

# The Dover Church

A WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND SERVICE SINCE 1762



AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION  
IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, May 3, 2026 - 10:00 AM  
Fifth 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.

#### OPENING PRAYER

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

This is a special place. In this special place, everyone is welcome.

**Praise God!**

In this special place, babies can cry and kids can wiggle and grown ups can too

**Praise God!**

In this special place, we get to hear ancient stories and ask big questions.

**Praise God!**

In this special place, we get to sing together and be quiet together.

**Praise God!**

In this special place, we are loved so, so much. In this special place, we can love other people so, so much.

**Praise God!**

#### GATHERING SONG

**This Is the Day**

## A TIME FOR REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

Dear God, sometimes we hurt other people and we didn't mean it. But it's hard to say sorry. Will you help us? Will you help us say sorry even though it's hard? Will you help us to say sorry and really mean it? Will you help us to say sorry and to do better next time?

And God? Sometimes we hurt other people and we kind of did mean it. We felt hurt and we wanted to hurt them back. Will you help us to tell people when we are feeling sad or mad? Will you help us to notice when other people are hurting so that we don't hurt them more? Will you help us to say sorry and really mean it?

Being a kind and loving person is hard. So will you help us to feel loved even when we mess up? Will you keep reminding us that you love us no matter what? Thank you. Amen.

## 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

**As We Gather At Your Table**

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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 21:1-19

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**

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OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

OFFERING OURSELVES TO THE SPIRIT & THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

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



## 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."

## COMMUNION MUSIC

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Thank you, God! Thank you for Jesus, who showed us how to love each other better. Thank you for this feast, which teaches us that no one should go hungry. Thank you for this earth and all the people who grow our food. Thank you for the miracle of Communion that we do not always understand but that helps us feel close to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## HYMN OF PARTING

Christ Beside Me

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## COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

THE FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED WITH LOVING JOY TO  
**OLIVIA AND WILLIAM CROSS**  
GRANDCHILDREN OF PEGGY CROSS

**LAY LEADERS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**  
DEACON ON DUTY: Mitsy Lopez-Baranello  
USHERS: David Mahr & Beth Benjamin  
SCRIPTURE READER: Beth Benjamin  
FELLOWSHIP: Nancy Simms

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

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## Birthdays and Anniversaries

We wish Happy Birthday to the following people: Catherine Miles, Vivian Bedard, Monica Smith, Dorsey Cabot, Judy Davis, Allie Hefter, Jerry Arnold, Keith Barnett, and Caroline Williams.

Happy Anniversary to Newton & Kathy Thompson and Steve & Beth Karlson.

Birthday and Anniversary wishes are for May 3, 2026 to May 9, 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 de-

tail, 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

Support the Mission in Action Committee as they step out as the *Dover Strollers* for the Family Promise 2026 Walk to End Homelessness on May 3rd.

This walk raises awareness and critical funds to support families experiencing housing insecurity. Family Promise works to provide shelter, resources, and hope to those in need, helping families move toward sustainable independence.

We invite you to stand with our walkers by supporting their efforts through prayer and, if you are able, a financial donation. Every contribution helps make a difference in the lives of vulnerable families in our community.

To support the Dover Strollers with a donation, please use the QR code.



Thank you for helping us put our faith into action.

### **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!

### **Women's Spiritual Friendship**

Our Women's Spiritual Friendship group will gather on **May 20 at 9:15 AM**, and you're warmly invited!

Join us for a morning of painting with Toni, our talented in-house artist. It's a wonderful chance to relax, laugh, and spend meaningful time together.

Whether you've painted many times before or have never picked up a

brush, this is for you! No experience needed! You might even discover skills you didn't know you had. Hope to see you!

### **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 encouraged 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 4.**

**Accessibility Project Capital Campaign**

Our work to create a fully welcoming and accessible sanctuary is underway.

Did you receive an email this week with an update on our fundraising progress? If not, please let us know and we'd be happy to share it with you.

Thanks to your generosity, we are making great progress and are counting on a strong final push to help us cross the finish line in early May!

**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.

**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:

