



stayCONNECTED

Dover First UMC's Weekly Newsletter
November 7, 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

Decorating the Church *For Advent and Christmas*



Advent Decorating Schedule: November 21, 23, and 24

This year, we're changing up our decorating plans a bit by taking **three** days to complete our Advent transformation.

The altar committee is asking everyone helping to commit to only **one** day for several hours. On Friday, Nov. 21, we will begin with the usual fluffing of the trees, putting out decorations for each tree, and making sure that everything is ready for Sunday.

On Sunday, Nov. 23, we will begin at noon by decorating the trees and hanging the wreaths after the church service. Snacks and water will be available instead of lunch this year.

On Monday, Nov. 24, decorators are needed to setup the nativity sets, finish any remaining projects and put away the boxes in the multi-purpose room. You can arrive at noon or in the early afternoon.

We anticipate that decorators will only need to be at the church for several hours on one day, as most of our experienced decorators know what to do.

Questions? Please contact the church office at:
doverfirst@gmail.com or (330) 343-1322.

Sisters and Brothers,

I am so thankful for everything that we have done for our community over the last few months. From the important things, like making sure people have food on the table, to the trivial fun nights, we have worked to make our community better. I love that our congregation is so committed to working in the community and I hope that commitment only grows.

When I think about all we have done I think about St. Francis' great quote, "Preach the Gospel at all times and if necessary, use words." Or as we might say today, "Actions speak louder than words." Our actions are beliefs lived out. People desperately need to see the care and compassion that the Church claims. People need to see how our lifestyle leads us to promote a better community. People need to see us live out our convictions before they see our convictions as true. They need to see that we know our message is true before they will even consider believing it.

And what do we need? We need affirmation and encouragement. While we live out these convictions, sometimes that can be draining. It can be tiring to consistently push forward in building the community Jesus wants. People grow tired, this is why Paul says, "let us not grow weary of doing good." (Galatians 6:9). Encouragement is the way we help others not grow weary. When we talk about the good things we have done, we help ourselves stay motivated to do good. So let your actions speak to others and use your words to strengthen our Church.

Blessings,

Pastor Wesley



**Let's Help T4C to Share a Brighter
Christmas for Area Children and Families**
All gifts and donations are needed by Nov. 30th

To Give Toys and Other Gifts for Children

Pick up a tag from the tree in the lobby.

After shopping, place your gift under
the tree no later than November 30.

Please note: All gifts should be new and not used.

To Donate Funds to Help T4C with Clothing Gifts

Please write 'Share a Christmas'
on your check memo line or cash envelope.
Checks should be made to Dover First UMC.

Please note: We are not collecting clothing this year.

The Food Pantry of Dover-New Phila

**422 W. Third Street
Dover, OH 44622**



The local food pantry is open twice each week for all in need of food from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursday 9 a.m. to Noon on Friday.

Home delivery is also available for the homebound and those unable to come to the pantry. Call (330) 649-2228 for info.

Do you or someone that you know need emergency food assistance today, please call (234) 801-8198.

The pantry is an all volunteer organization and many more volunteers are needed to distribute food at the pantry, as well as deliver food to are neighbors unable to come in:
Thursday 4:30 to 8 p.m. and Friday 8:30 a.m. to Noon
Drivers are needed on Thursday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

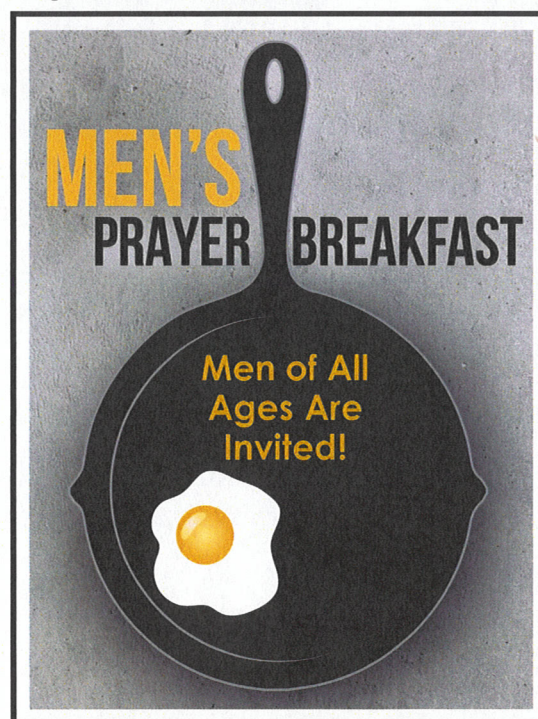
For additional information, visit the pantry website at:
dovernfoodpantry.org or call (234) 801-8198

Community Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Men of all ages are invited for breakfast, prayer and fellowship each month at a different church from 9 to 11 a.m.

Holiday Season Schedule

- Nov. 15 Christian & Missionary Alliance**
228 E. 3rd Street in Dover
- Dec. 20 First Moravian Church**
319 N. Wanut Street in Dover
- Jan. 17 St. Joseph Catholic Church**
at the Knights of Columbus
346 W. 9th Street in Dover





PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Sign up in the lobby if you are interested in hosting approximately 20 guests (Youth and Leaders) for one course of a Progressive Dinner on November 23rd with the first course at 4 p.m.

Courses

Appetizers - Host Still Needed

Meal - Covered

Dessert and Games - Covered

Questions? See Youth Director, Logan Ladrach
or Contact the Church Office at (330) 343-1322

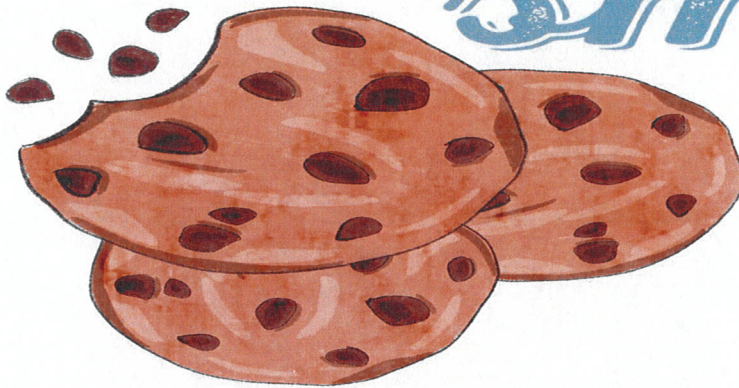
THANK YOU

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.



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 Honoring our Veterans November 9, 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 “Autumn Pastorale”
Donald Lee Moore

Call to Worship Psalm 145:8-13

L: The Lord is gracious and merciful,

L: Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

ALL: The Lord is good to all,

ALL: His compassion is over all his creation.

L: All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord.

ALL: And your faithful ones shall bless you!

L: They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,

ALL: And tell of your power,

L: To make known to all people your mighty deeds,

ALL: And the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

L: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,

ALL: And your dominion endures throughout all

ALL: Generations.

*Hymn #92 For the Beauty of the Earth

Scripture 1 Peter 3:8-22

Recognition of Our Veterans

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 #2146 His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Scripture Genesis 6:11-22

Choir Anthem “Our Father’s World”
arr. Eric Thomas

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

Message Grace Searching for Righteousness
Pastor Wesley George

*Hymn #369 Blessed Assurance

*Benediction

*Postlude “The Whole Armor of God”
David Paxton

Grace Searching for Righteousness

an answer give me a minute to explain why I think the question is fair, but it and that response completely miss the mark in interpreting the passage. I understand the difficulties with this passage because in it God is going to “bring an end” and “destroy” all flesh and in English these are synonyms for killing. A native English speaker might be forgiven for seeing in these statements a harsh vindictive God who is ready to punish and destroy rebellious people. But that is not what is going on in these verses at all. First, God is never angry in this story, God is sorrowful, but never mad at humanity. This is an important point because so many seem to see an angry and vengeful God in this passage but the truth is God is grieved for humanity. Second the phrase “bring an end to” does not mean actively destroy it is more like “call a wrap to”. We are not provided a picture of God angrily wanting to destroy, rather it is God sorrowfully calling an end to the party because it has gotten out of control. But wait what about the next line where God says, “I’m going to destroy...”? Good point, and this line is extremely hard to translate because it is hard in a word or two to convey the message. But the word is the same word translated “corrupt” in verses 11-12. What God is saying in verse 13 is “I am not going to allow humanity any more time because they are completely corrupted, and now I am going to allow their corruption to truly overcome them.”

The picture of God is not one of a vengeful deity looking to punish people for messing up or even for rejecting God. Rather, the picture is of God who is saddened by the corruption of a good creation sadly turning off the lights on all creation because it is contaminated and allowing the consequences of humanity’s choices to finally take over. It is in the midst of this where we encounter Noah and we see a little more of God’s character. We are told that even though humanity as a whole is corrupt, Noah is righteous. Until the point that Noah is introduced we see God is planning to wipe out all flesh, presumably including animals. The reason is twofold, human corruption has contaminated all creation. And wiping out humans would mean God has no representative to take care of creation. God wants to rule Earth through humanity but if human corruption is going to completely contaminate creation God is going to allow humanity to be destroyed and if there are no humans then with no one to govern God is going to call an end to the whole thing. But with Noah, the righteous representative, God is able to show grace to creation. Because Noah is trying to live in right relationship to God and creation God can gift creation second life. The plan of the Ark is about a God who laments the destruction of the goodness of creation and wants to give grace to creation. What God needs for this plan of grace to be implemented is a human willing to partner with God. Because God has —by God’s good design—determined to partner with humanity for the good of all creation.

Noah is not meant to be read as a story of a vindictive God who wants to destroy, nor even of angry God bringing just punishment. The story is one of God trying to maintain a good creation and graciously doing everything possible to preserve creation. Noah is the one person who sees God’s vision and accepts it. Noah is the one person who is committed to living like God and so hears God’s voice. The story does not say God only spoke to Noah, simply that it was only Noah who heard. Noah was the only one who had developed God’s character and so the only one to hear and to work with God to protect creation. The same holds true for us today, God is speaking to the world asking us to care for creation, care for one another, live righteously. God is asking us to partner with God in helping creation flourish. Are we committed to hearing God, living in righteousness, and caring for the world the way God wants? Or are we going to continue down the path of our own destruction until the point when our corruption consumes us? This is the point of the story, to help us see that it is possible to grieve God, to reject God and that the consequence of human corruption is destruction.

Grace Searching for Righteousness

Scripture: Genesis 6:11-22

¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹² And God saw that the earth was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted its ways upon the earth. ¹³ And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; now I am going to destroy them along with the earth. ¹⁴ Make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. ¹⁵ This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. ¹⁶ Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and put the door of the ark in its side; make it with lower, second, and third decks. ¹⁷ For my part, I am going to bring a flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. ¹⁸ But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹ And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. ²⁰ Of the birds according to their kinds and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every kind shall come in to you, to keep them alive. ²¹ Also take with you every kind of food that is eaten, and store it up, and it shall serve as food for you and for them." ²² Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

Questions

1. Why does the Bible say the earth was corrupt and not simply that humanity was corrupt, and why is the destruction not limited to corrupt people, but includes all living animals?
2. What does it mean that Noah alone was righteous and why is it that his entire family and animals were saved if he alone was righteous?
3. In what way is the Flood God's judgment what are God's motives and reactions to the Flood?

Background

Related Scriptures: Isaiah 54:9–10; Psalm 1; James 2:17–22 ; 1 Peter 3:8-22; 2 Peter 2:5

While the passage frequently uses the term "all", this is meant as hyperbole meant to help us see the totality and finality of the events described rather than a literal term.

The term for corruption in verse 12 refers to a disregard for the sanctity of human life.

The term translated "an end" means "a set time" it is God saying "I am not going to allow humanity any more time" or "the experiment is over" not that God is bringing death or destruction. The destruction is humanity's doing.

Reflection

One of the most common objections I hear to the Bible is, "how could God kill all the innocent children in the Flood and still be good?" When I see Christians respond to this question it is often something like, "The Bible says all were corrupt that means there were no innocent people, thus God was completely justified in killing people." This answer fails for me because it simply provides "justification" for what would be a cruel action in other standards. Now if you have ever asked that question or thrown out such

This Week at Dover First UMC

Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service
Honoring Our
Veterans

3 p.m. Private Party
Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service



Monday

No Events

Tuesday

2 p.m.

Veterans Day

Mary Hannah
Circle
Lounge

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

3 p.m.

Private Party
Fellowship Hall

Reminder

All Christmas Eve Poinsettia Orders are Due Today.
Please see the insert in your bulletin.