

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



Dover Congregational United Church of Christ

March 15, 2026

Rev. Melinda Quellhorst, Senior Pastor

An Open & Affirming Congregation

A Just Peace Congregation

4th Sunday of Lent

The Blessings of Messiness, a wilderness journey

Wilderness is a place of disruption

**Please Stand if able*

Black New Century hymnal

Announcements

Prelude

"Savior, like a Shepherd/He Leadeth Me"

Cindy Berry

Centering Silence

As we journey in the wilderness we notice disruption, metaphor, transformation, even confusion, it is almost as if in the healing power of Jesus, he brings the wilderness to the community, giving them a taste of what his kin-dom will truly be. This Lent we are invited to surrender to the wild leadings of the Spirit.

***Call to Worship**

One: We are led

All: Beside still waters.

One: We are fed

All: At a huge banquet table.

One: We are accompanied

All: Through valleys of shadow and death.

One: We are guided

All: To do justice and righteousness.

One: We are anointed,

All: Blessed and filled.

One: We sing

All: Of God's goodness and mercy.

***Hymn #252**

"Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Opening thoughts

One: The wilderness is a place of disruption and can be disorienting. But also, the wilderness gives us new perspectives. It is a place to participate in healing. While we are going through the wilderness, on our journey in the messiness, God shepherds and comforts us with blessings of love.

Silence

Scripture

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Offering of music (10:00 AM)

"I Walked Today Where Jesus Walks"

arr. Bill George

Children's time (10:00 AM)

Poem

Full to the Brim Prodigal Grace- What Doesn't Play by the Rules
Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Hymn #472*"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"***Scripture**

Psalm 23

Sermon

Rev. David Long-Higgins

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***"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"*

Robert A. Hobby

DoxologyPraise God from whom all blessings flow;**Praise Christ all creatures here below;**Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter**One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen****Hymn #12***"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"****Benediction****Postlude***"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"*

Albin Whitworth

Serving You in Church Today**Pastor:** Rev. Melinda Quellhorst**Music Director:** Jamie Kunselman**Preacher:** Rev. David Long-Higgins**Media:** Dave MacKeigan**Organist:** Nichole Fehrman

Preaching today is The Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, conference minister of the Heartland Conference. Dave is a graduate of Heidelberg University with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and music (violin performance) and earned a Master of Divinity degree at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in New Brighton, Minnesota. He is also a graduate of the Wellstreams Spiritual Direction Program of the Spirituality Network of Columbus (Ohio). Together with his wife, Beth, who is also an ordained UCC clergyperson, Dave has served two congregations, Bethany UCC, in Louisville, Kentucky, and David's United Church of Christ in Canal Winchester, Ohio. Dave and Beth have two adult children, Andrew and Hannah.

The flowers on the communion table are given by Kim & Ken Delfing in honor of their 47th wedding anniversary—congratulations, Kim & Ken!

Please join us for coffee hour immediately following the 10:00 AM worship.

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.

FINDING THE COURAGE FOR PEACE

Come listen. Come reflect. Come be part of the conversation.

Join us on Tuesday, March 24th at 6:00 PM in Thomas Hall for a timely and urgent conversation with Dan Toussant—leader with Pax Christi and co-founder of the Interfaith Coalition of Stark County. After 50 years of wrestling with faith, fear, and calling, Dan chose action—launching a grassroots peace movement rooted in the nonviolent teachings of Jesus. In a time marked by racism, gun violence, and deep division, his story challenges us to ask: “If not now. . .when?” Dan is also family to Michael DiLauro, making this evening especially meaningful for our Dover Community.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Dover UCC is partnering with four area churches for Vacation Bible School. This year’s theme is “Snowball Mountain Challenge.” VBS will take place June 15-19, 2026 at Prince of Peace Church. **REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!** Check The Hub for more info and QR code to register. Thank you for your support—let’s keep shining bright! Jacquie DelMonte 440-463-6460

PROJECT NOELLE EASTER BASKETS

QUICK TURNAROUND ON THIS ONE! Dover will once again be collecting Easter baskets to donate to Project Noelle—a nonprofit providing support to young victims of the opioid crisis. **WATCH FOR MORE INFO IN UPCOMING BULLETINS AND CHURCH MOUSE.**

TODAY is the last day Easter flowers can be ordered before or after worship—orders will be taken in front of the office.

~ **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