

Dover First UMC's Weekly Newsletter May, 8, 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.

Dover First UMC Family,

The dates for our church parking lot being closed to foot and vehicle traffic for repair, sealing and repainting the parking lines have been changed to:

Monday, May 18th thru Saturday, May 23rd

The trustees will setup an area for our staff and our scheduled groups to park in the grass on the 17th street side of the building.

Please enter using the main entrance, as usual.

NO PARKING

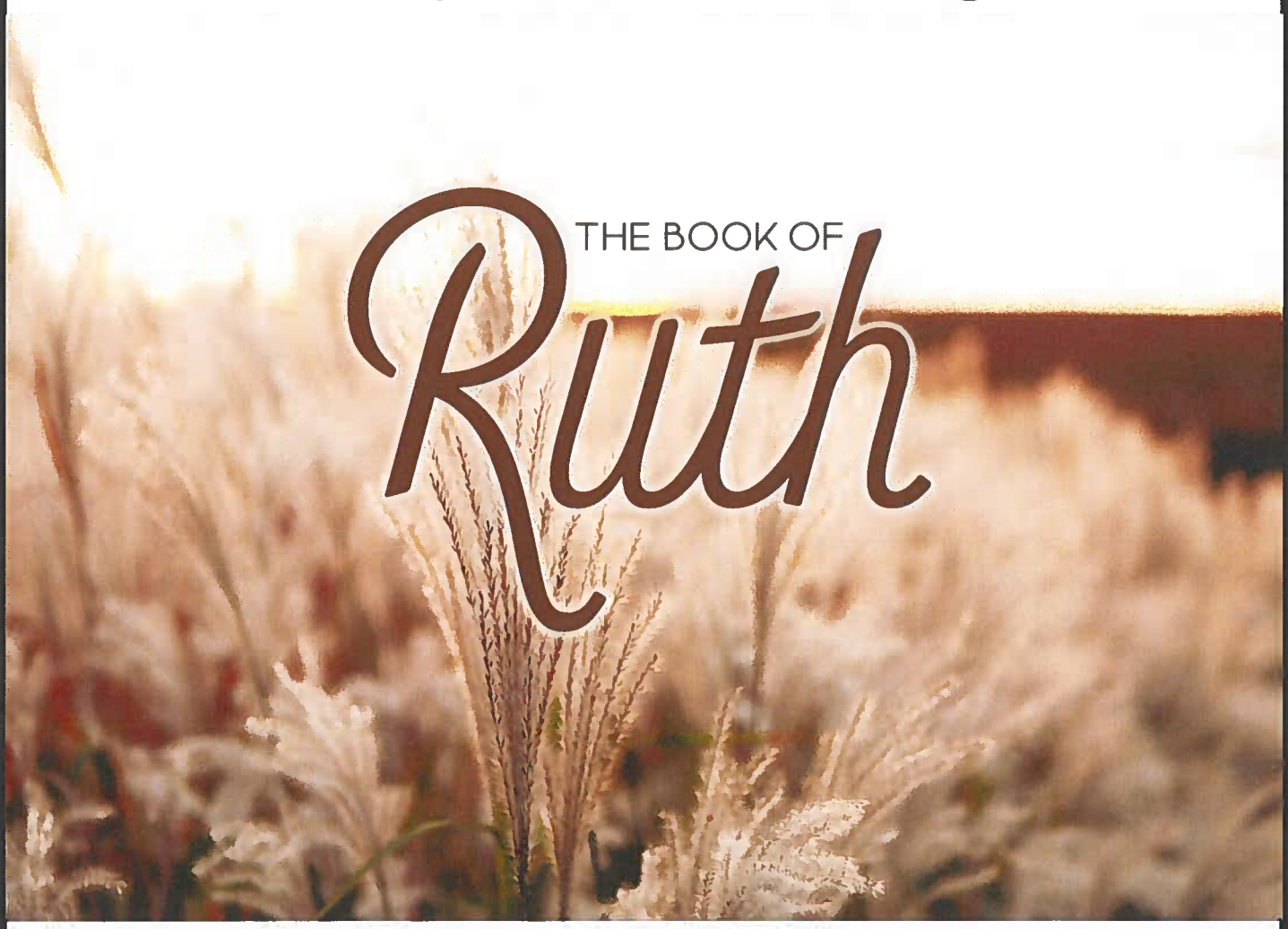


May
18-23



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

Thursday Mornings
July 2, 9, 16 and 23
6:30 p.m. in the Lounge



THE BOOK OF
Ruth



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.

The Food Pantry of Dover-New Phila

**422 W. Third Street
Dover, OH 44622**



The local food pantry is open twice each week for all in need of food from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursday 9 a.m. to Noon on Friday.

Home delivery is also available for the homebound and those unable to come to the pantry. Call (330) 649-2228 for info.

Do you or someone that you know need emergency food assistance today, please call (234) 801-8198.

The pantry is an all volunteer organization and many more volunteers are needed to distribute food at the pantry, as well as deliver food to our neighbors unable to come in:

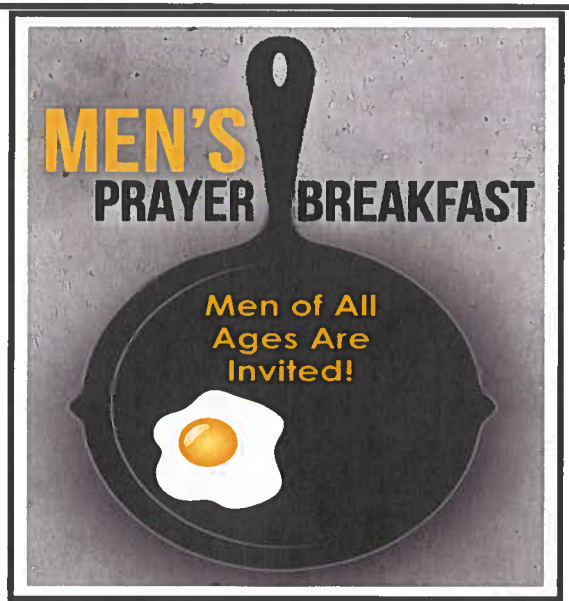
**Thursday 4:30 to 8 p.m. and Friday 8:30 a.m. to Noon
Drivers are needed on Thursday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

For additional information, visit the pantry website at:
dovernpfoodpantry.org or call (234) 801-8198

Community Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Men of all ages are invited for breakfast, prayer and fellowship each month at a different church from 9 to 11 a.m.

**Saturday - May 16th
St. John's UCC
409 N. Wooster Ave in Dover**



What's All The BUZZ?

Camp Read-A-Lot

Wednesdays 9-Noon



6/17

6/24

7/1

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!





**Welcome to Worship
Honoring Our Graduates
May 10, 2026**

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Thine is the Glory”
arr. David Paxton

Call to Worship

Psalm 66:8-12

L: Bless our God, O peoples,

L: Let the sound of God's praise be heard,

L: Who has kept us among the living,

L: And has not let our feet slip.

A: For you, O God, have tested us;

A: You have tried us as silver is tried.

L: You brought us into the net;

L: You laid affliction on our loins;

A: You let people ride over our heads;

A: We went through fire and through water;

A: Yet you have brought us forth to a spacious place.

*Hymn #310

He Lives

Scripture 1 Peter 3:13–22

Prayer

Honoring Our 2026 Graduates and Scholarship Awards
Aiden Ashcraft, Nathan Harpst, Kara Lint, Grant Mathias, Nathan Ricker, Robert Wolfe, Kaitlin Yoder

*Hymn #377 It Is Well With My Soul

Scripture Acts 17:22–31

Choir Anthem “Hymn of Promise”
Natalie Sleeth

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

Message The God You Know
Pastor Wesley George

*Hymn #527 Do, Lord, Remember Me

*Benediction

*Postlude “Psalm of Glory”
Dorothy Wells

The God You Know

Scripture: Acts 17:22–31

²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

²⁹ Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Questions

1. Why does Paul bring up the shrines and the distinction of different peoples?
2. Which Groups within Athens might Paul be appealing to and which poets is he alluding to?
3. What does repentance mean in this context, is Paul making a general statement or speaking of specific actions?

Background

Related Scriptures: 1 Peter 3:13–22

Chrysostom: He did not find in the city a holy book but an altar to an idol with the inscription “To an unknown god.” The holy Paul, who had the grace of the Spirit, did not pass by but turned the altar with its inscription on its head.... He did not omit what the idolatrous Athenians had written.... We see what great value that inscription produced.... Paul entered the town, found an altar on which the words “to an unknown god” were engraved. What did he have to do?... Did the words of the Gospels need to be declared? They would have mocked them. Or maybe the words from the books of the prophets or from the precepts of the law should have been talked about? But they would not have believed. What did he do then? He rushed to the altar and defeated them with the weapons of the enemies themselves. And that was what he said, “I became everything to everyone: to the Jews a Jew, to those outside the law as if I were outside the law.”¹

¹ Francis Martin and Evan Smith, eds., *Acts*, Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture 218.

The God You Know

Reflection

There is no place in Paul's life that emphasizes his commitment to be "all things to all people" more to me than Acts 17. In this chapter Paul sits down with the philosophers of Athens. To most Christians reading Paul's speech may seem like a conventional presentation of Christian beliefs based around an "unknown god". However, Paul's words would have rang deeper for those who listened to him. Paul made great effort to reach his hearers where they were and in language they could understand. And the result was they invited him back to sit and teach more. While on one hand we may disregard this because we are not told of many conversions, the point of the story is that when he spoke, they listened and gave his message a hearing. After all, our job is to proclaim the Gospel as effectively as we can, not to force others to believe.

Paul's speech, especially in English, sounds like a typical Christian preacher proclaiming the tenets of the faith. But in this short speech are words that would have had meaning specifically for the Stoic philosophers present. Paul used language that overlapped with what the philosophers believed as well as quoting one of their own, Aratus. Judging from the limited snippet we are given Paul did not simply give a cursory nod to the Stoic beliefs but took the time to engage with their ideas. That is Paul was confident enough in his own understanding of the truth that he listened to the Stoics to understand what they believed. And when he engaged them, he did not jump to disparaging their ideas but began with finding common ground. I think this is important, Paul took enough time to listen to those he wanted to engage with, to understand where they were and what they understood. It must have taken Paul a significant amount of time listening to other teachers to come to a place where he understood what they were teaching before he could be prepared to speak.

Second, Paul did not begin by criticizing the philosophers' beliefs, rather he begins by finding common ground. Paul learned to look for places where the philosophers were already close to Christianity so that he could draw them further down that path. Paul did not create undue confrontation, instead he looked to begin with emphasizing the similarities between himself and the philosophers. I think Paul understood that there would be differences in opinions and disagreements with the philosophers. Knowing there would come times of disagreement and difficulties does not mean that Paul had to bring those confrontations to the fore immediately. Instead, he was able to begin with the common ground understanding this gave him the best chance of being heard. Why is it that most people scoff at sidewalk preachers? Because those individuals often focus on the faults of those passing by and come across as hateful. Of all the things the people in Athens might be able to say about Paul this was certainly not an accusation they could make. Instead, they would understand where Paul praised them and even if they disagreed with him, they would know how their current beliefs worked within the system he presented. This passage in Acts shows us how Paul respected people where they were and sought to find common ground with them. This does not mean he negated the distinctive message of the Gospel, but that he eased people into it. Paul was wise enough to understand how his words would be heard by the people around him and took seriously the need to speak well. This included taking the time to understand what others believe and where he could meet them. This is a staggering difference from where so many are today. Too often we emphasize the differences and that leads to people feeling distanced from us. Christians are meant to be welcoming inviting others to join us on the journey toward Jesus. The important lesson for us is who Paul is trying to reach and how he accomplishes that. He provides us with a model of respect that allowed him to have multiple conversations with people and plant the seed of the Gospel in their minds.

This Week at Dover First UMC

Sunday

Mother's Day

10:20 a.m. Worship Service
 Celebrating Our
 2026 Graduates

Nex Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service

Celebrating Our 2026 Graduates and Scholarships

Stay for Cake and Punch in
the Lobby After the 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

7 p.m. Grief Share
 Lounge

7 p.m. WMM Church
 Spanish-Speaking

Friday

Party Setup - Fellowship Hall

Saturday, May 16th
The Church Family is Invited!

Graduation Party
Robert Wolfe
and Nathan Ricker

1 to 4 p.m.
Dover First UMC
Fellowship Hall