



stayCONNECTED

Dover First UMC's Weekly Newsletter
July 25, 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.



Youth Mission Work with Blue Rose Mission

Seven members of our
youth group, Logan Ladrach
(Youth Director), Deena Wolfe
(Children and Family Ministry)
and Katie Jones (chaperone)
shared their time, talents and
hard work recently at Blue
Rose Mission in Mansfield.

**Youth: Matt Wolfe, Nathan Ricker, Griffin Hammerstrom,
Declan Gray, Robert Wolfe, Max Bambeck and Andy Ricker**



getCONNECTED



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

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!**

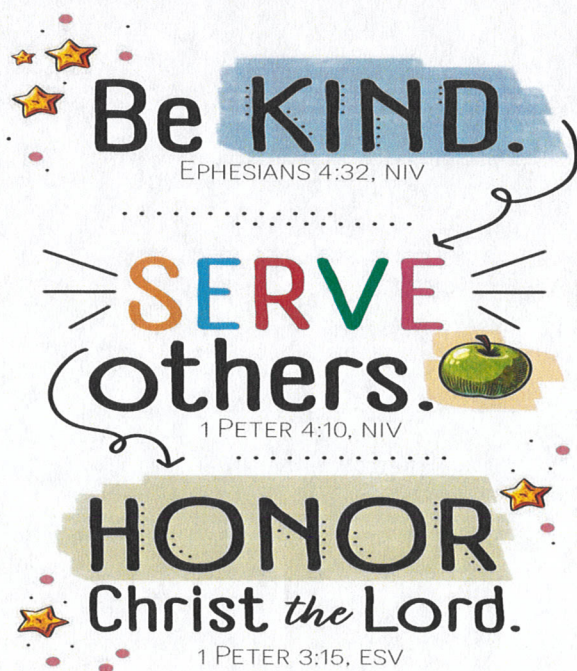
Your Help is Needed During the Summer Months

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 27, 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 “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”
arr. Robert Thygerson

Call to Worship Psalm 37:1-4

L: Do not be angry because of the wicked,

L: Do not be envious of wrongdoers!

ALL: For they will soon fade like the grass,

ALL: And wither like the green herb.

L: Trust in the Lord, and do good;

L: So you will dwell in the land, and enjoy security.

ALL: Take delight in the Lord,

ALL: Who will give you the desires of your heart.

*Hymn #170 O How I Love Jesus

Scripture Proverbs 25:7b-16

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 #2158 Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Scripture Ephesians 4:1-16

Special Music “Here I Am to Worship
by Tim Hughes
Madison Ladrach, clarinet

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

Message Slow and Steady
Pastor Wesley George

*Hymn #514 Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

*Benediction

*Postlude “Postlude on ‘Olney’”
by Steven Scott

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Slow and Steady

Reflection

This world and the people in it can often be very trying. So many issues can cause us to want to loose it on others. Today we deal with road rage and meltdowns in restaurants on a daily basis. Life together with other people simply pushes many of us to the edge. What is happening to society that we have so much trouble interacting with others around us? Society seems ruled by a self-centeredness that cannot tolerate the slightest inconvenience.

The older I get the more sincerity I see in Reinhold Neibur's famous serenity prayer.

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will; that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him. Forever in the next. Amen.

Paul reminds us that one of the goals of the Christian life is developing patience. And patience begins in understanding what I can change and what I cannot change. This is difficult because our human temptation is to want everything around us to change to accommodate us. We want the situations of life to bend to us and when that does not happen, we become annoyed or angry. Even with other people. Patience begins in accepting that sometimes situations and people are difficult and the only thing in our control is "my response". Patience is a response to life grounded in combination of strength, love, and understanding.

Patience is a form of strength and like physical strength, it does not develop quickly or without work. As Leo Tolstoy says, "The strongest of all warriors are these two — Time and Patience." Patience is the strength to deal with circumstances that hurt you with dignity. As I have already said, prayer is one way to develop this strength. Talking with God about the circumstances of life and asking for wisdom to deal with them. Another discipline that can help produce patience is practicing the pause. What I mean by practicing the pause is, when speaking with another person or responding to a situation, slow down. Pause for a second to ask, "is this really what I want to say, how will this person hear this?" When someone is talking to you, think about what their life is like and how it has influenced their views or behaviors. Slow down in difficult situations long enough to ask why this is so difficult for me and how you can provide the most loving example in the situation. Asking about the situation is difficult can help identify a valid response. Slowing down can give you the opportunity to identify what emotions you are feeling and how these emotions might impact your ability to show love in a situation. And when dealing with people, it slows down and can allow others feel respected. When people feel respected, they feel loved and are more willing to listen to others. Taking time to gather ourselves in difficult situations allows us to be a witness to God's presence in the world. Are we willing to put in the work that leads to patience? Are we willing to pause and pray for help in dealing with the stresses of life? God wants to help us deal with others in a loving and gracious way. Can we look to God for this grace as we grow to learn to listen to others. Society needs us to patiently live with one another. Let us all learn and grow in this kind of maturity.

Slow and Steady

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-16

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: ⁴ there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷ But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high, he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people."

⁹ (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴ We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Questions

1. How do the four characteristics in verse 2 work together?
2. Why is patience so important for Christians to develop?
3. What issues prevent me from showing patience in my life?

Background

Related Scriptures: Exodus 34:6-8; Galatians 5:16-26; Philippians 2:1-11

Jerome: Anyone who understands what it is "forbear one another in love" will understand that this is a precept appropriate to the faithful. It is not indeed saints who have any need to "forbear one another." Rather it is those in the earlier stages of Christian life, who being human are still under the control of some passion. Nor is it strange that this should be said to the Ephesians. Among them there were surely some who still had to bear patiently with others.¹

Marius Victorinus: He speaks of several forms of forbearance, each of which prevents them from being carried away or proud. Lowliness is first, then meekness. Lowliness consists in having a humble mind. Meekness is a curb on pride and cruelty. Patience consists in bearing any adverse circumstance that may befall them. With lowliness and meekness they learn not to be afraid to suffer. With patience they learn how to respond if they must suffer²

¹ M. J. Edwards, ed., *Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians*, Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture 159.

² M. J. Edwards, ed., *Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians*, Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture 159.

This Week at Dover First UMC

Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service
7 p.m. Recharge Service
Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service
Communion

Monday

7 p.m. Leadership Board

Tuesday

7 p.m. WMM Church
Spanish-Speaking

7 p.m. Boy Scouts
Scout Room

Wednesday

7 p.m. Book Study
with Pastor Wes
Lounge

Thursday

7 p.m. WMM Church
Spanish-Speaking

Friday

No Events

Saturday

10 a.m. Craft and Chat
Lounge



Summer Recharge Service Schedule

July 27

Music by Steve Dulaney
Message by Pastor Wes
Fellowship Hall at 7 p.m.

No Recharge in August
Labor Day Weekend

Please share any changes or additions to the church calendar
with Administrative Assistant, Debbie Benish.
doverfirst@gmail.com or (330) 343-1322