



Dover First UMC's Weekly Newsletter November 14, 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

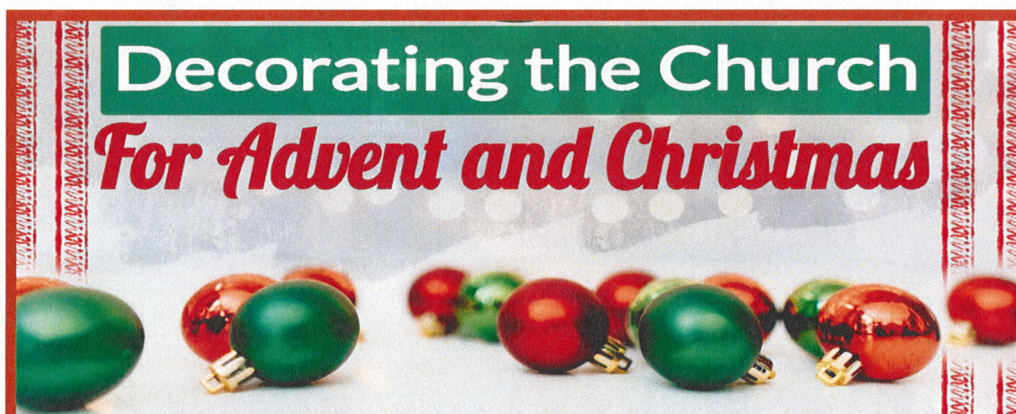
Preschool
Sunday mornings
for children 4 to 6

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

get**CONNECTED**



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.



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.



**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.

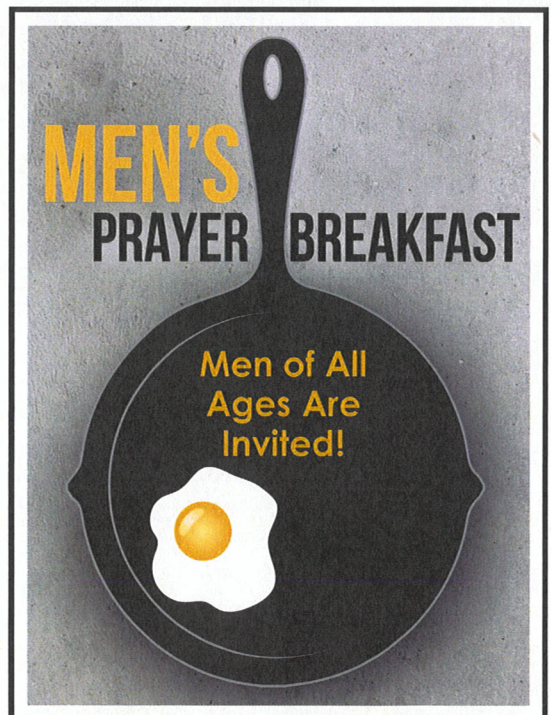
For additional information, visit the pantry website at:
dovernfoodpantry.org or call (234) 801-8198

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



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



Welcome to Worship

November 16, 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

“Toccata”

Robert W. Thygerson

Call to Worship

Psalm 23

L: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

ALL: The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures,

L: Leads me beside still waters,

L: Restores my life,

ALL: Leads me in right paths

ALL: For the sake of the Lord's name.

L: Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

L: I fear no evil;

ALL: For you are with me;

ALL: Your rod and your staff,

ALL: They comfort me.

L: You prepare a table before me

L: In the presence of my enemies;

ALL: You anoint my head with oil,

ALL: My cup overflows.

L: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

L: All the days of my life;

ALL: And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

ALL: As long as I live.

*Hymn #133 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Scripture Acts 12:6-17

Choir Anthem “Come, Christians, Join to Sing”
arr. Carlton R. Young
Logan Ladrach and Mitch Warden, trumpet

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 #102 Now Thank We All Our God

Scripture Daniel 6:10-23

Choir Anthem “Rejoice the Lord is King”
Gordon Young
Logan Ladrach and Mitch Warden, trumpet

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

Message Conviction Meets Consequence
Pastor Wesley George

*Hymn #374 Standing On The Promises

*Benediction

*Postlude Postlude on “Morning Song”
Steven Scott

Conviction Meets Consequence

Reflection

What struck me first reading Daniel 6 this week was that Daniel was in no way persecuted for his beliefs or his devotion to God. Rather, Daniel 6 is in many ways simply a story of the kinds of power tactics that are still common today. Jealous individuals intentionally create a system that puts Daniel on the wrong side of the law. Was Daniel doing anything illegal at the beginning of the chapter, no. But there were individuals who just did not like him with an avenue to power. These individuals used that power to create a system that made Daniel a traitor. At this we should pause and ask ourselves if we ever act like these jealous advisors. Do we create or allow systems that are clearly unjust simply to give ourselves an advantage over someone else? It is important to consider this since the prophets write against injustice so frequently, I think especially of Isaiah 10:1-2 where the prophet denounces Israel for creating a system that oppressed the poor and needy. It is easy to see the injustice of the passage because the victim is a person we are clearly meant to care about and someone who we (rightly) want to celebrate. Daniel is a person who does everything right and is an example to us for how to handle injustices in our lives. However, Darius and the advisors are also examples, negative ones, who demonstrate paths that are counter to what God desires. They are people who manipulate society for their own ends.

While it is very important for us to reflect on the injustice of Darius and his advisors, the focus of the text is on Daniel and his response to the injustice he faces. The story shows that Daniel does not change even when the king issues an unjust order. Daniel does not deviate from his devotion to God even when that puts him in a compromised position. Daniel does not allow the injustice to interfere with his life. Instead, Daniel continues his practice of prayer, a practice that is not mandated anywhere in scripture. Daniel's lifestyle is one that is based on his relationship with God not simply on what "he has to do". Daniel understands his relationship with God and the importance of that relationship to him and so he does not allow anything to invade his prayer time. I think the temptation for Daniel would have been to hide his dependence on God. It would be easy to simply make his prayer time more secret, but he did not do that. It was his routine to look toward Jerusalem so that he could be reminded of God's presence. This boldness in the face of danger is what draws us to Daniel and what should be the character we want to model in our own lives.

But the crux of the story is obviously God's deliverance of Daniel from the lion's den. And we can talk of Darius' advisors and their injustice or of Daniel's piety, but the story is ultimately about God. And in the end God delivers the righteous and allows the guilty to reap the consequences of their injustice. We notice that the end the advisors hoped would be given to Daniel is ultimately their own. This is not because God wants vengeance or has a desire to harm them, it is a sign that their injustice ultimately becomes their fate. Daniel practiced righteousness, he wanted justice in the community and sought it in his role. God honors this by vindicating him and providing justice for him. The advisors, though who were committed to injustice and were willing to harm the innocent, were ultimately caught in their own trap. Yes, it is obvious that not every instance of injustice plays out like this, Daniel is trying to make that claim. The point is that in the long-term participating in such injustices ultimately place us under judgment. Not that God is going to simply strike someone down. Rather, the judgment of practicing injustice is receiving the same the same destruction planned for others. This is where the story leaves us, we understand that God seeks to protect the victims of injustice. Now we must ask ourselves how we might give cover to injustice in our own world. And we must also ask ourselves how are we going to respond when we are the victims of injustice? Are we going to fold and cave to the pressure or are we going to stay true to our relationship with God?

Conviction Meets Consequence

Scripture: Daniel 6:10-23

¹⁰ Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open toward Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously. ¹¹ Then those men watched and found Daniel praying and seeking mercy before his God. ¹² Then they approached the king and said concerning the interdict, "O king! Did you not sign an interdict, that anyone who prays to any god or human, within thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the den of lions?" The king answered, "The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked." ¹³ Then they responded to the king, "Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the interdict you have signed, but he is saying his prayers three times a day."

¹⁴ When the king heard the charge, he was very much distressed. He was determined to save Daniel, and until the sun went down he made every effort to rescue him. ¹⁵ Then the conspirators came to the king and said to him, "Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no interdict or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed."

¹⁶ Then the king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!" ¹⁷ A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet ring of his lords, so that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. ¹⁸ Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no entertainment was brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

¹⁹ Then at dawn, the king got up and at first light hurried to the den of lions. ²⁰ When he came near the den where Daniel was, he cried out anxiously to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you faithfully serve been able to deliver you from the lions?" ²¹ Daniel then said to the king, "O king, live forever! ²² My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless before him; also before you, O king, I have done no wrong." ²³ Then the king was exceedingly glad and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him because he had trusted in his God.

Questions

1. What is the problem the other advisors have with Daniel?
2. How can Daniel's prayer and devotional time be a witness to us?
3. Why would the king use a lion's den as a form of punishment?
4. What kind of person is Darius that he can sign an edict that no one is allowed to pray to anyone but himself but then prays for Daniel before throwing him into the lion's den?

Background

Related Scriptures: Psalm 23; Isaiah 1, 10; Acts 12:6-17

Daniel was not targeted because of his religious attitudes, his enemies simply saw him as a political threat and so used his religion as a target to undermine him.

The edict that Darius signed—that no one was allowed to make petitions to any person or God other than himself—was clearly meant to play on his pride as the great arbitrator. The edict is meant to reflect the idea that the king supplies all the needs of the people.

Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service

Next Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service

4 p.m. Youth Group
Progressive Meal

The Education Team Would Like to Thank

Teri and Katie Jones for
organizing the fall decorating
for the Kidz Ministry and Youth.
Thanks also to Jodi Ashcraft for
helping to put everything away.

Today's Altar Flowers

Presented by Cliff Easlick in
honor of his loving wife, Susan.
Susie and Cliff celebrated their
45th wedding anniversary on
Nov. 1st with family and friends
while vacationing at Myrtle Beach.

Monday

No Events

Tuesday

7 p.m.

WMM Church
Spanish-Speaking

7 p.m.

Boy Scouts
Scout Room

Wednesday

5:30 p.m.

Girl Scouts

6:30 p.m.

Cub Scouts
Education Zone

7 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

6 p.m.

Trustees

7 p.m.

WMM Church
Spanish-Speaking

Friday

9:30 a.m.

Finance
Meeting
Lounge

Saturday

No Events

Dover First UMC's Donations and Expenditures 2025 Average Attendance - 97

2025 Year to Date as of 10/31/2025

All Income

\$311,880

Less: All Expenses Paid

(\$316,730)

Total Gain or (Loss) Incurred

(\$4,849)

Note 1: Capital Expenditures Included in Expenses

\$40,269

Note 2: Unpaid Conference Apportionments

\$18,563