



## Dover First UMC's Weekly Newsletter

September 4, 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](http://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!**



# 🌶️ 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





# 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!**

## New Book Study with Pastor Wes

### *A Week in the Life of a Greco-Roman Woman*

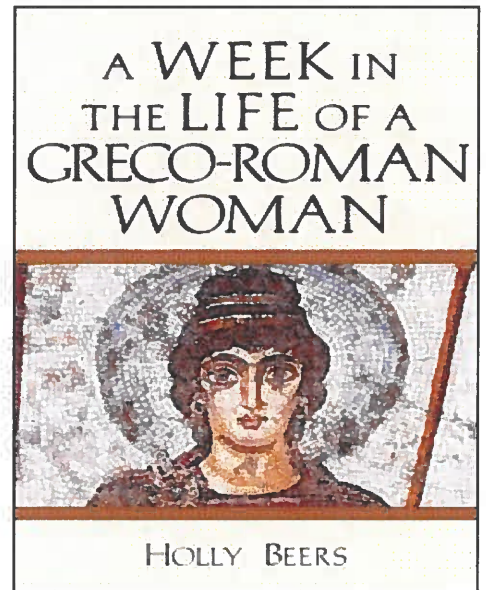
**September 8, 15, 22, 29**

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?**



# Early Response Team (ERT)

## *Guiding Scriptures*

Matthew 25: 35-36 | Nehemiah 2: 5 | 2 Corinthians 5: 14-15, 17a

Members of these ERT teams are trained to respond and assist survivors of natural disasters to aid in the removal of debris, clean out flood-damaged homes, and place tarps on homes to help prevent further damage, while providing a caring Christian presence. ERT's are given an invitation to assist when the need arises and typically are only in the field for 3-7 days. Early Response Teams are part of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) <https://umcmmission.org/umcor/>



## Becoming part of our Early Response Team involves:

- 1) Completing an eight (8) hour class to learn how ERT's respond to natural disasters and roles for an ERT response team member.
- 2) Completing a state and federal background check in order to receive your FEMA badge.

There are advance trainings, including Damage Assessment and Emotional & Spiritual Care, which can be obtained after the initial ERT Basic Certification is received.

For more information on our Conference Disaster Response Ministry visit:

<https://www.eocumc.com/missions/disaster-response.html>

If you have any questions or you are interested in taking ERT training, contact:

Tom King, Conference Disaster Response Committee Chair

Email: [kings7565@gmail.com](mailto:kings7565@gmail.com)

Cell: 330-310-6806



**Welcome  
to Worship  
September 6, 2026**

## Welcome and Announcements

Prelude                      “God Will Take Care of You”  
                                         arr. Roger C. Wilson

Call to Worship    Psalm 119:33-36

L: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes;

L: And I will keep it to the end.

**All: Give me understanding, that I may keep your law**

**All: And observe it with my whole heart.**

L: Lead me in the path of your commandments,

L: For I delight in it.

**All: Incline my heart to your testimonies,**

**All: And not to gain!**

\*Hymn #514            Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

Scripture                Romans 13:8-14

Prayer

\*Hymn #358            Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Scripture                Ezekiel 33:7-15

Original Music        Sang and Played by Susan George

\*Offering Intro/Doxology/Prayer/Lord's Prayer

Message                When Righteousness Becomes Love  
                                Pastor Wesley George

Communion

\*Hymn #2129          I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

\*Benediction

\*Postlude              "Justified by Faith"  
                                Edward Broughton

## ***When Righteousness Becomes Love***

### **Scripture: Ezekiel 33:7-11**

<sup>7</sup> So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup> If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup> But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

<sup>10</sup> Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” <sup>11</sup> Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel. <sup>12</sup> And you, mortal, say to your people: The righteousness of the righteous shall not save them when they transgress, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, it shall not make them stumble when they turn from their wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by their righteousness when they sin. <sup>13</sup> Though I say to the righteous that they shall surely live, yet if they trust in their righteousness and commit iniquity, none of their righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>14</sup> Again, though I say to the wicked, “You shall surely die,” yet if they turn from their sin and do what is lawful and right— <sup>15</sup> if the wicked restore the pledge, give back what they have taken by robbery, and walk in the statutes of life, committing no iniquity—they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>16</sup> None of the sins that they have committed shall be remembered against them; they have done what is lawful and right; they shall surely live.

### **Questions**

1. What does it mean to be the sentinel of the people?
2. Why does Ezekiel who has not participated in the sins identify with them by saying “our”?
3. If God has no pleasure in death why is death the consequence of sin?

### **Background**

Related Scriptures: Romans 13:8-14

Ezekiel is a prophet living in Babylon preaching to the Jewish refugees there around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem.

**Caesarius of Arles:** Let your charity believe devoutly and firmly that God never abandons a person unless he is first deserted by him. Although a person may have committed serious sins once, twice and a third time, God still looks for him.<sup>1</sup>

**John Cassian:** How can we imagine without grievous blasphemy that he does not generally will all men, but only some instead of all to be saved?<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Kenneth Stevenson and Michael Gluerup, eds., *Ezekiel, Daniel*, ACCS 101.

<sup>2</sup> Kenneth Stevenson and Michael Gluerup, eds., *Ezekiel, Daniel*, ACCS 101.

## *When Righteousness Becomes Love*

### **Reflection**

I often wonder how those people exiled in Babylon would have understood Ezekiel's message. What would those refugees have thought when they heard the words, "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked," while they were being forced to live in the land of the wicked? How would they have understood Ezekiel's warning that righteousness can be forfeited?

I imagine there would have been a strong temptation for the Jews to believe that God had abandoned them or that God was an extremely angry deity. After all, many of these people had likely been faithful to their religious obligations and had participated in the sacrifices at the Temple. If they had faithfully fulfilled their religious duties, why would God allow them to experience exile? This was the world into which Ezekiel was sent to speak.

This is what makes Ezekiel's message so important to me. He reminds people that religious duties alone are not enough. They cannot rely on the sacrifices they have offered if they continue to practice wickedness. Righteousness is not simply a matter of performing the right religious actions; it is also demonstrated in how we treat the people around us. This is the same message Paul gives to the Romans when he says, "Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law." The Law is ultimately expressed not merely through religious duties but through the way we love our neighbors. I imagine that some of the people who heard Ezekiel's words may have thought much like the Pharisee in Luke 18, who thanked God that he was not a sinner like the man standing next to him. Yet Ezekiel is challenging the people to recognize that their religious identity does not automatically make them righteous. In fact, they might be acting just as wickedly as the Babylonians if they fail to examine their own ways.

Paul gives us the same challenge. If we are not loving toward the people around us, then we are not practicing the Law in the way God desires. But this is not the end of Ezekiel's message. He also emphasizes how deeply God loves even those who are wicked. God desires for the wicked to turn from their ways, to learn to love others, and to live according to the virtues God desires. God is patient and longsuffering, desiring that all people be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:3–4). This is what Paul means when he calls us to live in the day. The metaphor of living like Jesus is then spelled out through a list of behaviors that are opposed to the way of Christ. These behaviors are opposed to Jesus precisely because they fail to demonstrate the kind of love for God and neighbor that Jesus revealed as true righteousness.

This love for God and neighbor is the true righteousness that God called Ezekiel to proclaim. We proclaim this righteousness not simply through our words but through our actions. It is important to remember that love is not demonstrated merely by what we say. Love is experienced through our actions and through the attitudes we demonstrate toward other people.

Love means being willing to listen to others, including listening to how they respond to our words and actions. Love also means being patient with people when they do not conform to our wishes. We may want others to repent and live as we believe they should, but that does not mean they will. And we are called to love them anyway. Why? Because this is precisely how God treats both them and us. As God tells Ezekiel, God is patient with the wicked and gives them the opportunity to repent, turn from their ways, and find life and healing.

This means that when Paul calls us to live as Christ lives, there are at least two purposes. First, we are called to live in Christ so that we may find salvation and share life with him. Second, we are called to reflect the love of Jesus into the world so that others might see our example, find it compelling, and learn to live like Christ as well.

# This Week at Dover First UMC

## Sunday

10:20 a.m.    Worship Service  
Communion

## Next Sunday

### Fall Kick-Off!

10:20 a.m.    Worship Service  
Wear your favorite  
team or marching  
band jersey  
or shirt to  
the service.

11:30 a.m.    Church Tailgate  
Covered Dish  
Please Sign Up  
in the Lobby



## Monday

**Labor Day**  
**Offices Closed**  
**Staff Holiday**

## Tuesday

2 p.m.    Mary Hannah  
Ladies Circle  
Lounge

6 p.m.    Pastor's Book  
Study  
Lounge

7 p.m.    WMM Church  
Spanish-  
Speaking

7 p.m.    Boy Scouts  
Scout Room

## Wednesday

7 p.m.    Choir  
Rehearsal

## Thursday

1:30 p.m.    Literary Ladies  
Multipurpose  
Room

7 p.m.    WMM Church  
Spanish-  
Speaking

## Friday

No Events

## Saturday

No Events