

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



Dover Congregational United Church of Christ

March 8, 2026

Rev. Melinda Quellhorst, Senior Pastor

An Open & Affirming Congregation

A Just Peace Congregation

3rd Sunday of Lent

The Blessings of Messiness, a wilderness journey

Wilderness is a place of isolation and connection/Community

****Please Stand if able
Black New Century hymnal***

Announcements

Prelude

"Give Me Jesus"

Bell Choir

arr. Jamie Kunselman

Centering Silence

Lent's journey is in the wilderness. It is a place of isolation and connection. It is easy to think of the wilderness as a place of loneliness. In the hardest parts of our lives, we often feel like we are going at it alone. In fact, it is all too easy (and all too common) for us to isolate ourselves, assuming that others are enemies—or at least would never be our friends. Sometimes it takes a wilderness encounter, outside of our typical lives, to break us out of our patterns. This Lent we are invited to surrender to the wild leadings of the Spirit.

***Call to Worship**

One: We gather as God's people in a world divided and anxious.

All: And we gather as one people, united by God.

One: We gather as God's people, journeying to Jerusalem.

All: And we gather as one people, faithfully traveling together.

One: We gather as God's people, but we are filled with fear.

All: And we gather as one people following in the unfailing steps of Jesus.

***Hymn #522**

"I Love to Tell the Story"

Opening thoughts

One: The wilderness can be a place of surprising connection and a place to be vulnerable and seen. The wilderness is a place to tell the truth and a place where anger may over take us, because of the isolation. As we journey this Lent, as we are in the wilderness we seek God's provision. This Lent we are invited to surrender to the wild leadings of the Spirit.

Silence

Scripture

Exodus 17:1-7

Offering of music (10:00 AM)

"Give Me Jesus"

arr. Mark Patterson

Children's time (10:00 AM)

Poem

"Full to the Brim You are Worthy- What I Forgot"

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

***Hymn #329**

"Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts"

Scripture

John 4:5-42

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

"Lenten Prayer"

Randolph Johnson

***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 #198**

"Lift High the Cross"

***Benediction**

Postlude

"Solemn March"

Felix Mendelssohn

Serving You in Church Today

Sermon: Rev. Melinda Quellhorst

Liturgist: Gary Burkey

Media: Dave MacKeigan

Music Director: Jamie Kunselman

Organist: Nichole Fehrman

Please join us for coffee hour immediately following the 10:00 AM worship—your hosts are members of the Calling & Caring Committee.

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. Cover UCC will lead snacks again, partnering with Church of Redeemer. We are currently in need of volunteers for Music/Bible stories, Games (outdoor recreation), and Crafts. And the big one: we are collecting empty one gallon water jugs to build an igloo for VBS, and Dover needs about 105 more to meet our commitment. Please place donated water jugs in the collection box in Thomas Hall. Thank you for your support—let’s keep shining bright! Jacquie DelMonte 440-463-6460

Easter flowers can be ordered before or after 10:00 AM worship on 3/8 and 3/15—Worship Committee members will be taking orders in front of office.

SENIOR RECOGNITION

If you have someone graduating from high school, college, post-graduate, or a vocational/training program, please let Martha Vivona—Dover will be recognizing all graduates on Sunday, June 7th.

The book **The Lion Women of Tehran** by Marjan Kamali was just discussed in the Monday afternoon book group, and a copy of the book is in the church library, if you would like to read. It is so pertinent, given what is going on in our world.

~ **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