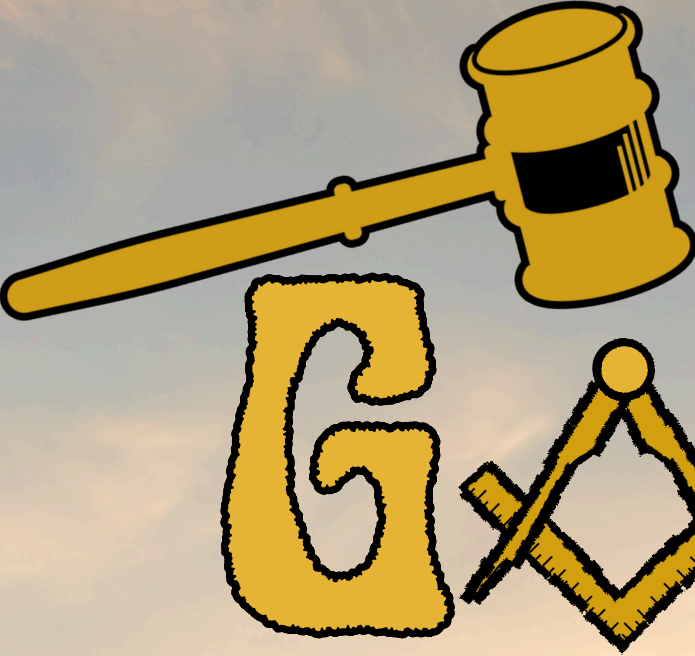


AUGUST 2025

ISSUE NO. 007



THE COMMON GAVEL

A UNION LODGE MONTHLY MAGAZINE

UNION LODGE SUMMER PARTY PHOTOS

**UPCOMING
EVENTS
IN THE 6TH**

**OFFICIAL
VISIT
SCHEDULE**

**LETTER
FROM THE
EAST**

REV. THADDEUS MASON HARRIS

TABLE *of* CONTENTS



UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS 02

TAKE DUE NOTICE

FROM THE EAST 03

A MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER OF YOUR LODGE

LODGE SUMMER PARTY 04

PHOTOS FROM THE PARTY

REV. THADDEUS MASON HARRIS 05

MINISTER, SCHOLAR, AND FREEMASON VISIONARY

FALL OFFICIAL VISIT SCHEDULE 07

A LOOK AT OUR NEW WEBSITE 08



UPCOMING EVENTS



SEPTEMBER 2ND

UNION LODGE REHEARSAL
NORWOOD 6:30PM

SEPTEMBER 6TH

WEST ROXBURY - DORCHESTER
LODGE INSTALLATION
LODGE OPEN AT 4:45PM OPEN
TO PUBLIC AT 5PM

SEPTEMBER 8TH

ORIENT LODGE
INSTALLATION AND MEETING
6PM

SEPTEMBER 9TH

UNION LODGE ANNUAL MEETING
6:30PM MEETING FOLLOWED BY
DINNER
OPEN ON 2ND DEGREE

SEPTEMBER 17TH

CELESTIAL LODGE OFFICIAL
WESTWOOD - TUXES REQUIRED
FOR SUITE- MEET IN ANTE ROOM AT
7:30PM

SEPTEMBER 25TH

LAFAYETTE DOVER OFFICIAL
NORWOOD - TUXES REQUIRED FOR
SUITE- MEET IN ANTE ROOM AT
7:30PM

OCTOBER 6TH

PROSPECT LODGE OFFICIAL
WESTWOOD - TUXES REQUIRED
FOR SUITE- MEET IN ANTE ROOM AT
7:30PM

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE 6TH



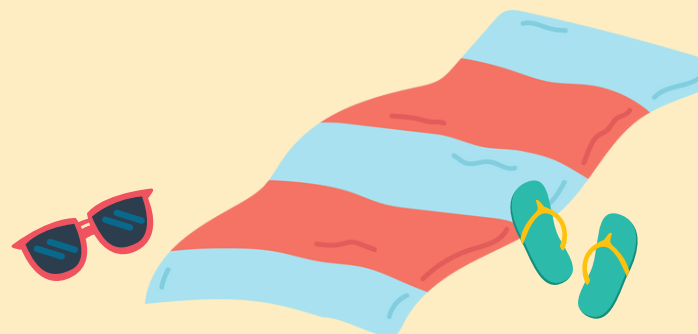
Brethren,

I trust everyone is enjoying a splendid summer! We recently gathered at the Masonic Family Fun Day in Hudson, which turned out to be a wonderfully warm day filled with joy and laughter for the entire family.

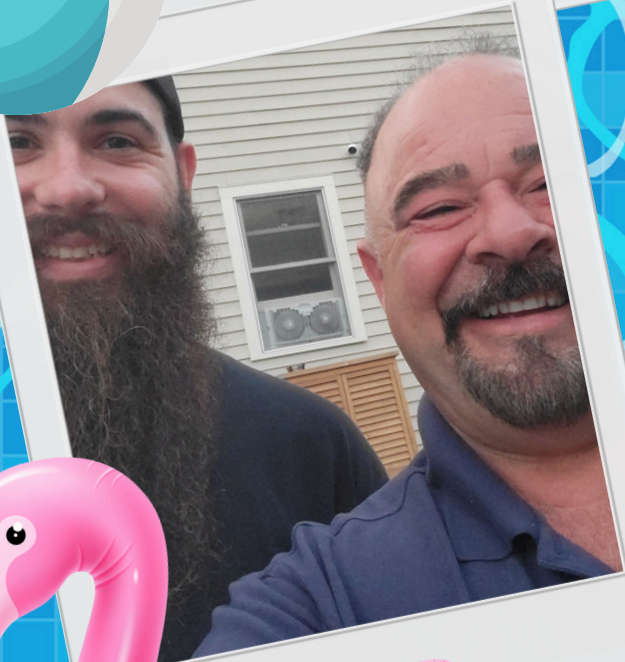
Additionally, our annual lodge summer party was graciously hosted at Bro. Narciso's residence. A heartfelt thank you to Eric and Betsy for their exceptional hospitality. During this gathering, I had the distinct honor of presenting the William R. Stoddard Unsung Hero awards to Wor. Mike Morris and Bro. Bobby Patrick. While every Brother's dedication is deeply appreciated, these two have exhibited extraordinary commitment to our Lodge and the craft.

As we gear up for another wonderful Masonic Year we hope you can find the time to visit the Lodge, attend a meeting or event, and keep in mind those in your life who might make good Masons. We are the foundation that keeps Masonry strong, and the more stones in the foundation, the stronger it will be!

Fraternally,
Andy Knight
Master of Union Lodge



UNION LODGE SUMMER PARTY



PHOTOS BY R.W. JOHN FERRANTE III

THADDEUS MASON HARRIS MINISTER, SCHOLAR, AND FREEMASON VISIONARY

THE COMMON GAVEL

UNION LODGE (D)

8/26/25



When you think of the late 18th and early 19th centuries in Massachusetts, names like Paul Revere, John Adams, and Samuel Adams dominate the imagination. But tucked within that same era lived another remarkable man—Rev. Thaddeus Mason Harris (1768–1842)—a minister, scholar, and Freemason whose influence reached from the pulpit to the Masonic lodge, and even into the halls of Harvard.

From Orphan to Harvard Scholar

Harris's story began with hardship. Born in Charlestown in 1768, he lost both parents during the Revolutionary War. Despite this rocky start, he excelled academically and entered Harvard College, graduating in 1787. After briefly serving as a schoolteacher and librarian at Harvard, Harris answered a higher calling: the ministry. In 1793, he was ordained as pastor of the First Parish Church in Dorchester, where he remained for over forty years.

The Masonic Chaplain

That same decade, another part of Harris's life took shape—his involvement with Freemasonry. In 1796, when Union Lodge in Dorchester was officially chartered by Grand Master Paul Revere, Harris became its first Chaplain. His role was to guide spiritual reflection during Masonic ceremonies, and his eloquence soon made him a beloved figure in the fraternity.

Harris didn't stop there. Over the years, he rose through the Masonic ranks, serving as Grand Chaplain, Deputy Grand Master, and even Corresponding Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. His deep faith, combined with intellectual rigor, gave him a rare ability to articulate the ideals of Masonry—brotherhood, morality, and enlightenment.

Words that Endured

Harris was not just a speaker; he was a prolific writer. In 1792, he revised and published the *Constitutions of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons*, a text that became a cornerstone of American Masonic practice. Later, he published *Masonic Discourses* and *Discourses Delivered on Public Occasions*, collections of sermons and orations that illuminated Masonry's moral and spiritual purpose.

One of his most notable addresses came in 1800, when Union Lodge in Dorchester held a memorial tribute for George Washington. Harris delivered the "Fraternal Tribute of Respect to the Masonic Character of Washington," honoring the first president not only as a statesman but as a brother Mason. His words tied local Masons in Dorchester to the broader legacy of American liberty and virtue.

Scholar and Antiquarian

Outside the lodge and pulpit, Harris carved out a reputation as a scholar. His *Journal of a Tour into the Territory Northwest of the Alleghany Mountains* (1805) chronicled travels through the young American frontier. He also authored *The Natural History of the Bible* (1824), which explored plants, animals, and landscapes referenced in scripture.

Harris's love of learning also led him into the world of institutions. He became a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a founding member of the American Antiquarian Society, and later served as librarian of the Massachusetts Historical Society. His efforts in collecting and preserving books were so impactful that the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts credited him with helping lay the foundation of its renowned Masonic library.

A Lasting Legacy

By the time of his death in 1842, Thaddeus Mason Harris had lived through the American Revolution, ministered to generations in Dorchester, and helped shape the moral and intellectual framework of Freemasonry in Massachusetts. His voice—whether in sermons, Masonic orations, or scholarly works—carried a blend of spirituality, reason, and patriotism that reflected the very spirit of his era.

Today, Harris is remembered not only as Union Lodge's first Chaplain but also as a man who bridged faith, fraternity, and scholarship. His life serves as a reminder that history is often shaped not just by the famous names we remember, but by the thoughtful, dedicated men who worked quietly—and faithfully—alongside them.

FALL OFFICIAL VISIT SCHEDULE

CELESTIAL LODGE

-9/17/25

LAFAYETTE-DOVER LODGE

-9/25/25

PROSPECT LODGE

-10/6/25

ORIENT LODGE

-10/13/25

WEST-ROXBURY-DORCHESTER LODGE

-11/05/25

RABBONI LODGE

-11/18/25

UNION LODGE

-12/09/25

AS A REMINDER, TUXEDOS MUST BE WORN TO JOIN THE SUITE.
ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED BY OFFICERS

OUR NEW WEBSITE IS CURRENTLY LIVE

OUR NEW WEBSITE IS CURRENTLY LIVE

Q Search...



UNION LODGE(D)
A.F. & A.M.
Chartered 1796

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UNION LODGE?

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WHO WE ARE...

ABOUT



What is Freemasonry?

In North America today, Freemasons provide relief and assistance to those in need. Masons give almost \$2 million each day to causes that range from operating children's hospitals, providing treatment for childhood language disorders, treating eye diseases, funding medical research, contributing to local community service, and providing care to Masons and their families at Masonic Homes.



Why Union Lodge?

Freemasonry is often seen as a bastion of ancient traditions, characterized by solemn rituals and a profound historical narrative. Yet, within our lodge, this essence has transformed into something that is both deeply rooted in tradition and invigorated by the enthusiasm of our younger members. This blend creates an environment where time-honored values coexist with fresh perspectives, allowing us to engage with the principles of Freemasonry in a way that resonates with everyone, regardless of age.

The youthful spirit of our lodge is one of its defining features. Our younger members play a crucial role in fostering a vibrant atmosphere, where the bonds formed are as important as the values upheld. Humor and camaraderie are central to our culture, through laughter and shared experiences, we break down barriers and cultivate trust. While we embrace modernity, we remain steadfast in our commitment to the foundational masonic values of integrity, kindness, and personal growth, ensuring that our relationships are both meaningful and supportive.

As we look to the future, our lodge is dedicated to nurturing a vibrant community that honors our rich history while welcoming change. Inclusivity and diversity are at the core of our mission, as we believe that our differences enhance our collective strength. Our active involvement in community service not only aids those in need but also strengthens the connections among our members. By prioritizing educational opportunities, we encourage lifelong learning and personal development, ensuring that we grow both individually and collectively. In this way, our lodge serves as a harmonious blend of tradition and youthful energy, paving the way for a promising future built on the foundation of brotherhood.

Masonic Lodges play a vital role in our communities by offering support through charitable activities, volunteer work, and raising awareness. We aim to assist those in need by organizing blood drives, hosting spaghetti dinners, helping families during the holidays, donating to organizations that support citizens in need, and much more.

By fostering a spirit of generosity and unity, Masonic Lodges like Union Lodge (D) create a network of support that extends beyond their walls, reaching out to touch countless lives. This commitment to service not only strengthens the bonds among members but also enriches the community as a whole. Members actively engage in mentoring programs, educational initiatives, and local partnerships that focus on uplifting individuals and nurturing future leaders.

Through these efforts, Masonic Lodges demonstrate the enduring power of collective goodwill and the impact of a community united in purpose. Whether through small acts of kindness or large-scale projects, the dedication to making a positive difference remains at the heart of their mission, ensuring that the principles of Masonry continue to inspire and uplift for



Recent Photos of Union Lodge