

The Dover Church

A WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND SERVICE SINCE 1762



AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, July 12, 2026 - 10:00 AM
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

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 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Exodus 15:11

Leader: Who among the gods is like you, Lord?

People: Who is like you - majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?

GATHERING SONG

This is My Father's World

60

A TIME FOR REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

Psalm 139

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
 you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down
 and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
 O Lord, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
 and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
 it is so high that I cannot attain it.
Where can I go from your spirit?
 Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
 if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
 and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
 and your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
 and night wraps itself around me,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
 the night is as bright as the day,
 or darkness is as light to you.
For it was you who formed my inward parts;
 you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
 that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.
Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any hurtful way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

TIME FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION IN SILENCE

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

What a Covenant

S 44

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

Matthew 13: 1-16

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 "Understanding the Parable of the Sower and the Seeds "

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

OFFERING OURSELVES TO THE SPIRIT & THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

DOXOLOGY

We Give Thee But Thine Own**S48**

**We give Thee but Thine own,
 What-e'er the gift may be:
 All that we have is Thine a-lone,
 A trust, O Lord, from Thee. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.**

HYMN OF PARTING

I Cannot Dance, O Love**75**

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

LAY LEADERS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

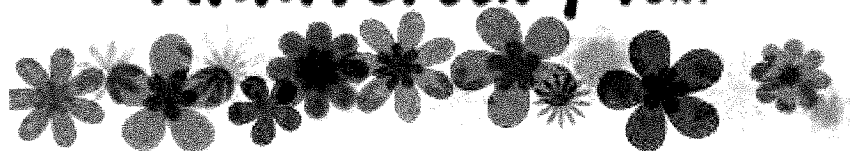
DEACON ON DUTY: David Mahr

USHER: Peggy Cross

SCRIPTURE READER: Dottie Rother

FELLOWSHIP: Board of Deacons

Happy Birthday and Anniversary to...



Birthday and Anniversary Wishes for July 12, 2026 to July 18, 2026

We wish Happy Birthday to the following people: **Jack Lynch, Mary Newport, Paul Baranello, Steve DePaola, Steve White and Walter Bedard.**

Happy anniversary to: **Henry & Tara Spalding and Mike & Elizabeth Lynch.**

Please let us know if we have forgotten anyone!