



# stayCONNECTED

Dover First UMC's Weekly Newsletter  
October 3, 2025

## Let's Worship Together

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

## Nursery Care

Sunday mornings  
for children 1 to 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](https://doverfirst.org)  
for online services,  
special studies,  
announcements,  
opportunities to serve,  
the church calendar  
and ways to give.



## The Community is Invited for Trunk or Treat Fun!

Sunday, October 19 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Visit our decorated cars for treats  
and enjoy a free evening of fun  
with inflatables, crafts, cookies,  
hot chocolate and hot cider.

**Dover First United Methodist Church**  
Parking Lot, Pavilion and Fellowship Hall  
1725 N. Wooster Ave in Dover, Ohio

We'll move indoors in the event of inclement weather

getCONNECTED





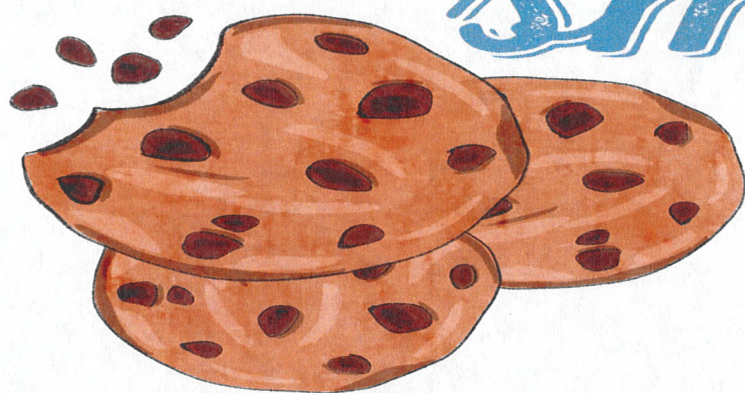
# THANK YOU

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.



# trunk treat



Join us for a  
night of family  
fun, *safe treats*  
and  
joyful  
hearts!

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# United Against Hunger Dover vs Phila UMC Rivalry



Dover First UMC vs New Phila First UMC

United Against Hunger Rivalry  
Collecting Donations for the  
Salvation Army Food Pantry

**September 21st thru October 26th**

Join in the Fun for a Cause as  
Our United Methodist Churches  
Come Together in the Fight  
Against Hunger in Our Community.

**Please Note that Your Special Donations  
are for 'United Against Hunger'**

See the other side for more info.

**Go, Dover!**



## **It's Time for Some Friendly Competition!**

From September 21st thru October 26th  
The Dover and New Phila UMC Churches  
will be collecting donations for the Salvation  
Army Food Pantry, as part of the long-  
standing Dover vs Phila football rivalry.

Let's show that United Methodists are truly  
united in the fight against hunger through  
our donations and by volunteering to help.

The church collecting the most donations  
wins, and the losing pastor must wear  
the opposing team's gear to church.

**On Sunday, Nov. 2nd at 5 p.m. let's celebrate  
the United Against Hunger rivalry with a  
chili cook-off covered dish at Dover First.**

It's all in good fun and all for a great cause,  
so let's donate generously, cheer loudly and  
make a big impact together.

**Go, Team Jesus!**



# 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.

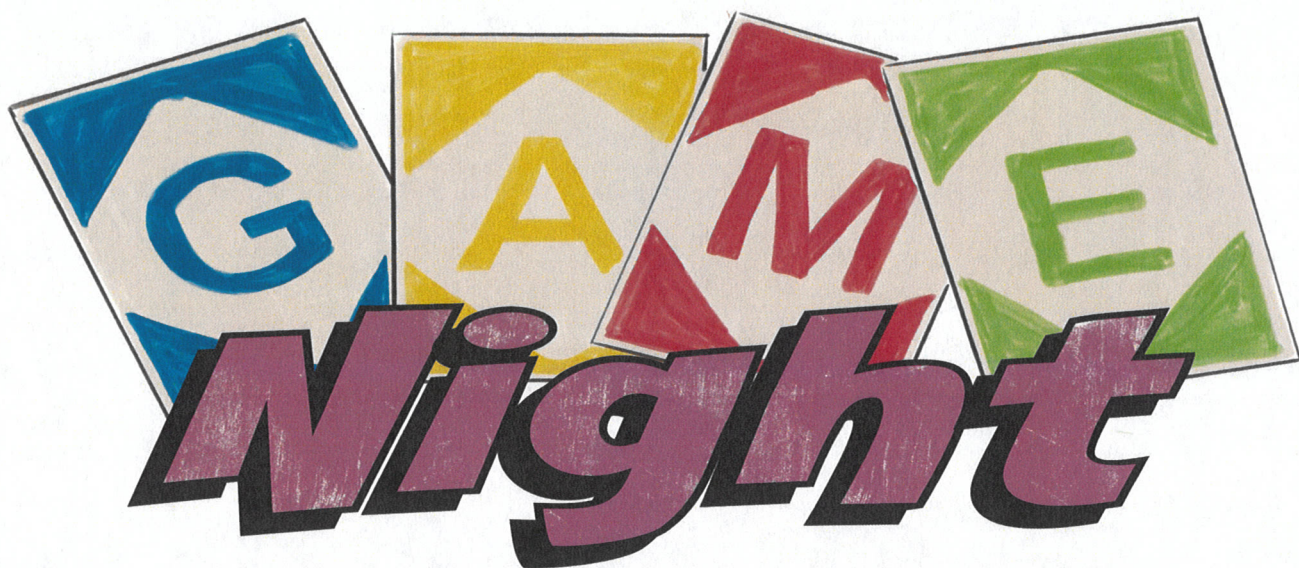
Light jackets are not needed at this time, but heavy washable jackets and coats are.

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!







**Game Night Fun for Our Church  
Family and Their Guests  
Adults, Teens and Kids**

**Thursday, October 16th at 6 p.m.**

Fellowship Hall and the Education Zone

All games must be church appropriate.

**We'll Bring the Snacks and Beverages  
and You Bring Your Favorite Games**

**Board Games**  
**Card Games**  
**Cornhole**  
**Charades and More!**  
**Trivia Games**  
**Puzzles**



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 5, 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                      “When Morning Gilds the Skies”  
arr. Dale Wood

Call to Worship   Psalm 22:27-29

L:      All the ends of the earth shall remember

L:      And turn to the Lord;

**All:    And all the families of the nations**

**All:    Shall worship before the Lord.**

L:      For dominion belongs to the Lord

L:      Who rules over the nations.

**All:    All who sleep in the earth**

**All:    Shall bow down to the Lord.**

\*Hymn #144      This Is My Father's World

Scripture              1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Prayer



*Hymn #2002	I Will Call Upon the Lord
Scripture	John 17:13-26
Choir Anthem	"Bread of Heaven" Words and Music by Patricia Mock and Faye Lopez
*Offering Introduction/Doxology/Prayer/Lord's Prayer	
Message	Made Them One Pastor Wesley George
Communion	
*Hymn #620	One Bread, One Body
*Benediction	
*Postlude	"The Faithful Heart Rejoices" Gerald Peterson

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### **Today's Altar Flowers**

In loving memory  
of our beloved  
Jim Trautman  
by his family



## *Make Them One*

### **Scripture: John 17:13-26**

<sup>13</sup> But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup> I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

<sup>20</sup> "I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

<sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

<sup>25</sup> "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them."

### **Questions**

1. When Jesus talks about "the world" in this passage what does he mean?
2. What does it mean to be sanctified in the truth?
3. How can Christians live out Jesus' prayer and be "completely one", how can I help contribute to this?

### **Background**

Related Scriptures: Romans 12; Revelation 7

**Aphrahat:** "Let us hate ourselves and love Christ as he loved us and gave himself up for our sakes. Let us honor the spirit of Christ that we may receive grace from him. Let us be strangers to the world, even as Christ was not of it. Let us be humble and mild that we may inherit the land of life. Let us be unflagging in his service that he may cause us to serve in the abode of the saints. Let us pray his prayer in purity that it may have access to the Lord of majesty. Let us be partakers in his suffering so that we may also rise up in his resurrection. Let us bear his sign on our bodies that we may be delivered from the wrath to come."<sup>1</sup>

The "world" represents a system of living that is in conflict with how Jesus lived. It is not inherently a group of outsiders but the system of living. This means separation from the world is not separation from people but values.

Jesus' prayer demonstrates that unity with God incorporates unity with one another.

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<sup>1</sup> Joel C. Elowsky, ed., *John 11-21*, Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture 250.



## *Make Them One*

### **Reflection**

Jesus' final prayer for his followers is that they would be as united to one another as he is united to the Father. By any definition this is a tall order, how are two sinful people supposed to be as united as God is with anyone let alone Jesus? And throughout the centuries this prayer seems to have fallen somewhat flat since there are thousands of denominations, and some adherents to these schools seem to have profound disagreements with one another. Is this truly evidence that we are divided? To some extent yes but simply because Christians appear divided does not always mean we are. Rather, we need to think about what Jesus' prayer for unity means and how we can still live out this goal in our lives today despite our differences and denominations.

The first reality is that we need to keep in mind that no matter how much we try we will never fully agree on everything. We must be willing to allow other Christians the right to say, "I disagree" without getting made at them. The Christian faith was never meant to be primarily a beliefs based religion. Even when we say "I believe in Jesus" we are saying that we trust in the work Jesus has accomplished and that living like him leads to life. Our beliefs are not meant to be intellectual sticking points between us. However, sadly this has become a reality for some. It is when we allow our beliefs about God to override our commitment to the things of God that we are least like God. Instead we need to listen to what Jesus says and keep our disagreements in the right context.

Instead we need to focus on two non-negotiables, I love God and strive to follow God in my life, and so does this fellow believer. This is Jesus' prayer for us, that God help us to remember that we are all part of the same body. Jesus recognized that there will be a temptation to conform to the divisive ways of the world and wants us to prioritize demonstrating God's love in our own lives. But the temptation to divisiveness can be powerful. Language and cultural barriers, differences in style and taste in worship and yes even real theological disagreements present challenges to this unity. It has been our history to allow differences in areas like culture and language divide us. We have been prone to allow our tastes in worship keep us from loving fellow Christians and praying for them. Yet, there has also been a trend in Christianity to love and respect one another and seek unity.

It may not always be easy to be a force for unity in the church, sometimes people are very different from one another and very difficult. But this is why Jesus prays explicitly for Christian unity. His prayer is that each of us might be so committed to God and so connected to God that we each want to love one another. What does Jesus expect from us? To think about one another, to pray for one another to empathize with one another's pain. Not simply those in our local community but to the extent we can, those Christians around the globe. It can also be good if we attempt to learn from one another and build cultural bridges. To listen to people with slightly different ideas, not for the purpose of responding or changing their minds, but simply to listen. I do not need to agree with everything my Eastern Orthodox or Roman Catholic brothers and sisters do, but I can appreciate that they are seeking God and so should be kind to them. I should pray for them and feel concern for them and even help them. I should be willing to sit with them and show a level of unity with them. Yes, we might end in disagreement on issues and not see eye-to-eye on how to do things, but we can still recognize we are of the same body. In a world that so consistently rejects Jesus' teachings unity is important. Understanding that we are one body with all our brothers and sisters helps us build up each other's resistance to this world. The Christian's goal in life is to focus on God in such a way as to live out Jesus' prayer for us. We do this trusting that God will help us. Our goal is to listen to Jesus' prayer and allow his call for unity to sink so deeply into our hearts that we are looking to bring unity to other believers for God's glory.



## This Week at Dover First UMC

### Sunday

10:20 a.m.      Worship Service  
Communion

### Next Sunday

10:20 a.m.      Worship Service  
Noon              Private Event  
Fellowship Hall

### Monday

No Events

### Tuesday

6:30 p.m.      God's Image  
with Pastor Wes

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

No Events

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