



The Dover Church

"A Welcoming Community of Faith and Service since 1762"

October 6, 2026

News from Meeting House Hill

Volume 17, Issue 5

To the disciple of Christ in Dover,

May the peace of God which passes all understanding and the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you!

"I just finished the best book. You'll love it. The characters just jump off the pages. I'll bring you my copy by tomorrow!"

"We went to the greatest little Italian restaurant last night! The food was outstanding and unexpected... not just pasta and Bolognese sauce. And the ambience...". "Our mechanic is THE MAN. He does great work, charges very reasonable rates, and is so kind and thoughtful. He even had one of his mechanics drop our car off at the house."

"We're members at the club. Our kids love it and the people are really a great group of people. If you like, I can get you invited to an event."

"We've been going there for years. The kids love the beach and the pool and we love the food and the sunsets. You should come with us sometime rather than booking someplace unknown."

Invitations between friends. We do it all the time. We get them all the time. It is one of the ways we find our way forward into newness of life without constantly having to find our own way, with all the bumps and pitfalls and false starts that involves. Because our friends know us and we know them, we have a pretty good idea of what their "flavor" is and can be confident that what we like, they will like.

So why not church? Why not our church? How do we become an invitational church, a church that we invite our friends and neighbors to the same way we invite them to our mechanic, our club, our book, our restaurant, or our vacation?

I know. I know. I know the first thought that comes to many of your minds. It's a very New England thought. Those of you from the South and Midwest, where people don't think this way, will know what I mean. "If I start inviting my friends, they'll think I'm sort of a religious nut and it might sour our friendship. Best to keep my church to myself. If they're looking for a church, they'll find The Dover Church online, the way we did."

LOOKING AHEAD

Taizé Documentary

Sunday, October 4,
5-7 PM Kraft Hall

Men's Spiritual Friendship

Friday, October 9, 7 AM
Kraft Hall

Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, October 10, 9am-2pm
Kraft Hall

Women's Spiritual Friendship

Wednesday, Oct. 14, 10:15 am
in the Dover Town Library

Ecumenical Bible Study

6 weeks, starting
Wednesday October 14 at 7 PM
New Pond Village
Open to All

Accessibility Project Rededication Worship Celebration

Sunday, October 18, 10 AM
Followed by a special coffee hour

No vehicles allowed

October 12 through October 16
For paving and striping work

To reach our Pastors:

Max: 508-982-0422.

Kayla: 508-269-8406

Wayne: 617-980-0670



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admin@thedoverchurch.org • www.thedoverchurch.org
the Rev'd Dr. C. Maxwell Olmstead, Senior Pastor • max@thedoverchurch.org
the Rev'd Kayla Edstrom, Associate Pastor • kayla@thedoverchurch.org
the Rev'd Wayne Earl, Bridge Pastor • wayne@thedoverchurch.org
An Open and Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ.



When they see we're here, it'll be more, "what a surprise! Isn't this great?" than an awkward pause in what was a pleasant conversation.

The big question I would like our church to discern this year, now that our accessibility renovations are almost complete (if you haven't seen what happened, come on down! It is really something!), is how do we become an invitational church, a church we feel comfortable inviting our friends who might be looking for a church to, feel confident enough in what our church is that we put it forward the way we do our favorite restaurants?

This is going to be a big cultural shift for us, but it is the way of the past and the way of the future. When you read the Gospels, Jesus personally invited people onto the journey with him. He didn't have a Goodyear blimp, a newspaper, or even a banner at town hall. In our day, when there is so much on-line religion and every one of us has so very much going on in our lives, it will take a personal invitation from a trusted friend to break through the noise and busy-ness. What's more, only a friend would know if a person might be at a place in their life where they could use a lotta good news filling their hearts on a Sunday morning.

Think about it and let me know your thoughts. I myself don't have one great answer, but I am confident that somewhere in the mix of as many of us who want to discern this together there is an answer or several.

Why bother, Max?

Think how much fun it would be to have our friends with us on a Sunday morning. Think

how much our children would enjoy having their friends with them in Sunday School. Think of the ways something that has happened on a Sunday morning at The Dover Church has been "just the thing" you needed for wherever you were that week. That's why bother.

In faith, hope and love,

Max

By the grace of our Lord
(One of) your pastor(s)



Welcome Pastor Wayne

Dear Friends,

It is a privilege joining with you at The Dover Church during this season. Although there are many unknowns, there continues to be positive momentum, and much possibility for service, and for deepening the care you have for one another and for the broader community. As a pastor, I am more of a 'generalist,' which means that I stay active mainly in a supporting role by being present in the office, through encouraging staff, by visiting members, and with preaching as needed, just to name a few of the tasks that I am grateful to provide. Fox Hill in Westwood and New Pond in Walpole have both expressed interest in having weekly Bible studies which are being planned to begin soon. If there is interest in such a study here on the church campus, I am happy to initiate that as well. Just let me know what works for you. I am usually here in the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from the early morning into the mid-afternoon, though please do contact me if you plan to stop by as I may



Pastor Wayne and
his wife Lori

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be in another meeting or out visiting someone. Also, if you would like a pastoral visit -or know someone who you feel might appreciate one- let me know that as well.

The spiritual writer Anne Lamott wrote that, "The way we live our days is the way we live our lives." It's true. And so are the words of the psalmist in Psalm 90:12 (Contemporary English Version), "Teach us to use wisely all the time we have." Every day allotted is precious. You are precious! Although our days may be few, even the smallest impact for good can be far reaching. Therefore, let us continue to pray for Pastor Max and his family, as we faithfully continue the gospel-soaked ministry that has been the long treasured story of this congregation, both in celebration of what has been and what may yet be.

In faith and hope, for love,

Pastor Wayne
Cell: 617-980-0670

The Power of Prayer

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 e-News features 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.



Music News

On October 25, we will celebrate All Saints Sunday during worship with a special musical offering. The choir will present the beautiful Requiem by Gabriel Fauré, accompanied by guest instrumentalists.

If you are interested in joining the choir for this special piece, please speak with our Music Director, Dan, on a Sunday morning or email him at <mailto:daniel@thedoverchurch.org>. No long-term commitment is required.

And if you'd like to sing with the choir on a regular basis, we'd love to have you! Choir rehearsals take place Sundays at 9:00 AM, and everyone is welcome. We hope you'll consider joining us as we make joyful music together.

Accessibility Project Update

Report from the Accessibility Design/Operation Committee

From piles of rubble, dirt, & granite, the outline of what is to come is finally taking shape. The construction crew has worked tirelessly to keep things moving despite delays that pop up with any construction project. Don Mills, the architect, has been hands-on during the entire time and we are thankful for his attention to detail and creative ideas. As you may have noticed, there is a lot of heavy equipment on site. The Dover Church staff has worked closely with Berkley Construction, meeting often, to coordinate ongoing construction with how that fits safely with our church activities.



There are so many people who have given inordinate amounts of time to see this project through from concept to completion. With hope of unveiling a completed project by October 18th, stay tuned!

Fondly, Lee Graham

Chair, Accessibility Design/Operation Committee

Parking Update

Paving of the upper parking lot and striping of parking spaces is scheduled for October 12-16.

NO VEHICLES WILL BE PERMITTED IN THE UPPER LOT OCTOBER 12-16 AT ANY TIME

Both ends of the driveway will be blocked to allow the pavement to cure properly and the paint to dry.

Walking on the newly paved surface will be safe during most of this time. However, once parking space striping begins, we encourage everyone to avoid being on campus whenever possible. If you do need to be on campus, please take care not to step on the freshly painted lines.

If you need to come to the church during that Monday through Friday period, please park in the lower lot. If you require assistance bringing items into the building, please contact the church office, and we will do our best to help.

By Saturday, October 17, the parking lot is expected to be fully available for normal use.

Construction Photos

Be sure to check out the album using the QR code or

<https://tinyurl.com/TDCAccessibility>.

Thank you for your continued patience, flexibility, and support as we move closer to completing this important accessibility project.



Celebrating Our Renovated Sanctuary

On October 18, we will gather for a **special celebration** marking the completion of our sanctuary renovation project and the many improvements that are helping us become a more welcoming and accessible church. These enhancements include accessible seating within the pews, a new accessible restroom in the narthex, redesigned walkways, additional accessible parking spaces, renovated stairs connecting to the lower parking lot, and a new wheelchair lift.

This milestone represents years of prayer, planning, and commitment. From the first

conversations and congregational meetings, through a successful capital campaign, to the many months of construction, our church community has worked together to bring this vision to life.

We hope you will join us as we give thanks, celebrate all that has been accomplished, and look ahead to the opportunities these improvements create for ministry and welcome in the years to come. It will be a wonderful occasion to celebrate together!

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/>.



All Saints Sunday & Photos

Join us for our All-Saints Service on Sunday, October 25th 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 the Fauré Requiem as we honor their memory. If you would like to include a photo of your loved one(s), email them to ana@thedoverchurch.org by October 19th. We'll create a video loop to display during the candle-lighting portion of the service.

Monthly Services at Living Communities **Worship Service at Fox Hill Village**

We will offer a traditional Protestant service on Sunday, **October 11, 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! Additional dates:

- Sunday, November 8, 1 PM
- Sunday, December 13, 1 PM

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 **Sunday, October 25**. This will be a special service as we'll celebrate All Saints. 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!

Additional dates:

- Sunday, November 22, Thanksgiving Sunday
- Sunday, December 20, Christmas Pageant

Worship Service at New Pond Village

We will offer a traditional Protestant service on Sunday, **October 18, at 1:00 PM**.

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

Additional dates:

- Sunday, November 15
- Sunday, December 20

Sunday Volunteers



Helping Make Sunday Mornings Happen

It takes many hands to create the warm welcome and meaningful worship experience we cherish each Sunday. Would you consider serving as an usher, liturgist, Scripture reader, or coffee hour host?

Whether you can help once in a while or on a regular basis, your participation makes a difference and is a wonderful way to connect with others in our church community.

To volunteer, contact

Martha at

admin@thedoverchurch.org, sign

up through this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/TDCSundayVolunteers>, use the link in the e-News, or use the QR code.



Faith Formation & Spiritual Growth

MEN'S SPIRITUAL FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Men's Spiritual Friendship Group

Friday, October 9 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 October, with our first gathering on **Friday, October 9**. 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, October 14, 10:15 AM

Our Women's Spiritual Friendship Group typically meets on the third Wednesday of each month for casual, welcoming conversations centered on faith, friendship, and spiritual growth.

Due to the parking paving schedule, our October gathering will be held in the **Dover Town Library**. We will meet on Wednesday, October 14, at 10:15 AM as we continue our exploration of the Enneagram.

All are welcome, whether you've joined us before or are considering attending for the first time.

For more information, please contact Kayla or Leslie Decker.

New Ecumenical Bible Study on Ecclesiastes

Beginning October 14, Pastor Wayne will lead a six-week ecumenical **Bible study** on Ecclesiastes at **New Pond Village** in Walpole. The group will meet Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00 PM through November 18.

Explore one of the Bible's most thought-provoking books as we consider its practical wisdom, timeless questions, and relevance for daily life. All are welcome, regardless of faith background or previous Bible study experience.

See the flyer on the back cover for additional details, or contact Pastor Wayne at wayne@thedoverchurch.org.

Sunday School News

Prayground

Have you had a chance to check out our new Prayground space at the front of the sanctuary? Created with our youngest worshipers in mind, the Prayground offers a welcoming place for children to listen, wonder, pray, and participate as part of our whole church family. We invite you to come take a look and enjoy this special space together!

October

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

Weekly Sunday School Sign Up

Will your child(ren) be attending Sunday School? Please be sure to let us know each week by signing up using the link in the CE News or following this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/TDCAttendingSS>.

Your weekly response helps us prepare the right amount of snacks, supplies, and activities and ensures we're ready to warmly welcome every child. It only takes a moment, and it makes a big difference in helping us plan ahead.

Thank you for helping us make Sunday School a joyful, welcoming, and meaningful experience for all our children!



Annual Sunday School Registration

Our Sunday School year is off to a wonderful start, and we are excited to continue learning, growing in faith, and building friendships together. It's never too late to join us, and we warmly welcome new and returning students throughout the year.

To help us provide a safe and positive experience for every child, we ask all Sunday School families to complete the annual Sunday School registration form, even if your child has attended in previous years. (This registration is separate from the weekly sign-up that lets us know which children will be attending on a given Sunday.)

To complete the annual registration, click on the Sunday School Registration image in the e-news, or follow [this link](#).

Thank you for helping us keep our information up to date. We look forward to a wonderful year of faith, fellowship, and learning together!

YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Film Screening

Sunday, October 4, 5 PM

Join us at 5pm on Sunday October 4th in Kraft Hall of The Dover Church for a screening of *Taizé: A Pilgrimage of Trust*.



This documentary follows, in part, the Pilgrim TDC High School Youth Group's trip to the French monastery Taizé in 2025. Come watch the film to support our teen pilgrims and learn more about the community we traveled halfway across the world to be a part of! This is an intergenerational event. We will have tables set up in the hall with activities for our youngest movie goers. Rides are available for those who need them! The film is one hour long.

TDC will provide pizza, and we invite those who are able to sign up to bring another dish to share.

Please reach out to Kayla with any questions. All are welcome! Sign up genius: <https://tinyurl.com/TaizeScreening>

Intergenerational Dinner – A Change of Plans

We're sorry to share that we are postponing our October 18 intergenerational dinner. When we scheduled it back in June, we didn't know that October 18 would become the date of TDC's rededication celebration for the completion of our accessibility project.

With a special worship service (including brass!), catered refreshments, and live music, it promises to be a full and joyful day of church fellowship. We realized it would be asking a lot to gather again for dinner that same evening!

We're sorry for the change, especially for those who have already RSVP'd, and we're grateful for your understanding. We look forward to gathering around the table with you soon and we hope to see you at the rededication celebration on October 18th!



CityReach Collection with the Youth Group Through November 1

Students in our senior high youth group will be attending CityReach with common cathedral November 13th & 14th 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 men and women, and bras (of all sizes, including S, M)
- Gently used and clean sleeping bags & blankets



- Gently used and clean, sweatshirts, sweatpants, 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 in this effort!



Mission in Action: Serving Others

Diaper Drive - finishing up

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Diaper Drive for A Place to Turn!

Donations for Nepal

The Mission in Action committee is sending \$1,000 to the UCC's Appeal for Help for Nepal after Flooding. If you would like to make a donation to support this cause, you can either send a check to the church and write "Nepal flooding" in the memo line, make an online donation through the church's giving page, <https://thedoverchurch.org/giving/>, please use the current year option and write "Nepal flooding" in the comment line. Or you can donate directly through the UCC, <https://www.ucc.org/an-appeal-for-help-for-nepal-after-flooding/>. (Scroll down to this paragraph to donate: *Please consider making a gift (link on website here) today to the UCC Nepal appeal.*

Gifts will provide critical relief to those facing unimaginable hardship and help communities rebuild for the long term.)

Winter Clothing Drive

September 28th through October 18th

Fall is a great time to clear out unused items and get ready for a new winter season. The Dover Church is supporting our partner, **Family Promise Metrowest** (FPM), by collecting the following items for children from birth to teens: NEW and CLEAN, LIKE-NEW jackets, snowpants, and boots. Don't have anything to pass along, we also welcome NEW winter accessories (hats, gloves, buffs, etc.). Note: NO used accessories are accepted for this initiative. Donations will be offered to FPM families during their annual Harvest Basket pick-up and will outfit children ahead of the cold and snow to come. Donation boxes in Kraft Hall entrance. Questions? Contact beth@benjaminfamily.org.

Fellowship Opportunities

Tea and Check In

Thursdays, 2:30 PM

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 to-gether. We meet in the church library. Come join us!

Please note that Tea and Check-In will not be held on **October 15, as the parking lot will be closed to vehicles** during paving and striping work.

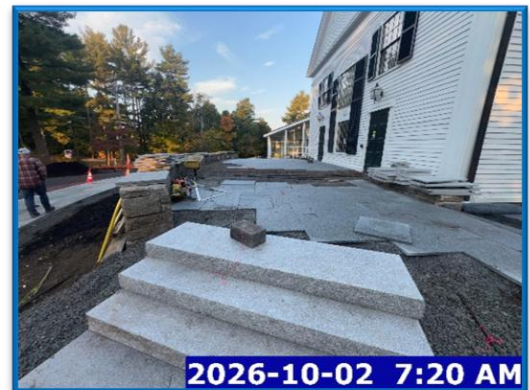
Men's Breakfast Group

Friday, October 23, 7:30 AM - Parking lot

The Men's Breakfast Group will meet on Friday, October 23 at 7:30 am in the church parking lot. All men in our congregation are invited for a casual breakfast. For more information, please contact Glenn Jensen at glenn.jensen@ne-rc.com

Photo Gallery

A few pictures of the Accessibility Construction Project follow.



All are welcome to attend!

Ecclesiastes Bible Study

Meeting Wednesdays 7- 8 pm
October 14 - November 18, 2026

*New Pond Village Auditorium
180 Main Street, Walpole*

Led by the Rev. Dr. Wayne Earl from The Dover
Church, Dover, MA.

**Whether you are a person of deep faith, or none, you are invited
to grow in wisdom as we consider life's big questions!**

For more info, contact Pastor Wayne:
wayne@thedoverchurch.org



Family Promise®
Metrowest

WINTER Clothing Drive

Help local children stay warm
all winter long.
Your donations make a big
difference for families
facing housing insecurity.

**COLLECTION DATES
SEPTEMBER 14 –
OCTOBER 16**

*Drop off in boxes placed in
Kraft Hall entrance*