



Dover First UMC's Weekly Newsletter

August 14, 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.

The Dover First UMC Family is Reaching Out in Prayer

During the 2026-2027 school year,
our church family will be supporting
the staff of the elementary school
closest to the church with our prayers.

Personalized cards reminding us to pray
for the Dover Avenue Elementary
staff can be picked up in the lobby.

Keep it in your wallet, on your fridge
or near your favorite place to pray.

Thank you for reaching
out to our community
through your prayers
for encouragement,
care, peace and joy
for all school staff
and students.

Go, Dover!



Sisters and Brothers,

We have been focusing on reading Scripture this year and I hope that you have been taking the time to become more acquainted with the messages of the Books we have highlighted.

It is back to school time and that makes me think about the book of Proverbs. Now there are 31 days in August and 31 chapters in Proverbs. But while I would encourage you to attempt to read through the book in the month, that is not how the book is meant to be read. Do not be afraid to take your time and read more intentionally, this is not a race to the end. We are not reading to finish the book. We are reading to encounter God. It may take you two chapters to find a verse that strikes you it may take two lines, that's ok we are giving God the time to work in us.

Instead, I want you to take a few minutes each morning to read the book until one of the proverbs strikes you. Then stop reading and take the time to meditate on how that Proverb and help you grow in wisdom as it is applied to your life. The short sayings in the book are meant to be memorized and recalled throughout our days so that we can learn to be wise by considering how these sayings could change our encounters during the day.

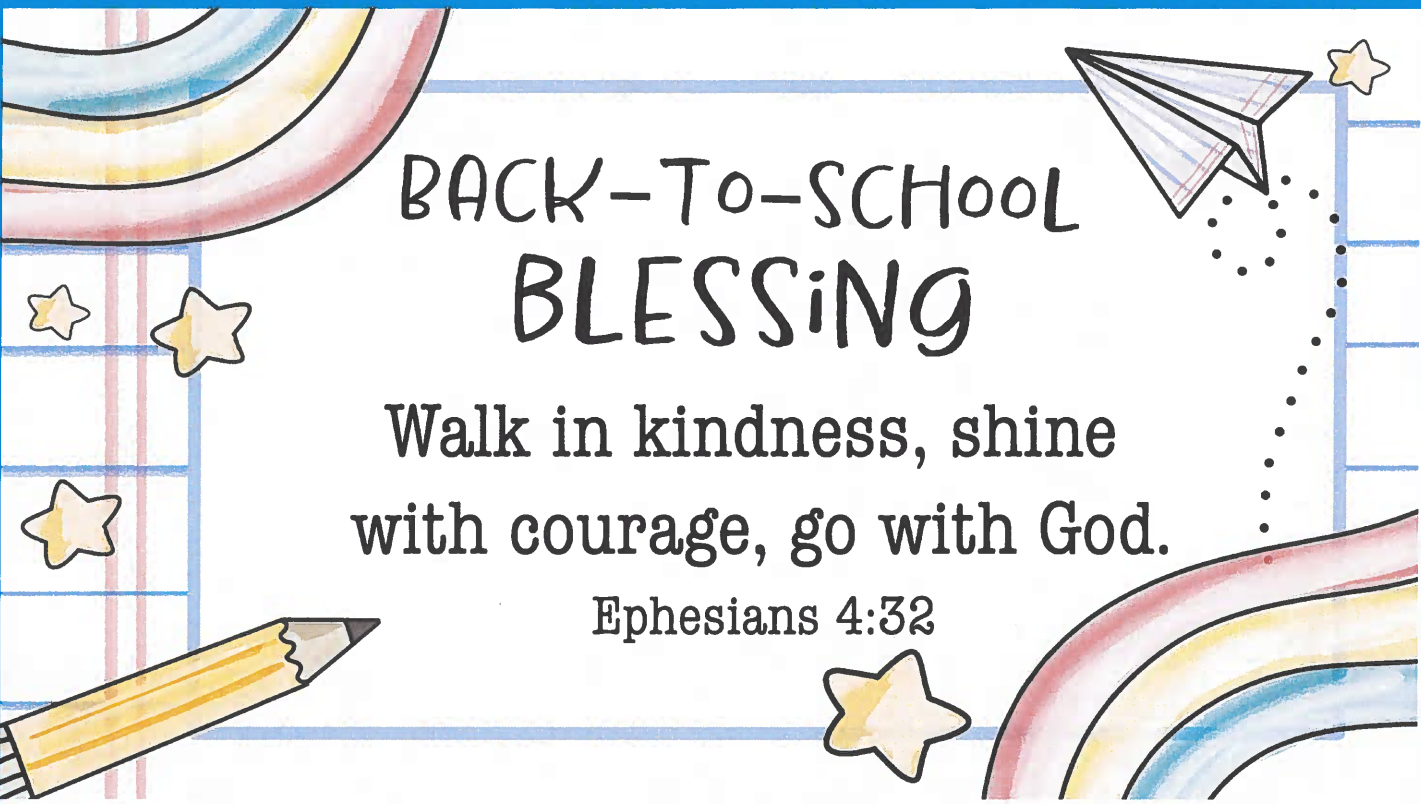
While I do want everyone to take their time in reading, I do want people to recognize one passage. Proverbs 31 is not talking about a literal woman it is about the person who find wisdom she is the woman in the passage. And any person who finds her (man or woman) finds that kind of life. I hope that is you.

Blessings,
Pastor Wesley



Thank You Note

Neal and Catherine Cole
would like to share thanks
with the church family for your
cards, calls, visits and prayers.
They truly mean so much to us.
Thank you!



BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLESSING

Walk in kindness, shine
with courage, go with God.

Ephesians 4:32

Blessing of the Backpacks

During the Sunday, August 16th Service

**Dover First UMC's Youth Director
Logan Ladrach Will Share the Message**

Let's Begin the School Year with Prayer and
Blessings for Students, Staff and Families.

Preschool thru College Students

You're Invited to Bring Your Backpack
for a Blessing for All Students.

Teachers/School Staff/Parents

A Special Prayer will be Shared for You Too!

A Great Day to Invite a Family or Friend to Church!

New Book Study with Pastor Wes

A Week in the Life of a Greco-Roman Woman

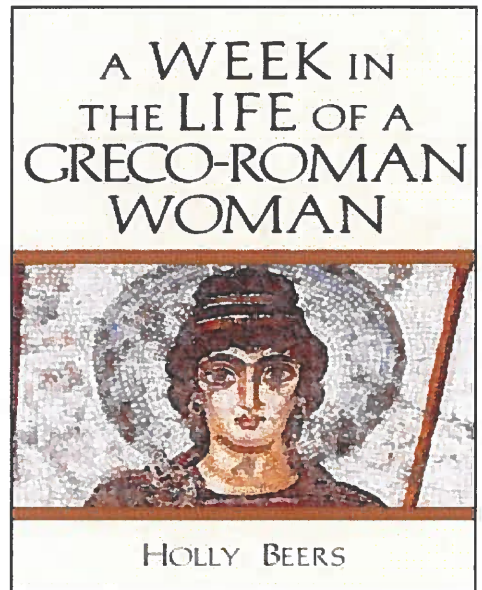
September 8, 15, 22, 29

Church Lounge at 6 p.m.

Please Sign Up in the Lobby

Books \$13 and Kindle \$12

A young wife meets her daily struggles with equanimity and courage. She holds poverty and hunger at bay, fights to keep her child healthy and strong, and navigates the unpredictability of her husband's temperament.



But into the midst of her daily fears and worries, a new hope appears: a teaching that challenges her society's most basic assumption.

**What is this new teaching?
And what will it demand of her?**



FALL KICK-OFF!

Sunday, September 13th
Please Sign Up in the Lobby

Pre-Game Huddle!

Sign up in the lobby for food, fellowship and fun.

Kick Off!

Our worship service begins at 10:20 a.m.
Wear your favorite team or marching band jersey, t-shirt or other game attire to church.

Post-Game Celebration!

Stay for the church tailgate party.
Hot dogs, beverages and tableware provided.
Bring your favorite covered dish to share.

Be an MVP and Invite Someone to Church!

Welcome to Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“People Need the Lord”

by Steve Green

Sandy Swartzbaugh

Call to Worship

L: As we gather today, we bring our hopes, our questions, and our dreams for the year ahead.

All: We come trusting that God walks with us wherever we go.

L: We bring our backpacks, our books, our classrooms, and all the opportunities that await us.

All: We ask God to bless our learning, our relationships, and our days.

L: Whether we are students, teachers, parents, or supporters, we each have a part to play in helping one another grow.

All: May we encourage one another, care for one another, and remind one another that we are never alone.

L: God is with us when the days are exciting and when they are difficult.

All: We place this school year in God's hands.

L: Let us worship the God who guides our steps, gives us wisdom, and goes before us.

All: We are ready to learn, ready to grow, and ready to follow where God leads. Let us worship!

*Hymn #585

This Little Light of Mine

Scripture Deuteronomy 31:6-10

Prayer

Blessing of the Backpacks

*Special Hymn God of All Learning 4 verses

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2015

Music: Trad. Gaelic melody; harm. by Dean McIntyre, 2023

Scripture Proverbs 3:1-8

Special Music “His Eye Is on the Sparrow”
 Larnelle Harris
 Sandy Swartzbaugh

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

Message God Goes With You
 Trust in the Journey
 Logan Ladrach

*Hymn #378 Amazing Grace

*Benediction

*Postlude ‘Praise Him! Praise Him!’
 arr. Humphrey Turner

CCLI License #1687804

Today’s Altar Flowers

In loving memory of the birthdays of
Susan’s Mom - Jeanne Ickes on August 12th
and Clyde’s Dad - Clyde Penrod Sr. on August 16th
by Clyde and Susan Penrod

This Week at Dover First UMC

Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service
Back to School
Blessing of
the Backpacks



Next Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service

Please Drive Carefully!

As students return to school
please be extra mindful of:

bus stops,
crosswalks,
school zone
speed limits,
and children
walking and
on bicycles.



Monday

No Events

Tuesday

7 p.m. WMM Church
Spanish-Speaking

7 p.m. Boy Scouts
Scout Room

Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
Fellowship Hall

Thursday

3 p.m. Private Party
Fellowship Hall

6 p.m. Trustees
Meeting
Lounge

7 p.m. WMM Church
Spanish-Speaking

Friday

9:30 a.m. Finance
Meeting
Lounge

Saturday

No Events