



Friday February 4th, 2021

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



**A Message
From
Pastor Dave**

"If one part suffers, every part suffers with it" - 1 Corinthians 12:26 (NIV)

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future' – Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

It has been almost eleven months since I had reconstruction surgery on my right achilles tendon. While I continue to recover from surgery and am feeling much better, there are still days that I also feel great pain - not just in my heel, but throughout the rest of my body as well. This reminds me of Paul's words above; *if one part of the body suffers, every other part suffers with it.*

As was announced January 23rd, it is expected that I will be appointed by our Bishop as Senior Pastor of Thoburn UMC in St. Clairsville Ohio effective July 1st of this year. While there is joy in anticipation of what God has in store for me and my family, as well as for Dover First UMC, there is also some pain as well.

Change is never easy, nor is grief ever comfortable. Many questions come to mind in the midst of change. Why? Why now? What's going to happen next? When will we know? These are natural questions, and while I may not have all the answers to the 'why' 'what' and 'when,' I do know that in the midst of uncertainty that we can turn to the 'who' - Jesus Christ our Lord, who holds all things in His hands.

As we prepare for this upcoming transition in pastoral leadership, I would like to offer some words of encouragement and share six steps that we can all take in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

First, the best thing to do during any transition is to keep our eyes focused on Jesus, and resist the temptation to go in a different direction from where we need to be heading. It is very easy to get distracted in times of transition, and distractions can be lethal to our spiritual growth and health.

Second, give yourself time to grieve, and grieve well. This is a time of loss. We are brothers and sisters in Christ and have experienced much together, so allow yourself time to process your feelings. Don't stuff them inside. Jesus calls us to bring everything into the light. If Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life, then He calls His children to be honest in every area of their lives, including grief. You may not want to grieve publicly, and that is ok. If not, grieve in private so that you can all be strong for someone else.

Third, stick together during this time of transition in order that you may fight against the devil's schemes and ensure that Dover First is healthy for the next pastor. We should never underestimate satan's schemes. Transitional moments are optimal times when satan comes in and places doubts and fears in our minds, sowing seeds of dissention which can grow into weeds of destruction. Satan would love nothing more than to see a thriving church become one that is simply surviving. Be aware of the devil's schemes during this time, and guard your heart.

Fourth, be patient. While the church family at Thoburn is aware of who their next pastor will be, the church family at Dover First is not. It is easy to become discouraged while waiting. Have you ever had to wait in line at a drive-through, or a checkout line, or in traffic? Waiting can be hard sometimes, but please know that there are times when the process *should* be long, in order to make sure the best possible choice is made. Our Bishop and cabinet are doing their best to discern who will carry out the vision of Dover First next, and I am confident that with God's help, that person will be identified. God has a plan, and it's a good plan. Trust their leadership, and strive to be patient.

Fifth, don't rely on hearsay or rumors. I encourage everyone to remain in dialogue with me and the members of our Leadership Board. Once information becomes available, it will be shared with everyone as soon as possible. If you have a concern, please let us know. The Leadership Board will do everything to remain as transparent as possible during this time, as will I.

Sixth, lean on one another. Dover First is a healthy, growing church, and satan would love nothing more than to find a way to make you feel isolated and destroy the fellowship of the church family. The best way to combat this is to lean on one another. If you are struggling with this transition, talk to someone you trust. If you are not sure who to talk to, pray that God would reveal someone you can talk to who has been through this process before. You can contact a member of the Leadership Board or myself, or, engage in small groups. Share a meal together with someone and talk about what is taking place so that you can be aware of others' feelings at this time. Remember, we are Better Together!

Pastoral transition is hard. When a part of your body hurts, the rest of it does its best to compensate for the part that is hurting. Be the healthy part of the body so that you can help those that are hurting. In doing so, our church family will be as healthy as possible when the next pastor is appointed.

My friends, we have been through much together over these last seven years: weddings, baptisms, funerals, new births, professions of faith; we have built houses together, packaged meals together, handed out water together, worshipped together, shared meals together, sung songs together, laughed together, cried together, mourned together, and even endured a global pandemic together. But our time together is not done. There is still much work to be done over the next five months. Let us therefore keep our eyes focused not on the 'why' but on the 'who', Jesus Christ our Lord and our Savior.

I look forward to our remaining time together, and will continue to pray for you, this wonderful church family, and your next pastor, whoever that may be. We may not yet know who that is, but God knows, and it is in that knowledge that we place our trust.

I love you all, and am extremely blessed to be your pastor.

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 worshipping at our Recharge service, we will be serving on the 4th Thursday of each month (February 24th)

Contact the church office at (330) 343-1322 or

doverfirst@gmail.com 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.

Boy Scout Sunday

Sunday Feb. 6th 1130a – 2p



Scout Sunday is coming up Sunday Feb 6th,
Our Boy Scout Troop will once again be serving a spaghetti lunch fundraiser.
You can dine in or order to go, and this event is open to the public.

Lunch will be served from 1130a – 2p in our Fellowship Hall

Make sure to share and invite!





Our Girl Scout Troop is once again selling Girl Scout Cookies!
Girl Scouts will be available in our lobby on Sunday March 13th selling cookies.
All varieties are \$5 per box and will be delivered in early March.
Online orders can also be placed beginning February 6th.
Local customers should choose 'girl delivery' option to avoid shipping costs.

We have 2 scouts selling this year.

Natalyn is in kindergarten. Her cookie site is:

Natalyn's cookie site... <https://digitalcookie.girlscouts.org/scout/natalyn760482>

Gretchen is in 2nd grade. Her cookie site is:

<https://digitalcookie.girlscouts.org/scout/gretchen365526>

Many thanks to everyone at Dover First UMC for supporting our troop for 8 years!



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 doverfirst@gmail.com

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 doverfirstpastor@gmail.com



NEXT STEPS

Discover

Develop

Deploy

**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. 13th from 12p-2p in our lounge
(this is being rescheduled from Feb. 6th)**

Pizza Lunch and Nursery Care will be provided

**RSVP to the church office
doverfirst@gmail.com**





**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
(An in-depth study of Ruth)**

**Sunday @ 6 - Sunday evenings at 6pm
(A weekly study of the Gospel of John)**

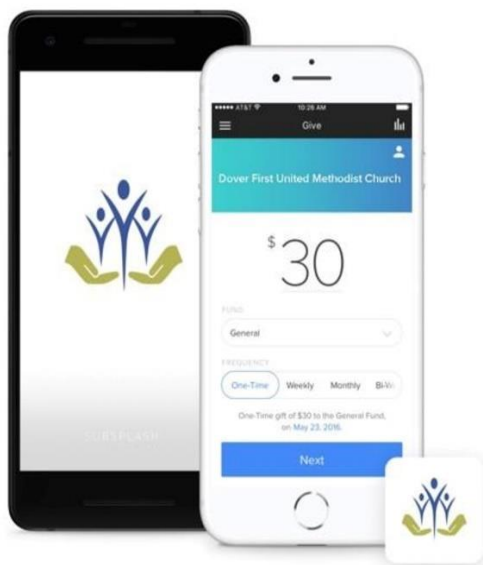
**Tuesday @ 2 - Tuesday afternoons at 2pm
(A weekly study of the Book of Romans)**





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!**

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 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 Feb. 6th, 2022

Worship Service

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

First Scripture Lamentations 3:22-25 (ESV)

*Hymn #140 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (verses 1 and 2)

*Call To Worship

Let those who fear the Lord say, "Our God's steadfast love endures forever." Out of my distress I called out, and The Lord answered me and set me free. The Lord is my strength and my song and my salvation. I shall not die, but I shall live and recount the deeds of The Lord. The steadfast love of The Lord never ceases. Great is thy faithfulness, O God, great is thy faithfulness

*Prayer

*Hymn #660 "God Is Here"

Second Scripture Romans 8:18-28 (NLT)

Special Music

Offering Introduction

Prayer/Lord's Prayer

Offertory Music

Message Discover, Develop, Deploy: *Developing Patience While Waiting On God*

Sacrament Of Holy Communion

*Hymn #664 "Sent Forth By God's Blessing" (Verse 1)

*Benediction

*Hymn #664 "Sent Forth By God's Blessing" (Verse 2)

Postlude

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



Dover First UMC



dover first umc Ohio



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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



Message Notes
February 6th 2022
Discover, Develop, Deploy
“Developing Patience
While Waiting On God”
(Message 6 of 9)

God does everything just right and on time, but people can never completely understand what He is doing - Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NCV)

What should we remember while waiting on God:

1) There is a delay between planting and harvesting

For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. A time to plant and a time to harvest - Ecclesiastes 3:2 (NLT)

2) There is an unseen battle taking place around us

We are not struggling and fighting against human beings, but against evil, spiritual forces in the heavenly realm - the rulers, authorities, and powers of darkness - Ephesians 6:12 (TEV)

3) God is preparing us for a blessing

There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold - though your faith is far more precious than mere gold - 1 Peter 1:6-7 (NLT)

Waiting does not diminish us any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We don't see what is enlarging us, but the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy! - Romans 8:22 (MSG)

4) God always keeps His promises

at the time I have decided, My Words will come true. You can trust what I say about the future it may take a long time, but keep on waiting - it will happen - Habakkuk 2:3 (CEV)



Message Notes
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“Developing Patience
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(Message 6 of 9)

What should we do while waiting on God:

5) Act as if I have already received

I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have (already) received it, and it will be yours - Mark 11:24 (NIV)

6) Imitate habits that grow faith

We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who, through faith and patience, inherit what has been promised - Hebrews 6:12 (NIV)

Keep putting into practice all you learned from me and heard from me and saw me doing - Philippians 4:9 (NLT)

7) Keep on...

Keep on asking, and you will be given what you ask for. Keep on looking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened

- Matthew 7:7 (NLT)

Keep on sowing your seeds, you never know which ones will grow. Perhaps they all will - Ecclesiastes 11:6 (TLB)

8) Trust God instead of panicking

If we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently - Romans 8:25 (NLT)

Even when I am afraid, I keep on trusting you - Psalm 56:3 (CEV)