

## Friday January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Join us for worship, online or in-person! Sunday morning traditional service @ 1020am Thursday evening contemporary service @ 7pm



# A Message From Pastor Dave

Welcome to the inaugural edition of our new electronic newsletter, 3D Connection!

As we continue going through these challenging days of the pandemic, we are striving to find new ways to increase our digital communication capacity, while decreasing our use of paper, ink, and physical contact. In addition to our current digital outlets of our app, our webpage (<u>www.doverfirst.org</u>), and our Faithlife page (<u>www.faithlife.com/doverfirst</u>), this Newsletter will provide an opportunity to view our worship service outlines, sermon notes, LIFEGroup Study Guides, Ministry and Serving opportunities, and more. We will publish updated Newsletters each Friday and email them out, so please share with anyone who may be interested in receiving this, and have them contact our church office during business hours to be added to our email chain (330-343-1322).

Now, why is this Newsletter named 3D Connection? Good question! I'm glad you asked. As we enter into a new year, our mission statement is going to be "Discover, Develop, Deploy" (thus, 3 D's!) Over the next 52 weeks, I am going to challenge us all to "Discover" new ways of reaching out, serving, ministering, tithing, worshiping, inviting, and more. Once we Discover these new ways of "doing things" we are then going to "Develop" them together. We will then "Deploy" into our families, our communities, our workplaces, our schools, and even into the world as we put these new "things" into action. This will be accomplished through our church family, our LIFEGroups, and our ministry teams.

Why are we doing this? The purposes that we are all called to as followers of Christ (mission, ministry, worship, fellowship, and evangelism) were modeled and taught by Jesus through this process. Additionally, our spiritual growth is centered on this same process of Discovery (John 1:39), Development (Luke 2:52), and Deployment (Matthew 10:1). Even within Old Testament scripture we see this. *"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; even now it is coming. Do you not see it?* (Discover) *Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness and streams in the desert. See, I am doing a new thing!* (Develop) *Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland"* (Deploy) - Isaiah 43:10.

I encourage us all to prepare for the journey of a lifetime, even in the midst of a global pandemic, as we forget the things of the past and our old way of "doing things," and reach forward towards the new things that lie before us. God is calling us to something greater than we are, and I am excited about the possibilities. I pray you are as well.

Now more than ever we need to be Christ's Church. Six months into this pandemic, 22% of church going Christians stopped attending worship services, digital or physical, and in 2020 that number increased to 25%.

My friends, now is the time for us to be The Church. I pray that you will join me on this journey as we seek new ways to Discover, Develop, and Deploy!

In His Name,

Pastor Dave

### ANNOUNCEMENTS



As part of our Discover, Develop, Deploy Mission, we will once again be helping the Dover-Phila Food Pantry by distributing food to those in need. Rather than worshiping at our Recharge service, we will be serving on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. Contact the church office at (330) 343-1322 or <u>doverfirst@gmail.com</u> to sign up.

This is a wonderful opportunity for individuals, families, small groups, and our church family to reach out and help those in need in our communities.

### Welcome Desk Help Needed



Want to be a welcoming presence in our church?

We are in need of individuals or groups to serve at our Welcome Center on Sunday Mornings each week.

> Assist with directions Hand out Welcome Gift Bags Answer Questions Welcome Visitors and Guests!

To sign up, contact our church office at (330) 343-1322 or Email us at <u>doverfirst@gmail.com</u>

This is a great opportunity to use your gifts to welcome everyone each week as we gather to worship!

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it – Hebrews **13:1** 



We are currently accepting applications for the position of church pianist/organist.

If you or anyone you know are interested in the position, please submit a resume via email to <u>doverfirstpastor@gmail.com</u>





Interested in finding out more about baptism, membership, or just have questions about the church?

Mark your calendar and make plans to attend our Next Steps class Sunday Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> from 12p-2p in our lounge.

Pizza Lunch and Nursery Care will be provided

RSVP to the church office <u>doverfirst@gmail.com</u>





Looking for a way to get connected in a Bible Study, but are not ready for an in-person group just yet? You're in luck!

Join Pastor Dave online each week for one of his three Online Bible Studies.

Digging Deep - Saturday afternoons at 3pm (starts Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>) (An in-depth study of various Biblical texts)

Sunday @ 6 – Sunday evenings at 6pm (starts Jan 23<sup>rd)</sup> (A weekly study of the Gospel of John)

Tuesday @ 2 – Tuesday afternoons at 2pm (Starts Jan 25<sup>th)</sup> (A weekly study of the Book of Romans)





In addition to our app, webpage, Faithlife page, and 3D Connections, we have created a QR code that allows for instant access to our weekly service outline, sermon notes, and small group study guides.

Simply scan this QR code with your mobile device!



### We Need Your Help To Support Our Vision!



Dover First United Methodist Church



### BETTER TOGETHER! STRONGER TOGETHER!

2020 and 2021 have been challenging years for us all. We have missed out on many times of fellowship, worship, and serving together.

But the mission and ministries of our church have continued!

In order to continue our outreach into 2022 and beyond, we need your help.

Please consider online giving. It is quick, safe, and easy to use. Simply visit

https://secure.subsplash.com/ui/access/BWVG6F/#/

Enter the amount of your gift along with the frequency, click next, continue as a guest, complete your information, and submit. It's that easy!

Our ministries, facilities, and administration rely 100% on the offerings of our church family. Please consider how you can faithfully give to Christ's Church today! 

 Sunday Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022

 Worship Service

 5 Minute Countdown begins at 10:15am

Welcome and Announcements

First Scripture Matthew 22:36-40 (ESV)

\*Call To Worship

God greets us with these words from the prophet Isaiah: I am The Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

\*Prayer

\*Hymn #77 "How Great Thou Art

Offering Introduction and Offertory Music

Message Discover, Develop, Deploy: Discovering Our Neighborhood - Pastor David St.Aubin

\*Benediction

Postlude

\*denotes to please stand as you are able if worshiping in-person





Message Notes January 16<sup>th</sup> 2022 Discover, Develop, Deploy *"Discovering Our Neighborhood"* (message 3 of 8)

# Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to The Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper - Jeremiah 29:7 (NIV)

Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup> will be our "Good Neighbor(hood) Weekend" We will not be holding worship services this weekend. Why?

Instead of *hearing* a message on loving our neighborhood, we will be *living* a message on loving our neighborhood

This is our "Do Something" Plan, and:

1) We have been <u>PREPARED</u> to Do Something great We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which <u>God prepared</u> in advance for us to do - Ephesians 2:10

2) There is a <u>PURPOSE</u> whenever we Do Something Loving God means doing what He tells us to do, and really, that isn't hard at all - 1 John 5:3 (TLB)

3) God has provided us with the <u>POWER</u> to Do Something With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine - Ephesians 3:20 (NCV)

4) Doing Something significant requires <u>Passion</u> to keep moving forward Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and <u>then looks back</u> is not fit for service in the Kingdom of God - Luke 9:62



Message Notes January 16<sup>th</sup> 2022 Discover, Develop, Deploy *"Discovering Our Neighborhood"* (message 3 of 8)

### **OUR FIRST STEPS IN LOVING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

- 1) INVITE A NEIGHBOR TO WORSHIP AND A MEAL
- 2) GIVE A THANKSGIVING OFFERING FOR OUR MINISTRIES

*honor the Lord your God by bringing him a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings you have received from him -* Deuteronomy 16:10 (NLT)

3) PREPARE FOR GOOD NEIGHBOR WEEKEND April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 Whenever we have the opportunity to help anyone, we should do it - Galatians 6:10

### WAYS TO PREPARE FOR GOOD NEIGHBOR(HOOD) WEEKEND

- Ask my neighbors how I might help them that weekend
- Decide with my small group which project(s) we will do
- If I don't know my neighbors, invite them to a time of conversation
- Rach out to my community leaders and ask "what needs done?"

Discover your neighbors, and your neighborhoods

Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to The Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper - Jeremiah 29:7 (NIV)



### January 16<sup>th</sup> 2022

### **Discovering Our Neighborhood**

"Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper - Jeremiah 29:7 (NIV)

For the second time in its history, Israel was in captivity in a place they had not chosen. What God told them to do - seek the peace and prosperity of the city that had taken them captive – seemed impossible.

How much more does God want us to do this same thing for the communities we have chosen to live in?

As Christ's Church, we are to make the cities where we live better. In this discussion, we will discuss a few biblical strategies for taking the love of God outside the church walls and into the neighborhoods around us.

#### OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE - SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.

### THE DO SOMETHING PLAN

Jesus said, "Most assuredly I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father" - John 14:12 (NKJV)

### 1. <u>COUNT: all the people in pain in your neighborhood.</u>

- What does God say? Read Luke 17:11-14. How does this verse demonstrate that Christ notices those in pain?
- What does it mean?
  - When you look at your neighborhood or community, do you know how many people are in pain?
  - How many are divorced? How many have experienced violent interactions? How many...?
  - Of what value is it to know this? How will this knowledge motivate you to act?

#### 2. WALK: Notice all those around you in need of help.

- What does God say? What will happen to every place you walk, according to Deuteronomy 11:22-25?
- What does it mean?
  - Does God promise us territory for our own benefit? For what purpose are we to claim territory?
  - How would it look if our church was known more for community outreach?

#### 3. ASK: What do you need?

- What does God say? Mark 10:46-52 tells what happened when Jesus walked by a blind man named Bartimaeus.
  - Look at verse 47. What did the blind man cry out?
  - What did Jesus say in response? (verse 51).
  - What happened as a result? (verse 52.)
- What does it mean?
  - If you said to a friend who was hurting--"What can I do for you?"-- how do you think they would feel?
  - How would you feel? Discuss as a group how to approach someone you know is hurting.





#### 4. LOVE: Respond in a way that honors God by obeying him and loving others.

- What does God say? According to 1 John 5:3, how do we show the love of God?
- What does it mean?
  - Jesus said that after loving God, the second most important thing in life is to love your neighbor as yourself.. How does knowing that God says it is important to love others change your attitude about people you may not like? Is there anything you can change to allow the love of God to flow through you?
  - Many of us have experienced God's comfort and help when we have gone through a difficult time. How can
    we turn our negative experience into something positive by helping someone else? Who can you help? Share
    any personal experiences.

#### **Diving Deeper (optional)**

And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt - Exodus 3:9-10 (NIV)

Scripture tells us that when people cry out, God sends a deliverer in response. He has created the church as a body of resources to minister to the needs of the community. What next step is he asking you to take?

Ask God to help you:

- Count all the people around you in pain.
- Walk around and notice how many are hurting.
- Ask "How can I help?"
- Love by obeying God.

Take a few moments to reflect on these two questions:

- 1. Who could I help?
- 2. What can I do to help my neighborhood?

Share your thoughts in the group.

#### **REVIEW ANY ASSIGNMENTS OR COMMITMENTS MADE DURING YOUR PREVIOUS MEETING CONTINUE TO CONSIDER WHERE AND YOU YOUR GROUP WANTS TO CONTINUE MEETING**