



Dover First UMC's Weekly Newsletter
July 5, 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.

From Our Altar Committee

The Altar Committee is asking for your help.
We would like to purchase new wreaths
for the entry doors, Wooster Avenue doors,
and the Fellowship Hall and kitchen doors.

If you would like to contribute,
please note 'wreaths' on your
envelope or check memo line.

If you would like to speak with the altar
committee, please contact the church office.

Thanks for helping us with decorating!

Updated Scholarship Plaques

The names of our 2026 Scholarship recipients
have been added to the plaques on
the Scholarship wall in the lobby.



What's All The BUZZ?

Camp Read-A-Lot

Wednesdays 9-Noon



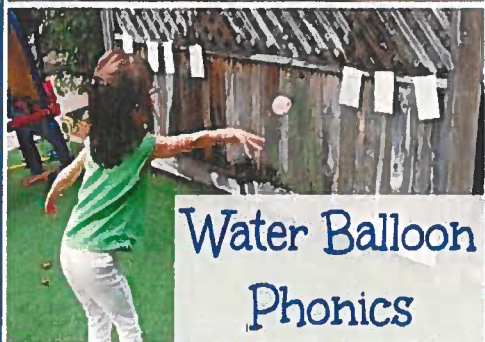
6/17

6/24

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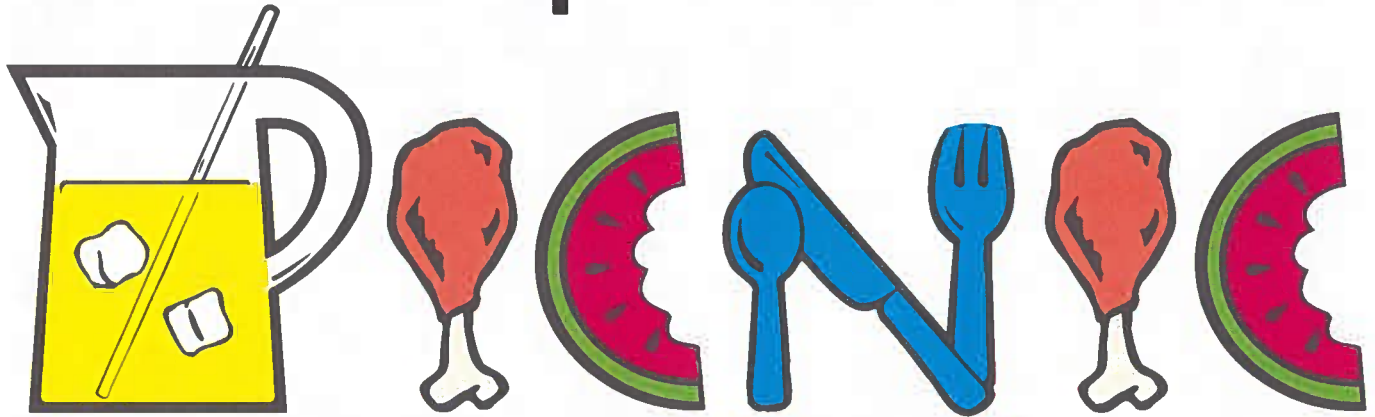
7/8

7/15



Register online at doverfirst.org
(look for the VBS form)
or contact the Dover First
United Methodist Church office
at (330) 343-1322 for more info.
Camp Read-A-Lot is a faith-based
summer literacy program for kids
entering grades K-3 or anyone
needing extra help learning to read.
Enjoy stories, music, activities, crafts,
and over 75 different literacy games!

Church Family and Camp Read-A-Lot



Enjoy Food, Fellowship and Fun
Church Pavilion and Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 19th at 11:30 a.m.

Kiddie and 100 Foot Water Slides!


Please Sign Up in the Lobby
Bring Your Favorite Dish to Share

Provided

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Buns, Tableware,
Mac and Cheese, Beverages and Condiments

Join Pastor Wesley George
for a Bible Study of the
Old Testament Book of
Ruth

Thursday Evenings
July 2, 9, 16 and 23
6 p.m. in the Lounge
Please Sign Up in the Lobby



THE BOOK OF
Ruth

**Join Ashland Seminary's
Professor of New Testament
Dr. John Byron, Ph.D.**

**For a Lecture on
The Book of Philemon**

Where

Dover First United
Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall

When

Sunday, July 12th
Beginning at 6:30 p.m.



Dr. Byron is the author of the novel:
A Week in the Life of a Slave

The book's narrative follows the slave Onesimus from his arrival in Ephesus, where the apostle Paul is imprisoned, sharing context of that time and place.



Welcome to Worship July 5, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude “Voluntary I (Op.5)”
 John Stanley

Call to Worship

L: Shout to the Lord, songs of gratitude.

P: God has blessed us mightily!

L: Remember all the blessings
God has poured into your life!

**P: We are so thankful for everything
God continues to do in our lives.**

L: Sing your praise to God,
even in the midst of troubles.

**P: We sing our praise in the midst of fear
and despair, for God is with us!**

*Hymn #717 The Battle Hymn Of The Republic

Scripture Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30

Prayer

*Hymn #697 America (My Country, 'Tis Of Thee)

Scripture Psalm 72

Special Music

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

Message Bless Our Nation
Pastor Wesley George

Communion

*Hymn #715 Rejoice, The Lord Is King

*Benediction

*Postlude "Festive Trumpet Tune"
David German

Bless our Nation

Scripture: Psalm 72

Of Solomon.

¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
²May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.
³May the mountains yield prosperity for the
people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴May he defend the cause of the poor of the
people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.
⁵May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all
generations.
⁶May he be like rain that falls on the mown
grass,
like showers that water the earth.
⁷In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no
more.
⁸May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the
earth.
⁹May his foes bow down before him,
and his enemies lick the dust.
¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts.

¹¹May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.
¹²For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.
¹³He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.
¹⁴From oppression and violence he redeems
their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.
¹⁵Long may he live!
May gold of Sheba be given to him.
May prayer be made for him continually,
and blessings invoked for him all day
long.
¹⁶May there be abundance of grain in the land;
may it wave on the tops of the
mountains;
may its fruit be like Lebanon;
and may people blossom in the cities
like the grass of the field.
¹⁷May his name endure forever,
his fame continue as long as the sun.
May all nations be blessed in him;
may they pronounce him happy.
¹⁸Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.
¹⁹Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may his glory fill the whole earth.
Amen and Amen.
²⁰The prayers of David son of Jesse are ended.

Questions

1. How does the psalmist's praise of and prayer for the king translate to how we interact with our political officials?
2. What does it mean to judge in righteousness?

Background

Related Scriptures: Deuteronomy 17:14-20; Ezekiel 34; Matthew 5-7

The blessing of the king is dependent on his ability to protect the poor and oppressed in the community.

The blessing of the Psalm is a desire for the future not a promise, it must be continuously earned.

Bless our Nation

Reflection

What does it mean for God to bless a nation? Certainly, the psalmist was anticipating peace and prosperity for his nation when he penned Psalm 72. God's blessings include the kinds of peace and prosperity we associate with a good and easy life. And the Psalmist desired these blessings for his nation and so wrote about them as being poured out on the king. But we should notice what the psalmist asks for the king, that he protects and cares for the poor and oppressed. The psalmist wants the king to be a conduit of God's blessings for the people. The psalmist wants God to bless the king, but the psalmist also wants the king to bless the people. This is a consistent theme from the earliest mention of a king in Deuteronomy throughout the Old Testament. In Deuteronomy we get an outline of the king's responsibilities these duties are centered around understanding scripture and being able to apply it to life. This is important for us to notice. In the Old Testament the king's primary duty was not the economy or the military it was ensuring the community was committed to caring for one another in a manner consistent with God's love for humanity.

The Psalms and prophets took this idea very seriously, they frequently associate the responsibility of the king with caring for the poor, widow, orphan, immigrant, and oppressed. In other words, they saw the king's role as caring for those who would otherwise be forgotten by society. The king's heart was supposed to be so formed by Scripture that he was motivated completely by God's love for the people and sought to express that love daily in his judgments for the people. It is failures to uphold God's justice and defend the defenseless that the prophets criticized the leaders for, saying it was their actions that provided the cause of God's punishment. Notice how in Psalm 72 the primary prayer is that the king will live up to the standard of Deuteronomy and righteousness will thrive. Yes, there are the traditional celebrations that we think of long life and riches, but they are contingent on the king doing what is right. This is the Bible's way of expressing patriotism. Yes, the people love their country and want the best for it, but this love does not overlook the sins of the community. The Psalms and prophets frequently note when the leadership is not living up to the standard God has set. They call out Israel for not promoting righteousness and lifting the poor and oppressed. And they remember the sins of the past, so they are not relived. Patriotism for the Bible's authors is about wanting the best for the nation but also recognizing and remembering the things the nation does that do not lead to righteousness and peace. The prayers for blessings remember where the blessings come from and how the blessings are obtained. Past sins are acknowledged so they can be averted and present sins are repented of. Patriotism is about remembering the ideals of society and where society falls short of reaching those ideals. Patriotism begins with wanting what is best for the people and what is best is that righteousness prevails. And for the authors of the Bible that begins with the leadership promoting the cause of the poor and needy, ensuring that all are treated well. Patriotism necessitates that we consider whether society is benefiting all people. Patriotism is about wanting what's best for society and recognizing when there are people in society being left behind. When we approach our own nations, it is completely commendable to celebrate the ideals of the nation (so long as they are in line with God's ideals). It is commendable to take pride in our nation and want the blessings that God provides. But it is foolhardy to overlook the areas in which we are failing. It is wrong to not hold leaders accountable for how their actions fail to protect the vulnerable. When we pretend like our country has achieved the ideals of God, we fail to be patriotic in the Bible's sense and start to idolize the nation. Patriotism is about loving what a country can become when it commits to loving all members of society and seeing all of them thrive. Patriotism is about wanting God to bless the nation because the nation is a blessing the way God envisions. Patriotism holds the nation to God's ideals and expects blessings when those are accomplished.

This Week at Dover First UMC

Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service
 Communion

Next Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service
6:30 p.m. Lecture on
 Philemon by
 Dr. John Byron
 Fellowship Hall

Monday

No Events

Tuesday

7 p.m.

WMM Church
Spanish-Speaking

7 p.m.

Boy Scouts
Scout Room

Wednesday

9 to 12

Kid's Camp
Read-A-Lot
Fellowship Hall

Thursday

6 p.m.

Book of
Ruth Study
Lounge

7 p.m.

WMM Church
Spanish-Speaking

Friday

No Events

Saturday

10 a.m.

Craft & Chat
Group
Lounge

3 p.m.

Private Party
Pavilion

