



Dover First UMC's Weekly Newsletter
September 26, 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
for online services,
special studies,
announcements,
opportunities to serve,
the church calendar
and ways to give.

Blessing of the Pets

Dover First United Methodist Church
Sunday, September 28th at 7 p.m.

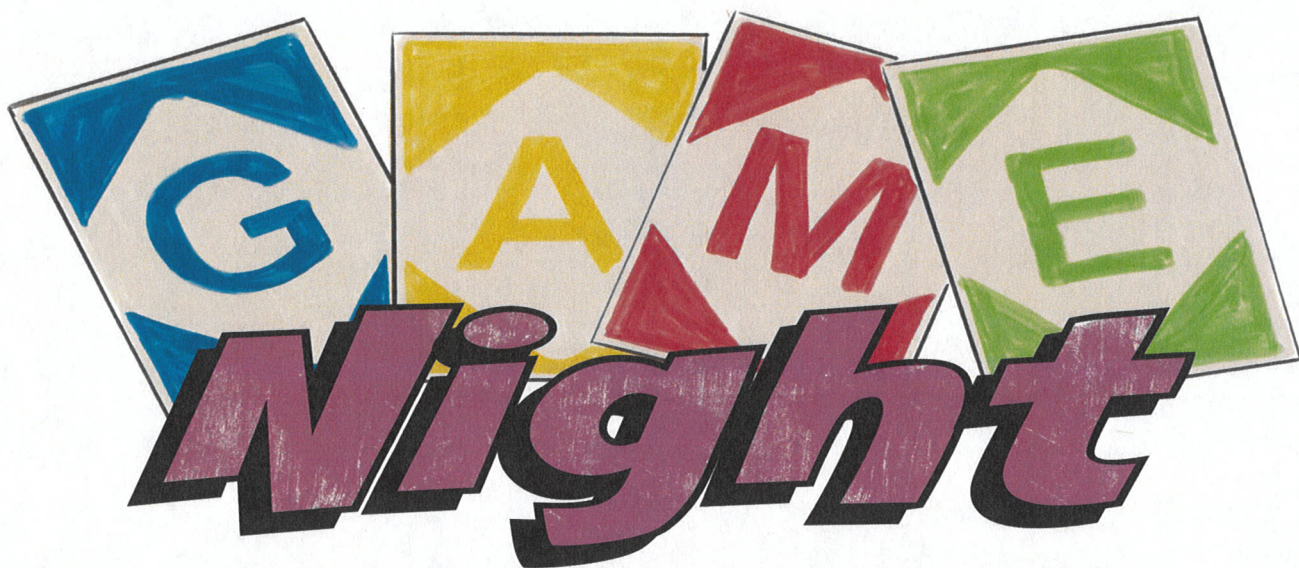
Join Us at the Church Yard and Pavilion
1725 N. Wooster Ave. in Dover, Ohio

Helpful Reminders:

- All pets and their people are invited.
- Bring a blanket or lawn chair for seating and enjoy live contemporary music and a message.
- For the safety and comfort of pets and guests, all pets **must** be leashed or in a carrier/habitat.
- If your pet does not enjoy crowds or traveling, please consider bringing a photo instead.
- Be sure to bring any supplies that you may need including bags for cleanup or water.
- Please allow a safe distance between all pets and do not approach without asking.

Let's help our local
Tusc. Co. Dog Pound
by bringing clean
blankets, towels
sheets, collars or
leashes to donate.





**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**

Card Games

Board Games

Cornhole

Charades and More!

Trivia Games

Puzzles

trunk treat



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

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

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!





Pick Up Your Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes in the Lobby Next Sunday

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, November 20 for dedication on Sunday.

United Against Hunger **Dover vs Phila UMC Rivalry**



Dover First UMC  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!



Welcome to Worship

September 28, 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 “Voluntary 1, Op. 5”
John Stanley
Jodi Ashcraft, organ

Call to Worship Psalm 62:5-8

L: For God alone my soul waits in silence,

All: For my hope is from God,

All: Who alone is my rock and my salvation,

All: My fortress; I shall not be shaken.

L: On God rests my deliverance and my honor;

L: My mighty rock, my refuge is God.

All: Trust in God at all times, O people;

**All: Pour out your heart before God who
is a refuge for us.**

*Hymn #77 How Great Thou Art

Scripture Mark 1:14-20

Prayer

*Hymn #2191 Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Scripture Jonah 1:1-17

Choir Anthem “In Heav’nly Love Abiding”
Music by Gordon Young
Text by Anna L. Waring

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

Message Rise Up!
Pastor Wesley George

*Hymn #419 I Am Thine, O Lord

*Benediction

*Postlude “To the Glory of God”
E.K. Heyser

CCLI License #1687804

The church family is invited to stay after the service for a brief update on our recently completed and upcoming capital projects for the church building.

Rise Up!

Scripture: Jonah 1:1-17

¹Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, ²“Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it, for their wickedness has come up before me.” ³But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord. ⁴But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵Then the sailors were afraid, and each cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. ⁶The captain came and said to him, “What are you doing sound asleep? Get up; call on your god! Perhaps the god will spare us a thought so that we do not perish.”

⁷The sailors said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, so that we may know on whose account this calamity has come upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. ⁸Then they said to him, “Tell us why this calamity has come upon us. What is your occupation? Where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?” ⁹“I am a Hebrew,” he replied. “I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” ¹⁰Then the men were even more afraid and said to him, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them so.

¹¹Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?” For the sea was growing more and more tempestuous. ¹²He said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great storm has come upon you.”

¹³Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them. ¹⁴Then they cried out to the Lord, “Please, O Lord, we pray, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life. Do not make us guilty of innocent blood, for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you.” ¹⁵So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. ¹⁶Then the men feared the Lord even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.

¹⁷But the Lord provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Questions

1. What kind of book are you expecting as you read Jonah? Do you expect history, humor, prophecy, something else?
2. Jonah gives a wonderful confession of faith that rings hollow because it has never caused a crisis in his life, what in your faith has caused you to stop and think recently?

Background

Related Scriptures: The Book of Psalms (especially 42 & 120), Mark 4:35-41, Acts 27

Chapter 1 is about Jonah’s descent as he tries to escape God he is constantly going down, stylistically showing he is moving away from God.

Throughout the story the non-Israelite characters show a more God-like character than the prophet.

Reflection

There are times when "God said it, I believe it, that settles it" can be a great motto. Like when Jesus says "love your neighbor", "pray for those who persecute you", "love your enemy", At times like this we can say God's moral directives overrule my inclination in the moment. However, in places like the Book of Jonah that same sentiment can stop us from asking questions and cause us to miss the entire point of the story. So many seem to simply say "well it happened that way" and then rush through the book without taking the time to see what's going on and ask how that might apply to us today. But the entire story is expertly crafted to help us to slow down and consider "who does God care about?" and "What does it truly mean to be among God's people?". What I am trying to say is we are supposed to slow down with this book and ask the question, "Am I understanding this right?" or "why is that detail here?". Slowing down I notice that Jonah is literally told to "Go up" yet he spends the rest of the chapter "going down". I notice that he claims, "I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." But has refused to do what God has asked him to do. How can someone say they are worshipping God when everything they are doing is the exact opposite of what God asked of them? It's because Jonah is not simply making a confession of faith. The sailors are asking him why he is the cause of the storm, and he is forced to admit he has abandoned the God he claims to worship. And when the sailors throw him overboard, they are grieved. They are the ones who are concerned with killing the innocent (not Jonah). Jonah wants to die and escape God; the sailors are hesitant to go through with his plan. Throughout this exchange and after the sailors seem to implicitly understand who God is while the man who is supposed to be God's prophet would rather die than live out his claim to worship God.

This whole exchange, indeed, the whole book demonstrates people who do not know God who are yet close to knowing God. They have good opinions and ideas about God and goodness; all they seem to lack is the prophet who truly worships God to show them God more fully. And throughout the story Jonah does his best to avoid this duty. He does not want "those people" to repent. He does not want God to show mercy to Nineveh; in fact, he would rather die than see this happen.

Jonah seems very content in his status as marked with God's people. He seems to take pleasure in being part of this exclusive club that is endowed with God's blessing. Jonah wants this clear division between himself and the people outside God's covenant. He does not want to act like God and is later disappointed that God shows mercy to others. The irony is that Jonah prays for God's mercy comes to himself in the belly of the fish but does not want others to gain this mercy. Further, when Jonah hears God's word he runs away from it instead of embracing it. While Nineveh, that loathsome city only hears they have done wrong and fully embraces the message in repentance. Jonah does not even tell them what their sin is or who God is and yet the people fall over themselves to turn from wickedness. This is a humorous way of presenting a deep truth that we easily demonize others who disagree with us when they can be genuine people.

We are meant to place ourselves into Jonah's shoes. This is why the book ends with a question. The whole of the book we are supposed to look at Jonah and see him as a failed representative of God. We are supposed to look at the sailors and the people of Nineveh as good people waiting for God to come to them and Jonah refusing to bring that message. And at the end of the book, we are left with God asking us the question, "what am I to do". We are supposed to look in the mirror and ask ourselves if we are as merciful and compassionate as God. Do I reject people or only accept them when they meet my terms of repentance? Do I allow my hatred of others push me away from God and God's message? Am I such a poor representative of God's character that others miss God because of me? Read this way Jonah becomes a mirror to reflect who I truly am.

This Week at Dover First UMC

Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service
7 p.m. Recharge Service
 and a Blessing
 of the Pets
 Church Lawn

Next Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service
 Communion

Blessing of the Pets

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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

5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts

6 p.m. Friend in Fellow-
 ship LifeGroup
 Lounge

6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts
 Education Zone

7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

7 p.m. Scout Leaders

7 p.m. WMM Church
 Spanish-Speaking

Friday

No Events

Saturday

10 a.m. Celebrating
 the Life of
 Dr. Don Braden
 Sanctuary