



Friday February 25th, 2021

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



**A Message
From
Pastor Dave**

Would you agree that the most difficult type of stress in our lives is stress that comes from knowing that we have no control over something? There are some things in life we just can't change, and a result of that is stress, and it is often difficult to eliminate that stress. So what can we do? The only solution is surrender. We have to surrender to God in those situations.

In Matthew 6:10 Jesus teaches us to pray: *Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.* This is a prayer of surrender. Your Kingdom come, Lord, and Your will be done. It means saying, 'God, you are in charge. You are in control.' It means saying, 'God, those things that are unchangeable in our lives; those uncontrollable circumstances or that unexplained pain, I'm going to give it all to You, Lord.'

What does it mean to say, 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven?' It means three things.

First, it means letting go of control. Every day we have to decide: 'who is going to be in control of my life? Me? Or God?' Every day it's a decision we have to make. The problem is, there are some things in our lives that we don't *want* to give up control of. But my friends, surrender always begins with letting God be God.

Psalms 46:10 says; *'let go, and know that I am God. I rule the nations. I rule the earth.'* The NIV translation says *'be still, and know that I am God.'* The words *'be still'* in this verse literally mean 'to let go,' 'to calm down,' 'to relax.' I don't know what challenges we will face this week, this month, this year, but I do know what God wants us to do with those challenges; He wants us to let go. He wants us to be still and know that He is God. He wants us to surrender.

We don't like that word, *'surrender,'* because surrender means saying 'I give up.' But isn't that the very thing we need to do when we are stressed? We often face stress in our lives because we are in conflict with God's plan. We get into a tug of war with God of 'my will' verses 'Thy will,' and that puts us in direct opposition to God.

Second, it means learning to be content. The key to inner peace, no matter what happens in life, is accepting what cannot be changed and learning to be content. Philippians 4:11-13 Paul writes; *'I have learned to be content with the things that I have and with everything that happens. I know how to live when I'm poor, and I know how to live when I have plenty, and I have learned the secret of being happy at any time in everything that happens. I can do all things through Christ because He gives me strength.'*

Notice the word 'learned.' Contentment is something we have to learn, and doing so is only possible through Christ's strength. One of the problems we have with learning contentment is that we look for explanations of why things happen. God doesn't always tell us why things happen in our lives, and that causes us to ask things like, 'why not, God?' But even if we received an explanation for the things that don't make any sense, it still wouldn't take away the pain.

I recently went to the doctor because of a pain in my hand. I pointed to the area of pain and said, 'I have this pain right here, and it really hurts.' The doctor took an x-ray, and then explained what the problem was. As I walked out of her office, I knew why I was in pain, but the pain was still there. We don't need God's explanation. What we need is God's presence. Psalm 37:7 says; *'surrender yourself to The Lord, and wait patiently for Him.* Surrendering to God and learning to be content means waiting patiently for Him.

Third, surrendering means laying down my plans. I don't know if you have noticed this in your life, but I have sure noticed it in mine. *My* plans get changed, a lot! I tend to make all these great plans, but then, they end up getting changed. It is ok to make our plans, but we also have to lay down our plans, because our plans aren't always going to align with God's plans. 'My will be done' doesn't necessarily align with 'Thy will be done.'

On January 23rd it was announced that I will be appointed senior pastor of Thoburn UMC in St. Clairsville Ohio. On February 13th it was announced that Pastor Wes George will be appointed pastor of Dover First UMC. These were unexpected changes, and for some, there may be feelings of stress. What can we do? The only solution is surrender: *Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done.*

God is in control, and whatever we may be feeling, let us all take time to lift those feelings up to Him. Be still, and know that He is God. In His perfect timing He will reveal the incredible plan He has for us all. In the meantime, be in prayer for me and my family, be in prayer for Pastor Wes and his family, be in prayer for the Thoburn UMC family, and be in prayer for the Dover First family. We are all one body, connected through the grace and power of the Holy Spirit.

'Our Father in heaven, Hallowed is Your Name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done...'

In His Name,

- *Pastor Dave*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



We invite you to join us for worship Wednesday March 2nd at 7pm as we kick-off the Lenten season with our Ash Wednesday service.

Those worshipping in person will have an opportunity to come forward
And receive ashes on their forehead or back of their hand.

Those not comfortable coming forward will have the opportunity to
receive a pre-packaged cotton swab with ash and
apply at their seat.

This service will also be live-streamed to all of our online platforms

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord - Acts 3:19



We are pleased to announce that following an unexpected extended break, our Thursday evening Contemporary Worship Service will resume March 3rd!

We will begin a new series titled "Obstacle," looking at how we can overcome various obstacles in our lives to our faith, our trust, our growth, and more

Services will be held in our Fellowship Hall at 7pm, and will be live-streamed as well. Invite someone to worship with you as we Recharge our spirits!





We are pleased to announce that our three online Bible Studies will be resuming!

Our Saturday “Digging Deep” study resumes March 5th at 3pm with an in-depth look at the Book of Ruth.

Our “Sunday @ 6” study resumes March 6th at 6pm with a chapter by chapter study of the Gospel of John.

Our “Tuesday @ 2” study resumes March 8th at 2pm with a chapter by chapter study of the Book of Romans.

All studies will be live-streamed.
Invite someone to study with you!

GOOD NEIGHBOR



**Good Neighbor
Weekend
April 2nd and 3rd**

Good Neighbor weekend is fast approaching!
Saturday April 2nd and Sunday April 3rd

We will not be holding worship services on Sunday April 3rd.
Instead, we will be going out into our communities this weekend,
seeking opportunities to reach out, serve, and help our neighbors.

We will live stream a brief message Sunday morning,
but no online or in-person services will be held.

More information, along with a Good Neighbor suggestion booklet,
will be coming in March.

Mark your calendars and invite your friends and families to join in this
exciting outreach into our communities!

“...who is my neighbor? – Luke 10:29 (NIV)

{ Introducing }



Paul Wesley (Wes) George
Full-time Local Pastor (FL)

On Sunday February 13th the following announcement was shared:

“it is expected that Bishop Tracy S. Malone will appoint Pastor Paul Wesley (Wes) George to be the pastor of First (Dover) UMC, effective July 1, 2022. In the itinerant ministry of the United Methodist Church, the Bishop appoints pastors to serve in our churches for missional reasons. Bishop Malone sends pastors to churches or charges where their gifts might best be used for the mission and ministry of a congregation as well as for the church at large. The Bishop, in consultation with the PPR (Pastor/Parish Relations Committee) and Cabinet, has prayerfully determined this new appointment for Wes. When Wes was licensed, he took a vow to go wherever the Bishop sent him to serve the people of God’s Church and the mission field of that mission outpost.”

Pastor Wes was born in 1981 in Marietta Ohio. He and his wife Susan have three children: Katelynn, Melody, and Ameilia.

Pastor Wes received his BA from Asbury College in 2004, his MA from Ashland Theological Seminary in 2007, and is currently attending Ashland Theological Seminary, pursuing an MDiv degree.

An information pamphlet was shared to those attending worship in person on Feb. 13th following the service. Copies of this pamphlet are available in the church office for anyone who would like to receive one. Contact the church office (330) 343-1322 for more information.

Pastor Wes will be visiting Dover First UMC on Tuesday April 19th, and will spend time getting to know the staff, tour the church and area with Pastor Dave, and then will be available in the afternoon to meet and greet with anyone interested in coming in. More information will be shared soon.

Please continue to keep Pastor Dave and his family, Pastor Wes and his family, the Thoburn UMC church family, and the Dover First UMC family in prayer as we prepare for this transition.



Bishop Tracy S. Malone Announces New EOC Superintendency Plan

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” - Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

Yes! God is doing a new thing in the East Ohio Conference and in these unprecedented times, God is making a way and unfolding new ministry and leadership possibilities.

As of July 1, 2022, district superintendency will look different for several districts in the Conference. I have spent the last several months in consultation with the Cabinet and with the district superintendents and district superintendency committees who will be affected in the new leadership configuration. I am thankful to each for their support of this strategic plan.

Considering the new ministry appointments of Rev. Dr. Steve Bailey and Rev. Doug Lewis, the 10 districts of the East Ohio Conference will now be served by eight district superintendents and there will be new superintendency models implemented in two regions of the Conference. Every district will have an appointed district superintendent. District administrative assistants will continue to serve as a vital partner to the district superintendent, pastors, and local churches.

These missional, strategic leadership changes will better position the Conference as we continue to be faithful stewards of our mission and resources and as we face the current pandemic realities, the pending separation of some of our local churches related to disagreements on matters of human sexuality, and the declining membership and financial trends of some of our churches.

To that end, effective July 1:

Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, currently serving as the Ohio Valley District superintendent, will serve as the North Coast District superintendent.

Rev. Laura White, superintendent of the Southern Hills District, and Rev. Kelly Brown, superintendent of the Three Rivers District, will expand their leadership to also serve as the co-superintendents of the Ohio Valley District.

Rev. Nestor Nazario, currently serving as the Mid-Ohio District superintendent, will expand his leadership to also serve as the superintendent of the Firelands District. Currently, Rev. Donna Van Trees provides assistance to the Firelands District superintendent. She will continue to serve part-time and be appointed as district superintendent associate.

In this liminal space in which we find ourselves we are leveraging this time to make some new discoveries and to assess and explore the needs, realities, and opportunities within the districts and to create a sustainable structure as we move forward in mission. The two new district superintendency regional models are intentional steps to move us forward in this process.

I have named a District Realignment/Restructure Task Force made up of a diverse group of laity and clergy from across the East Ohio Conference to do assessment work and then bring a report to the 2023 Annual Conference.

Beloved of God, amid these realities we currently face, we still have a mission to fulfill. The mission of Christ is yet alive and we continue to be called to "... go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," and to remember the promise of Jesus Christ ... "and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20 [NIV])

The East Ohio Conference is committed to resourcing and equipping pastors, local churches, and faith communities in building a greater capacity for making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ, for being God's agents of healing, hope and transformation in your communities, and for reaching new, younger and a more

diverse people. This is our work, our mission, and our vision. Disciples make disciples! Transformed leaders transform their communities and the world!

Let us together, stay focused on our mission ... abiding in Christ, being outwardly focused through discipleship, abounding in love towards our neighbors and spiritually centered in our leadership and actions.

Let us not dwell on the past and let us embrace what is new ... God's possibilities!

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Tracy S. Malone



2022-2023 Cabinet



Rev. Angela Lewis
Canal District

Rev. Abby Auman
Maboning Valley District

Rev. Nestor Nazario
*Mid-Ohio District
Firelands District*

Rev. Bruce Hitchcock
North Coast District

Rev. Laura White
*Southern Hills District
Ohio Valley District*

Rev. Kelly Brown
*Three Rivers District
Ohio Valley District*

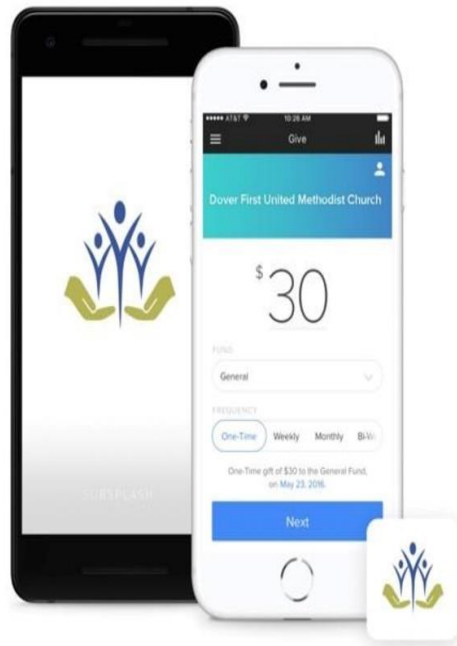
Rev. Cara Stultz Costello
Tuscarawas District

Rev. Edgar Brady
Western Reserve District



In addition to our app, webpage, Faithlife page, and 3D Connections Digital Bulletin, we have a QR code that allows for instant access to our weekly service outline, sermon notes, study guides, and more!

Simply scan this QR code with your mobile device



We Need Your Help To Support Our Vision!

Fast and Easy Giving

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 never stopped!

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 Feb. 27th, 2022

Worship Service

10 Minute Countdown Begins At 10:10am

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

First Scripture 1 Chronicles 29:11 (NIV)

*Hymn #176 "Majesty"

*Call To Worship

In Christ, The God of Heaven has made His home on earth. He dwells among us and is with us. Highest of all creation, He lives among the least. He journeys with the rejected, and welcomes the weary. Come now all who thirst, and drink the water of life. Come now all who hunger, and be filled with good things. Come now all who seek, and encounter the abundant love of The Almighty God

*Prayer

*Hymn #314 "In The Garden"

Second Scripture Revelation 2:1-7 (Berean)

Special Music

Offering Introduction/Prayer/Lord's Prayer

Offertory Music

Message Dear Church: "*What Jesus Writes To A Busy Church*"
- Pastor Dave St.Aubin

Prayer

*Hymn #348 "Softly And Tenderly" (verses 1,2,3)

*Benediction

*Hymn #348 "Softly And Tenderly" (verse 4)

Postlude

* denotes to please stand as you are able when worshipping in person



Dover First UMC



dover first umc Ohio



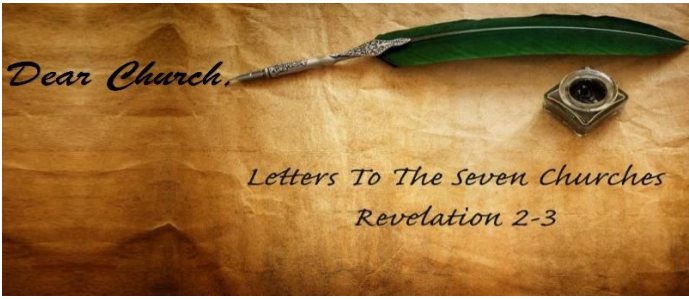
doverfirstumc

Visit Our Webpage: www.doverfirst.org

Follow Us On Our Faithlife Page: www.faithlife.com/doverfirst

Download Our App: search Dover First UMC

Share our Toll-Free Number: (844) 863-4567



Worship Service Outline
February 27th, 2022
Dear Church:
“What Jesus Writes
To A Busy Church”
(Message 1 of 7)

I know your deeds, your labor, and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate those who are evil, and you have tested and exposed as liars those who falsely claim to be apostles. Without growing weary, you have persevered and endured many things for the sake of My Name...

But I have this against you: you have abandoned your first love – Revelation 2:1-3//7 (Berean)

Ask yourself; “what is in first place in my life?”
Is it Jesus? Is Jesus first in your life, your home, your marriage, your relationships, your job?

What is in first place in your life? _____

How Do I Keep First Things First In My Life?

1) I have to listen to Jesus (Revelation 2:1)

You should listen and be careful to do it that it may be well with you and that you may multiply greatly just as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you in the land flowing with milk and honey
- Deuteronomy 6:3 (NASB)

This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him - Matthew 17:5 (NASB)

2) I can't hide behind a busy life (Revelation 2:1-3)

I know your deeds, your labor, and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate those who are evil, and you have tested and exposed as liars those who falsely claim to be apostles. Without growing weary, you have persevered and endured many things for the sake of My Name...

Commitment to serving Christ

Deeds, labor, enduring patience - hard at work serving Christ

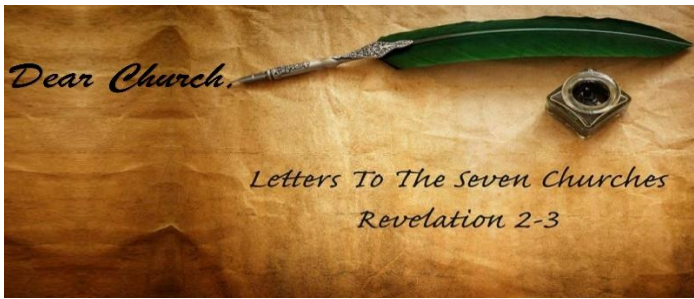
Commitment to the retraction of evil

Moral and theological evil - stand against evil in the world

Commitment to evangelism

Bearing up for Jesus' sake and not growing weary in evangelism amidst opposition.

These are all **good** things, but they are not the **best** things.



Worship Service Outline
February 27th, 2022
Dear Church:
“What Jesus Writes
To A Busy Church”
(Message 1 of 7)

3) I acknowledge that Jesus is my first love (Revelation 2:4)

But I have this against you: you have abandoned your first love - Revelation 2:4 (Berean)

More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ - Philippians 3:8 (NASB)

4) I take the necessary steps that help me return to loving Jesus (Revelation 2:5)

Therefore, remember how far you have fallen. Repent, and repeat the deeds you did at first - Revelation 2:5

Where you have fallen?

What has caused you to fall?

Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord - Acts 3:19 (NASB)

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you - James 4:7-10 (NASB)

What keeps you from falling?

Paradise await those who love Jesus

To the one who overcomes, I will grant the right to eat from the tree of life in the Paradise of God - Revelation 2:7.