

The vision of Dover UCC is to seek justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God.



Dover Congregational United Church of Christ
December 28, 2025

Rev. Melinda Quellhorst, Senior Pastor
An Open & Affirming Congregation
A Just Peace Congregation
1st Sunday after Christmas
Fleeing Refugees

Announcements

Prelude "Breath of Heaven" *arr. Mark Hayes*

Centering

***Carol # 130 verses 1-2** "Joy to the World!" *Pilgrim Hymnal*

***Call to Worship** Isaiah 63:7-9 *Common English Bible*

One: I will recount the Lord's faithful acts; I will sing the Lord's praises, because of all the Lord did for us, for God's great favor toward the house of Israel. God treated them compassionately and with deep affection.

All: **God said, "Truly, they are my people, children who won't do what is wrong." God became their savior.**

One: During all their distress, God also was distressed, so a messenger who served him saved them.

All: **In love and mercy God redeemed them, lifting and carrying them throughout earlier times.**

***Carol # 130 verse 3** "Joy to the World!" *Pilgrim Hymnal*

Lighting of Christ Candle (Please be seated). (Light the Candles)

One: God calls us this Christmas season.

All: To make room for our own nativity.

One: Where we are busy---

All: Peace.

One: Where we are lost—

All: Hope.

One: Where we are sad—

All: Joy.

One: Where we are bitter—

All: Love.

One: Let this be a time to hope for all these gifts of God. Amen

***Carol #117 verses 1-2**

"Angels, From the Realms of Glory"

Pilgrim Hymnal

Scripture

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! ² Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! ³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! ⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens! ⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created. ⁶ He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed. ⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, ⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command! ⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! ¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! ¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! ¹² Young men and women alike, old and young together! ¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. ¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!

Offering of music (10:00 AM) "Welcome to Our World" *Chris Rice*

Children's time (10:00 AM)

Carol #140

"What Child is This?"

Pilgrim Hymnal

Scripture

Matthew 2:13-23

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi,^[1] he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." ¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

Sermon

Rev. Melinda Quellhorst

Pastoral Prayer / Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to Gratitude (10:00 AM)

Offering our Gifts

Offering Music

“The Coventry Carol/Away in a Manger” arr. Cindy Berry

*Doxology

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen***

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*Carol #141

“The First Nowell”

Pilgrim Hymnal

*Benediction

Postlude

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

arr. Cindy Berry

Serving You in Church Today

Sermon: Rev. Mindy Quellhorst

Liturgist: Ken Delfing

Music Director: Jamie Kunselman

Organist: Bret Tassone

Media: Dave MacKeigan

Join us after the 10:00 AM worship for Coffee Hour in Thomas Hall—your hosts are Tom & Char Houser.

Stream Events at Dover

- ~The **worship service** will be live on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. on the Dover Congregational UCC website (<https://www.doverucc.org>) and Facebook page and the recording will be posted immediately after the service.
- ~Monday thru Friday, the office will be open from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Please call the office to ensure someone is in to assist you.
- ~If you have a care or concern you need to discuss, please contact Rev. Quellhorst at revmql@gmail.com or call her on her cell, 330-717-5357
- ~During the 10:00 AM service, child care is available for children five years and younger in room 104, on the lower level, Faith Formation for older children.

Large print bulletins and hearing amplifications are available in the back.

**PLEASE CHECK THE BOX IN THE NARTHEX—
You may have some Christmas greetings in there!**



Faith Formation and Faith Explorers are in full swing. Come grow with us—there's something for every age!

Any questions—please contact Jacquie DelMonte

~ Contributions~ At the home page click on the “**Give**” button and follow the directions



OR you can easily connect to our online donation page by scanning this QR code with the camera on your phone or a QR app--will take you directly to our online donation page!

Open and Affirming Statement

Dover Congregational United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming congregation. We affirm that God’s grace is available to all. We welcome people of all ages, genders, races, views, abilities, sexual orientations, expressions and identities, ethnic educational and economic backgrounds into the full life and ministry of our church. We declare this in the name of God, whose Son, Jesus Christ, welcomed all people into God’s circle of grace.

Approved by the congregation September 21, 2008
Additions approved by the congregation April 13, 2014

Just Peace Covenant

As a Just Peace church continuing the work of Jesus, we commit to work toward a world where all persons are treated with dignity and equality, where societies are structured in ways that promote the well-being of all people, and where conflicts are resolved through communication and negotiations, without resorting to exploitation or violence. We strive to embody these principles in our lives and witness as individuals and as a congregation. Our specific focus is: Just Peace in the community- so that all may live free from fear. Just Peace with the Earth – so that life is sustained. Just Peace in the marketplace- so that all may live with dignity. Just Peace among nations- so that human lives are protected. Through our worship, programs, and outreach we seek to be a community of reconciliation, hope, and courage as we work for peace and justice in our world.

Adopted and approved by congregation September 14, 2025