



**Dover First UMC's Weekly Newsletter**  
**March 6, 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.

**Reflection by Pastor Wesley George**

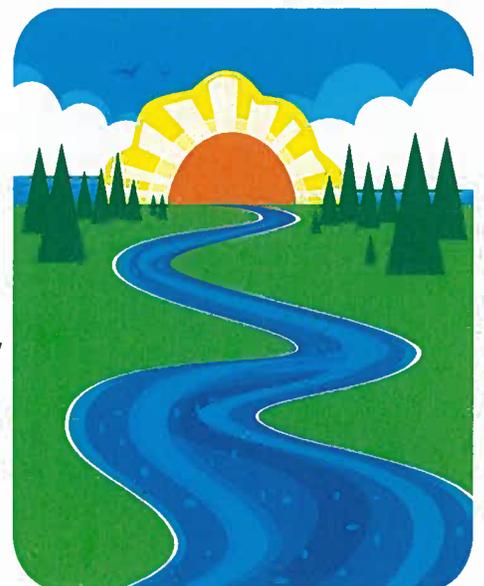
This week I have spent time reading Psalm 1 and the phrase that has struck me is that the righteous person will be "Like a tree planted by the water".

This person who is committed to listening to God is not simply grounded, they are rooted. For me this is a reason to commit to reading scripture more. I need to be rooted.

This world is full of the static of a myriad of voices and that can be deeply confusing.

If I am not rooted I will certainly be pushed away from the waters of life.

**What Psalm touched you this week?**





**LENTEN**

# OUTREACH

**This Year's Special Lenten  
Envelope Offerings Will Support  
the Mission of Beneath the Shade**

Beneath the Shade is a transitional living space for women who are choosing recovery and want to rebuild their lives and explore what having a relationship with God might be all about. Beneath the Shade is for women who have lived with substance use disorders, have at least 30 days substance free and know they need more time in a semi-structured and loving setting in order to live successfully on their own.

**To support this mission in our community,  
please pick up a Lenten Envelope in the lobby,  
and return your donations on Easter Sunday.**

**Visit [beneaththeshade.org](http://beneaththeshade.org) to learn more.**

A background image of soft pink flowers, possibly tulips, with delicate petals and visible stamens, set against a light, airy background.

JOIN US FOR  
**EASTER**

*and Holy Week*

**Christ is Risen!**

**Holy Week Services and Fellowships**  
at Dover First United Methodist Church

**Palm Sunday on March 29**

10:20 a.m.   Worship Service and Procession of Palms

**Holy Thursday on April 2**

5 p.m.       Church Family Meal in Fellowship Hall

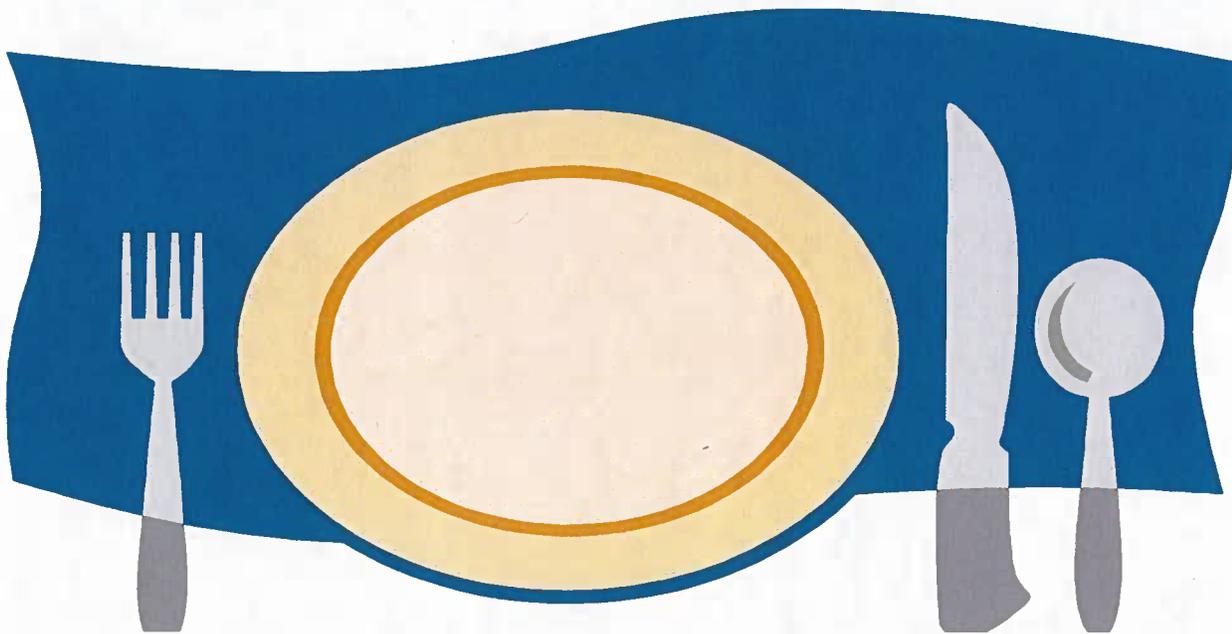
6 p.m.       Holy Thursday Service in the Fellowship Hall

**Easter Sunday on April 5**

9 a.m.       Church Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall  
Please Sign Up in the Lobby

10:20 a.m.   Easter Sunday Service with Children's Church  
Nursery Care Available

11:30 a.m.   Egg Hunt for the Kids on the Church Lawn



## Appreciation Fellowship Meal

**Troop #94 Scouts and Leaders  
Invite All Dover First Members  
60 and Over to Be Their Guests  
for a Delicious Dinner with:**

**Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Salad  
Green Beans, Dessert and Beverages**

**This Free Fellowship Meal is Shared  
with Thanks to the Church Family  
for 70 Plus Years of Support.**

**Monday, March 9th at 5:30 p.m.  
in the Fellowship Hall  
Please RSVP by Signing Up in the Lobby**

# Easter Breakfast



**Our Church Family Easter Sunday Breakfast  
Begins at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall**

This year's buffet includes:

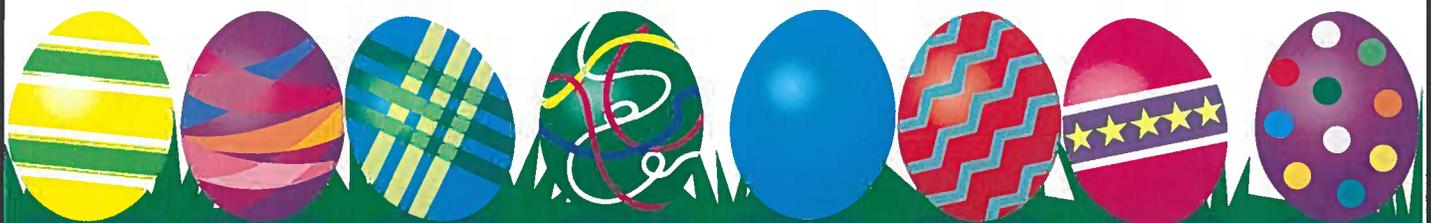
scrambled eggs, bacon and sausage  
hashbrowns, fruit, options  
to build a breakfast burrito,  
coffee, tea, juice and milk.

Please sign up in the lobby.

## **Egg Hunt After the Easter Sunday Service**

All children are invited to stay after the service  
to find the colorful plastic eggs filled with goodies.

Our youth will hide the eggs outdoors if it's nice  
or indoors in the event of inclement weather.



Sisters and Brothers,

We have reached Lent and as I think about Scripture I can think of no better time to read the Book of Psalms. Several years I have found great help in reading a Psalm a Day during the season of Lent. Often, I simply pick some of my favorite Psalms and read one a day. But sometimes I can be more deliberate and read them in an order. The Psalms are some of the most passionate parts of the Bible, exploring the breadth of emotions and how we communicate with God. The Psalms root us in how we meet God in the real world. Yes, some of the wording seems dated but the feeling is timeless and praying through them helps gives words to our deep-rooted feelings.

During the month of March, I want to encourage you to read Psalms. If you are like me, it will be one Psalm a day. You may want to start at Psalm 1 or you may want to jump around hitting popular Psalms like 42, 51, 100, 121. And if you are especially motivated you can try to read through the book in a month. A reading schedule for this is on a separate page.

No matter which of these exercises you choose, the point remains the same, to help you understand where you connect to God and where you need God. The Psalms are about helping us deepen our appreciation for life by helping us understand what we feel and articulate that to God. And so, over the next few weeks I hope you take the time to encounter the Psalms and through them God.

Blessings,

Pastor Wesley

## Through the Psalms in a Month

	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Evening</u>
Day 1	Psalms 1-5	6-8
Day 2	9-11	12-14
Day 3	15-17	18
Day 4	19-21	22-23
Day 5	24-26	27-29
Day 6	30-31	32-34
Day 7	35-36	37
Day 8	38-40	41-43
Day 9	44-46	47-49
Day 10	50-52	53-55
Day 11	56-58	59-61
Day 12	62-64	65-67
Day 13	68	69-70
Day 14	71-72	73-74
Day 15	75-77	78
Day 16	79-81	82-85
Day 17	86-88	89
Day 18	90-92	93-94
Day 19	95-97	98-101
Day 20	102-103	104
Day 21	105	106
Day 22	107	108-109
Day 23	110-113	114-115
Day 24	116-118	119: 1-32
Day 25	119: 33-72	119: 73-104
Day 26	119:105-144	119: 145-176
Day 27	120-125	126-131
Day 28	132-135	136-138
Day 29	139-140	141-143
Day 30	144-146	147-150



# Welcome to Worship

## March 8, 2026

### Welcome and Announcements

Prelude                      “Morning Meditation”  
   Steven Scott

Call to Worship    Psalm 95:1-5

L: O come, let us sing to the Lord;

**A: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock  
of our salvation!**

L: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

**A: Let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise!**

L: For the Lord is a great God

L: And a great Ruler above all gods,

L: In whose hands are the depths of the earth

L: And also the heights of the mountains.

**A: The sea belongs to God who made it,**

**A: And the dry land, because God formed it.**

\*Hymn #127              Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Scripture                      Romans 5:1–11

## Prayer

All children who would like to go to Kidz Min in the Education Zone are asked to meet at the back of the sanctuary during the hymn.

\*Hymn #301      Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

Scripture              John 4:5-42

Choir Anthem      “Jesus Speaks to Me”  
Words and Music by Mark Kellner

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

Message              Noticing the Forgotten  
Pastor Wesley George

\*Hymn #3093      Fill My Cup, Lord

\*Benediction

\*Postlude              “Fanfare in C”  
Henry Purcell  
arr. Allen James

## Noticing the Forgotten

### Scripture: John 4:5–42

<sup>5</sup> So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." <sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" <sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." <sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

### Questions

1. Why is Jesus' encounter with this woman significant for John, why does he give it more space than the encounter with Nicodemus?
2. What is the significance of the woman's life story, why does Jesus bring it up?

### Background

Related Scriptures: Romans 5:1–11; James 2:1–7

Augustine: It is pertinent to the image of the reality that this woman, who bore the type of the church, comes from strangers, for the church was to come from the Gentiles, an alien from the race of the Jews. In that woman, then, let us hear ourselves, and in her acknowledge ourselves and in her give thanks to God for ourselves<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Joel C. Elowsky, ed., *John 1–10*, Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture 146–147.

## *Noticing the Forgotten*

### **Reflection**

When you read the story of the woman at the well who do you see Jesus talking to? She is coming to the well alone and during the hottest part of the day, clearly, she is doing that to avoid other people. She has had multiple husbands and currently has a man that is not her husband. What is your first reaction to this woman's situation, is she the cause of her problems or not? Obviously, her community thought she was the problem and seemed to have largely forgotten her. But that is where Jesus comes in. Jesus sits down with her and speaks to her. We might not understand this, but what Jesus did was taboo on multiple levels. This woman was a Samaritan, someone the Jews looked down on. The woman clearly was of little repute in her own community. If there was ever a person Jesus should not have talked with it is her. Further, for many in that day for a man to have such a familiar conversation with a woman was scandalous. On every level simply having this conversation was potentially scandalous for Jesus and yet he spoke to the woman.

Something that makes this passage even more remarkable is its location in the Gospel. This story follows immediately on Jesus' encounter with Nicodemus. Nicodemus is the ultimate insider, the Jewish leader who is supposed to know God intimately. The Samaritan woman is the ultimate outsider, even rejected by her own people. Jesus makes Nicodemus—the insider—come to him, but he goes to the outsider. Jesus is available to the one society finds important, but Jesus goes to the one society rejects. It's not that Jesus loves the woman more, or is more concerned with her believing, but he seems to recognize that if she is going to come to faith, he needs to go out of his way to find her. Further, though Jesus expected Nicodemus to know something of his mission, he did not expect that from the woman. Instead, he encouraged her and pushed her to think beyond what she was accustomed to. This level of respect coupled with Jesus' clear authority gave him credibility to her.

Imagine being this woman, this man who should not be talking with you starts a conversation. Then when you fire jabs at him he responds in kindness. When you ask questions he patiently answers them. When he speaks to you he seems to know you and still shows concern instead of the disgust you are accustomed to. How would you respond? Obviously, this would be a profound experience, and it is easy to see why she would have been excited to tell anyone she knew about this stranger who did not marginalize her.

What I think is even better is Jesus was able to do this in a private conversation that did not embarrass the woman and yet in a way was witnessed by others. We get a glimpse of how Jesus is able to break down an individual's walls in private and use that to also break through social barriers. Because not only did Jesus engage this woman, he engaged his disciples. Jesus demonstrated to his disciples that this woman, outcast by her neighbors, was welcome in his kingdom. And not only was this woman welcome, they should go out of their way to engage with such individuals and bring them into the kingdom. The disciples witnessed Jesus destroy social convention to reach a woman that no one thought much of, even in her hometown. This had to be a powerful lesson for them that not only was Jesus going to respect powerful leaders like Nicodemus, but he was also going to respect even those society rejects. And this respect involved lifting them up to be vital and loved members of society. We do not want to completely overlook the message Jesus gave the woman about the water of life. But what makes the message real is the way Jesus engaged with her. Would this woman had believed Jesus' message if she had been just another face in the crowd while he was preaching, I doubt it. What I think she needed is exactly what many people need, someone to lift them up and help them feel valued. Many people do not simply need to know that Living Water exists they need to know the person who is speaking to them has tasted the water and it has changed them.

# This Week at Dover First UMC

## Sunday

### Daylight Savings Time Begins

10:20 a.m.    Worship Service  
                  Communion

## Next Sunday

10:20 a.m.    Worship Service

### Save the Date

#### Kid's Camp-Read-A-Lot

June 17

June 24

July 1

July 8

July 15

Picnic on July 19

## Monday

5:30 p.m.    Dover First  
                  Seniors Meal  
                  by the Scouts  
                  Fellowship Hall

## Tuesday

2 p.m.        Mary Hannah  
                  Circle  
                  Lounge

6:30 p.m.    Book Study

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

## Thursday

1:30 p.m.    Ladies Book  
                  Club  
                  Lounge

7 p.m.        Grief Share  
                  Lounge

7 p.m.        WMM Church  
                  Spanish-Speaking

**Friday**        No Events

**Saturday**    No Events