

**BECOMING  
GOD'S  
PEOPLE**



Once you weren't a  
people,  
**but now you are  
God's people.**  
1 Peter 2:10a

## Dover First United Methodist Church

Join us for worship online or in-person.

Sunday morning worship begins @ 10:20 a.m.

Thursday contemporary worship begins at 7 p.m.

## 3d Connections News

April 21, 2023



**Pastor Wesley George**

# From Our Pastor

April 2023

Sisters and Brothers,

This week has played out like the opening of *A Tale of Two Cities*.

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness...” but probably not in the way you think.

This week I watched two women ask for help with cleaning, one our beloved secretary Debbie, the other my wife.

One received much help (for which I am thankful) the other did not (and I’m less happy), can you guess which was which? Obviously like all children, mine are learning that being part of a family means that each of us contributes to helping with the work of the family. We all understand this, being responsible and showing love means participating in the work of family. Maturity is recognizing this fact and learning to find a place to help.

How many in our culture lament the lack of volunteers. Every civic organization is frustrated by the fact that few people are getting involved.

As we walk through Exodus, we see how Israel grew from a family into a community, but the fact remains this ideal of committed participation was maintained.

I am thankful for everyone who contributes to the ongoing work of this church. It is truly a blessing, but remember though it is a blessing from my perspective to have so many express their love for this family. It is also a sign of maturity. Just like I am thrilled when my kids volunteer to help out around the house and show their commitment to loving the family, I am thrilled that they love me and that they are maturing into the kind of people I want them to become.

Blessings,

*Pastor Wesley*



# Praise Service

## Recharge

Contemporary Worship Service  
Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Music by Steve Dulaney  
The Recharge Band will join Steve  
on the 4th Thursday of each month.

Join us in-person or online at [doverfirst.org](https://doverfirst.org)

Dover First United Methodist Church  
1725 N. Wooster Ave in Dover, Ohio



# Church Staff Openings

## Financial Secretary

Due to an upcoming retirement the Dover First UMC Leadership Board is accepting applications for the position of Financial Secretary.

Please contact the office at [doverfirst@gmail.com](mailto:doverfirst@gmail.com) or (330) 343-1322 if interested.

### **General Description:**

Shall be responsible for the financial records of the Church and monitoring the overall financial status, including various committee/work area budgets. Works closely and in cooperation with the Church Treasurer. The work shall include posting of contributions, making general ledger (G/L) entries, preparing monthly financial reports, coordinating payroll with an outside vendor, accounts payable, presenting financials at monthly Leadership Board meetings and other financial duties as assigned.

### **Required Knowledge, Skills, Abilities, Experience and Character:**

Accounting-related education and/or prior work experience in accounting or bookkeeping. Experience with computerized accounting systems, Word and Excel. Discretionary skill in the handling of confidential matters. A clean criminal background. Exhibit ethical, moral and Christian behavior and demonstrate good conduct at all times. The ability to work independently and function with minimal supervision.

### **Accountability:**

This position is under the direct supervision of the Leadership Board, which delegates personnel-related operational direction to the pastor. The Financial Secretary will work closely and in cooperation with the Church Secretary and Treasurer.

This position will be evaluated by the Leadership Board with input from the pastor.

### **Conditions of Employment:**

This is a part-time position, typically averaging 20 hours per week with a flexible schedule. Wages are set by the Leadership Board.



# Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, May 7th

Join us in celebrating our confirmation class during the worship service.

**Ethan Westfall**  
**Robert Wolfe**  
**Aiden Penso**  
**Brady McGraw**

**Tanis Handerhan**  
**Kaylyn Marlatt**  
**Aiden Ashcraft**



## Celebrating Our Grads and Announcing Scholarships on May 21st

All Dover First UMC  
2023 high school and  
college grads are  
asked to contact the  
church office by May 1st.

[doverfirst@gmail.com](mailto:doverfirst@gmail.com)  
or (330) 343-1322.



**Adults of all ages are invited  
to enjoy food, fellowship  
and a new program each month!**

## **Glowing Embers**

**Monday, May 15th at 5:30 p.m.**

### **Menu**

Ham Loaf, Scalloped Potatoes, Noodles, Corn,  
Creamy Cole Slaw, Cherry Dessert and Dinner Roll.

### **Program**

“EDVIS” Ed Wallace

Local gospel singer and speaker  
known for his Elvis vocal impersonations  
will join us before summer break.

**Please sign up in the lobby by May 8th.  
The cost is \$13 per person.**

COKESBURY'S

# HERO

## HOTLINE

**Called Together  
to Serve God!**



**Calling All VBS Heroes!**

You're invited for free  
Vacation Bible School fun at  
Dover First United Methodist Church.

**Kids and Volunteers Save These Dates**

July 10th thru 13th (Evenings)

**More information coming soon.**

# **Kidz Min**

Enjoy fun, friendship and a special time of worship just for you!  
Children grades K thru 5th are invited.  
Meet at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings during the second hymn and a teacher will walk to class with you.

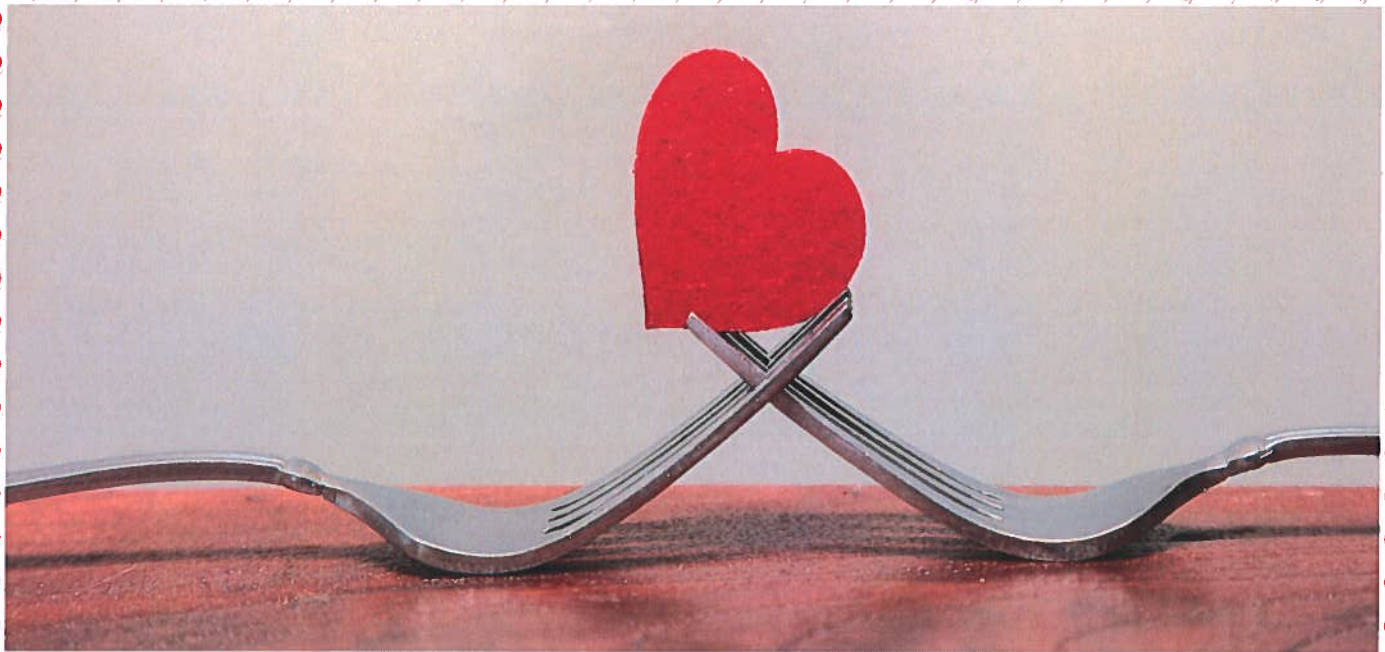
Kidz Min will not meet on the 1st Sunday of each month.



# **Kidz Min Plus**

Explore the Worship Arts With Us!  
Children grades K and Up are Invited!  
Dive into skits, music, movement, dance and instruments on Sunday mornings from 11:30 to noon.





# Sharing God's Love

## Serving Free Salvation Army Lunches

Dover First UMC is helping our local Salvation Army to ease the burden of food insecurity in our community.

If you, your family, class or group are interested in preparing or providing meals, or if you would be available to help with serving and clean up, please sign up in the lobby.

**Lunches can be as simple as soup and sandwiches or your favorite homemade casserole and sides.**

Beverages, bread and dessert are provided by the Salvation Army.  
If you need help with quantities or recipes we can help.

You will be reimbursed for the cost of the meal and have access to the Salvation Army kitchen, tools and cookware.

**Thank you to Susie Hunt for coordinating these meals.**

# After Worship

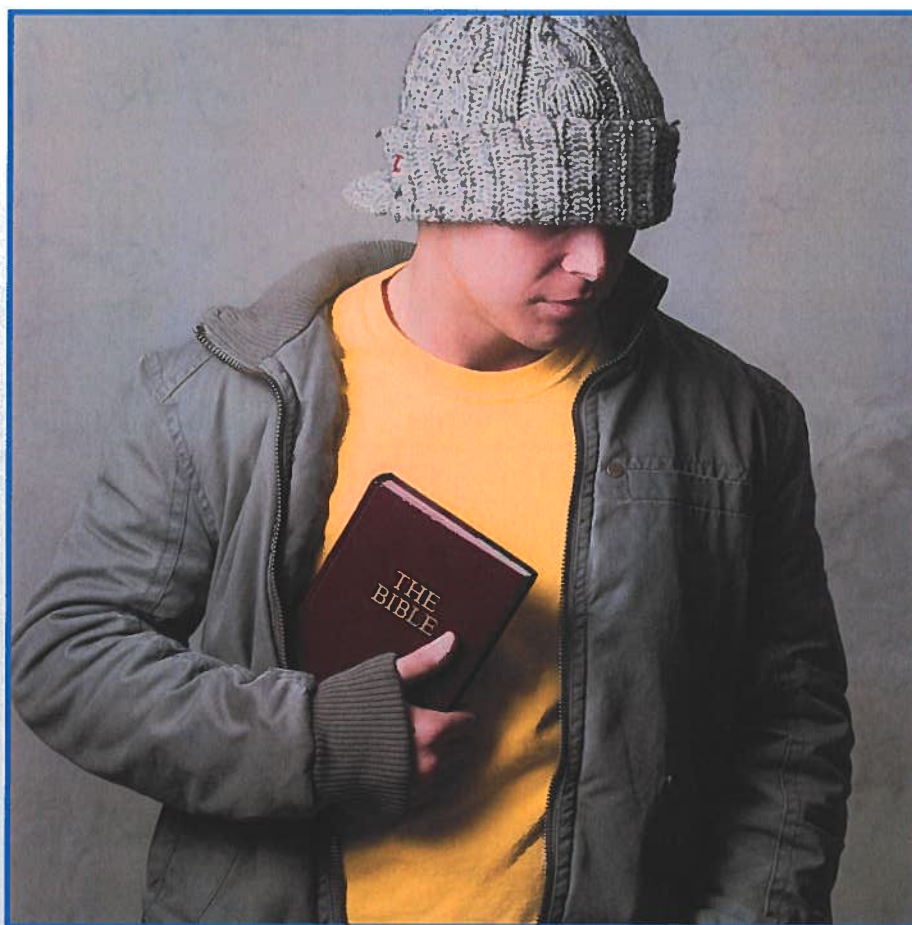
## *Reflections*

# LifeGroup

### ***Reflections* LifeGroup**

Take a deeper look at the scriptures and message after the worship service.

**Sunday mornings from 11:30 until noon  
in Room #2 the Multipurpose Room**



**All Middle and High School Students**  
**Join Us for Faith, Fun and Fellowship**  
**at Dover First UMC's**

**Youth Group**

**Sundays at 6 p.m.**

**Youth Leader, Logan Ladrach**

**[doverfirst@gmail.com](mailto:doverfirst@gmail.com)**



Welcome  
to Worship  
Sunday, April 23rd

## Welcome and Announcements

Prelude                    “The Strife is O’er”  
                                  arr. By Robert Lau

## Call to Worship

### Psalm 116:1-4

L:     I love the Lord, who has heard  
L:     My voice and my supplications,  
L:     And has inclined his ear to me  
L:     Whenever I called.

**ALL: The snares of death encompassed me;**

**ALL: The pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;**

**ALL: I suffered distress and anguish.**

L:     Then I called on the name of the Lord:

**ALL: "O Lord, I beseech you, save my life!"**

\*Hymn #310     “He Lives”

First Scripture   1 Corinthians 10:1-13

\*Prayer

All children attending Kidz Ministry in the Education Zone are invited to meet at the back of the sanctuary during the hymn.

\*Hymn #348 "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

Second Scripture Exodus 17:1-7

Choir Anthem "Sing We a Joyful Song"  
Words and Music by Jan Carneghi

Offering Introduction/Doxology/Prayer/Lord's Prayer

Message When Questioning Turns to Quarreling  
Pastor Wesley George

\*Hymn #577 "God of Grace and God of Glory"

\*Benediction

\*Postlude "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"  
arr. Patricia Lou Harris

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**Joining Us for the First Time or Have Questions?**

We invite you to visit the Welcome Center in the lobby or to speak with one of our greeting team members wearing a blue lanyard and name tag.

**We Invite You to Sign Up in the Lobby For:**

Salvation Army Lunches (Cooking and Serving)

Welcome Center Volunteers

Glowing Embers

Altar Flowers

## ***When Questioning Turns to Quarreling***

### **Scripture: Exodus 17:1-7**

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

**Theme- Israel has allowed their difficulties to escalate their antagonism but God remains loyal**

### **Questions**

1. The Israelites are not criticized for their complaining in chapter 16, but they are in chapter 17 what has changed about their situation to provoke this criticism?
2. What does it mean that the Israelites "test the Lord", and is testing God always wrong or are the Israelites participating in a particular type of test that is wrong?
3. Why does God emphasize that Moses is to take the staff "with which you struck the Nile", what is the point of that specific reference?
4. Is there a special significance to Horeb that Moses is directed to go there with the elders and not simply find a nearby rock?
5. What are we to think of the Israelites who first experienced the signs in Egypt then God's provision in the wilderness and still said, "Is the Lord among us or not" and how to we prevent ourselves from becoming like them?

### **Helpful Information**

Related Scriptures: Numbers 20:1-29, Psalm 114, John 4, 6, 1 Corinthians 10:1-4

Moses is to travel ahead of the people into Horeb a place that will later be identified with Sinai, this could be an indication that the water that flows comes from God's Mountain.

The Hebrew *ryb* "quarreled" is a far stronger term than the one used in previous chapters to describe Israel's confrontations with Moses, Israel is not simply concerned about their wellbeing as in previous chapters they are in outright revolt.

There is a juxtaposition between Egypt and thirst in the people's words. In their minds they are being brought from Egypt to death by thirst as if it is the goal of the journey.

The names given to the place of this incident are Massah and Meribah, which mean testing and quarrel.

It is likely that Moses was directed to strike a limestone formation that would have had a crust of rock and a large well of water enclosed within.

## *When Questioning Turns to Quarreling*

### **Reflection**

At the end of the story of manna in Exodus 16:27 we are told that some of the community went out to gather manna on the Sabbath. The way God responds to this activity seems to indicate problem was not that they forgot to gather double the day before, rather it seems like they were simply trying to gather more than they needed. It is easy to look past this incident but it is the beginning of a pattern of behavior, one that escalates quickly in the next story. In Exodus 17:2 Moses is again confronted by the community (as he was in 15:24 & 16:2), but this time there is a major difference, the verb used for Israel's complaints. Unlike English authors who have a plethora of words to choose from, Hebrew authors do not often vary their words, rather they use repetition of words to help make texts more memorable and so a variation like this should make us stop and think. In the Israelite response to Moses in 17:2 reflects one of these times. The people are no longer "complaining" they are now "quarreling" which demonstrates much harsher treatment toward Moses. We tend to see both complaining and quarreling as negatives which is why I would suggest that the first is closer to questioning- authentically seeking answers to real hurts. But in this passage something has changed the people are not simply questioning what is happening or offering constructive comments on the situation they are upset and allowing their anger to express itself in simple quarreling. Despite the fact that Moses has proven himself time and again to be reliant on God and able to overcome the obstacles Israel faces, the people intentionally use their legitimate concerns to cause strife.

We notice that the issue presented to Moses in this chapter is the same as in 15:23, a lack of water, and Moses' response is the same, to cry out to God, also the resolution is the same God miraculously provides water. The only difference between these two passages is the language used for Israel's confrontation with Moses. Israel's willingness to use their hardships as a source of outrage against Moses becomes the source of friction for the time in the wilderness. To some degree I think the author is trying to create a character, Israel is used to reflect us, individuals who want to follow God but do so in fits and starts. People who will gladly accept God and follow God's provision, but who fight against leadership and boundaries when they rub up against us. A pattern is being established that will run throughout Exodus, the people are given laws- instructions for how to live as God's community- the people violate the laws and turn on Moses and God.

Israel represents the natural tendency of humans as we learn to give up our own selfishness in favor building a community based on God. God has provided Israel with one instruction to help them build a better community and they have ignored it, now they have elevated their rhetoric to the level of threatening Moses, and we must ask ourselves, how can we do better?

Israel's anger and bitterness led them to verbally assault Moses, but we do not have to fall into the same trap. Nor should we pent up our anger and "just deal" with issues that negatively impact our well-being. Rather we need to follow a better model for working through our problems. Israel recognized the problems they faced and that is the first step in properly handling situations. But then they failed because they assigned their problems to the wrong source. The problem for them was a lack of water, but they identified the problem as Moses. Even if Moses were to blame for Israel's hardships, their anger and frustration was misplaced in attacking him. What they should have done is come to him recognizing the problem and then asked him how he intended to solve the problem; they obviously had seen enough to know that God had worked through him and that should have given him grace. They could have approached sternly without the need to quarrel. Israel's response to Moses is a warning to us that sometimes we can see real problems and fail to meet God's standards because we react in the wrong way and thus obstruct what God wants to do in the world.

# This Week at Dover First UMC



**Today**

9 a.m.	Confirmation
10:20 a.m.	Worship Service
11:30 a.m.	Kidz Music Arts
11:30 a.m.	Reflections Life Group
6 p.m.	Youth Group

**Next Sunday**

9 a.m.	Confirmation
10:20 a.m.	Worship Service
11:30 a.m.	Kidz Music Arts
11:30 a.m.	Reflections Life Group
6 p.m.	Youth Group

**Monday**

6:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts
7 p.m.	Leadership Board

**Tuesday**

10 a.m.	Staff Meeting
6 p.m.	Spanish Church
7 p.m.	Boy Scouts

**Wednesday**

6:30 p.m.	Bell Choir
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

**Thursday**

6 p.m.	Spanish Church
7 p.m.	Recharge Service

**Friday**

No Events

**Saturday**

No Events

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