

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



Dover Congregational United Church of Christ

March 1, 2026

Rev. Melinda Quellhorst, Senior Pastor

An Open & Affirming Congregation

A Just Peace Congregation

2nd Sunday of Lent

The Blessings of Messiness, a wilderness journey

Wilderness is a place of mystery and unknown/Blessings

**Please Stand if able*

Black New Century hymnal

Announcements

Prelude

"God So Loved the World" from the Crucifixion

*John Stainer
arr. Keveren*

Centering Silence

Lent continues in the wilderness. It is a place of mystery and the unknown. The Spirit guides us through the messiness and blessings of this journey. Begin again as we are in the messiness, the blessings, and let the Spirit hold you. This Lent we are invited to surrender to the wild leadings of the Spirit.

***Call to Worship**

One: A shaft of light on a dismal day,

All: A whisper in an early morning fog,

One: A surge of hope in the face of despair.

All: The words of a song that float in when our minds are anxious.

One: Call it mystery; name it grace.

All: For God is present in all of life,

One: And often in simple and surprising ways. Finding hope this Lent, in the blessings of the messiness. Praise God!

***Hymn #24**

"The God of Abraham Praise"

Opening thoughts

One: The wilderness is a place of mystery and the unknown and it requires trust. Sometimes the wilderness feels like walking in the dark, and a place for those who are lost. The wilderness compels us to keep climbing. On our journey through the wilderness this Lent, we will engage in positive and helpful ways as we live into God's mystery and blessings.

Silence

Scripture

John 3:1-17

Offering of music (10:00 AM) "God So Loved the World"

Wayne L. Wold

Children's time (10:00 AM)

Poem "Full to the Brim under God's wing-come rain or shine"

Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Hymn #427

"God Made from One Blood"

Scripture

Genesis 12:1-4a

Sermon

The Reciprocity of Blessing

Rev. Kelly Burd

Call to Prayer

Hymn tune: Children praying

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Joys and Concerns/Prayers- both silent and spoken

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

"Complainte" (Lament)

Louis Vierne

*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

Communion

(Gluten free option is the wafer. As the tray is passed to you, please hold it for the person next to you as they take the bread/cup, then pass it to the next person. Please assist your neighbor, if they need help. When you receive the bread and then the juice, please hold it until the Minister indicates to eat and/or drink it, so that we commune together.)

Invitation

One: The bread and cup are lifted, blessed, broken and poured.

All: We are called to make the vulnerable, poor, and hungry our priority. We are called to be filled with compassion, as an outpouring of justice and peace.

One: All are called. Come!

Sharing the story
Sharing the elements
Prayer after Communion

**All: No matter the situation, no matter the problem, no matter the trouble,
God is always with us. God is always ready and willing to receive us,
redeem us, renew us, restore us, refresh us, rebirth us now and
always! Amen**

***Hymn #495** *"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"*

***Benediction**

Postlude *"Lente"*

Serving You in Church Today

Sermon: Rev. Kelly Burd

Pastor: Rev. Melinda Quellhorst

Media: Dave MacKeigan

Music Director: Jamie Kunselman

Organist: Nichole Fehrman

We welcome the Rev. Kelly Burd as our preacher today. Rev. Kelly Burd serves as Minister for Volunteer Engagement in the National Ministries of the United Church of Christ. Kelly grew up attending Trinity UCC in Tiffin, Ohio. She has a bachelor's degree in education and taught English as a second language in Japan before attending seminary. Dover Congregational UCC was Kelly's first call in 2000 and she has cherished memories of this congregation and her time as our associate minister. She has previously worked in the National Ministries of the UCC as youth and young adult supporting staff, served for 8 years as pastor of Pilgrim Congregational UCC in Cleveland, and spent the last three years working locally as a hospice chaplain. She lives in Rocky River, with her husband John and their teenage children, Sam and Grace.

**Please join us for coffee hour immediately following the 10:00 AM
worship—your hosts are Reggie Pratt and Mary Ann Brizzolara.**

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.

~ **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