



The Dover Church

"A Welcoming Community of Faith and Service since 1762"

News from Meeting House Hill

To the church of Christ's disciples in Dover:

May the steadfast love and mercy of our God and the grace of our Lord Jesus be with all of you!

I'm back! Well, sort of.

After a very long sick leave for my cancer, I have been easing myself back into work. The thing I have learned about cancer is that uncertainty is the only certainty. While my cancer has persisted (more on that elsewhere), the side effects from my chemotherapy, radiation and now immunotherapy, have been diverse, unpredictable and often physically debilitating in ways I could never have imagined without living through it. Which is why I said "Well, sort of," because I am still undergoing rigorous treatment, so uncertainty about my body's response is my one certainty.

But back to "being back." Let me begin by saying that I missed all of you! I missed you and I thank God for all of you who are the fabric of my life.

I also thank God for your love. The outpouring of your love upon me and my family during this most challenging time literally sustained us and enabled us to make it through, not just in one piece, but basking in affection.

To be honest, it took me a little by surprise, as we tend to be a bit more formal and task oriented in the settings where I spend most of my time with most of you: Sunday worship, coffee hour, and committee meetings...and suddenly the floodgates opened. Lesson learned by one of your pastors: we need to find better ways to tangibly show love for one another.

Which brings me to the main point I want to make in this part of my letter. I know that God has more for me to do here with all of you and the folks yet to come here at The Dover Church. What so many of you did and continue to do in showing your love to me and my family is exactly what I would wish for everyone to receive when life gets tough. I know that some of you come to church on Sunday morning for worship and want to duck out without going to coffee hour. I know some of you participate from home. I know some of you are introverts. I know some of you really don't want church to take up too much time. I know most of you want to keep your business to

August-September, 2026

Volume 17, Issue 4

LOOKING AHEAD

Men's Spiritual Friendship
Friday, September 11 at 7 AM

Welcome Back Sunday
Sunday, September 13, 10 AM

Service at Fox Hill Village
Sunday, September 13, 1 PM

Women's Spiritual Friendship
Wednesday, September 13
9:15 AM

Service at New Pond Village
Sunday, September 20, 1 PM

**Senior High Youth Group
College Care Packages**
Sunday, September 20, 7 PM

**A Place to Turn
Ride & Stride for Food**
Saturday, September 27

Wonder Wednesday
Wednesday, September 30
11:45 AM

**The best way to reach Max is to
call his cell phone:
508-982-0422.
Kayla: 508-269-8406**



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

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yourselves, especially the stuff that is unhappy or unpleasant... many of us are Yankees after all, where good fences make good neighbors and all of that. BUT, most of all, I now know what it feels like to be in the valley of the shadow of death and to be carried forward by my church family. In short, I want that to be our church culture. I want to somehow move us to a culture of caring where anyone and everyone in our church is surrounded and cared for the way I have been these last 9-10 months. The cards and letters, the flowers, the meals, the rides, the knowing that people out there care and none of us are alone.

Now I know that some of you will flinch at this idea. "You mean everyone will know that I am going through cancer, trauma, depression, grief, bankruptcy, addiction, divorce... (name your worst nightmare). I can't think of anything I would hate more than that!" Fair enough. I am a Swedish Yankee who was raised to keep my stuff on the inside, keep a stiff upper lip and carry on. Now, however, I know that what I have been through with all of you is a unique ministry that only the church is positioned to truly offer to our folk. And in case you are still flinching, it wasn't like folks wanted to ask me 20 questions about my cancer. Some of you dropped a warm meal on our front porch, or put a card in the mail, and never saw me at all. Others drove me and waited while I got chemo or radiation, but even those folks who were more all-in let me be in peace. Every "touch," however, no matter how seemingly small, was a touch of the hand of God to me.

Believe me. Having lived through what I have lived through, it made all the difference of what the last 9-10 months have lived like. I don't

know how we get to the place where all of you feel comfortable letting us know when something hard is happening in your life and then actually accept the love, but I believe we will, as one after another of you feel the love I have felt and let your closer church friends know, "just let Max, Kayla and the staff know. I'm telling you. You don't need to go through this alone."

Like I said, "I'm back" ...and can't wait to see you.

In faith, hope and love,
Max
By the grace of our Lord
(One of) your pastor(s)



My Health and Ministry at the Church

As you certainly know by now, unless you just skipped directly here, I have been out on medical leave since January, being treated for a Stage 3 cancer at the base of my tongue and in an adjoining lymph node. Cancer treatment was basically a full-time job December-March. In June, we found that the treatment had not succeeded and my cancer persisted aggressively. I began a new course of immunotherapy and chemotherapy, the side effects of which have been physically daunting. Having said that, I am learning to manage those side effects so that I have a quality of life, which includes being one of your pastors. Nonetheless, some days, maybe even some weeks, will be too tough to work. The Church Council has decided to bring in another Bridge Pastor to help me, Kayla, the staff, and all our volunteers continue to lead and prosper the many vibrant ministries and missions of our church. So, once we have found the right person, there will be three pastors who can flex and share responsibilities in case I am under the weather for a day or so, with the intention being that everything all of us love about our church will not just pause, but we will step forward vigorously so that more people can become involved in our faith and fellowship.

"But are you going to die?" I can hear you wondering. I have no plans to anytime soon. I am confident that if this current regimen of treatment is unsuccessful, I will try something else. I have moved to a plant-based diet, believing that the curative possibilities of that, prayer, and being surrounded by love go a long way to augment any-

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thing and everything the doctors are doing.

In an earlier part of this newsletter, I said that the uncertainty of cancer is the only certainty. There is another big factor: FEAR. From the moment you hear the words "you have cancer," to the many times people start citing statistics and probabilities of mortality or survival, to the moment you discover that you are not in the 80-90% who are cured by this course of treatment, to the days, weeks and months of real physical and emotional trial which is surviving chemo and radiation, fear can be your constant companion. It is so very easy to be overwhelmed by fear. I choose not to be, but to live in faith, trusting that God has more for me to do this side of eternity, and to live as fully as I am able as long as I am alive.

I don't want to use all my sermon material in this newsletter, so that's enough of that!
Max



Couldn't be more Proud of You

When I came back to work and saw the progress you had made on the accessibility renovations in my and Kayla's absence, I could not have been happier. Not that you had pulled off something that I was very much in favor of, although that is part of it. But, rather, that you did it. You raised the money. You won a big grant. You listened to competing points of view and came to consensus. You finished the details. You broke ground. You didn't get bogged down. And now, it is really starting to come together. It is a testament to the many of you who have truly put their shoulders to the wheel and moved this along. It may, I pray, also be a turning point in our church's DNA, where the learnings of this experience translate into a more vibrant congregational involvement. Needless to say, you have made me so very happy.

Max



Beloved Friends Moving On

As all of you know, people come to our church and people go. Some move. Some enter a new life phase where church is not the center that it was before. All go on to glory eventually.

When people leave, they leave a hole, espe-

cially if their presence was radiant. As many of you will know, I like to say goodbye in church service to people departing so we can lift up the radiance and send them forth with our living blessing. However, as I have been away much of this past year, I wasn't here to do that for five families who are moving away. I wanted to let you all know so when you come to church and look for them and wonder where they are, you will know.

- Lana and Ben Beal are moving to Pittsburgh.
- CynDee and Doug Novitch are selling their home and moving to the Cape.
- John and Jody Shue have moved to Cambridge.
- Kelly and Ben Taylor have moved to North Carolina.
- Lawrence Tsen and his family have moved to Boston.

When I think of all of these people, their kids, many of whom are now grown, and the years of life shared, I can only thank God for having had the opportunity to be here at The Dover Church when they were here.

God's blessings to all of you on your new paths and may memories of our life together always bring a smile to your face.

Max



We invite you to join our church family each day at 12:00 noon for one minute of prayer for Max. Whether you're at home, at work, at school, or wherever you may be, know that many others are pausing to pray alongside you.

If noon isn't possible, we encourage you to take a moment to pray whenever you are able. Though we may be in different places, we are united in faith, trusting that God hears every prayer offered with love and hope.

The Wednesday eNews will feature our weekly prayer focus as we pray for Max, and remember everyone in our congregation and community who is facing illness, grief, or difficult circumstances.

Thank you for joining our church family in

this shared rhythm of prayer. May God use these moments to bring strength, comfort, peace, and hope to Max, his loved ones, and our entire church family.

From the Deacons

A day, a week, a month in the life of The Dover Church has been amazing the past six or seven months. Early in the year we were introduced to Noah Brewer-Wallin, our delightful bridge minister, while our Pastor Max moved forward with his cancer treatments. Fat Sunday Pancake Breakfast, LGBTQ coffee hour panel, Mini-Parish mailings and visits, Habitat for Humanity in Easton, Accessibility/Capital Campaign, Church Growth and Safety discussions, Confirmation Sunday and New Members service filled the calendar. Early summer marked the "clean out the sanctuary" and move services to Kraft Hall mission. Thanks to our staff, youth and other volunteers, this has been a comfortable interim success. However, it will be an exciting day when we have our first Sunday service in our easily accessible Dover Church.

Upcoming Worship Services

We hope you will join us 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 access the YouTube link, worship bulletin, and music: <https://thedoverchurch.org/worship/online/>.



Welcome Back Sunday

We can't wait to welcome you back! Join us on **Sunday, September 13**, as we celebrate the beginning of a new program year together.

It's a special day as Sunday School begins, and our Teddy Bear Room officially opens for our youngest worshippers. Whether you're returning after the summer or joining us for the first time, there's a place for you here.

Come reconnect, meet new friends, and start

the year with joy, laughter, and community. We're so glad to have you with us!

Monthly Services at Living Communities

Worship Service at Fox Hill Village

We will offer a traditional Protestant service on Sunday, **September 13, at 1:00 PM**. Residents are warmly invited to gather for a meaningful time of prayer, scripture and music. We look forward to worshipping together!

Fox Hill Village Bus to The Dover Church

The bus for Fox Hill Village residents to attend worship at The Dover Church will be on **September 20**. Please check with the Fox Hill Village front desk for the departure time. Following the service, everyone is warmly invited to stay for our Coffee Hour, an opportunity for fellowship, conversation, and refreshments. We would love to welcome you!

Worship Service at New Pond Village

We are delighted to continue our monthly worship services at New Pond Village! As we begin our fall schedule, we invite residents to join us for a traditional Protestant worship service on Sunday, **September 20, at 1:00 PM**.

Come and share in this special time of prayer, scripture, music, and fellowship. We look forward to gathering together in worship and warmly welcome all residents.

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



Sunday Volunteers



Accessibility Project Update

Construction on our Accessibility Project continues to make steady progress, and we are excited to see important milestones taking shape. At this time, the project is expected to be completed in mid-October.

Inside the Church

Work is well underway on the new accessible restroom, wheelchair lift, and accessible seating areas. Plumbing, electrical, framing, and flooring have all made significant progress. As of August 7, modifications to the pews have been completed to accommodate the new accessible seating, and painting is scheduled for the week of August 10.



Outside the Church

Improvements to the parking lot, walkways, landscaping, and stone walls are also moving forward. The base asphalt has been installed, rough grading for the new walkways and stairs is complete, and construction of the stone walls is underway.

As with any construction project, the timeline depends on several factors, including the availability of materials, manufacturing and shipping schedules, weather, inspections, and additional work that may be identified as construction progresses.

At this time, construction outside the church is expected to be completed mid to late September, with the exception of the lower parking lot steps described below. Landscaping is expected to be finished by mid October.

As noted in the House & Grounds update elsewhere in this newsletter, the House & Grounds Committee was also able to secure accessibility funds to improve the steps to the lower parking lot. The stone blocks removed from the front of the church will be repurposed to replace the weather-beaten stones in the steps to the lower lot. This work is expected to begin on or around September 23 and take approximately one month to complete.

Throughout the project, Sunday worship has remained a priority. The parking lot continues to be available during worship services, with parking near Kraft Hall reserved for those with mobility limitations. We appreciate everyone's patience,

flexibility, and understanding as construction continues.

We are grateful to our volunteers, staff, contractors, and congregation for their ongoing support as we work together to make our church more welcoming and accessible for all.

Weekly construction photos and project updates continue to be shared through our e-News so everyone can follow the exciting progress. You can view the [project photo album](#), or scan the QR code with your phone.



Faith Formation & Spiritual Growth

Men's Spiritual Friendship Group **September 11 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.

The group resumes this September, with our first gathering on **Friday, September 11**. Before each meeting, Max will send a brief reading and a text reminder so you can come prepared for the discussion.

Whether you're joining for the first time or returning after the summer, we'd love to have you with us!

If you'd like to join the group or receive the monthly text reminders, please contact Max at Max@thedoverchurch.org.

Women's Spiritual Friendship Group **Wednesday, September 16, 9:15 AM**

Our Women's Spiritual Friendship Group meets on the third Wednesday of each month for a casual, welcoming, and open-ended conversation centered on faith, friendship, and spiritual growth. We're looking forward to gathering again! We resume on **Wednesday, September 16, at 9:15 AM**. All are welcome whether you've joined us before or are considering coming for the first time.

Reach out to Kayla or Leslie Decker for more information. All are welcome!

Sunday School News

Sunday School Is Back!

We'll dive into the story of Joseph and his brothers from the book of Genesis as we kick off our new Sunday School year! Through Joseph's journey, we'll discover how God was with Joseph every step of the way and how God is with each of us, too!



Following the sharing of the peace during worship, children will be invited downstairs for Sunday School, where they'll reconnect with friends and begin a new year filled with faith, friendship, learning, and fun!

September

- 13: Welcome Back Sunday
- 20: Sunday School/TBR open
- 27: No Sunday School/TBR open

October

- 4: Sunday School/TBR open
- 11: No Sunday School/TBR open
- 18: Sunday School/TBR open
- 25: Sunday School/TBR open

Sunday School Registration

As we prepare for the new year, we kindly ask that Sunday School families take a few moments to complete a Sunday School registration form for any child who will be attending. Keeping our registration records up to date helps us plan classes, ensure we have accurate contact and emergency information, and provide the best possible experience for all of our children.

Even if your child has attended Sunday School in previous years, we ask that all families complete a new registration for this year.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to help us prepare for a wonderful season of faith. Register using the QR code.



We can't wait to see everyone when we kick off Sunday School on **Welcome Back Sunday, September 13th!**

Join Our Sunday School Team!

We're looking for enthusiastic teachers and

helpers to join our Sunday School Team! If you're ⁶in Grade 8-12, this is a great opportunity to make a difference, have fun, and earn community service hours.

You don't have to be a Bible expert or commit to every week. Even helping once a month makes a huge impact! Our Bible-based curriculum is already planned for you, with very little prep. Kids learn through fun, hands-on activities, so volunteers get to jump in, encourage, play, and help bring each week's Bible story to life.

If you'd prefer not to teach, we also need caring volunteers to help in our Teddy Bear Room with our youngest children.

We hope you'll consider joining us. We truly couldn't run our program without volunteers like you and we'd love to have you on the team!

If you'd like to learn more or sign up, please reach out to martha@thedoverchurch.org.

Wonder Wednesday: Where Faith Meets Fun!

Registration is now open for Wonder Wednesday at The Dover Church! Designed for elementary students at Chickering and Pine Hill schools, Wonder Wednesday meets on half-day Wednesdays from 11:45 AM - 2:15 PM, offering a fun and engaging afternoon of adventure, discovery, and fun. Each session includes a shared lunch and snack, Bible stories, music, crafts, games, outdoor play, and meaningful time with friends. Our Fall 2026 Semester, meets 9/30, 10/21, 10/28, and 11/4.

This year during Wonder Wednesday a wild adventure awaits inspired by the exciting Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God Vacation Bible School curriculum!

Whether your child has participated before or is joining us for the first time, Wonder Wednesday is a joyful place to make new friends, and experience God's love in a caring and supportive community. **Register today!** We can't wait to welcome you!



Middle School and Senior High Youth Groups

We are delighted to be continuing our Mid-

dle School and Senior High Youth Groups collaboration with Pilgrim Church in Sherborn! Teaming up has allowed us a more robust pool of adult support and a larger pool of peers for our students.

Pilgrim Church's Christian Education Director, Victoria Gaisford, will continue to take the lead on **Middle School Youth Group, open to 6th and 7th graders** which **will meet two Sundays a month** at Pilgrim Church (25 South Main Street, Sherborn).

Our **Senior High Youth Group, open to all young people in 8th through 12th grade**, will meet out of Kraft Hall **most Sunday nights, 7-8:30pm**, and be led by Kayla and Martha. Please reach out if you would like to be added to the email list to receive more information!

Service with the Senior High Youth Group

This year our SHYG is continuing with its commitment to community service, taking on a handful of new projects and partnerships. Whether you are a teen looking to give back to the community, or an adult wanting a way to get involved, we have a role for you! There will be more information as opportunities approach, but here is an at-a-glance look at what service opportunities are on the docket for this fall:

September

- 6: **NO HSYG, Labor Day**
- 13: Kick Off!
- 20: Care Packages for College Kids
- 27: MATE Kick Off

October

- 4: Film Screening! (5-7pm)
- 11: **NO HSYG, Indig. People's Day**
- 18: Intergenerational Dinner @ TDC
- 25: Halloween Party

November

- 1: All Saints, City Reach Donation Sorting & Games
- 8: Miracle on Main St at Pilgrim Church, 11-1
- 13 & 14: City Reach Mission Trip with common cathedral
- 15: **NO HSYG, City Reach**
- 22: Thanksgiving Dinner & MBK Gift Planning, donation sorting
- 29: **NO HSYG, Thanksgiving Break**

December

- 6: MBK Wrapping
- 13: MATE - Poverty Exercises

- 20: Alumni Night: Xmas Party
- 27: **NO HSYG, Christmas Break**

Care Packages with the SHYG - Names & Donations Needed



Our annual College Care Package tradition is back!

On **Sunday, September 20**, the Senior High Youth Group will gather from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at The Dover Church to assemble care packages for our church's college students, especially freshmen and sophomores as they settle into campus life.

If you have a college student who would like to receive a care package, we'd love to include them! Or, you can sponsor a care package for a \$25 donation, which helps cover the cost of the package and shipping. Sponsors are welcome to include a personal note, prayer, or words of encouragement to brighten a student's day. Please sign up using the QR code!



If you'd like to help make this ministry possible, we invite you to donate candy, snacks, or other care package items. Please use the sign up genius in the weekly eNews. Thank you for helping us support our students!

Save the Date! A Journey to Taizé

We're excited to invite you to a special screening of *Taizé: A Pilgrimage of Trust*, a documentary following our 2025 Dover Church youth group as they spend a transformative week in the ecumenical Christian community of Taizé, France.

Come experience the beauty and spirit that shaped their pilgrimage. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear and see how this journey touched our young people and to share in a little bit of Taizé together.

Save the date and join us on **October 4 from 5:00-7:00 PM** for this special evening! We can't wait to share this meaningful story with our church community!



TDC's Intergenerational Dinner on 10/18

On October 18, 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 drink

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!

Mission In Action: Serving Others

Mission In Action at The Dover Church

We have several things planned for this fall and want to get these opportunities on your calendar! We hope you will find a way to participate in our mission and outreach work. Here are our upcoming opportunities for this Fall.

In September: Family Promise Hosting Week September 14th - 16th

The Dover Church will once again be supporting our mission partner Family Promise Metrowest during our upcoming hosting week Sept. 14th - 16th. In tandem with St. Mary's Parish of Hopkinton, we'll be providing requested groceries and dinner fixings for residents in FPM's shelter program.

We will be providing dinner fixings on **Wednesday, September 16th**. We are looking for friends and members to help by providing Meat (grilled/baked chicken, beef, etc.), Side Dishes (grilled vegetables, potatoes, etc.) Salad (with the mixings kept separate from the lettuce), and a simple dessert (cut-up fruit, cookies, etc.). (Let us know if you would like to help coordinate the menu!) Items should be dropped off at the church kitchen by noon on September 16th. Please include instructions for reheating if needed. Food quantities will be known by Friday,

September 11th. * Please reach out to Peggy Cross at peggyfcross@gmail.com if you are interested in helping with our dinner meal or have any questions!

We will also be asking for donations of groceries. A list will be shared by Friday, September 11th. Watch the e-News for the list of needed items. All donations should be brought to the church on Sunday, September 13th or Monday morning, September 14th. We are always grateful for donations of gift cards to Stop and Shop, Market Basket, Walmart, Target, or VISA/MasterCard gift cards so families can shop for other needed items themselves. Many thanks to everyone who can help with this mission opportunity.

Calling all Bikers and Striders! Join APTT's team.

Our friends at A Place To Turn Food Pantry invite our church community to join them for the 2026 Ride & Stride for Food on **Saturday, September 27**, at Noble and Greenough School in Dedham. Hosted by Three Squares New England, this annual event raises vital funds to support local hunger relief initiatives.

A Place To Turn sends a team of walkers and cyclists each year, and would love to have members of The Dover Church community join the fun! Team members fundraise \$350 each and either walk a 5k or bike (25 miles, 50 miles, or 100k)

If you're interested in joining the A Place to Turn team or supporting this important ministry through a donation, please use the QR code to find additional information and registration details.



National Diaper Need Awareness

The Diaper Project at A Place to Turn invites The Dover Church to once again partner with them by hosting a diaper drive this September or October. Together, our community has made a remarkable impact. Last year, an average of 301 local families each month received diaper assistance through the donation of 166,849 diapers, allowing us to distribute 213,470 diapers to families in need. Every diaper donated stays right here in MetroWest, helping families in our own communities. The demand for diapers continues throughout the year. Diapers remain one of the few basic necessities not covered by government assistance programs, leaving many parents struggling to provide enough diapers to keep their babies clean, dry, and healthy.

The Dover Church will again be participating in The Diaper Project at A Place to Turn. We are asking for donations of diapers, especially sizes 4, 5, and 6, along with baby wipes, starting Sunday, September 20th through to Sunday, October 4th. Good news – we gladly accept opened packages of diapers. Many families have leftover diapers after their children out-grow a size, making this an easy way to donate items that might otherwise go unused. Please bring donations to the church. We will have donation bins outside of the church administration wing door.

If you have any questions, please contact Beth Benjamin, beth@benjaminfamily.org.

In October Blood Drive

Our Board of Deacons is holding a Blood Drive in Kraft Hall on Saturday, October 10. We hope everyone who is able will consider donating blood. There is currently a critical need for blood donations.



Please use the QR code to register, or call 1-800-733-2767 to schedule your donation. If you are available to help during the drive, please reach out to Glenn Jensen, (glenn.jensen@ne-rc.com).

In November Agape Sunday Food Drive

November is the month of Thanksgiving! We will be asking for donations of needed food items for A Place to Turn. Please plan on bringing your donations to the church to be blessed during our Agape Sunday service, on Sunday, **November 22nd**. Watch the e-News and announcements for the list of items needed.

Thank You for Your Donations

We recently held a collection for the victims of the devastating earthquakes in Venezuela. Thank you to everyone who sent in a donation to the church. We received \$300, which we will send along with \$1,000 from our Mission in Action account to the United Church of Christ's Venezuela Earthquake fund. (<https://support.ucc.org/venezuela-earthquake>).

House & Grounds Committee

Safety Update: Hazardous Tree Removed from the Sanctuary Grounds

The tallest and widest tree in front of the sanctuary was cut down by Hartney Greymont arborists on **Saturday August 1st**. The tree was very weak at its base and after removal it was obvious that the tree would have fallen over in the next wind storm. Our contractors suggested August first as the removal date as that would not disrupt their schedule. A team of three tree experts used ropes and a bucket truck to remove the tree in five foot sections. The job went as planned and clean up was completed in a timely fashion. The committee is grateful that Church Council realized there was a serious safety problem and they were able to address the issue without making it difficult for the accessibility project.

Stairs to the Lower Parking Lot Update

The House & Grounds Committee was able to find accessibility funds to improve the walkway to the lower parking lot. The stone blocks from In front of the church will be recycled to replace the weather-beaten ones. Included in this plan will be lights and improved hand rails. An extra bonus will be power to the storage shed in the parking lot. These projects have been on the H & G list for several years. Thanks to Don Mills (Mills Whitaker Architects) who pulled these projects together.

Fellowship Opportunities

Tea and Check In

Join us Thursdays at 2:30 PM for a relaxing hour of conversation and connection. Enjoy tea, cookies, and the wonderful stories and insights shared by this lively group. It's always a heartwarming time together. We meet in the church library. Come join us!



We will resume our gatherings after Labor Day. Be sure to watch the eNews for updates and our restart date. We look forward to seeing you then!

Welcome Back!



Join us on **Sunday, September 13** at **10:00 AM**, for our Welcome Back Sunday service. We are excited to see everyone after being apart this summer.

THE DOVER CHURCH

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

Interested in Walking or Cycling to Alleviate Hunger?

Join A Place to Turn for the 2026
Ride & Stride for Food
Saturday, September 27

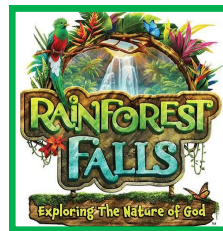


Wonder Wednesday: Where Faith Meets Fun!

Fall 2026 Dates:
9/30, 10/21, 10/28 & 11/4

A wild adventure awaits!

Register today – we can't wait to
welcome your child!



THE DOVER CHURCH

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