



Dover First UMC's Weekly Newsletter

September 25, 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.

YOU'RE INVITED!

WHAT: KIDZ MIN OPEN HOUSE

WHEN: SUNDAY SEPT. 27TH

TIME: BEFORE & AFTER SERVICE

WHERE: EDUCATION WING



VISIT OUR REFRESHED & UPDATED ROOMS!

DISCOVER HOW YOU CAN HELP WITH SUNDAY SCHOOL,
EVENTS, AND MORE!

FIND OUT ABOUT OUR FUTURE PLANS!



Dover First UMC's Winter Coat and Outerwear Drive

**Let's Help Our Community to Stay
Warm and Safe with Donations of:**

**New or Gently Used
Coats, Hats, Gloves, Mittens,
Scarves, Winter Boots
and New Only Warm Socks**

September 27 thru October 18

**Please drop off donations
in the Mission Room
near the church office.**



**All donations will
be delivered to the
Salvation Army
and shared with our
neighbors in need.**

**Questions?
Contact Coordinator
Debbie Benish
(330) 343-1322**

Trunk or Treat



The Community
is Invited for
Family
Friendly
Fun!

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 25 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Visit our decorated cars for treats
and enjoy a free evening
of fun with crafts, cookies,
hot chocolate and hot cider.

We'll move indoors in the event of inclement weather.

Dover First United Methodist Church
Parking Lot, Pavilion and Fellowship Hall

1725 N. Wooster Ave in Dover, Ohio

🌶️ UNITED AGAINST HUNGER: CHILI COOK 🌶️

SEPTEMBER 27

Let the friendly rivalry begin! New Philadelphia First UMC and Dover First UMC are teaming up for our Second Annual United Against Hunger campaign—and we're kicking off our month-long rivalry with a Chili Cook-Off and Hayride at Camp Wanake!

Join us for an afternoon of chili, fellowship, friendly competition, and fun as we come together to support the Dover-Phila Food Pantry and help fight hunger in our community.

Event Schedule:

4:30 PM – Event begins

5:00 PM – Chili Cook-Off & Dinner

6:00 PM – Wagon Ride

Think you make the best chili? Bring your favorite recipe and enter the Chili Cook-Off for a chance to claim bragging rights! Not a chili chef? No problem! Bring a side dish to share instead. The committee will provide hot dogs, buns, and dessert, so there's something for everyone.

🏆 The Rivalry Is On!

The Chili Cook-Off will kick off our month-long United Against Hunger collection challenge, running October 4–25, 2026. New Phila and Dover will compete to see which church can collect the most donations for the Dover-Phila Food Pantry.

Every donation makes a difference and helps provide food for our neighbors in need. So, pick your team, bring your generosity, and help your church claim bragging rights!

New Phila vs. Dover—who will come out on top? Come enjoy the chili, take a wagon ride, and help us show what happens when we work together.

Bring your chili, bring a side, bring your church spirit—and let's be

UNITED AGAINST HUNGER!

Dover-Phila UMC Rivalry



United Against Hunger

Dover First UMC vs **Phila** First UMC



Our Annual Rivalry is On!

October 4th thru 25th

Which church will collect the most
monetary donations for the fight
against hunger in our community?

This year's friendly rivalry will support:
Greater Dover-New Phila Food Pantry

Please note on your check or
envelope that your special
Donation to Dover First UMC
is for United Against Hunger.



**Welcome
to Worship
September 27, 2026**

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”
Rachel Trelstad Porter

Call to Worship Psalm 78:1-4

L: Give ear, O my people, to my teaching:

L: Incline your ears to the words of my mouth!

All : I will open my mouth in a parable;

All: I will utter dark sayings from of old,

L: Things that we have heard and known,

L: That our forebears have told us.

All: We will not hide them from their children,

All: But tell to the coming generation

All: The glorious deeds of the Lord, the might,

All: And wonders God has wrought

*Hymn #365 Grace Greater Than Our Sin

Scripture Matthew 21:23–32

Prayer

*Hymn #504 The Old Rugged Cross

Scripture Philippians 2:1–13

Choir Anthem “Come Thou Fount”
John Wyeth
Choral Setting by Bob Krogstad

*Offering Intro/Doxology/Prayer/Lord’s Prayer

Message The Economy of Love

*Hymn #176 Majesty, Worship His Majesty

*Benediction

*Postlude “Recessional”
Robert J. Hughes

CCLI License #1687804

Today’s Altar Flowers
In Loving Memory
of Jim Trautman
by His Family

The Economy of Love

Scripture: *Philippians 2:1–13*

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Questions

1. What does it mean to be of the same mind and the same love?

Background

Related Scriptures: Isaiah 53:2-3; John 15:12-18,

Marius Victorinus: Remember that God is one, his Son is one and his Holy Spirit is one, and all three are one. If so, then we too ought to be one in our thoughts, so as to “be of the same mind” with the one God. Then it follows that we are to “have the same love.” To be of the same mind pertains to knowledge, while to have the same love pertains to discipline, to the conduct of life.¹

¹ M. J. Edwards, ed., *Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians*, Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture 234.

The Economy of Love

Reflection

Is there any love in the church? Does the Spirit bring us together as partners? Is there affection and sympathy for one another? Well I hope the answer is yes otherwise why are we here? If these things are true of then it is because of Jesus and our calling to be like him. We are called to be like Jesus who though he was equal with God chose to become a slave. The contrast is startling, Jesus who has everything (equal to God), lays it all aside to take on the station (form) of a slave. A slave has nothing, a slave's day is completely controlled by someone else, everything a slave makes belongs to someone else. Paul uses what we would call economic language throughout this passage. "Partners in the Spirit" is a reference to a business partnership, it means that we all share in the liabilities and profits of the business—the church. We are partners together but also to consider ourselves like slaves, individuals whose work entirely benefits someone else. And further, we are told that it is joy to participate in this lifestyle. Paul is talking about finding joy in taking on the liabilities of the church while sharing the benefits. This is exactly why Paul so often uses the family metaphors when writing to churches. When we hear the business metaphors used Christianity sounds deficient, who would want to join a business where you bear the burdens of giving while sharing the profit with others who might have given less? But in a family this is precisely what parents and grandparents do and they do it joyfully. Parents and grandparents give joyously to children, and they share joyously with each other. What Paul is trying to get us to realize is that we need to take that same mentality and apply it to the people we have chosen to join ourselves with.

This is what Paul means when he says we need to act in humility. He does not mean humble like we normally mean it, rather he means to do things that cannot possibly benefit us. Today we speak often of networking- a system where we invest in others hoping that one day that investment will pay us dividends. When Paul speaks of humility though, he is thinking of the work of a slave, work that provides for another person without paying dividends to ones self. And Paul is doing this by reminding us that this is precisely what Jesus did for us. In the words of Charles Wesley "[Jesus] emptied himself of all but love and bled for Adam's helpless race." Jesus gave up everything he was entitled to benefit us, he lowered himself to wash feet so that we can gain everything, and he challenges us to do the same for others. This is the generosity that we are called to express in the world. Our great enemy is described as a dragon. In mythology the dragon collects whatever resources it wants and hoards them, sleeping day and night on its treasure. The dragon fiercely protects what it owns and shares nothing. Humans often act the same way, hoarding whatever we can and caring nothing for the plights of others. The church fathers labeled this mentality as theft. Christians have a long tradition of seeing the accumulating of wealth as stealing from those in need. This is because all of these possessions we claim as our own actually belong to God and meant to serve all humanity. When we hoard resources we are taking away from others what God meant for their good. Paul understood the importance of giving and taking care of others. This is why he connects Jesus' work on earth to the language of business. Paul wants us to understand how seeing others as those we love, care for, and sympathize with impacts our use of resources and our giving. Passages like this tie our humanity to our work and resources and tie our humanity to our care for others. Jesus cared so much that he gave up equality with God to serve us in all ways, now it is our turn to demonstrate our love for our community by giving to one another.

This Week at Dover First UMC

Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service

Kidz Min Open House

Before and After Worship
in the Education Wing

Next Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service
 Communion

Come to the Table

Holy Communion
During Next Sunday's Service



Monday

7 p.m. Leadership
 Board
 Lounge

Tuesday

6 p.m. Pastor's
 Book Study
 Lounge

7 p.m. WMM Church
 Spanish-
 Speaking

7 p.m. Boy Scouts
 Scout Room

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts
 Education Wing

7 p.m. Choir
 Rehearsal

Thursday

7 p.m. WMM Church
 Spanish-
 Speaking

Friday No Events

Saturday

10 a.m. Craft & Chat
 Lounge