



## Dover First UMC's Weekly Newsletter

February 6, 2026

### Let's Worship Together

Sundays at 10:20 a.m.  
in the Sanctuary

### 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](https://doverfirst.org)  
for online services,  
special studies,  
announcements,  
opportunities to serve,  
and the church calendar  
and ways to give.

### Pastor Renewal Leave Time

Please note that Pastor Wes will be out  
of the office and unavailable for a time of  
renewal leave from January 19 thru February 15.  
Please contact the office if you need assistance.

### Reflection on Matthew 2

The magi did everything right and evil still won,  
innocents were still murdered. The magi not  
cooperating with Herod made little difference in the  
outcome. But the magi did what was right. They did  
not do what was right for any other reason than God  
told them to. And as hard as it can be, this is enough,  
I did not participate with the power hungry. I main-  
tained my witness to what is true and good. Yes my  
voice may not make a difference in the grand scheme  
of things and evil may still happen even though I do  
the right thing, but I was righteous and I opposed  
the power hungry tyrant where I could and was not  
complicit in the injustice. This is enough. May God  
bless me for doing the little I could. What did you  
think about in the first seven chapters of Matthew?  
**How can I stand up to the injustices around me even  
when I lack the power to directly confront them?**

Sisters and Brothers,

This year I want us to re-commit to paying attention to Scripture. But we do not simply read for information; we read for transformation. I am grateful for all of you who read through Philippians with me in January. I think Paul's message of rejoicing in the midst of suffering is as timely now as ever. And thank you to everyone who shared with me all your thoughts about Philippians I genuinely appreciated learning from you.

In February, I would like us to take time to read Matthew's Gospel. This is the Gospel for the liturgical calendar this year and so it is fitting to read it. If you are not aware, there are 28 chapters in Matthew and so I will be committing to reading one chapter a day. And like I said, I want this to be transformative, so I want to read this in a modern translation that will hopefully use language that is new to me and so strikes me differently and makes me think. For this reason (and because I have not used it much) I am reading through The Message. It is not important which translation you use, but I thought you would appreciate how I am approaching the text.

Here are some themes that I will be thinking about.

- Jesus as the new Moses, a prophet to lead
- The kingdom of heaven is here, being citizens of this kingdom
- Jesus is Emmanuel, what does it mean that God is with us.

I hope you will take the time to work through Matthew with and as we grow together in God's word.

Blessings,

Pastor Wesley



Create in me  
*a pure heart*  
O God,  
and renew a  
*steadfast spirit*  
within me.

Psalm 51:10, NIV

Dover First UMC  
Invites the Community

# Ash Wednesday

February 18th

Drive Up Ashes in the Church Parking Lot  
7 to 8 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Service in the Sanctuary  
With the Imposition of Ashes Begins at 6 p.m.

Dover First United Methodist Church  
1725 N. Wooster Ave in Dover, Ohio  
[doverfirst.org](http://doverfirst.org)





# Need Help Dealing with Grief?

Join Pastor Wes for Our *GriefShare*  
Grief and Loss Support Group

**Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the Lounge**  
**Beginning on February 19th**

A *GriefShare* support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief.

Through this 13-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's 'normal' in grief.

Together we'll learn helpful ways to cope with its unpredictability and gain support along the way.

**Book info will be available soon. Please sign up in the lobby.**

# MAKE YOUR *Reservations!*



The Dover First UMC Youth Invites  
Our Church Family to Be Their Guests  
for a Youth-Led Dinner Fellowship

**Sunday, Feb. 15th at 5 p.m.**  
**in the Fellowship Hall**

Enjoy a delicious free tacos buffet  
along with desserts and beverages too!  
We'll also have fun with Valentine Bingo  
and other fellowship activities.

**Save the date and sign up in the lobby the lobby.**



# A Week in the Life of a Slave

Join Pastor Wesley George for a special group study from accomplished Ashland Theological Seminary's professor of New Testament studies, John Byron.

The narrative follows the slave Onesimus from his arrival in Ephesus, where the apostle Paul is imprisoned, sharing the lived context of that time and place, supplemented by numerous sidebars and historical images. John Byron's historical fiction is at once a social and theological critique of slavery in the Roman Empire and a gripping adventure story, set against the exotic backdrop of first-century Ephesus.

## Please Sign Up in the Lobby

This five-session study will meet in the lounge beginning at 6:30 p.m.

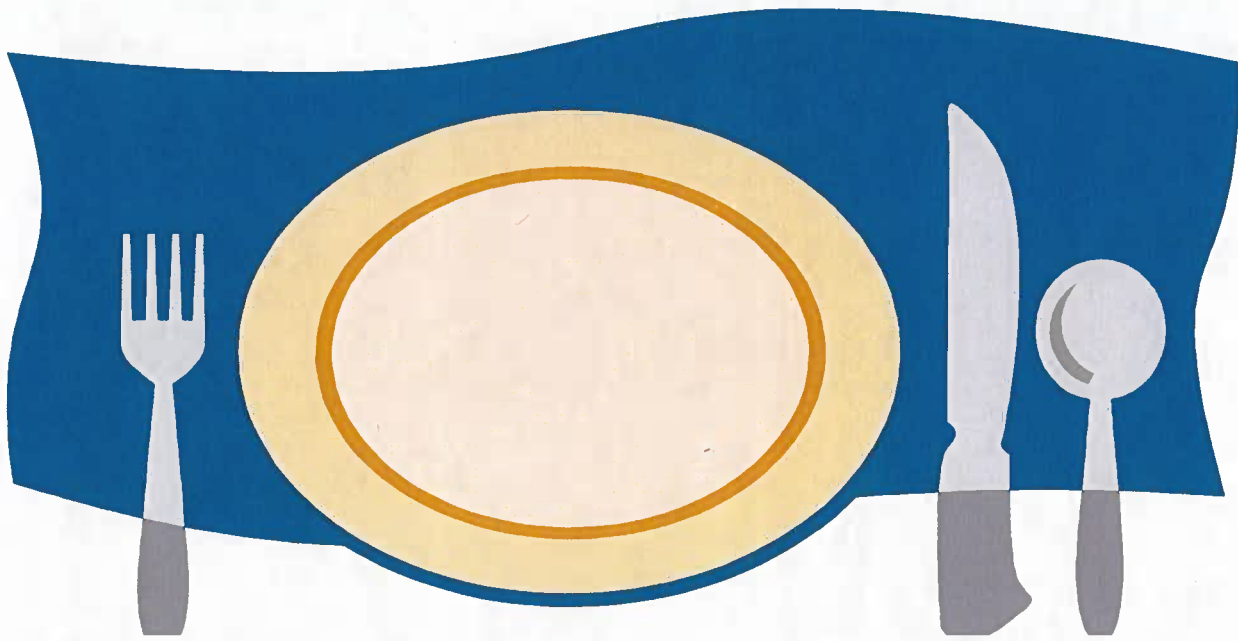
**February 17 and 24**  
**March 3, 10 and 17**

Books ordered by the church will be \$16 each or you can add it to your Kindle for \$15.

## A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A SLAVE



JOHN BYRON



## Appreciation Fellowship Meal

**Troop #94 Scouts and Leaders  
Invite All Dover First Members  
60 and Over to Be Their Guests  
for a Delicious Dinner with:**

**Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Salad  
Green Beans, Dessert and Beverages**

**This Free Fellowship Meal is Shared  
with Thanks to the Church Family  
for 70 Plus Years of Support.**

**Monday, March 9th at 5:30 p.m.  
in the Fellowship Hall  
Please RSVP by Signing Up in the Lobby**



# Welcome to Worship

## February 8, 2026

### Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

**"Gather Us In"**

Words by Marty Haugen  
arr. John Behnke

Call to Worship Psalm 106:1-5 (RSV)

L: Praise the Lord!

**ALL: O give thanks to the Lord who is good;**

**ALL: Whose steadfast love endures for ever!**

L: Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord,

L: Or show forth all God's praise?

**All: Blessed are they who observe justice,**

**ALL: Who do righteousness at all times!**

L: Remember me, O Lord, when you show favor  
To your people;

L: Help me when you deliver them,

**All: That I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,**

**ALL: That I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,**

**ALL: That I may glory with your heritage.**

\*Hymn #479

Jesus, Lover of My Soul



Scripture                      Song of Solomon 1:1-11 (NKJV)

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 #402                  Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Scripture                      Luke 14:25-35 (NKJV)

Choir Anthem              “The Potter’s Hand  
Words and Music by Darlene Zschech  
Setting by Lloyd Larson

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

Message                      Love and Hate  
Rev. Doug George

\*Hymn #580                  Lead On, O King Eternal

\*Benediction

\*Postlude                    “Echoes of Triumph”  
Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

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**Today’s Altar Flowers are in Remembrance  
of the February 9<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Tom Roush  
by His Loving Wife Carmela Roush.**

# This Week at Dover First UMC

## Next Sunday

10:20 a.m.      Worship Service

**11:30 a.m.      Pick Up Your  
Sub Orders  
Fellowship Hall**

## Sunday

10:20 a.m.      Worship Service  
Communion

**5 p.m.      Youth Led  
Church Dinner  
Fellowship Hall**

## Pastoral Renewal Leave Time

Please note that Pastor Wes  
will be out of the office and  
unavailable for a time of  
renewal leave thru **Feb. 15th.**

Please contact the church  
office if you need assistance.

## Monday

No Events

## Tuesday

2 p.m.      Mary Hannah  
Circle  
Lounge

7 p.m.      Boy Scouts  
Scout Room

7 p.m.      WMM Church  
Spanish-Speaking

## Wednesday

6:30 p.m.      Cub Scouts  
Education Zone

7 p.m.      Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday

1:30 p.m.      Book Club  
Multipurpose  
Room

7 p.m.      WMM Church  
Spanish-Speaking

## Friday

No Events

## Saturday

No Events  
**Valentine's  
Day**