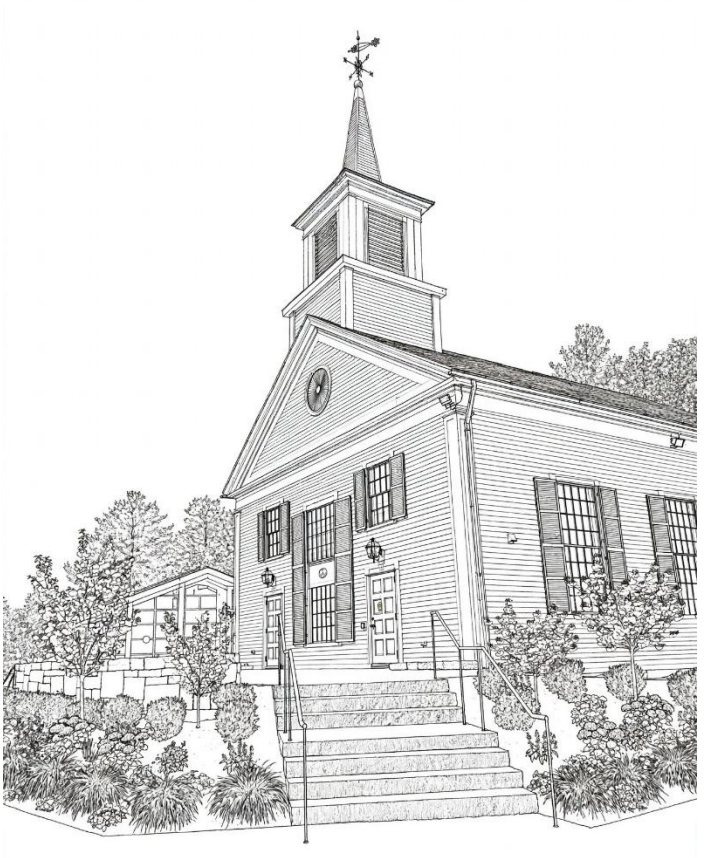
The Dover Church

A Welcoming Community Of Faith And Service Since 1762



An Open And Affirming Congregation
In the United Church of Christ

Sunday, November 15, 2026 - 10:00 am

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 145

Pastor: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

People: Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; their greatness is unsearchable.

One generation shall extol your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts.

All: We will recount the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, we will meditate.

GATHERING SONG **Let All Things Now Living** **529**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Harold Douglas Bedard
Son of Olivia & Mark Bedard
Godparents: Michael Cramer & Emily Metta

SENTENCES & QUESTIONS OF THE PARENTS

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT — Mitsy Lopez-Baranello, Deacon

All: We promise our love, support, and care.

PRAYER

ACT OF BAPTISM

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.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Gracious God, we give you thanks for this your child and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit.

Embrace us all as children in the one household of your love.

Grant us grace to receive, nurture and befriend this new member of the body of Christ.

Bless Harold. May he be filled with joy; may he never be ashamed to confess his faith in you.

Bless Olivia and Mark. May they always show their gratitude for the life you have given them by loving and caring for Harold.

Give to Harold strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

BAPTISMAL HYMN (to the tune of *Bunessan*)

Harold, we greet you on this glad morning.
your day of life we now recognize.
Here is the water! We are God's people.
Sing we our praises to Christ the Lord.

Harold, we name you and with thanksgiving,
offer our prayers and sing you this song.
We are the Church, your spiritual family.
Sing we our praises to Christ the Lord.

Children we all are of God, Creator,
risking and loving, daring to see
the heavenly Kingdom growing among us.
Sing we our praises to Christ the Lord.

EXCHANGING SIGNS OF PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you

GOD'S WORD FOR US

STORIES FROM CITYREACH

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 GOSPELS Matthew 25:14-30

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

OFFERING OURSELVES TO THE SPIRIT & THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

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

HYMN OF PARTING **We Plow the Fields and Scatter** **528**

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

THE FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED IN LOVING MEMORY OF

CYNTHIA AND DICK HODGSON

BY THEIR FAMILY

LAY LEADERS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

DEACON ON DUTY: Mitsy Lopez-Baranello

USHERS: Peggy Cross

SCRIPTURE READER: Linda Means

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

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the Rev. Dr. C. Maxwell Olmstead, Senior Pastor
the Rev. Kayla Edstrom, Associate Pastor
the Rev. Dr. Wayne Earl, Bridge Pastor
Martha DePaola, Director of Christian Education
Dr. Daniel Reid, Music Director
Ana Sanchez, Director of Congregational Life
Nancy Simms, Assistant Treasurer

Birthdays and Anniversaries

We wish Happy Birthday to the following people: **Lorelei Banty, Dave Mahr, and Betty Hagan.**

Birthday wishes are for November 15, 2026 to November 21, 2026.

Please let us know if we have forgotten anyone!

Announcements

Parking with Purpose

We encourage those who are able to park in the Lower Lot to help keep convenient parking spaces near the church entrance available for families, older adults, and anyone with mobility limitations.

We have added additional accessible parking spaces to better serve our congregation and guests.

Please keep designated visitor parking spaces open for guests who may be arriving just before or after worship and are still becoming familiar with our campus.

Thank you for helping us extend hospitality beyond our church doors! Your thoughtfulness makes our church more welcoming and accessible for everyone.

Help Make Church Happen!

Many hands make light work! We're grateful for extra hands to help set up and take down tables and chairs for coffee hour and church gatherings. As we prepare for Advent and Christmas, we'd appreciate help with the Greening of the Church as we decorate our sanctuary for the season.

Whether you can lend a hand once or help throughout the year, your time and talents make a difference!

Sign up on the Volunteer Board or with the QR code and join us in making our church a warm and welcoming place for all. Thank you!

Thanksgiving Sunday Food Collection for A Place to Turn

The Mission in Action committee will be collecting donations of food and other high-request items on behalf of A Place to Turn at our upcoming November 22 Agape Sunday service. A longstanding mission partner of The Dover Church, A Place to Turn is a Natick-based food pantry that has been serving Metrowest residents in need since 1979.

If you'd like to participate, please bring your donations to the sanctuary before the Sunday service starts at 10:00 a.m. Donations can also be dropped off during the week prior in the collection box by the Administrative Wing door.

As we celebrate family during this holiday time, bringing food to those in need is a special gift of grace to our greater community and to ourselves.

Immediate Needs

- Pasta
- Spaghetti sauce (24 oz.)
- Canned beans
- Canned fruit (pineapple, mixed fruit, mandarin oranges)
- Diapers of all sizes (especially sizes 4, 5 and 6)
- Baby wipes
- New/gently used paper grocery bags with handles
- Personal care items (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, etc.)
- Other non-perishable donations also gratefully accepted!

We kindly ask that food donations not be expired or past their sell by date.

Grapes & Quick Bread Needed for Agape-Thanksgiving Service

We're looking for a helping hand as we prepare for our Agape-Thanksgiving Service on November 22nd!

If you're able to contribute, please sign up using the link in the eNews to bring either a bunch of grapes or a loaf of quick bread (banana, pumpkin, etc.). Please bring grapes and breads uncut.

Items may be dropped off by Friday, November 20, or brought on Sunday, November 22 before worship begins.

Thank you for helping make this special service possible!

Men's Spiritual Friendship Group

The Men's Spiritual Friendship Group will meet Friday morning, **November 13** at 7:00 AM in the Church Library for breakfast, meaningful conversation, and a time of reflection and connection. Whether you're joining us for the first time or returning after the summer, we'd love to welcome you.

Before each gathering, Max sends a brief reading and a text reminder to help you come prepared for the conversation.

Interested in joining or receiving monthly reminders? Contact Max at **max@thedoverchurch.org**. We hope to see you there!

Women's Spiritual Friendship

All are welcome to join us on **November 18th** for our Women's Spiritual Friendship group at 9:15 (meeting at 9 for conversation). We'll be continuing our study of the enneagram through a Christian perspective. We'll be discussing the spirituality of each different type and relative center of intelligence.

Come if you are skeptical or if you are a full enneagram acolyte. Come if you've been following along all fall and come if you have no idea what any of this means!

Reach out to Kayla for more information!

Ecclesiastes Bible Study with Pastor Wayne

Pastor Wayne is currently leading an ecumenical Bible study on Ecclesiastes at both Fox Hill Village and New Pond Village.

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.

The study meets on Wednesdays at 3:00 PM in the Fox Hill Village private dining room, and at 7:00 PM at New Pond Village Auditorium.

The series will conclude on Wednesday, November 18. For more information, please contact Pastor Wayne at wayne@thedoverchurch.org.

Men's Breakfast Group

The Men's Breakfast Group will meet on Friday, **November 20** at 7:30 AM, at Steve Karlson's home. All are welcome! For more information, please contact Glenn Jensen at **glenn.jensen@ne-rc.com**.

Fall Grounds Clean-Up – New Date!

Due to the weather forecast, our Fall Grounds Clean-Up has been rescheduled to **Saturday, November 21, from 8:00 - 10:00 AM**.

House & Grounds and the Men's Breakfast group invite all members to join us for breakfast and a morning of caring for our church grounds.

Come lend a hand, enjoy fellowship, and help keep our church grounds looking their best! Every helping hand makes a difference. All ages and skill

levels are welcome! We hope to see you on November 21!

Greening of the Church

Let's welcome the Christmas season together! Join us on Saturday, **November 28th**, at 6:00 PM for our annual Greening of the Church. Enjoy an evening of fellowship as we decorate our church with beautiful trees and greenery, fill the space with Christmas music, and share plenty of holiday goodies and cheer.

Whether you're a longtime volunteer or joining us for the first time, everyone is welcome! Come be part of this joyful tradition as we prepare our church for the beauty and wonder of Christmas.

We hope to see you there!

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting

One of our beloved Advent traditions is inviting families to light the candles of the Advent wreath at the beginning of worship each Sunday in Advent and on Christmas Eve.

Beginning Sunday, **November 29**, we invite you and your family to be part of this special tradition as we prepare our hearts for the joy and wonder of Christ's birth.

Please sign up for a Sunday that works best for your family using the link in the eNews or the QR code here. We look forward to celebrating the season of Advent together!

Advent Bulletin Covers: Calling All Young Artists!

As we prepare for the Advent season, we invite our young artists to share their creativity with our church family! We're looking for drawings to grace our Advent bulletin covers for each of the four Sundays in Advent, beginning **November 29** and ending on Christmas Eve.

Your artwork will help bring the hope, peace, joy, and love of Advent to life. We would love for you to be part of this special tradition and share your gifts with our church family!

Interested in participating? Please sign up using the eNews link or the QR code. We can't wait to see your creativity shine this Advent season!

United in Prayer

We invite you to join us every day at 12:00 noon for one minute of prayer for Max. Whether you are at home, at work, at school, or wherever you may be,

know that many others in our church family are praying alongside you. If noon isn't possible, we encourage you to pause and pray whenever you are able.

Meal Train for Max and Family

The Meal Train to support Max and his family has been extended. If you're able, please consider signing up for a date that works for you.

Tea & Check-In

Join us on Thursday afternoons at 2:30 PM in the church library for Tea & Check-In.

Come enjoy a relaxing hour of tea, cookies, and conversation, and connection. It's a wonderful time to catch up, share stories, and enjoy the warmth and wisdom of this lively group. We'd love to see you there!

Dedicate Flowers on Sunday Morning

Help bring beauty and warmth to our worship space while honoring someone special. Dedicate the altar flowers in loving memory or in celebration of a loved one.

Dedications are **$50**. Please see Betty Brady during coffee hour to reserve your Sunday. Contact Betty with any questions 339 225 5925.

Volunteer on Sunday Mornings

Are you are 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.

Coro Allegro

Coro Allegro's upcoming concert, including Boston's premiere of Andrew Yee's Trans Requiem and Ola Gjeilo's Sunrise Mass will take place on Sunday, **November 22 at 3pm** at Church of the Covenant on Newbury St. in Boston, MA. Tickets are available at coroallegro.org. See Daniel Gerrish for discount information. To learn more use the QR code.