

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



**Dover Congregational United Church of Christ**

March 22, 2026

**Rev. Melinda Quellhorst, Senior Pastor**  
**An Open & Affirming Congregation**  
**A Just Peace Congregation**

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent*

*The Blessings of Messiness, a wilderness journey*  
*Wilderness is a place of resilient life/Hope*

*\*Please Stand if able*

**Black New Century hymnal**

**Announcements**

**Prelude**

*"Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir"*  
*("Out of the depths I cry to You")*

*Max Reger*

**Centering Silence**

Our Lenten journey is moving toward the end. We don't expect to see life in the wilderness. It is easy to think of the wilderness as empty, barren, dead. But the truth is: there is life in wilderness, in desert, in the arctic. In every place we dismiss as hopeless, there is life. This Lent we are invited to surrender to the wild leadings of the Spirit.

**\*Call to Worship**

Based on Ezekiel 37

One: Mortal, can these bones live? Can a dry and dusty liturgy dance again?

**All: Do ancient words written centuries ago still have the power to change the world? Our presence here is our hopeful "Yes."**

One: In a valley of dry bones, we see possibility, not despair. In a broken world, crying out with parched throats, we sing the power of God's word.

**All: Blow through the barren valleys of this world, O God. And breathe your Spirit upon us.**

**\*Hymn #417**

*"This Is a Day of New Beginnings"*

**Opening thoughts**

One: The wilderness generates life in unexpected places. There can also be grief, pain and exile in the wilderness. But the really good news about the wilderness and life, is that the wilderness can be a place for new life, resilient life as well. Hope builds and lives are changed. In the messiness, the blessings begin to abound, and resilience takes over in hope.

**Silence**

**Scripture**

Psalm 130

**Offering of music (10:00 AM)** *"Come, Follow Me"* *Elly & Steve Kupferschmid*  
*Natalie Roeger, flute*

## **Children's time (10:00 AM)**

**Poem** Full to the Brim Brazen acts of beauty-Lessons from a Winter Rose  
Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

**\*Hymn #292** "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

**Scripture** Ezekiel 37:1-14

**Sermon** Rev. Melinda Quellhorst

**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** "Andantino in g minor" César Franck

### **\*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*

**\*Hymn #433** "In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

### **\*Benediction**

**Postlude** "O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" Mark Hayes

## **Serving You in Church Today**

**Pastor:** Rev. Melinda Quellhorst

**Liturgist:** Jeff Davis

**Organist:** Nichole Fehrman

**Music Director:** Jamie Kunselman

**Media:** Dave MacKeigan

**Please join us for coffee hour immediately following the 10:00 AM  
worship—your hosts are Pam Compton and her family.**

## **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](mailto: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 24<sup>th</sup> 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. **SEE INSERT—Baskets due by Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.**

~ **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