



Dover First UMC's Weekly Newsletter October 25, 2025

Let's Worship Together

Sundays at 10:20 a.m.
in the Sanctuary

Recharge Service

Live Contemporary Music
Last Sunday of the Month
Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m.

Nursery Care

Sunday mornings
for children 1 to 3
in rooms 1 and 3

Preschool

Sunday mornings
for children 4 to 6

Children's Ministry

Kidz Min Church
during Sunday Worship

Youth Ministry

Youth Group for grades
middle and high school
Sundays at 6 p.m.

Our Website

Visit **doverfirst.org**
for online services,
special studies,
announcements,
opportunities to serve,
and the church calendar

A Giant Pumpkin Sized Thank You!

Our October 19th Trunk or Treat was **AMAZING!**
We are so thankful for the blessing of welcoming
hundreds of guests from the community into the
church as the blustery weather moved us inside.

Thanks to our many wonderful volunteers,
everyone including nearly 170 precious little ones
Enjoyed a safe, fun and free evening at the church.
A special thank you to everyone handing out treats,
adapting your car decorations to indoors and
wearing fun costumes to complete your theme.

A big thank you to Sara Marlatt for overseeing
the kitchen and refreshments, as well as each
volunteer who helped with setup and cleanup too.

Our very busy welcome center volunteers
did an amazing job too. A special thank you
to Betsy Humphrey and Faith Bambeck.

For everyone who shared their
time and talents by decorating,
donating or volunteering in any way,
you are a blessing and we thank
you for making this free and fun
community outreach possible.



Dover First UMC's Annual Winter Coat Drive

September 28 thru October 26

Thank you to our Youth Group for organizing this year's coat drive for the Salvation Army and helping to keep our neighbors safe and warm.

Please check your closets for clean non-wool coats in sizes for children, teens, women and men.

Light jackets are not needed at this time, but heavy washable jackets and coats are.

Donated coats can be dropped off on the clothing rack in the Mission Room, near the church office.

Your new or gently used coats would be a blessing!





**Dover First UMC
and Phila First UMC**

**Chili Cook-Off
Covered Dish**

Chili Cook-Off Dinner

Everyone's invited to bring their best chili or their favorite covered dish to share as Dover First UMC and New Phila First UMC celebrate our United Against Hunger outreach with fellowship and a meal.

**Sunday, Nov. 2 at 5 p.m.
Dover First UMC Fellowship Hall
Please sign up in the lobby.**



**Together We've Raised
Over \$4,000
for the Salvation Army
Food Pantry**



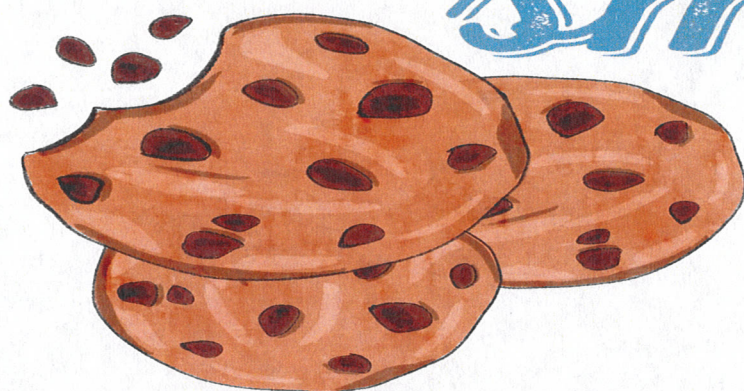
THANK YOU

for making me

ONE

smart

cookie!



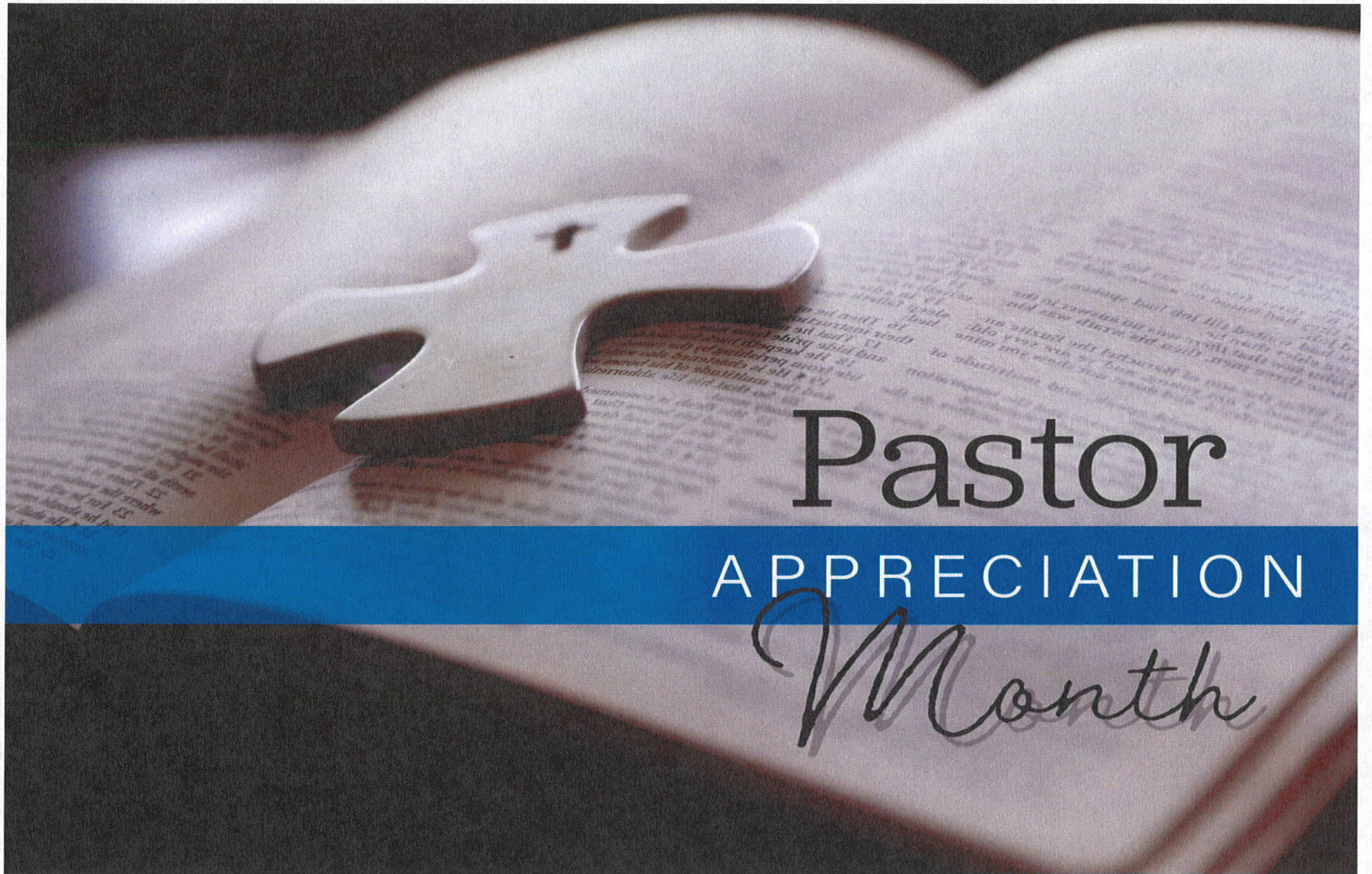
We're All Smart Cookies Thanks to Our Teachers!

Our Dover First UMC children would like
to collect at least 20 dozen cookies
to treat local teachers and school staff.

Please sign-up in the lobby to donate
your favorite homemade or bakery cookies.
(Nut-free if possible)

All cookies are needed in the church kitchen
before 10 a.m. on Sunday, November 9th.

Our children will package the cookies for delivery
to the schools on Monday, November 10th.



October is Pastor Appreciation Month

A special time to tell our pastor how much he is appreciated every day in every way through our:

Words

Cards

Notes

Emails

Prayers

Encouragement

Sisters and Brothers,

For the last month I have been thinking about what it means to say, “humanity was made in God’s image.” During this time, I have been meditating on what it means to pray as God’s image. One element of the phrase God’s image is saying that we are God’s representative on Earth and creation’s representative with God. Meaning we were literally created to pray. Not simply were we created to communicate with God, but we were also meant to intercede on behalf of the rest of creation with God. I generally feel prayer and praying for others is important. I believe it is one of our highest duties as Christians. But what I have realized in considering what it means to be God’s image is that praying for others is one of the activities that makes me fully human. Neglecting this kind of prayer makes me in some real way less human than I am supposed to be.

God designed us to be ambassadors for the needs of others and creation. We are meant to be messengers carrying these needs to God and returning God’s message. This is one of the ways that we learn to be like God, because as we pray, we grow to be concerned for others through voicing their concerns. Bearing others’ needs to God helps us to develop a sense of empathy, grieving what they grieve. Doing so also helps us develop a desire to intervene and bring what help and healing we can. Intercessory prayer (praying for the needs of others) then helps us to become both more human, and more like God. Not only this but when we pray for others, we show them we care and are developing bonds love and community. Our relationships grow and develop creating greater closeness. Truly there are few callings in life that can have a greater impact on us than praying for others around us in their times of need. Let’s always take the time to show the world how much we care through praying for those in need.

Blessings,

Pastor Wesley



Pick Up Your Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes in the Lobby Today!

Everything that you need to begin shopping is included in the gift boxes.

Want to participate, but can't get out to shop?

Let our youth group do the shopping for you.
List 'Youth Shopping' on the memo line or cash envelope of your donation to Dover First UMC.

Please return all gift-filled boxes by Thursday, Nov. 20 for dedication on Sunday, Nov 23.



Welcome to Worship

October 26, 2025

Our nursery for ages 1-3 and preschool for ages 4-6 are available in the *Education Zone* in rooms 1,3 and 5.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude “We Walk by Faith”
Marty Haugen

Call to Worship Psalm 65:1-4

L: Praise is due to you,

L: O God, in Zion;

All: And to you shall vows be performed.

L: To you who hear prayer

L: All flesh shall come because of their sins.

All: When our transgressions prevail over us,

All: You forgive them.

L: Blessed are those whom you choose and
bring near,

L: To dwell in your courts!

**All: We shall be satisfied with the goodness
of your house,**

All: Your holy temple!

*Hymn #384 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Scripture Philippians 2:1-11

Recognition of Our 50 Year Members

Prayer

All children who would like to go to Kidz Min in the Education Zone are asked to meet at the back of the sanctuary during the hymn.

*Hymn #404 Every Time I Feel The Spirit

Scripture Ruth 4:1-12

Choir Anthem “I’d Rather Have Jesus”
Mary McDonald

*Offering Introduction/Doxology/Prayer/Lord’s Prayer

Message A Reputation Worth Redeeming
Pastor Wesley George

*Hymn Make Me a Servant (TFWS #2176)

*Benediction

*Postlude “Festive Praise”
Lloyd Larson

A Reputation Worth Redeeming

Scripture: Ruth 4:1-12

No sooner had Boaz gone up to the gate and sat down there than the next-of-kin of whom Boaz had spoken came passing by. So Boaz said, "Come over; sit down here." And he went over and sat down. ² Then Boaz took ten men of the elders of the town and said, "Sit down here," so they sat down. ³ He then said to the next-of-kin, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our kinsman Elimelech. ⁴ So I thought I would tell you of it and say: Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not, tell me, so that I may know; for there is no one prior to you to redeem it, and I come after you." So he said, "I will redeem it." ⁵ Then Boaz said, "The day you acquire the field from the hand of Naomi, you are also acquiring Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead man, to maintain the dead man's name on his inheritance." ⁶ At this, the next-of-kin said, "I cannot redeem it for myself without damaging my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

⁷ Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging to confirm a transaction: the one took off a sandal and gave it to the other; this was the manner of attesting in Israel.

⁸ So when the next-of-kin said to Boaz, "Acquire it for yourself," he took off his sandal. ⁹ Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses today that I have acquired from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon. ¹⁰ I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahlon, to be my wife, to maintain the dead man's name on his inheritance, in order that the name of the dead may not be cut off from his kindred and from the gate of his native place; today you are witnesses." ¹¹ Then all the people who were at the gate, along with the elders, said, "We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your house like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you produce children in Ephrathah and bestow a name in Bethlehem; ¹² and, through the children that the Lord will give you by this young woman, may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah."

Questions

1. What are the elements of the community in this story that I would want to see my community emulate?
2. Why is the man Boaz talks to about redeeming Ruth not named?
3. Why would the other man not want to gain Naomi's property when he found out that it meant marrying Ruth?

Background

Related Scriptures: Genesis 38:6–30; Isaiah 54:4–8; Ephesians 1:1-10; Philippians 2:1-8

Neither Boaz nor the other potential redeemer fills the role of levirate written out in Deuteronomy 25, where the role is restricted to a brother. Yet Boaz seems to be using both Deuteronomy 25 and Leviticus 25 as the grounds for his argument (or some now lost source). This drives at the heart of how we understand "law" in the Bible as a guideline rather than a rigid command.

The other man is unnamed showing that he disobeyed God's desires and is forgotten.

A Reputation Worth Redeeming

Reflection

Ruth and Boaz are truly great characters. First, we have Ruth who accepts social isolation and extreme poverty to be devoted to the family that she has chosen. Imagine leaving your homeland because you felt you could not leave a mother-in-law in need, even though this meant you would be despised as an immigrant. Then upon arriving in the new land Ruth takes on all of the responsibility for the household, providing food for them both. All the while they are impoverished and outsiders from the community. Then there is Boaz, and while depictions often paint him as falling for Ruth's beauty this is never mentioned. In fact, I think we like talking up the romanticized love story because it is easier than the reality of the story. We like the idea that Boaz would find this "diamond in the rough" beautiful outsider and fall for her. But the story does not say anything about that. Rather the story presents Boaz as doing a duty to his community and family. In the story Boaz and Ruth are called "great man" and "great woman" respectively. The reason is that they show dedication to people that others would say they did not have to love. No one, not even Naomi, faulted Orpah for going back to her family instead of joining her mother-in-law. And no one would have chided Boaz for not accepting Ruth. What makes them great is that they did not create boundaries, they loved the people who needed them.

I wonder how the community leaders felt about Boaz calling them together to discuss redeeming Naomi's property and marrying Ruth. Were they shocked, dismayed, unsure? It does not seem the community was thrilled with the idea of including Ruth. Boaz offers the right of redemption to another man who initially agrees but then declines when he has to take on Ruth. The man claims that his own inheritance would be impacted by marrying Ruth but this seems unlikely. Rather, it seems the man was simply trying to dodge out of marrying a foreigner and potentially losing status in the community. It certainly appears that people in the community were unwilling to accept Ruth and fully integrate Naomi. And while this man would seemingly buy Naomi's field to give her some money (and increase in own prestige) he did not want the baggage of the Moabite. Just as Ruth was the only one who initially helped Naomi in her poverty and distress, so at the end of the book Boaz is the only one who will step in to provide for Ruth.

What the other redeemer seemed to fear is that his name in the community would lose status. And what happened is that in rejecting Ruth he lost his name. His name is intentionally omitted from the text. He refused to raise up a name for the community because it meant including the foreign woman, and in turn lost his name. Boaz, by contrast, stuck his own reputation on the line for this woman in need and far from falling from grace his family was raised to prominence. This acting of naming is a subtle technique to remind us of the importance of helping others. Ruth and Boaz helped when they did not need to, they went out of their way to include others in and provide for them. Because they did this their names and family are remembered and honored. Those who looked at the one in need and did nothing are forgotten. The Book of Ruth has no real villain, no one did anything wrong per se. But in many ways focusing on "right and wrong" is being concerned with the bare minimum of decency. Laws are required where people fail to show love but they do not push people to love others. Loving others goes beyond what is required by a law and is concerned with what the other person needs to be whole. The story of Ruth is meant to get us to look beyond the bare minimum of decency while we focus on being truly great and Godlike people. The story of Ruth is about people living to their fullest potential. And when did the characters in the story reach their fullest potential, when they sacrificed something to provide resources and family for a person truly in need. The story of Ruth reminds us that when we have resources and positions of influence in the community we should be using those to help include others in the community.

This Week at Dover First UMC

Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service
50 Year Member
Recognition

All Saints' Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service
Communion
5 p.m. Chili Cook-Off
Covered Dish
Fellowship Hall



Monday

7 p.m. Leadership
Board Meeting

Tuesday

7 p.m. WMM Church
Spanish-Speaking
7 p.m. Boy Scouts
Scout Room

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts
Education Zone
7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

7 p.m. WMM Church
Spanish-Speaking

Friday

No Events

Saturday

10 a.m. Craft and Chat
Lounge

You probably know about the **Paint Tusc Pink** campaign in our county.

Dover First UMC is also promoting breast cancer awareness.

Be sure to schedule preventative mammograms each year.

Early detection of cancer is vitally important.

Families - encourage your loved ones to have these simple tests.

We share prayers of gratitude for all who are beating cancer through early detection. Be sure to stop by the pink table in the lobby to enter the candy jar drawings and acknowledge the importance of taking care of yourself and others!