



Dover First UMC's Weekly Newsletter

July 11, 2025

Let's Worship Together

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

Recharge on the last
Sunday of the month at
7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

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.

Camp Read-A-Lot



Wednesdays 9 a.m. to Noon

6/18

6/25

7/2

7/9

7/16



Register online at doverfirst.org
using the Camp Read-A-Lot tab
or contact the Dover First United
Methodist Church office at:
(330) 343-1322 for more info.

Camp Read-A-Lot is a faith-based
summer literacy program for kids
entering grades K thru 3 or anyone
needing extra help learning to read.
Enjoy stories, music, activities, crafts,
and 50 different fun literacy games!



getC  CONNECTED



Sisters and Brothers,

One of the passages of Scripture I recite to myself often is Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." As I am watching my garden grow, I am thinking often about fruit. We have already begun to harvest some of the produce from the various plants around the house. This is the image Paul has in mind while writing these words. When we are connected to God's Spirit our lives are characterized by "love, joy, peace...".

This is the reason I so frequently meditate on these verses. As I meditate on these, I begin with asking myself "where" questions. Where am I demonstrating love? Where do I experience joy? Is my world at peace as far as I am concerned? Where do I show kindness to others? These kinds of questions help me to evaluate how connected I am to God's Spirit. After I ask these questions, I move to "how" questions. How can I demonstrate more faithfulness? How can I be more kind? How can I demonstrate gentleness?

Each of these helps me to understand where I am experiencing God's presence in my life and how I can continue to grow in the Spirit. Because as Jesus says we are like branches of a grapevine and our job is to produce fruit (John 15:1-11). And what is our fruit except the fruit of the Spirit? The only fruit we can offer Jesus is our own lives and how we live out the kind of character produced by a relationship with his Spirit.

Blessings,

Pastor Wesley



CHURCH picnic



Church Family Covered Dish Picnic
And Camp Read-A-Lot Celebration
Sunday, July 20th at 11:30 a.m.

**Please Sign Up in the Lobby and
Bring Your Favorite Dish to Share**

**Enjoy Food, Fun, Fellowship and a
100 Foot Water Slide for All Ages!**
We'll Have a Kiddie Pool for the Little Ones Too.

**Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Buns, Mac and Cheese,
Beverages, Condiments and Tableware Provided**





**For All Youth Entering
Grades 6 thru 12**

For more information
contact your Youth Director:

Logan Ladrach

doverfirstyouth@gmail.com

(330) 447-6180

**Dover First UMC's
Youth Group**

**Summer
Adventures!**

June 9

**We're Going to
Kennywood!**

West Mifflin, PA

Youth grades 6 thru 12

*Rain date is June 10

June 29

It's Putt Putt Time!

Wilkshire Mini
Golf in Bolivar

July 20

Youth Lock-Out

Camping at the church
8 p.m. to 7 a.m.

July 26

**Youth Event at
Camp Aldersgate**

11 a.m. in Carrollton

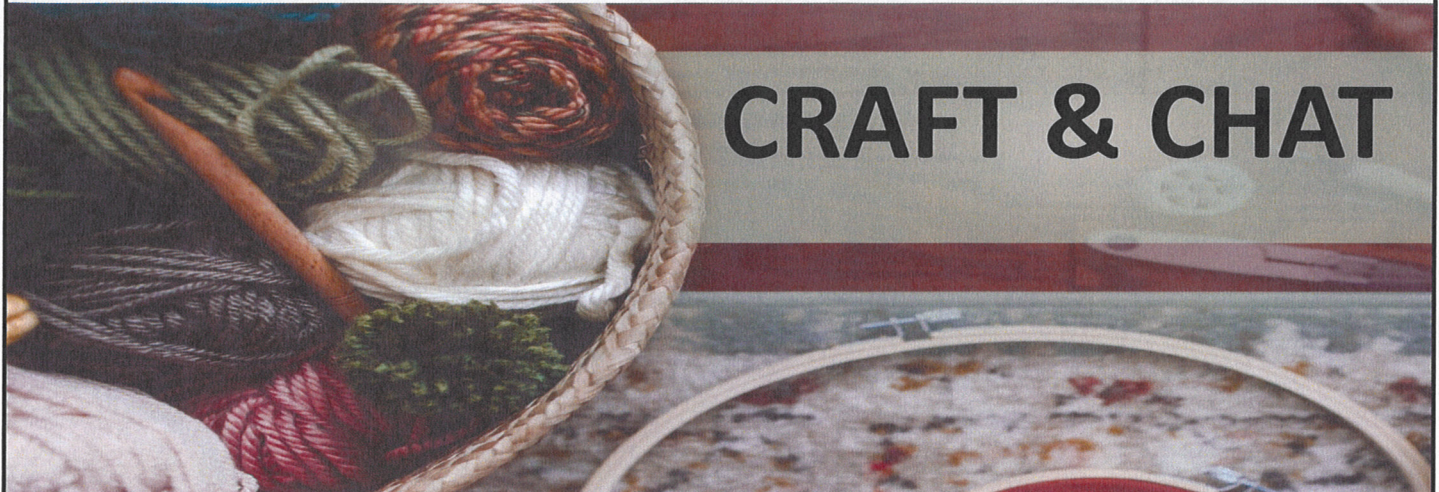
August 5

**We're Going to
Tall Timbers!**

*Rain date is August 7

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

Announcements



CRAFT & CHAT

Let's Craft & Chat Together!

Crafters of all art mediums are invited
to join us in the church lounge
for crafting and chatter fun on the first
Saturday of each month at 10 a.m.

Come as you are and bring any craft that you like including:
**Knitting, Calligraphy, Painting, Crocheting, Drawing, Sewing,
Jewelry Design, Quilting, Scrapbooking, Origami and more!**

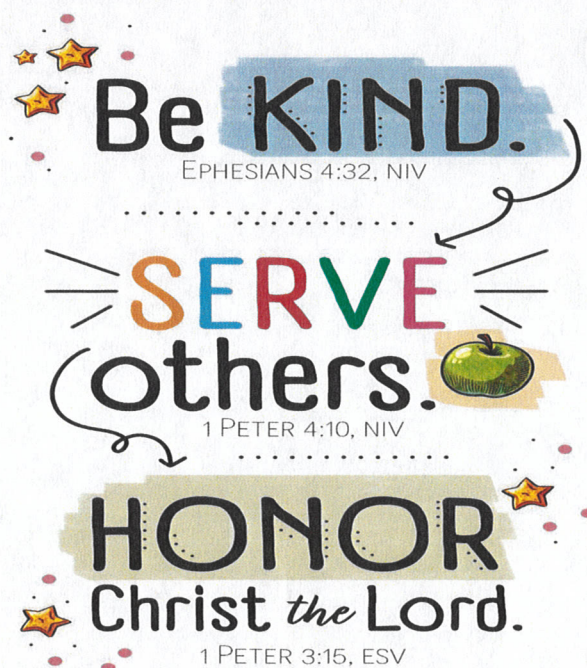
Your Help is Needed During the Summer Months

For our choir and all groups
soon to be on summer break:

Please consider serving
at the Welcome Center or as
an usher as you are available.

Extra help is always needed
during the summer, so please
contact the office for more info.

(330) 343-1322 or doverfirst.org





Welcome to Worship

July 13, 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 “You Are My All in All”
Dennis Jernigan
Logan Ladrach, Trumpet

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 #400 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Scripture Psalm 89:9-18

Prayer

*Hymn #375 There is a Balm in Gilead

Scripture 1 Peter 1:1-9

Special Music “Holy is the Lord”
Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio
Logan Ladrach, trumpet

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

Message Know the Shout of Joy
Pastor Wesley George

*Hymn #715 Rejoice, the Lord is King

*Benediction

*Postlude “Grand Toccata”
Gerald Peterson

CCLI License #1687804

Know the Shout of Joy

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:1-9

¹Peter, Apostle of Jesus the Christ.

To the chosen refugees of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ²by the foreknowledge of God the Father, made holy by the Spirit, because of the faithfulness and sacrifice of Jesus Christ, grace to you and may peace be multiplied.

³May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be praised for God's great mercy raising us to the hope of Life through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴into an inheritance that is unperishing, pure, and permanent; which is kept in heaven for you. ⁵This is protected by God's power, through faith in salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶Rejoice in this, even if it is necessary for a little while to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your lives.

Questions

1. Is there a difference between joy and happiness and if so what are the differences?
2. Where do I find joy in life, and do I find joy from God's presence?
3. How can I rejoice amid life's trials?

Background

Related Scriptures: Psalm 89:9-17, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 19:1-10

In the Old Testament the term often translated joy refers to the triumphant shout and army might give after a victory and it is that emotion the Psalms often use to stress the joy of worship. Joy is also intimately connected to mourning and lament. Joy is the emotional response to the comfort that comes when trials and mourning end, or when one knows they are ending in the future.

Ritualized mourning was important because it was through connecting to the difficult times that one learned to speak joy.

For Peter joy is known in the trials because it is when we can see God's grace in the difficulties of life that we know that we possess joy.

Joy is not simply emotional; it is also demonstrated in the habits and actions of a person. In this joy is disconnected from our emotional happiness.

We weep only until that morning of resurrection gladness, looking to the joy that blossomed in advance in the early-morning resurrection of the Lord¹

¹ Craig A. Blaising and Carmen S. Hardin, eds., *Psalms 1–50*, ACCS 224.

Know the Shout of Joy

Reflection

I think the most common question people ask me about joy is, “what is the difference between joy and happiness?” At a basic level happiness is an emotional response to a pleasant situation. That is happiness is when you can say, “I feel good” and genuinely mean it. Close synonyms might be untroubled, carefree, or cheerful. Joy too can have an emotional component such as a strong outburst of gladness (exultation), or a deep contentment. However, joy in the Bible is not rooted in emotions rather it is rooted in and developed by an intentional connection with God. Happiness is a response to life’s circumstances, things go well—I feel good. Joy is a response to life unconcerned with the circumstances—I will praise God in the high’s and low’s. In fact, in the Bible references to joy are focused around mourning. Whether in lament psalms, the prophets or Paul’s letter to the Philippians joy is connected with a person’s ability to connect to God in difficult times.

Throughout the Bible joy is described as being able to praise God and cling to salvation even in the midst of sorrow and pain. Joy is connected to an intentional commitment to worship and praise of God during the trying times of life. When Peter says to rejoice in the midst of trials (v6), he is telling us to continue to give time to praising God. This does not mean we cannot lament the trials, in fact we should lament. One of the greatest problems with our society is that we have made happiness into something like a moral good. We all simply want to be happy, free of pain and suffering. And some take this to extremes, never acknowledging the suffering and loss they experience. People are tempted to live in denial—never sitting in the grief and lamenting. And with this they never learn to cultivate true joy. Joy is the ability to praise God in the midst of our pain. Joy can often be confused with a stoic denial of pain and suffering, but joy still acknowledges the reality of the hurt. Someone who experiences joy still understands the pain they feel, the unfairness of life, the grief and loss circumstances have brought about. Yet, in all of this they see God’s glory and the salvation that God brings and so have a reason to shout in victory and praise. Even if the shout is somewhat muted. The joyous person does not always feel happy and does not deny the problems they and the world experience. The joyous person connects to those problems and feels them deeply. The joyous person, though, does not get bogged down in the problems because they understand God’s provisions in the midst of the problems.

So the question then is how does a person cultivate joy? How do we grow from the desire for simply happiness—a desire for pleasant emotions—to an ability to exult God at all times? The truth is we will always desire happiness, but happiness is not always available. This means we are looking to cultivate a mindset that is joyous even when we cannot be happy. Doing this begins with a setting our minds on praise. Joy begins in truly listening to the Bible when it uses imperatives like “Rejoice!” or “Exult!”, not simply reading the words on the page but stopping life and doing what it says. Are you content and happy right now? Read a passage like Psalm 122, consider what you have to be happy about and pause after verse 2 and take a minute to praise God for that. Praise God for what has you in a good mood. Are you in a time of grief and lament? Read a passage like Psalm 28 and consider what you are lamenting, pour out to God your grief and pain as you read the first half of the poem. Then when it calls you to rejoice, praise God for anything you can. You may not feel happy but the point is to cultivate the habit of praise. Not sure where you are? Try the same exercise with Psalm 30, think of a time in the past where you were hurting and how God or the Church helped you overcome it, and how you can exult God today. Joy is about using habits like this, or Sunday morning worship or listening to praise music. To remind ourselves of God’s presence and continued faithfulness. As we make these activities in to habits we begin to connect to the joy God’s Spirit provides. Joy is the tree that springs from the seed of praise, which is resistant to all the weather of life.

Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service

Next Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service
 11:30 a.m. Church Covered
 Dish Picnic and
 Camp Read-A-
 Lot Celebration
 Church Pavillion
 8 p.m. Youth Group
 Lock-Out

Monday

No Events

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

9 a.m. Camp Read-A-Lot
 5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
 7 p.m. Book Study
 with Pastor Wes
 Lounge

Thursday

6 p.m. Trustees Meeting
 7 p.m. WMM Church
 Spanish-Speaking

Friday

10 a.m. Finance Meeting

Saturday

10 a.m. Private Party
 Fellowship Hall

Dover First UMC's Donations and Expenditures	2025 Year to Date
Average Attendance - 100	as of 06/30/2025
All Income	156,521
Less: All Expenses Paid	(165,518)
Total Gain or (Loss) Incurred	(8,997)
Note 1: Capital Expenditures Included in Expenses	15,407
Note 2: Unpaid Conference Apportionments	11,138