



stayCONNECTED

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
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?**

getCONNECTED



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



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

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.

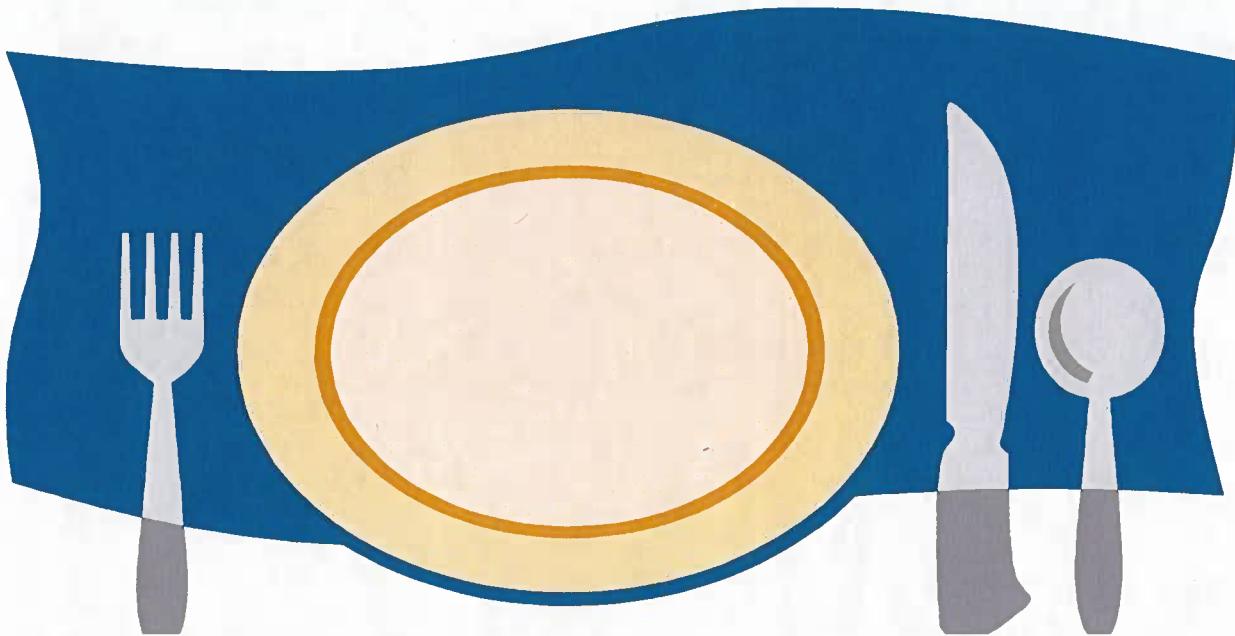
**February 17 and 24
March 3, 10 and 17**

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

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.

CCLI License #1687804

**Today's Altar Flowers are in Remembrance
of the February 9th 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