednesdays at TDC
Chickering & Pine Hill
Half Days 10/22 & 10/29
11:45 AM – 2:15 PM

HSYG Intergenerational Dinner
October 19, Kraft Hall
6:15 – 7:30 PM

All Saints Sunday
Dixieland Music
October 26th at 10:00 AM
Special Congregational Meeting
at 11:00 AM

CANCELLED EVENT:
Blessing of the Animals
October 4, 4 PM

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

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

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

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the plan is 1) to redo the front entrance of the church with better parking, safer walkways, regular stairs and railings, an inclined ramp on the Taylor Garden side of the front, and a larger landing in front of the doors giving room for wheelchairs; 2) to carve out either 2 or 4 pews to create a place for wheelchairs and strollers in the pews; and 3) to build an accessible bathroom in the Narthex on the parking lot side.

Every generation over the last 75 years has done something big to magnify our ministries and missions here in Dover, whether it was the building of Kraft Hall in the 1950s, or the connecting of Kraft Hall to the office house (where Max’s office and the Library are now), to the sanctuary as an Admin Wing in the 1980s, or the installation of the beloved Fiske organ in the 1990s, to the various major renovations of Kraft Hall in the 1990s and the entire facility in 2012.

Now it may be our time to add to the legacy of welcome and vibrancy people have known here on this hill in downtown Dover. Please mark your calendars for October 26 at 11:00 AM ip for a meeting with Don and Anna to look at what we might do next.

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

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 ac-

cess the YouTube link, worship bulletin, and music: <https://thedoverchurch.org/worship/online/>.

Monthly Services at Living Communities

Worship at Fox Hill Village

Max will lead a traditional Protestant worship service at Fox Hill Village on **Sunday, October 12 at 1:00 PM**. Residents are warmly invited to attend. Please ask at the front desk for the meeting location.

Fox Hill Village Bus to The Dover Church

This month, we’re providing transportation for Fox Hill Village residents to attend worship at The Dover Church on Sunday, October 26. Please check with the front desk for departure time.

Worship at New Pond Village

After a successful first service in September, we’re excited to offer the second worship at New Pond Village on **Sunday, October 19 at 1:00 PM**. If you are a resident, we hope you’ll join us for this special time of worship and fellowship.

All Saints Sunday & Photos

Join us for our All Saints Service on Sunday, October 26th at 10:00 AM, as we gather to remember with thanksgiving our loved ones – both people and pets – who have gone before us into eternity. During the service, we will enjoy uplifting Dixieland music as we honor their memory. If you would like to include a photo of your loved one(s), submit it by October 22nd using the QR code or this secure link:



<https://filerequestpro.com/up/tdc-all-saints-2025>

We’ll create a video loop to display during the candle-lighting portion of the service.

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? Hosting coffee hour involves bringing snacks, setting them up in the hall, serving, and cleaning up. If you feel led to serve in any of these areas, please let Martha know, or sign

In this issue:

From The Pastor	p. 1
Upcoming Worship Services.....	p. 2
Message from Dan & Rachel Reid.....	p. 3
Staff Updates.....	p. 3
Stewardship & 2026 Budget.....	p. 3
Faith Formation & Spiritual Growth	p. 4
Sunday School News.....	p. 5
Youth Group.....	p. 5
Mission in Action	p. 6
Fellowship Opportunities	p. 6
Calendar	p. 7

up online through the link in the e-News or the QR code included here.



Message from Dan & Rachel

A message from Dan & Rachel Reid

We are overjoyed to announce the birth of our daughter, Emryn Liadan Reid. She was born at South Shore Hospital in Weymouth, MA at 9:02am on Saturday, September 20th, weighing 8 pounds, 13 ounces and measuring 21 inches in length. Mom and Dad are doing well, and Baby Emryn is happy and healthy. We look forward to introducing her to The Dover Church community later this year, but here's a teaser for now:



Staff Updates

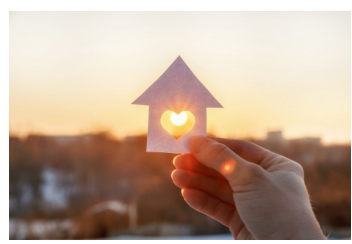
We would like to share that our sexton, Scott Pearson, has resigned from his position due to family obligations. We are grateful for Scott's service and dedication to our church community, and we wish him all the best in the future.

As we begin the search for a new sexton, we welcome any referrals or recommendations. If you know someone who may be a good fit, please reach out to Max at max@thedoverchurch.org.

Stewardship Update

It's not too early to think about what you want the church to be in 2026 and which of God's callings you want to follow. The members of the 2026 Stewardship Committee have been praying over these very

questions for the past few weeks. We are beginning to pull together the 2026 Annual Fund Stewardship materials and are getting more excited every day. 2026 is going to be a monumental year in the life of the church, and we are eager to get started! Keep your eyes and ears open for a Stewardship 2026 kickoff announcement and more updates throughout October.



2026 Budget

With the close of September, the 2025 fiscal year is entering its final quarter. Over the next three months, we will wind down the 2025 budget year and start preparing for the 2026 budget year. Committee Chairs and Heads of Boards soon will be formulating plans for bringing Jesus' teachings into our collective lives here at The Dover Church during the coming year. It is an exciting process that culminates at our annual meeting at the end of January. We will be starting to build our budgets before the end of October; this earlier start will give everyone a little more time to discuss and pray about the desired missions and ministries for 2026. I look forward to the coming collaboration with each of the committees and boards and am always happy to discuss the nuts and bolts of building budgets as well as the visions and plans the budgets are supporting. My email address is nancy@thedoverchurch.org.

News from House and Grounds

Undetected House & Grounds

When I was in facilities school, we were told to do our work stealthily. Yes, undetected, but I never really completely agreed with this philosophy. Certainly, some things must be done during off hours but where is the glory in that? My thinking is that this can work against you. As a matter of fact, some of my facilities manager colleagues would intentionally let things go especially just prior to the budgeting time of the year. Contrary to what you might think weeds do grow in church

gardens, bathrooms, carpets, windows and floors must be cleaned... Church stuff breaks and wears out... You know, just like at home.

I am writing this to thank you because I think we have been much too stealthy. Ok that probably doesn't make much sense, but I'll give you some examples. Last month our 22-year-old Sanctuary furnace was replaced. The expense was voted on and approved during the congregational meeting, but you didn't get to see the old one removed and the new one installed. Last July, same thing. The old Kraft Hall floor was removed, and a new one was installed. The NE sanctuary windowsill and sash were rotting away. It was removed, rebuilt and replaced. 47 feet of the fence at the parsonage was falling down, it was replaced with new. We had a mold problem in the admin and sanctuary basements. Two commercial duty dehumidifiers were installed eliminating the problem.

I can go on but the point is you supported the work of the House and Grounds committee in 2 ways. First through your generous pledging and almost as important your trust in that we of H&G spent church money as wisely and carefully as possible, often times at \$0 cost because of sweat equity.

So, we apologize for not inviting you to the party, but we are very grateful. Our church is safe, works well and looks spiffy because of your support.

Scott Decker
Co-Chair House and Grounds

Faith Formation &
Spiritual Growth

MEN'S SPIRITUAL
FRIENDSHIP
GROUP

Men's Spiritual Friendship Group October 10 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 message with a short reading ahead of time so you can come prepared.

The next gathering will be on Friday, October 10. If you'd like to join the group or receive the monthly text message, please contact Max at: Max@thedoverchurch.org.



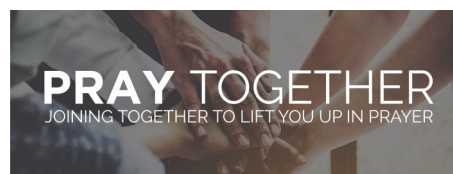
Women's Spiritual Friendship Group October 15, 9:15 AM

Join our Women's Spiritual Friendship Group on Wednesday October 15 at 9:15 AM. Our discussion this year is based on Barbara J Essex's [Bad Boys of the Bible: Exploring Men of Questionable Virtue](#). After discussing Adam in September, in October we will explore Cain: "Am I My Brother's Keeper?". Kayla will share the reading a couple of weeks before the meeting, so you can fully participate without having the book.

Mark your calendars for future meetings:

- **November 19th, 9:15:**
Abraham: "It's My World!"
- **December 17th, 9:15:**
Christmas Celebration & Fellowship!

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 weekly 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. Please reach out to Max or Kayla if you have any questions.



"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." — Matthew 18:20

Sunday School News

Register for Sunday School

If your child will attend Sunday School at any point during the school year, we kindly ask that you take a moment to register them – whether they are new or returning. Registration helps us best care for each child, noting any allergies, special needs, and photo permissions.

You can find the registration form at this link: <https://thedoverchurch.org/children-youth/sunday-school/>.

We're always happy to welcome new participants throughout the year, and our caring teen volunteers look forward to getting to know your children.

Sunday School Dates in October:

- 5th: Jesus and the Children: Drama Storytelling
- 12th: **No Sunday School/Teddy Bear Room open**
- 19th: Jesus and the Children: Science
- 26th: Abraham and Sarah: Art



Volunteer for Sunday School!

Do you love working with kids? Want to grow in your faith, make new friends, and be a part of something meaningful?

We're looking for enthusiastic and caring teens (Grades 8-12) to join our Sunday School team! Whether you'd like to lead a lesson or simply lend a helping hand, there's a place for you here. It's a fun and rewarding way to share God's love with our younger kids – and you'll have support every step of the way.



Whether you'd like to lead a lesson or simply lend a helping hand, there's a place for you here. It's a fun and rewarding way to share God's love with our younger kids – and you'll have support every step of the way.

If you're interested or just curious to learn more, reach out to Martha@thedoverchurch.org. We'd love to have you join us!

Wonder Wednesdays



October 22 & 29

In September, we kicked off *Wonder Wednesdays*, our after-school program for elementary schoolers on their half days!

This session, we're excited to welcome five families who are not part of our church community – what a wonderful way to connect and grow together!

In October, we'll meet on the 22nd and 29th to explore the stories of Moses and David, respectively. For more information, please reach out to Kayla or visit our website!



TDC's Intergenerational Dinner on 10/19

On October 19th, our Youth Group will host an intergenerational dinner to bring together our teens and the elder members of the community. This is always a favorite tradition, where new connections are made and wisdom is shared all over delicious food. All elder members are invited, and just asked to RSVP to Kayla so we can plan for numbers. Our youth groupers will provide the food and drinks.

Dinner will take place from 6:15-7:30 in Kraft Hall. Students are asked to arrive at 5:45 and be ready to stay to help with clean-up after 7:30.



Carpooling can be arranged for those who would appreciate a ride. Hope to see you there!

Kick Off MATE Meeting 10/26

This summer our high school youth group is headed back to Maine to once again spend a week doing renovation projects on the homes of people in need with the organization **Mission at the Eastward (MATE)**.

On Sunday, October 26th from 7-8:30pm, we are kicking off our 2026 Summer Service Trip with our first MATE preparatory meeting! We'll get to know each other, play games, and talk about what to expect in the months ahead. This trip is open to all current 8th through 12th graders, no need to be a member of TDC, and earns students up to 40 hours of community service. To be eligible for all 40 hours of community service, students must attend at least 5 preparatory events - be they meetings, group fundraising events, or individual or small group time helping Kayla & Max with trip-related tasks.

More information, registration for the trip, and the MATE 2025-2026 schedule can be found on our website. Spread the word!

CityReach Collection with the Youth Group

Students in our senior high youth group will be attending CityReach with common cathedral November 21st & 22nd where they will spend 24 hours learning about homelessness from those who have experienced it firsthand.

We are collecting the following items to distribute while downtown:

- All kinds of gently used carrying cases such as backpacks, tote bags, fanny packs, small suitcases with wheels.
- Travel-size toiletries (nothing containing alcohol).
- New white socks.
- New underwear for both men and women, and bras (of all sizes, including S, M).
- Gently used and clean sleeping bags & blankets.
- Gently used and clean sweat shirts, sweat pants, outerwear (especially hooded sweatshirts).
- Monetary donations to be used to purchase clothing.

Folks sleeping outside are looking for loose, sturdy, and warm clothing and tend to prefer larger sizes for layering and comfort - think L-XXXL. Please keep this in mind when donating. We do not need any dress clothes, tightly fitted clothing, children's clothing, etc.

Donations can be dropped off in the church office or left in the collection bin outside of the Office Wing door. Thank you for supporting our teens and Boston's unhoused population in this effort!

Mission In Action: Serving Others

Diaper Drive for A Place to Turn

The Mission in Action committee is once again collecting disposable diapers of all sizes and baby wipes through **October 19** to support A Place to Turn's Diaper Project.

APTT provides Metrowest families in financial distress with up to one week of diapers every 30 days to keep their babies and toddlers clean, dry, and healthy.

Donations may be dropped off at the collection bin placed at the church's admin wing door. Most requested diaper sizes are for sizes 4, 5, and 6. (Note: Partially used boxes of new diapers are fine to donate!)

Fellowship Opportunities

Tea and Check In

Thursdays at 3:00 PM

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. It is always a heartwarming time. We meet for about an hour in the church library. Join us!

Men's Breakfast Group

The Men's Breakfast Group will meet on Friday, **October 17 at 7:30 AM** at Steve Karlson's home for breakfast. For more information, please contact Glenn Jensen at glenn.jensen@nerc.com.

Blood Drive Update

September 27 was a beautiful day for The Dover Church to be hosting a blood drive. Many individuals from Dover and surrounding towns donated blood with several people donating for the first time. Blood donations are typed and then tested for multiple infectious diseases. Once the testing is complete, it will be broken down into its component parts (red cells, platelets, plasma). Each component will be given to a patient in need. A single blood donation can help save 3 different people.

Glenn Jensen wanted to thank again all the members who volunteered an hour or two of their time to sign people in or provided beverages & snacks after donating. We will look again to host another blood drive in the future.

October 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>* WORSHIP STARTS AT 10 AM *</u></p>						
			1 12:30 PM Prayer Chapel (Zoom) 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	2 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	3	4
5 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual 5:00 PM MSYG 7:00PM HSYG	6	7 7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting	8 12:30 PM Prayer Chapel (Zoom) 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	9 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	10 7 AM Men's Spiritual Friendship Group	11
12 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual 1:00 PM @Fox Hill 7:00 PM High School Youth Group	13 Indigenous Peoples' Day	14	15 9:15 AM Women's Spiritual Friendship Group 12:30 PM Prayer Chapel (Zoom) 7:15 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting	16 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	17 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast Group	18
19 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual 1:00 PM @New Pond Village 6:15 PM Intergenerational Dinner	20	21 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	22 11:45 AM Wonder Wednesdays 12:30 PM Prayer Chapel (Zoom) 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	23 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	24 2:30 PM Girl Scouts #77223	25 7-9:30 PM LOCAL MUSIC WITH A LOCAL MISSION Benefiting:
26 ALL SAINTS 9:00 AM Choir 10:00 AM Worship with Fox Hill Guests In-Person & Virtual 11:00 AM Congregation Meeting on Accessibility 5:00 PM MSYG 7:00PM HSYG— MATE	27	28	29 11:45 AM Wonder Wednesdays 12:30 PM Prayer Chapel (Zoom) 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	30 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	31	

Blood Drive Success - Thank You!

Thanks to **Glenn Jensen** and our amazing volunteers, our recent blood drive was a great success!

We collected **22 units**, with **26 donors** participating – including **8 first-time donors**. The **Red Cross team** was grateful and hopes to return in the future. Thank you for supporting this life-saving effort!



You're Invited

LOCAL MUSIC WITH A LOCAL MISSION

Join us for an uplifting evening of live music on **Saturday, October 25, from 7:00 to 9:30 PM** right here at the church!

Local Music with a Local Mission will feature talented local musicians coming together to support a great cause. Admission is free, and donations at the door will go to benefit **A Place To Turn** food pantry. Come enjoy great music, good company, and help make a difference in our community!



Performers: Jameson Smith, Glenn Shambroom, Jamie Walker, David Weden, Laurie Young, and Dave Yuknat.

THE DOVER CHURCH

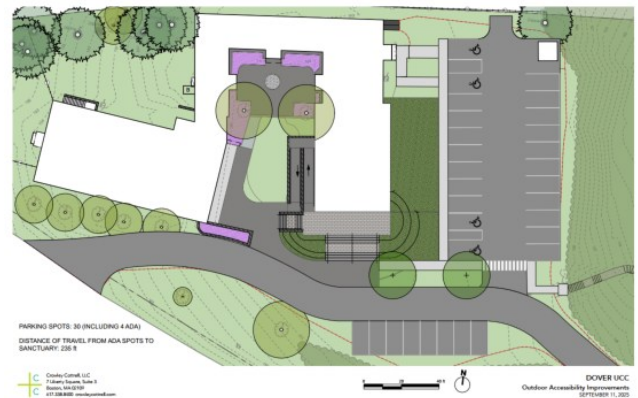
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SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, October 26

Please join us on Sunday, October 26 at 11 AM, immediately following worship, for a special congregational meeting on **Accessibility**.

We'll gather to present and answer any questions from the congregation regarding the designs drafted by **Don Mills (of Mills Whittaker Architects)** and **Anna Curtis-Heald (of Crowley Cottrell Landscape Architects)** to make our church building more accessible. Before then, watch out for information on the designs in our e-News.



THE DOVER CHURCH

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