



stayCONNECTED

Dover First UMC's Weekly Newsletter

January 16, 2026

Let's Worship Together

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

Recharge Service
Live Contemporary Music
Recharge Will Not
Meet in January

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
and ways to give.

Pastor Renewal Leave Time

Please note that Pastor Wes will be out
of the office and unavailable for a time of
renewal leave from January 19 thru February 15.
Please contact the office if you need assistance.

Reflection Philippians 2 by Pastor Wesley George

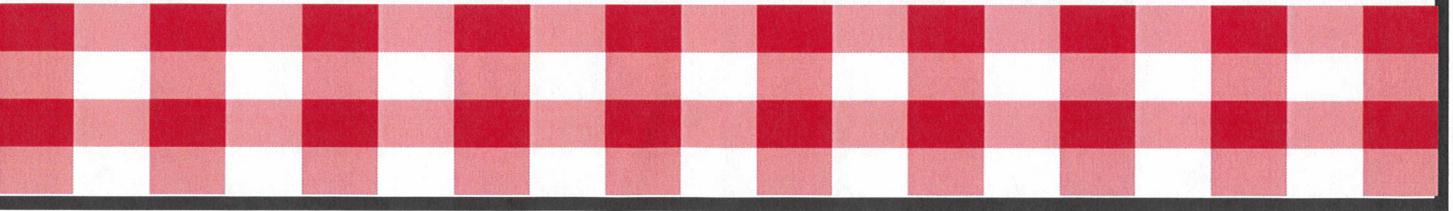
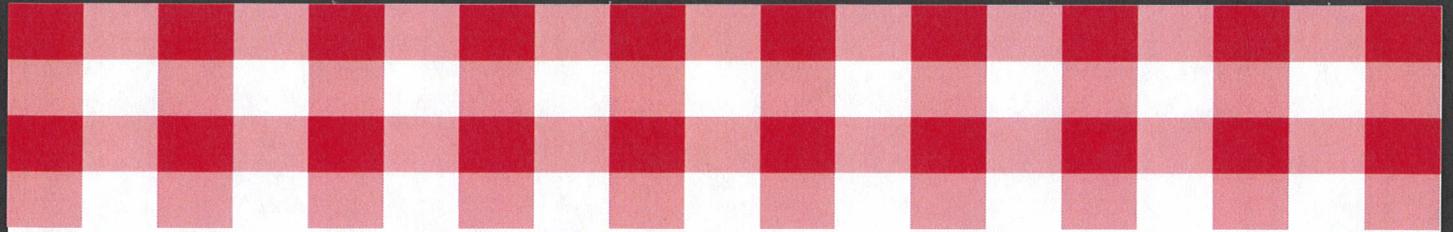
Last week my thoughts were turned to unity in Christ's work. Paul continues that thought in chapter 2, but he also grounds it in the life and ministry of Jesus. Think about how these people, so used to slavery, must have felt to hear Jesus described as a slave. Jesus laying aside honor, dignity, and glory these social markers that they (and we) strive for to be the lowest of the low. Jesus cared for us so much that he laid aside his own glory for the sake of us. Of course We should love and respect this.

And as Paul says emulate this:

What stood out to you as you reflected on this chapter?
How does the slavery image strike you today since we live in a world where slavery is in many ways forgotten?

getCONNECTED





Boy Scout Troop #94 Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser

When:

Sunday, February 1st
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where:

Dover First United
Methodist Church
1725 North Wooster Ave. in Dover

Enjoy:

Spaghetti and Meatballs,
Salad, Bread and Cookies
Dine In or Carry Out

Cost:

Your Free Will Donation
The Community is Invited!



MAKE YOUR
Reservations!

The Dover First UMC Youth Invites
Our Church Family to Be Their Guests
for a Youth-Led Dinner Fellowship

**Sunday, Feb. 15th at 5 p.m.
in the Fellowship Hall**

Enjoy a delicious free tacos buffet
along with desserts and beverages too!
We'll also have fun with Valentine Bingo
and other fellowship activities.

Save the date and sign up in the lobby the lobby.

A Week in the Life of a Slave

Join Pastor Wesley George for a special group study from accomplished Ashland Theological Seminary's professor of New Testament studies, John Byron.

The narrative follows the slave Onesimus from his arrival in Ephesus, where the apostle Paul is imprisoned, sharing the lived context of that time and place, supplemented by numerous sidebars and historical images. John Byron's historical fiction is at once a social and theological critique of slavery in the Roman Empire and a gripping adventure story, set against the exotic backdrop of first-century Ephesus.

Please Sign Up
in the Lobby

This five-session study will meet in the lounge beginning at 6:30 p.m.

February 17 and 24
March 3, 10 and 17

Books ordered by the church will be \$16 each or you can add it to your Kindle for \$15.

A WEEK IN
THE LIFE OF
A SLAVE



JOHN BYRON



Create in me
a pure heart,
O God,
and renew a
steadfast spirit
within me.

Psalm 51:10, NIV

Dover First UMC
Invites the Community
Ash Wednesday
February 18th

Drive Up Ashes in the Church Parking Lot
7 to 8 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Service in the Sanctuary
With the Imposition of Ashes Begins at 7 p.m.

Dover First United Methodist Church
1725 N. Wooster Ave in Dover, Ohio
doverfirst.org

Reflections on Philippians 1

by Pastor Wesley George

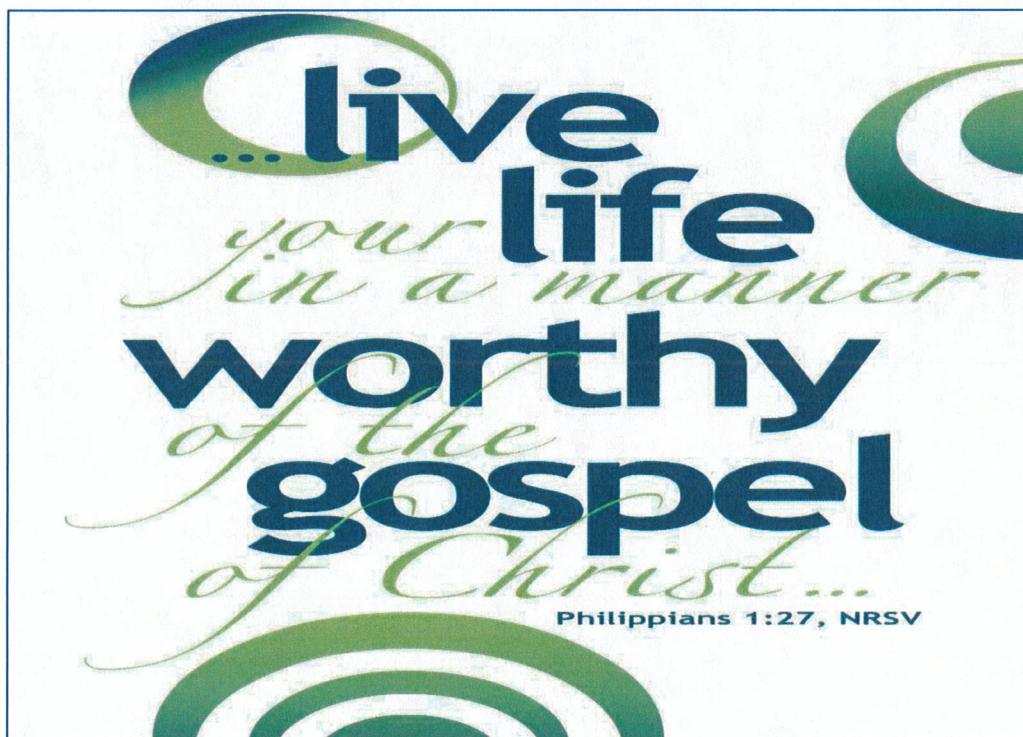
This week I spent time reading Philippians 1. To help me on my journey I am reading Nijay Gupta's Reading Philippians. One thing he pointed out that stopped me is that in verse 27 where we often translate "live your lives worthy of the Gospel of Christ" a fuller translation would be "live out your communal relationships in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ."

The emphasis is on building relationships that reflect the Gospel. A Church that Paul celebrates is one that brings life, health, and peace to all its members.

This is not about constructing laws. It is about developing life together. Paul is exhorting them to remember that a desire to fulfill love and live out life together will lead to unity of purpose and ultimately the proper proclamation of the Gospel.

What have you read and noticed? I'd love to know your thoughts.

How do my life in the community of faith proclaim the Gospel message and how can deeper love for my church proclaim Jesus to the world?





Need Help Dealing with Grief?

Join Pastor Wes for Our *GriefShare*
Grief and Loss Support Group

Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the Lounge
Beginning on February 19th

A *GriefShare* support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief.

Through this 13-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's 'normal' in grief.

Together we'll learn helpful ways to cope with its unpredictability and gain support along the way.

Book info will be available soon. Please sign up in the lobby.



Welcome to Worship

January 18, 2026

Today's Altar Flowers

In Loving Memory of Darrel Render by His Family

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship Psalm 40:1-3

L: I waited patiently for the Lord,

L: Who inclined to me and heard my cry.

All: The Lord drew me up from the desolate pit,

All: Out of the miry bog,

All: Set my feet upon a rock,

All: Making my steps secure.

L: The Lord put a new song in my mouth,

L: A song of praise to our God.

All: Many will see and be in awe,

All: And put their trust in the Lord.

*Hymn #159 Lift High the Cross

Scripture 1 Corinthians 1:1–9

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 #576

Rise Up, Ye Saints

Scripture

John 1:29-42

Choir Anthem

“As the Deer”

Words and Music by Martin Nystrom
Choral Setting by John F. Wilson

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

Message

Who Have You Found?

Pastor Wesley George

*Hymn #419

I Am Thine, O Lord

*Benediction

“Thanks Be to God”

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Pastor Renewal Leave Time

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Who Have You Found?

Scripture: John 1:29–42

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ³¹ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³² And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

Questions

1. John calls Jesus the “lamb of God” what does he mean by this?
2. Andrew says he has found the “Messiah (anointed one)” what does he mean by this?
3. What is your favorite title for Jesus and why?

Background

Related Scriptures: Isaiah 49:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9;

ORIGEN: There are five animals that are offered on the altar, three being land animals and two winged. It seems worthwhile to me to ask why the Savior is said to be a “lamb” by John and none of the rest. But also, in the case of the land animals, since three types of animal are offered according to each species, why did he name the lamb from the species of sheep? Now these are the five animals: a young bull, a sheep, a goat, a turtledove, a pigeon.

And the three types of sheep are a ram, the ewe and the lamb.... It is the lamb, however, that we find offered in the perpetual sacrifices. ... What other perpetual sacrifice can be spiritual to a spiritual being than the Word in his prime, the Word symbolically called “lamb”?... But if we examine the declaration about Jesus, who is pointed out by John in the words “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,” from the standpoint of the plan of salvation when the Son of God bodily lived among the human race, we will assume that the lamb is none other than his humanity. For he “was led as a sheep to the slaughter and was dumb as a lamb before its shearer,” saying, “I was an innocent lamb being led to be sacrificed.”¹

¹ Joel C. Elowsky, ed., *John 1–10*, Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture 68–69.

Who Have You Found?

Reflection

Have you ever thought about the various titles for Jesus? Have you ever sat down and thought about what John means when he says, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"? What does Andrew mean when he says, "We have found the Messiah"? These are common titles for Jesus in Christianity, but do we ever stop to think about what they meant to the people who first used them. What does it mean to the person standing by the river preaching cleansing through his baptism that Jesus, not baptism, will take away the sins of the world. What does it mean for Andrew and Peter that Jesus is the anointed one. What are these people looking forward to and how can that help us meet Jesus? After all, we today are still trying to meet Jesus and introduce him to others who need to meet him.

On one hand these titles are very easy to understand John sees Jesus as a lamb, something sacrificed to find purity. Andrew sees Jesus as the anointed king. But the more I think about what these confessions mean the more I am forced to wrestle with the idea that neither person could have known what the title meant. I am sure that John came to Jesus because he genuinely wanted to see Israel purified. Likewise, I am sure that Andrew wanted to see the king who would rule Israel. And so, when they described Jesus with these titles, they genuinely meant them. I also know that these are true titles for Jesus and that they are the kinds of titles we should use for him. Why do we use these titles? Because they help us understand what the concepts look like. John wanted purity, he valued repentance and so seeing Jesus in this light could direct him toward what repentance and purity looked like. Andrew wanted a king and continuing to see Jesus as "the king" would help him to understand what ruling was. The things these men were looking for in the world, they found in Jesus.

So, the question is what is important to you? What do you need what do you believe in? We invest in what we believe in. John believed in repentance and purity, he invested his life to seeing these accomplished in the world and so when Jesus came to him, he saw the culmination of that work. Andrew wanted a king to bring about justice and God's rule in the earth. He invested himself in Jesus to make that happen for his own life. Think about this in two ways, first what do you think is important to you and second where do you invest. What are the priorities that you consider important? How does Jesus fit into those priorities? What titles for Jesus bring you comfort? Is Jesus the Prince of Peace, the Lamb of God, King of the World, high Priest, Creator, Arbitrator? Yes, Jesus is all of these, but one or more probably has special meaning for you today. When you, like Andrew, say to your friends and family that you found Jesus, what title do you use? This is who you want Jesus to be and at this point we need to allow Jesus to be that person and guide what we understand about the world. Andrew had to learn what it meant to be the Messiah (king) by watching Jesus and so do we. We need to learn to see Jesus by the titles that we have used for him and allow him to determine what those titles mean so we can live into them. The second thing that is necessary after identifying who Jesus is, is to evaluate who and what you invest in. Where do you invest your time, talent, and finances? Do your investments match what you believe about Jesus? Do your priorities show who Jesus is? What would people have thought of John and his message if he proclaimed Jesus "the lamb of God who takes away the world's sins" and then seemed to put his trust in some other form of repentance? This is just as true for us; we need to identify the person we have found in Jesus and then live consistently with that identity so that others will trust our testimony. And that again leaves the one basic question for each one of us to answer, "Who did you find?"

This Week at Dover First UMC

Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service

Next Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service

Thank You Note

Joyce Mencer would like to thank the church family for sharing beautiful cards and wishes for her recent 90th birthday. She is so thankful for our caring congregation.

Monday

Our Offices
Will Be Closed
in Observance
of Martin Luther
King Jr. Day

Tuesday

7 p.m. Boy Scouts
Scout Room

7 p.m. WMM Church
Spanish-Speaking

Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
Fellowship Hall

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

Thursday

7 p.m. WMM Church
Spanish-Speaking

Friday

9:30 a.m. Finance Meeting
Lounge

Saturday

4:30 p.m. Private Party
Fellowship Hall