



Dover First UMC's Weekly Newsletter
September 12, 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.



FALL



KICK-OFF!

Sunday, September 14th

Please Sign Up in the Lobby

Pre-Game Huddle!

Sign up in the lobby for food, fellowship and fun!

Game Time!

Our worship service begins at 10:20 a.m.
Wear your favorite team or marching band
jersey, t-shirt or other game attire to church.

Post-Game Celebration!

Stay for the post-game tailgate party.
Hot dogs, beverages and tableware provided
Bring your favorite covered dish to share.

New this year we have old-fashioned games!

3-legged race, sack race, egg race, rope pull,
and water balloon toss for all ages.

Medals will be awarded.

The Dover First UMC Family is Reaching Out in Prayer

During the 2025-2026 school year,
our church family will be supporting
the staff of the elementary school
closest to the church with our prayers.

Personalized cards reminding us to pray
for the Dover Avenue Elementary
staff can be picked up in the lobby.

Keep it in your wallet, on your fridge
or near your favorite place to pray.

Thank you for reaching
out to our community
through your prayers
for encouragement,
care, peace and joy
for all school staff
and students.

Go, Dover!



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

Fall Kick-Off!

September 14, 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 “Alleluia Toccata”
Fenton Groden
Jodi Ashcraft

Call to Worship Psalm 98:1-3

L: O sing to the Lord a new song,

L: For the Lord has done marvelous things!

L: God's right hand and holy arm

L: Have gotten the victory.

ALL: The Lord has declared victory,

ALL: And has revealed his vindication in the sight of

ALL: The nations.

L: The Lord has remembered his steadfast love and
faithfulness

L: To the house of Israel.

ALL: All the ends of the earth have seen

ALL: The victory of our God.

*Hymn #57

O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing

Scripture Job 13:13-19

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 #397 I Need Thee Every Hour

Scripture Philippians 1:12-30

Choir Anthem “Come Forth! Come One! Come All!”
Words and Music by Mark Roseberry
arr. Douglas Nolan

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

Message Same Team
Pastor Wesley George

*Hymn #530 Are Ye Able

*Benediction

*Postlude “Allegro Energico”
Christian Cappelen
arr. Mark L. Williams

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**Today’s Altar Flowers are In Celebration of the 35th
Wedding Anniversary of Bill and Bonnie Swihart**

Same Team

Scripture: Philippians 1:12-30

¹² I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually resulted in the progress of the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ, ¹⁴ and most of the brothers and sisters, having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear.

¹⁵ Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry but others from goodwill. ¹⁶ These proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defense of the gospel; ¹⁷ the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. ¹⁸ What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or true, and in that I rejoice.

Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my salvation. ²⁰ It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way but that by my speaking with all boldness Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Questions

1. What does it look like to proclaim Christ out of envy and selfish ambition?
2. Why would Paul rejoice in people preaching the gospel from selfish ambition?
3. What does it look like when Christians strive together?

Background

Related Scriptures: Job 13, 1 Corinthians 9

Paul is in prison, likely in Rome, when he wrote the letter to the Philippians.

This chapter has a major theme of looking for joy in all situations, especially in the midst of suffering.

Paul's focus in this passage is not on "dying for Jesus" that is not his goal, his goal is to live for Jesus until he dies.

Paul wants the Philippians to see the difference between truly living for Jesus which brings unity and selfish ambition which creates disunity in the Church while building up one person as a leader.

Same Team

Reflection

Paul is intimately aware of pain and suffering in the world. He understands the difficulties that need to be overcome, which is why he wants the Philippians to focus on the phrase “strive together”. Paul is in prison and wants the Philippian community to remember him, to pray for him, and in that way unite with him. Yet he is aware of the fact that some are capitalizing on his imprisonment to gain clout, as they preach the Gospel with their lips while failing to live it.

Paul’s discussion in verses 15-18 reveals there are some who preach the love of Jesus with their mouths but even as they are seeking personal gain at his expense. And while Paul is not going to say they are false teachers he wants it to be clear they could do better. He is living out the message he is preaching in this passage. He could easily throw these individuals under the bus as selfish and not proclaiming Jesus. However, Paul chooses to acknowledge the good in their message. He shows the genuine nature of his message in that he does not condemn others but demonstrates where their faith is genuine while calling others to a standard higher than his opponents live. As John Chrysostom put it, “Note Paul’s wisdom. He does not hurl around scurrilous accusations. He calmly describes what has come to pass.... Though the aim and motives on which they acted were corrupted, still the preaching itself was not corrupted. And the preaching of Christ occurred despite it all.”¹

What Paul describes reminds me of Job and his friends. Job’s friends preached “what they knew to be true” and what they said in many ways aligns well with what some Christians preach today. Yet Job’s friends are ultimately chastened for their words. This is because their words created distance between themselves and Job. They preached a “true message” in a way that caused harm. They were not united; they did not strive together. They put themselves on one side and Job on the other. Job was forced to contend alone as his friends all sparred with him and it dragged him down. How could it have changed Job’s life if his friends, instead of beating him while he was down, had focused on helping him? What might have been different if Job’s friends had focused on unity and helping the one who was struggling instead of simply pointing out his faults. Paul wants us to work together so as to build each other up. He knows that there are some who disagreed with him on issues related to the Gospel. What he wants is for those people to do what he did, speak well of his preaching to bring unity and selfishly take advantage of another Christian’s situation.

Paul wants us to realize that we belong to the same team when he says strive together, he recognizes there will be trials. But he also recognizes that the trials are from life and not fellow Christians.

We are striving together means recognizing that we are on the same team. Teammates can have disagreements, teammates can have struggles and difficulties, but teammates do not compete against one another during the match. A good teammate will build their team up, help teammates who are struggling, and do what they can to help the team win. It is a poor and selfish teammate who puts their own stats ahead of the team’s success.

Paul wants us to see that when others were using his situation to advance their own agendas, even if they were proclaiming the Gospel they were missing the point. Yes, they are proclaiming Jesus and as Paul says that is a good thing. But they are also bringing disunity to the Church and that will ultimately have a serious cost. Our goal is not simply to proclaim the Gospel; it is to live the Gospel and part of living the Gospel is striving together. We are called to work together as a team for God’s glory in this world.

¹ M. J. Edwards, ed., *Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians*, Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture 225.

This Week at Dover First UMC

Next Sunday Fall Kick Off!



10:20 a.m. Worship Service
Let's wear our favorite team or marching band shirts to church

11:30 a.m. Covered Dish Tailgate Party!
Sign up in the lobby

Next Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service

District Charge Conference
September 23rd at 7 p.m.
at Dover First UMC

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

6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts
Education Zone

7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

6 p.m. Trustees Meeting

7 p.m. WMM Church
Spanish-Speaking

Friday

10 a.m. Finance Meeting

Saturday

No Events

Dover First UMC's Donations and Expenditures Year to Date Average Attendance - 96

2025 Year to Date as of 08/31/2025

All Income	250,847
Less: All Expenses Paid	(244,505)
Total Gain or (Loss) Incurred	6,342
Note 1: Capital Expenditures Included in Expenses	34,707
Note 2: Unpaid Conference Apportionments	14,850