

Dover First UMC's Weekly Newsletter
August 29, 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.



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.

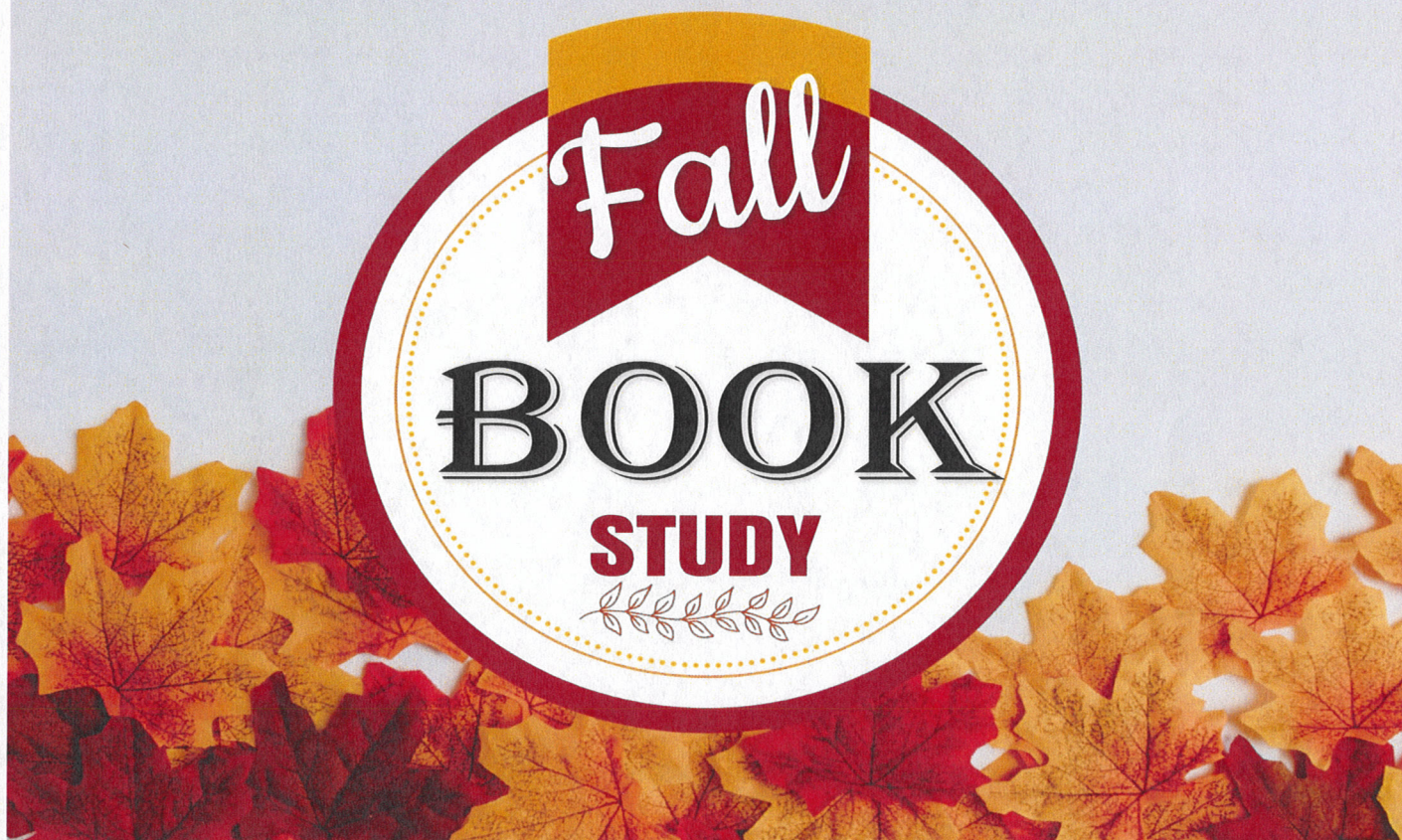
Post-Game Celebration!

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.



**Join Pastor Wes for a 5-Session Study
of the Carmen Joy Imes Book**

***Being God's Image:
Why Creation Still Matters***

**Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Lounge
Beginning on September 9th**

Please Sign Up in the Lobby

Books will be available for \$15

**You can also download to your Kindle
through your personal account for \$14.24**

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!





Welcome to Worship

August 31, 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

"How I Love Your Word"

Mark Hayes

Ron Barkett

Call to Worship Psalm 81:5-8

L: I hear a voice I do not know:

All: "I relieved your shoulder of the burden;

All: Your hands were freed from the basket.

L: In distress you called, and I delivered you;

L: I answered you in the secret place of thunder;

L: I tested you at the waters of Meribah.

All: Hear, O my people, while I admonish you!

All: O Israel, if you would but listen to me!

*Hymn #351

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

Scripture

2 Corinthians 10:1-11

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 #474 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Scripture Galatians 6:1-10

Special Music “Safe Within Your Arms”
Mark Hayes
Ron Barkett

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

Message Handle with Care
Pastor Wesley George

*Hymn #364 Because He Lives

*Benediction

*Postlude “Pipings”
James Southbridge

CCLI License #1687804

Have a Fun and Safe Labor Day!

Handle with Care

Scripture: Galatians 6:1-10

My brothers and sisters, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. ⁴ All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. ⁵ For all must carry their own loads. ⁶ Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher. ⁷ Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. ⁸ If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh, but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹ So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith.

Questions

1. What does it mean to be gentle and why is it so important in correcting others?
2. Why does Paul talk of restoring someone who has transgressed rather than correcting?
3. What does the Law of Christ mean?

Background

Related Scriptures: Matthew 11:28–30; 2 Corinthians 10:1-11; Philippians 4:5

Chrysostom: The Galatians were gratifying their private feelings under pretext of rebuke. They appeared to be doing this to correct the sins of others. Paul wanted to put a stop to their love of being first. He says, "Brothers, if someone is overtaken in any trespass." Note that he does not say "if he trespasses" but "if he is overtaken," that is, if he is caught off guard... Paul does not say "punish" or "pass judgment" but "restore." Nor did he even stop there, but showing that he strongly desired them to be patient with those who stumbled he adds "in a spirit of gentleness." He does not say "in gentleness" but "in a spirit of gentleness," showing that this also is the will of the Spirit and that the capacity to correct another's faults is a spiritual gift¹

Jerome: The Spirit-led person should correct a sinner gently and meekly. He must not be inflexible, angry or aggrieved in his desire to correct him. He should stir him up with the promise of salvation, promising remission and bringing forth the testimony of Christ.²

The gentleness in verse 1 is contrasted with thinking we are better than others in verse 26, meaning that it is through being gentle with others when they are in sin that we demonstrate we do not think we are better than them.

Paul expects that everyone will need to both show gentleness to others and be restored themselves, this is why Paul continues with the admonition to "Bear one another's burdens", which includes failings.

¹ M. J. Edwards, ed., *Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians*, Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture 92.

² M. J. Edwards, ed., *Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians*, Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture 92.

Handle with Care

Reflection

There is an old hymn that has come under attack in the last decade or so known as "Gentle Jesus Meek and Mild". Those who attack this hymn seem to do so from the perspective that they want to portray a rough and tumble Jesus. They see the qualities of gentleness and meekness as anything but what they want Jesus to be. Notably they associate gentleness with weakness and timidity and want to distance Jesus from that label. The problem is the Bible repeatedly refers to Jesus as "gentle", "meek", and "mild". Further, gentleness is identified as a fruit of the Spirit that is observed in mature believers. Paul continues this thought to 6:1-10 where he contrasts being gentle with others in their sin to being conceited. I do not think I often contrast conceit and gentleness in my own mind, but Paul certainly has a point in how he uses them. He is building a case for how Christians should treat fellow believers when those fellow believers are in sin. What he says is that when a brother or sister fails we should seek to restore them in gentleness. That is we should seek to see them have a right relationship with God and others and we should not be harsh with them in seeking this restoration.

Paul's advice echoes that of Ephesians "speak the truth in love" Too often Christians fall prey to the idea that "the truth hurts" or as so many like phrase it "telling the truth is loving". But if telling the truth were inherently loving Ephesians would not add "...in love". Instead truth telling can be an aggressive act and Paul wants us to recognize that. The counter to such aggression is focusing on gentleness. Gentleness is the quality of speaking to a person in a way that they feel seen, respected, understood, and safe. Gentleness is a quality of helping a person at a speed they can handle, and not pressuring them to change on your pace. I am sure few of us consider ourselves conceited but Paul uses that idea in opposition to gentleness. Why? Conceit is thinking too much of ourselves and when we are harsh with others it is often because we want them to grow into the person we want at the time we want. This is a way of saying, "I'm better than you", or "I know best". Gentleness is saying to another person, "I understand what you are doing is wrong but I am not going to force my will on you. Instead, I'm going to help you develop tools to grow." Gentleness is bearing another person's burden with them so they can have the time to grow. Bearing one another's burdens is not simply the hardships of life, burdens also include sin and the consequences of it in this world. Bearing with others is helping them as they learn to overcome temptation and this takes a gentle touch.

Though many want to reject the idea of a gentle Jesus as "weak" or "soft" gentleness is a sign of strength. Demonstrating gentleness to others is saying that you are strong enough to endure the wrongs others bring on you and still help them carry their burdens. The strongest people I know are those that are able to stand up to sin in such a way that they are not caught up in the sin but are able to help transform situations and lives.

I also like to think of gentleness as empathy in action. Gentleness is born out of a concern with another person and how they will respond to your words and actions. When we are concerned with the feelings of others we are more likely to recognize the need to be gentle, knowing that our words and actions can drive people away if they are not seen as loving. When I am concerned with how my words will impact you then I will look to be gentle with how I approach you. And if I desire to love you I will be strong enough to bear with the difficulties in your life. What Paul wants us to see is that when we begin to recognize this when we develop this strength and empathy for those around us we begin to become gentle in how we approach the world. This is how Jesus approached all humanity, with compassion for all, desiring to see us grow and willing to bear our burdens with us. And as we connect to the Spirit that empowered Jesus we too begin to take on this character.

This Week at Dover First UMC

Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service

Next Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service
Communion

Monday

Labor Day
Offices Closed
Staff Holiday



Tuesday

7 p.m. WMM Church
Spanish-Speaking

7 p.m. Boy Scouts
Scout Room

Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
Fellowship Hall

7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

7 p.m. WMM Church
Spanish-Speaking

7 p.m. Scout Leaders
Meeting

Friday

No Events

Saturday

10 a.m. Craft and Chat
Lounge
Bring your
favorite craft or
art to work on
and enjoy fun
and fellowship

If your group or class is starting up after the summer break,
please email doverfirst@gmail.com to be added to the calendar.