



stayCONNECTED

Dover First UMC's Weekly Newsletter
October 31, 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.

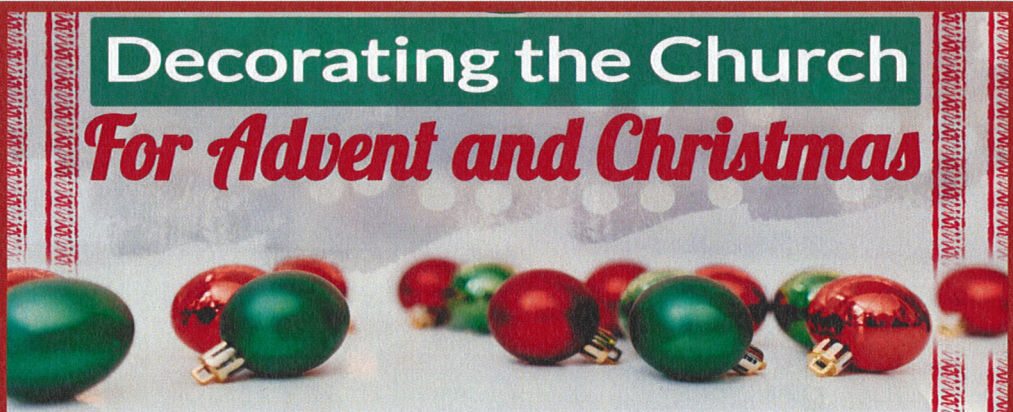
Nursery Care
Sunday mornings
for children 1 to 3
in rooms 1 and 3

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



Decorating the Church *For Advent and Christmas*

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.

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



**Dover First UMC
and Phila First UMC**

**Chili Cook-Off
Covered Dish**

Chili Cook-Off Dinner

Everyone's invited to bring their best chili or their favorite covered dish to share as Dover First UMC and New Phila First UMC celebrate our United Against Hunger outreach with fellowship and a meal.

**Sunday, Nov. 2 at 5 p.m.
Dover First UMC Fellowship Hall
Please sign up in the lobby.**



**Together We've Raised
Over \$4,000
for the Salvation Army
Food Pantry**



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.
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

A Thank You From the Pastor

Pastor Wes would like to thank the church family for your cards, gifts, notes and kind words during Pastor Appreciation in October.

Your kindness is very appreciated.



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.



Welcome to Worship

All Saints' Sunday

November 2, 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 “All Saints Triumphant, Raise the Song”
Richard Blake

Call to Worship Psalm 34:1-6

L: I will bless the Lord at all times;

L: God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.

ALL: My soul makes its boast in the Lord;

All: Let the afflicted hear and be glad.

L: O magnify the Lord with me,

L: And let us exalt God's name together!

All: I sought the Lord, who answered me,

All: And delivered me from all my fears.

L: Look to God and be radiant,

L: So your faces shall never be ashamed.

All: The poor cried out, and the Lord heard,

All: And saved them out of all their troubles.

*Hymn #711

For All The Saints

First Scripture

Ephesians 1:11-23

Recognition of the Saints

Prayer

*Hymn #61

Come, Thou Almighty King

Scripture

Daniel 7:1-3, 13-18

Chancel Choir

"The Gift of Love"
Hal H. Hopson

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

Message

Seeing Through the Clouds
Pastor Wesley George

Communion

*Hymn #701

When We All Get to Heaven

*Postlude

"For All Saints Fanfare"
Setting by Michael Helman

Seeing Through the Clouds

Scripture: Daniel 7:1-3, 13-18

In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream: ² I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, ³ and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

¹³ As I watched in the night visions,
I saw one like a human being
coming with the clouds of heaven.

And he came to the Ancient One
and was presented before him.

¹⁴ To him was given dominion
and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one
that shall never be destroyed.

¹⁵ As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me. ¹⁶ I approached one of the attendants to ask him the truth concerning all this. So he said that he would disclose to me the interpretation of the matter: ¹⁷ "As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth. ¹⁸ But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever—forever and ever."

Questions

1. What is the point of the vision of the four beasts in Daniel 7?
2. Why does Daniel describe the person in verse 13 as, "one like a human being" and not simply say "a human"?
3. What does it mean that this person gains a throne from the Ancient One and how does that give us hope for the future?

Background

Related Scriptures: Mark 13; Ephesians 1:11-23; Revelation 7

The vision in Daniel 7 is two parts—human attempts to gain power that led to destruction and God's plan to undue this and give power to one who can truly wield it.

Notice the rulers who are trying to gain power are described like animals while the one who rules in God's name is "like a human being". This is meant to show that we are truly human when we act like God.

The sea in the Bible represents chaos the beasts coming up from the sea represents that human kingdoms are born out of and stir up conflict and chaos. While in contrast the kingdom of God is associated with the sky/air which is the subduing of chaos (Job 26:12-13)

Seeing Through the Clouds

Reflection

Daniel's visions can be unsettling for some and confusing for others. But they can be important for us as we think about the world we live in. Daniel sees four beasts rise from the sea to conquer the world. And while so many people get hung up on timelines and trying to figure who these beasts are, Jesus warns us against such behavior. Instead of worrying about who these beasts represent, Jesus wants us to focus on what they represent. The reason Jesus wants us focused on what these beasts represent instead of who is because what they represent is a universal human temptation. In fact, this is one of the temptations that Jesus was faced with in the wilderness. The temptation is to take the world by force, to control others, and to reign through strength and fear rather than love. This is why the rulers are represented by animals, and not simply normal animals but monstrous predators. The vision is meant to show how the lust for power, conquest, and control dehumanizes people. When people seek this kind of domination they cease to be truly human and become bestial.

Now, I have significant disagreements with many of those who are always claiming "it's the end times". But one thing they do often point out that is true is how society at large (especially governments) are represented by these beasts. So much of our society is built on devouring others and seeking control. This is why so many long for another world where such activity is done away with and peace and justice reign. This is the vision Daniel received, a series of governments each built on a devouring, ruling by threat and fear.

But this vision is not the end of the story, rather Daniel received a second vision, one of a true human receiving authority over Earth directly from God. We need to notice that everything about this character is different from the beasts. This is a true human, not a beast and not divine, a human living up to God's purpose for humanity ruling creation. Not a beast bent on devouring, a person connected to God distributing justice. Also this individual rises up to God in the clouds/air. The beasts rise from the depths of the sea which represents chaos and disorder in the Bible. But the true human rises to God the author of creation and order. Everything about this person is different from what has come before. This person is our hope, a hope of a world where we are not ruled by monsters spawned from chaos and seeking to devour everything, but governed and governing in the way God intended.

This is the Christian hope that one day Jesus the true human will return to restore creation to what it was called to be. This is the inheritance that Paul talks about in Ephesians 1. He anticipates a day when we live together with Jesus, not simply those of us gathered today but all Christians who have faithfully lived and died. In the mean time we fight against the reign of the beasts. We do not fight through conquest and control as they do. We do not slay the beasts in battle, that simply creates a new beast. Rather, we overcome the kingdoms of this world by acting like Jesus. We do this not because Jesus expects us to do all the work ourselves, but because we are so excited to join those who have already claimed the fullness of the kingdom that we want to bring it to Earth.

One of the reasons we celebrate holiday's like All Saint's Day is to remind us of the conquest in Jesus. We remind ourselves of our friends and family who have gone before us and enter into the kingdom that we only anticipate. We celebrate to help motivate ourselves to continuing to faithfully live despite being confronted with the beasts on Earth. We may be in the midst of struggles but we celebrate those whose journey is over and who have witnessed the new kingdom. And we take hope that if they were faithful to the end so we can be also. And even though there are times when the world looks dark and it seems like the Beasts are in control we know that ultimately the true Human will come to put things right. And so we stay faithful to that reality looking forward to that day.

This Week at Dover First UMC

All Saints' Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service
Communion

5 p.m. Chili Cook-Off
Covered Dish
Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service
Honoring Our
Veterans

3 p.m. Private Party
Lounge

Monday

No Events

Tuesday

Election Day

7 p.m.

WMM Church
Spanish-Speaking

7 p.m.

Boy Scouts
Scout Room

Wednesday

5:30 p.m.

Girl Scouts

6 p.m.

Friends in
Fellowship

6:30 p.m.

Cub Scouts
Education Zone

7 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

7 p.m.

WMM Church
Spanish-Speaking

7 p.m.

Scout Leaders

Friday

No Events

Saturday

No Events

Reminder:

**All Christmas Eve Poinsettia Orders are Due
No Later Than Next Sunday, November 9th.**

Please see the insert in your bulletin.