



Dover First UMC's Weekly Newsletter

April 17, 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.

Reflection by Pastor Wes

What would you do for someone who miraculously intervened to rescue one of your family members?

In John 12 Mary and Martha seem to have provided Jesus with a banquet. And at that banquet Mary anoints Jesus' feet. This might seem like a random act but in a culture that is not accustomed to frequent bathing, smelling good is a rarity.

Amid this party Mary makes sure that Jesus smells as good as she sees him. On one level I think about Mary's devotion to Jesus as the Son of God and at the same time I think of her generosity to Jesus the man who saved her brother.

It speaks to me both of her faith and her character. May we emulate both as we go into the world.

How has John's Gospel inspired you this week?

Sisters and Brothers,

Over the last several weeks I have been preaching in John's Gospel because that is where the lectionary is. It has triggered in me a desire to work through the Gospel more slowly. So for the month of April I will be reading a chapter a day and I invite you to join with me in this exercise. John's Gospel is 21 chapters long so even if you start tomorrow there is still enough time in April that you can divide some of the longer chapters if you need to. The goal is to read slower and focus on the message.

John's Gospel is wonderfully robust and every time I read it I come away with something more. As one theologian said, "John is like water shallow enough for a baby to play in while deep enough for an elephant to drown." It is easy yet offers great depth for those who are looking. Be aware that John often uses words with multiple meanings to illuminate multiple messages simultaneously.

As we approach the book this April I will be focused on the themes of the Spirit. What is the Spirit's role in our world. What does life mean for Jesus. And what does Jesus' new command of loving one another look like in my daily life. I encourage you to ask questions and discuss the book with others. John is certainly a book that benefits us more when we read it in community.

Blessings,

Pastor Wesley



GRADUATION

Celebration

Honoring Dover First UMC's
2026 Graduates

Aiden Ashcraft

Nathan Harpst

Kara Lint

Grant Mathias

Nathan Ricker

Robert Wolfe

Kaitlin Yoder

During the Sunday, May 10th Service.
Scholarships Will Also Be Awarded.



Welcome to Worship
Youth Led Service
April 19, 2026

Welcome and Announcements (Robert Wolfe)

Prelude

“Seek Ye First”

Setting by Douglas E. Wagner
Scott Cathers, guitar

Call to Worship (Cole McGraw)

L: Come, all who are searching for identity and purpose.

A: We come, knowing we are created and loved by God.

L: You are not defined by the world,
but by the One who made you.

A: We are children of God, chosen and known.

L: Come and discover who you truly are in Him.

A: We worship the God who calls us His own!

A: Let us worship with confidence and joy!

*Hymn #419

I Am Thine, O Lord

Scripture

Jeremiah 1:4-9 **(Tanis Handerhan)**

Prayer **(Ellie Penso)**

Children's Message (**Gretchen Marlatt**)

*Hymn #2025

As the Deer

Scripture

Ephesians 2:4-10 (**Kaylyn Marlatt**)

Choir Anthem

"Sing & Rejoice"
Music by Don Besig

*Offering Introduction/Doxology/Prayer/Lord's Prayer
Robert Wolfe and Grant Mathias

Message

You Are Enough:
Finding Identity in Christ
Logan Ladrach (Youth Director)

*Hymn #504

The Old Rugged Cross

*Benediction

*Postlude

"Alleluia! Alleluia!"
arr. Edward Broughton

This Week at Dover First UMC

Sunday
 10:20 a.m. Worship Service
 Youth Led Service

Monday No Events

Tuesday
 7 p.m. WMM Church
 Spanish-Speaking
 7 p.m. Boy Scouts
 Scout Room

Wednesday
 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts
 Education Zone
 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
 Choir Room

Thursday
 6 p.m. Trustees
 Meeting
 7 p.m. Grief Share
 Lounge
 7 p.m. WMM Church
 Spanish-Speaking

Friday
 9:30 a.m. Finance
 Meeting

Saturday Private Party
 Fellowship Hall
 and Pavilion

Next Sunday
 10:20 a.m. Worship Service
 6 p.m. Youth Group
 Fellowship Hall
 and Kitchen



If your group or class has a
 schedule change for the summer,
 please share with Debbie
 in the church office at:
 (330) 343-1322
 doverfirst@gmail.com

| Dover First UMC's Donations and Expenditures YTD Attendance Average as of 03/31/2026 = 101 | 2026 YTD as of 03/31/2026 |
|---|---------------------------|
| All Income | \$ 78,885 |
| Less: All Expenses | \$ (79,902) |
| Total Gain (Loss) Incurred | \$ (1,017) |
| Note 1: Capital expenditures included in expenses | \$ 0 |
| Note 2: Unpaid conference apportionments | \$ 5,569 |