

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 19, 2026 - 10:00 AM
Third Sunday of Easter

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

We come looking for Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified and was buried.

Tell us - is he here? Have you seen him?

We come as travelers on a long road.

Tell us - can we make the journey together?

We come despite our fears that keep us in and others out.

Tell us - do you know how to bring down our walls and find true peace?

We come full of questions and doubt.

Don't tell us! We don't need easy answers, but the freedom to dwell in unanswered questions.

We come yearning to make sense of pain and grief.

Tell us -- why did Christ suffer alongside us?

We come having made mistakes and hurt the ones we love.

Tell us - how can we see, touch, and taste the truth of God's grace?

We come in search of the risen Christ.

Tell us - is he here? Have you seen him?

GATHERING SONG

Christ Beside Me**428**

A TIME FOR REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

by St. Teresa of Avila, Adapted

**Christ has no body now but ours,
 No hands, no feet on earth but ours,
 Ours are the eyes with which he looks with compassion on this world,
 Ours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
 Ours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
 Ours are the hands, ours are the feet,
 Ours are the eyes, we are his body.
 Christ has no body now but ours,
 No hands, no feet on earth but ours,
 Ours are the eyes with which he looks with
 compassion on this world.
 Christ has no body now on earth but ours.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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**

EXCHANGING SIGNS OF PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

HYMN

Let There Be Peace on Earth**512**

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: 19-23

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

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

OFFERING OURSELVES TO THE SPIRIT & THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

This Joyful Eastertide

arr. Charles Wood

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

In Christ There Is No East or West

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COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN IN HONOR OF
JANE MOORE
TO CELEBRATE HER BIRTHDAY
BY HER FRIEND BETTY

LAY LEADERS IN TODAY'S SERVICE
DEACON ON DUTY: Dottie Rother
USHERS: Kevin Hedrick
SCRIPTURE READER: Peggy Cross

*Please join us for fellowship and refreshment in Kraft Hall
following this morning's worship service.*

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*the Rev. Noah Brewer-Wallin, Bridge Pastor
the Rev. Dr. C. Maxwell Olmstead, Senior Pastor
the Rev. Kayla Edstrom, Associate Pastor
Ana Sanchez, Director of Congregational Life
Martha DePaola, Director of Christian Education
Daniel Reid, Music Director*

Birthdays and Anniversaries

We wish Happy Birthday to the following people: **Mark Bedard, Steve Karlson, Harper Pazdan, Peggy Cross, Alison Malm and Linda Means.**

Birthday wishes are for April 19, 2026 to April 25, 2026. Please let us know if we have forgotten anyone!

Announcements

Calling All Tech-Savvy Students: Join Our Livestream Team!

Our amazing livestreamer, Sebastian, is graduating from high school this June, and we want to celebrate him. Over the past couple of years, he has been a steady, dependable presence. Calm under pressure and a great teammate when things didn't go as planned.

Last year, we began preparing for this transition by welcoming Ethan to the team. Since then, Ethan has stepped up, covering the livestream many times since last fall and putting in the work to get ready. With Sebastian's guidance and Ethan's dedication, Ethan is now ready to take the lead.

We're now looking for one more student to join the livestream team to support Ethan and help run the stream from time to time. This is a paid, hourly position, ideal for high school students who are typically available on Sunday mornings.

No experience is required, just comfort with computers, attention to detail, and a willingness to learn. We use

OBS and YouTube, and we'll train you.

Interested or know someone who might be? Contact Ana at the church office for more information: 508-785-0957 or ana@thedoverchurch.org.

Family Promise Walk to End Homelessness - May 3rd

Come be part of a wonderful community event to raise awareness and funds for the work Family Promise does to support families facing housing insecurity.

In partnership with the Mission in Action Committee, the HSYG and our Confirmation students are teaming up as the *Dover Strollers* for the Family Promise 2026 Walk to End Homelessness on May 3rd at Natick High School!

Check-in & activities begin at 12:00 PM, and walkers will set out at 1:30pm for the 2.3-mile community walk. Registration fees are \$20 for students/youth and \$35 for individuals.

To register as a walker with the *Dover Strollers* or to support our walkers with a donation, please use the QR code



Dedicate Sunday Flowers

Each Sunday, a beautiful flower arrangement graces our altar, lovingly made and dedicated in honor or memory of someone special. It's a meaningful way to celebrate a loved one while adding to the beauty of our worship.

We have several openings for dedications between now and the end of June. If you would like to make a dedication, please chat with Betty during coffee hour.

Pastoral Care

While Max and Kayla are on leave, please contact Rev. Noah for any pastoral care needs. You can reach him at 503-989-9626.

Do You Have a Contact at WGBH?

As you know, our youth group's recent pilgrimage to Taizé was filmed by a documentary filmmaker who beautifully captured their experience of prayer, community, and reflection.

The filmmaker is now hoping to share the film with a wider audience and is exploring the possibility of airing it on WGBH in Boston. If you happen to have a contact at WGBH, or know someone who might, we would be grateful for your help. Even a simple introduction could make a difference in helping bring this story to the public.

Please reach out to the church office if you can assist. Thank you for your continued support of our youth and their journey!

Meal Train for Max and Family

Additional dates have been added to the meal train calendar. Sign up using the QR code.



Prayer Chapel

Please note: prayer chapel will be on hold until further notice. We will announce the return of Prayer Chapel in the e-News.

Tea and Check-In

We meet in the church library on **Thursdays, at 2:30 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. Hope to see you there!

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.

Parking

For the safety and comfort of those with mobility challenges, please reserve upper-lot parking for those who need it. Those without mobility concerns are en-

couraged to use the lower lot, particularly during winter months. Thank you.
Thank you.

Clean your Car for a Cause and support Family Promise!

We're excited to share a fun (and easy!) way to support Family Promise Metrowest. ScrubaDub is partnering with FPM through their "ScrubuDub Fundraising Program" and when you purchase a car wash through the link (QR code), a portion of every wash goes directly to programs supporting families facing housing instability. Fundraiser ends **May 2**.



Nametag Refresh

Our nametags have a fresh new look! They are now two-sided. We also have pronoun stickers available for anyone who would like to add them to their nametag. If you're interested, feel free to include yours!

If you need a nametag or a replacement nametag, or would like a pronoun sticker, please let one of our deacons or ushers know.

Sunday School

We ask that you please register your children for Sunday School if you plan to attend any classes during the Sunday School year. Registration can be found on the church website or in the eNews.

Coro Allegro

Coro Allegro presents Luminous Rescue: Psalms of Protest and Reconciliation on **May 17**, 3 PM at Church of the Covenant, Boston.

Featuring Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, Charles Ives's Psalm 90, and Psalms of Luminous Rescue by Patricia Van Ness, with guest artists from the Back Bay Ringers and the presentation of the Pinkham Award to BGMC Artistic Director Reuben Reynolds. \$5 off with code 6726. Use QR code for tickets:

