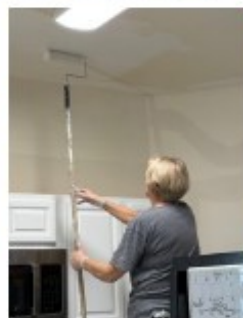
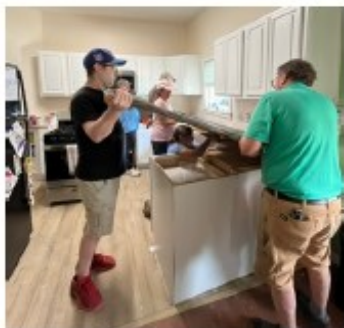


DOVER VOICES

May 2026

From the Pastor:

Back Bay Mission began in 1922 by the Rev. George M.L. Hoffman and Mrs. Louise A. McDonnell of the First Evangelical Church in Biloxi (a congregation of the Evangelical Synod of North America, a predecessor denomination to the United Church of Christ) as they began outreach to the 'fisher folk' of the Back Bay. Back Bay Mission has changed and grown over the years. Today Back Bay Mission has a simple mission: to strengthen neighborhoods, seek justice, and transform lives. Back Bay Mission is in a unique position to help the people of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.



Pastor Mindy



Do you have Good News to Share for the newsletter?

About happenings at Dover UCC or celebrations in your life. Please send to 😊 Amy Storms (amy-storms@att.net or 314-704-7534). Pictures appreciated but not required.



The One Great hour of Sharing offering in March and April resulted in a generous \$830 being collected at Dover.

OGHS's mission is to support domestic and international development, fight poverty and its consequences, bring aid and relief to communities affected by war or national disaster, provide assistance for refugees and displaced persons, and combat injustice in its many forms. OGHS is supported by nine Christian denominations.

More than 30 Easter Baskets for Project Noelle

Dover folks came through for Project Noelle again. More than 30 Easter baskets were donated.

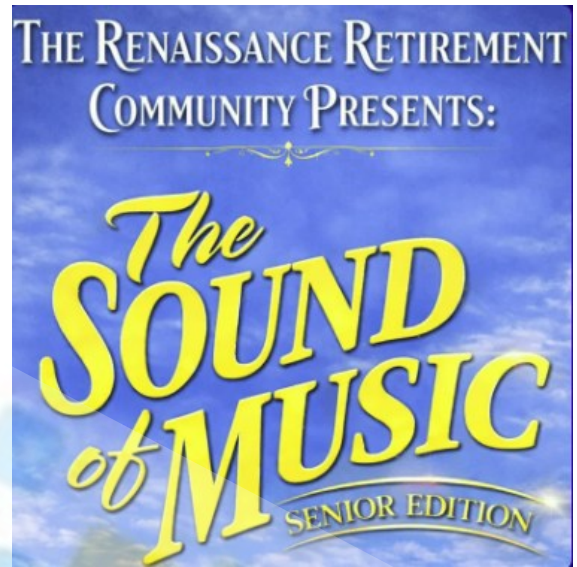
Project Noelle is a charity which assists area children who have innocently suffered due to a parent's overdose death, prison, or active addiction.



A Star (or 2) is Born

The Renaissance retirement community is presenting the Sound of Music- Senior edition on May 30 & 31 at 3PM at the Baldwin Wallace University Kleist Center for Art & Drama, 95 E. Bagley Rd., Berea, OH 44017.

Our very own Sharrie Nichols is playing Lise, and Don Nichols is playing a goatherd. Tickets can be purchased at: <https://www.zefly.com/en-US/ticketing/2026-renaissance-musical>



Calling and Caring Committee Easter gifts



The Calling and Caring committee, and helpful volunteers from the congregation, delivered 18 Easter gifts to members on the special care list. Happy Easter to all!!

A Baker's Dozen Bakers for Scones



After the Palm Sunday service, 13 bakers attended Reggie Pratt's Scones 101 class to learn her baking secrets.



Happy Birthday Really?

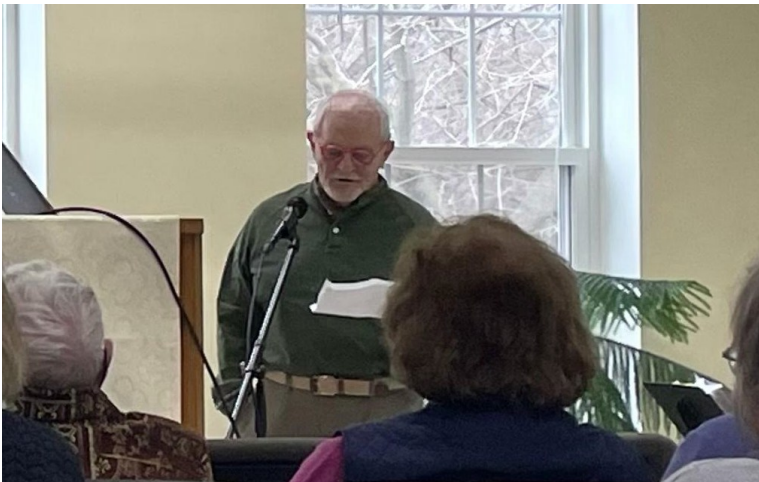
At Coffee Hour on March 29th, Dale Winkler celebrated "What Were You Thinking Day?" With his choice of accessories, we're asking the same thing.

Finding the Courage for Peace

On March 24, Thomas Hall seats filled with Dover and Westlake United Methodist church folks for a discussion with Dan Toussant about his efforts with Pax Christi and the Interfaith Coalition of Stark County.

This meeting sparked numerous conversations among Dover members about finding more opportunities for Interfaith cooperation and looking for opportunities to do God's work in the world. The Missions committee and Just Peace groups will begin meeting together monthly to look for opportunities in both areas.

Dan is family to Michael DiLauro, who we thank for setting up this session.



MISSION TRIPS MATTER

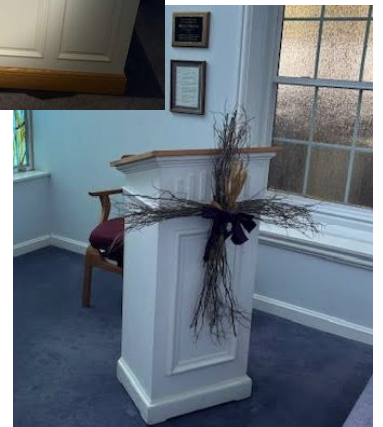
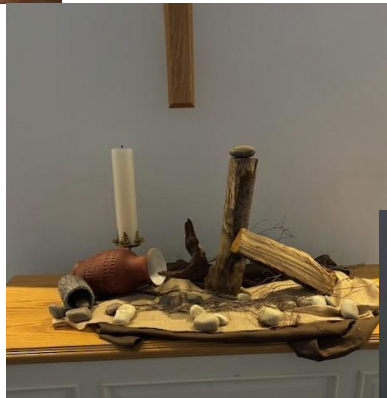
Our Biloxi team of 16 is overwhelmingly grateful for your financial support and we want you to know why this trip matters.

1. Back Bay Mission is unique in its UCC ties, and its vast essential services to the unhoused, poor, and veterans in a city with no shelters.
2. Back Bay staff are a family devoted to volunteers & guests in need. All are treated with respect and love. The goal: to get each project done, each meal served, each bag of food distributed and each volunteer supported to uplift those in need.
3. Each time we travel to Back Bay, the Dover group is warmly welcomed into the Back Bay family. Despite all manner of aches or mishaps, we leave knowing we were part of an exceptional organization. Our group ranged from 31 years to almost 80, with few skills—just a willingness to learn and work.

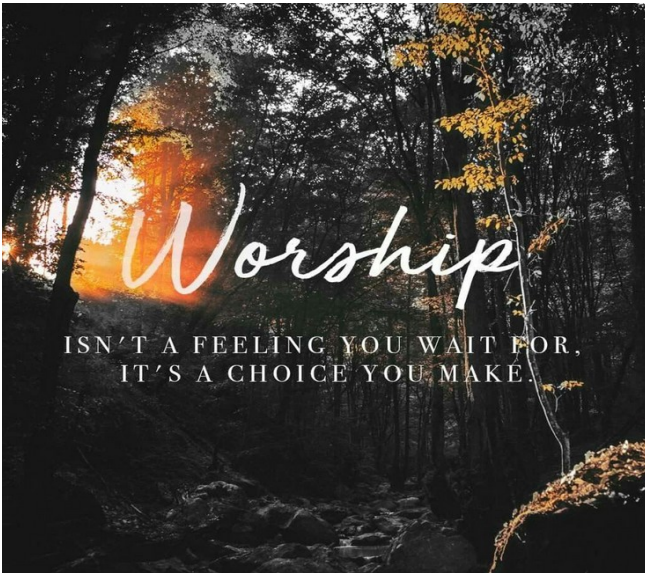


Our theme for Lent this year was ***Blessings of Messiness, a wilderness Journey.*** This included each week building on the theme. Lucy and Katie created liturgical art that helped us move into each week with a visual aid to enhance our worship. Wilderness is somewhere we've been before/Hope, a place of beginnings/Grace, a place of mystery and unknown/blessings, a place of isolation and connection/community, a place of disruption, a place of resilient life/Hope, a place where we are brave, around the table of love, of silence, a birthplace of Joy.

Thank you Lucy and Katie for enhancing our worship.



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP



We have two services every Sunday morning, one at 8:15 AM in our chapel, which is a more informal service, and the second at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary, where you will hear a variety of music styles from contemporary praise to traditional hymns. Pastor Melinda Quellhorst's message is sure to inspire.

Our 10:00 AM service is also live-streamed on Facebook (Dover Congregational UCC) and on the home page of our website, <https://www.doverucc.org>. Recorded services

will be available on our website under the 'Worship' tab immediately after the service.



Faith Formation and Faith Explorers are in full swing. and our children are learning about prayer and kindness. Come grow with us—there's something for every age! Any questions—please contact Jacquie DelMonte.
440-463-6460.

WESTLAKE ECUMENICAL VBS 2026



WHERE FAITH MEETS FUN THIS SUMMER!

JUNE 15-19, 9AM-NOON

FOR KIDS AGED 4 THRU RISING 5TH GRADERS
COST IS \$20 PER CHILD, MAX \$50 PER FAMILY
HELD AT PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN

REGISTER
AT QR CODE



~ JUST PEACE MISSIONS ~

You may have noticed the new name above. Over the next couple of months, you will be introduced to a new thing! As you probably know, I (Judy B) recently had open heart surgery. Along with other ongoing health issues, this has forced me to take inventory of what I need to let go. The process was made a little easier thanks to the congregation voting to become A Just Peace Church and the dedication of the Just Peace Team to make sure we fully live into that covenant. I remain completely committed to the work and the vision of both teams but need to step back from leading. I am so grateful to Amy who has agreed to take the reins and allow me to do that! We are working with Council on the details and will share as soon as possible. Thank you for keeping all of us in your prayers as we work to become the team that will work best for our church and our community.



Thanks to your generosity, over 30 children who are victims of our area's opioid crisis were able to have a Happy Easter! Pictured are just a few of the beautiful baskets you provided. What a joyful way to spread the Good News!!

we can
end gun violence
**wear
orange**

[As you know, Dover UCC has encouraged participation](#) in the Wear Orange Weekend program which takes place the first weekend in June. We have worn orange in worship and have hosted a prayer vigil/peaceful protest. This year, stemming from the wonderful talk given by Michael DiLauro's cousin Dan Toussant of Pax Christi, we are looking to grow support of this important missive. We are in the process of contacting Westlake churches of all faiths (did you know there are 23?) in the hopes of beginning a true interdenominational partnership to share ideas and resources as well as grow outreach and community.

More upcoming ways to make a positive difference include building beds and this year's Disaster Relief Challenge. Stay tuned!!

Peace,
Judy Brizzolara and Amy Storms
Missions and Just Peace Teams

Tick Bites Are on the Rise

Diseases spread by ticks are an increasing concern in Ohio and are being reported more frequently, with Lyme Disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) being the most common. Other tickborne diseases such as anaplasmosis, babesiosis and ehrlichiosis are also on the rise. Though rare, diseases such as tularemia, southern tick associated rash illness (STARI) and Powassan virus may also be carried by Ohio ticks. In addition, tick bites can also cause conditions like alpha-gal syndrome.

The best way to prevent tickborne diseases is to prevent tick bites. In Ohio, tickborne illnesses are most often transmitted between early spring and late fall since ticks are most active during warm months. Take action to decrease your risk of infection: **protect** against tick bites, **check** for ticks, **remove** ticks as soon as you can, and **watch** for symptoms.

PROTECT AGAINST TICK BITES:

Avoid wooded and brushy areas with high grass and leaf litter.

Walk in the center of trails.

Take extra precautions in spring, summer and fall when ticks are most active.

Use insect repellents registered by the EPA labeled for use against ticks on exposed skin with protection that lasts several hours. Always follow the product label.

Parents should apply this product to their children, avoiding their hands, eyes, and mouth.

Treat clothing and gear, such as boots, pants, socks, and tents with products containing 0.5% permethrin. It remains protective through several washings. Always follow the product label.

Cover up by wearing long pants, long sleeves, and long socks.

Tuck pant legs into socks or boots and tuck shirts into pants to keep ticks on the outside of your clothing.

Light-colored clothing will help you spot ticks more easily.

Remove ticks from your clothes before going indoors.

Examine gear and pets. Ticks can ride into the home on clothing and pets, then attach to a person later, so carefully examine pets, coats, and day packs.

Tumble dry clothes in a dryer on high heat for 10 minutes to kill ticks on dry clothing after you come indoors. If the clothes are damp, additional time may be needed. If the clothes require washing first, hot water is recommended.

CHECK YOUR WHOLE BODY FOR TICKS:

Bathe or shower as soon as possible after coming indoors (preferably within two hours) to more easily find and wash off any ticks that may be crawling on you.

Conduct a full-body tick check using a hand-held or full-length mirror to view all parts of your body upon return from tick-infested areas. Parents should check their children for ticks under the arms, in and around the ears, inside the belly button, behind the knees, between the legs, around the waist, and especially in their hair.

REMOVE TICKS AS SOON AS YOU CAN:

The best way to remove a tick is to use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.

Pull away from your skin with steady, even pressure.

Don't twist or jerk the tick; this can cause the mouth to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouth with tweezers. If you are unable to remove the mouth easily with clean tweezers, leave it alone and let the skin heal.

Dispose of a live tick by putting it in alcohol, placing it in a sealed bag/container, wrapping it tightly in tape, or flushing it down the toilet. **Never crush a tick with your fingers.**

Wash your hands and the bite area with soap and water.

Do not use petroleum jelly, a hot match, nail polish, or any other 'folk' remedies to remove a tick. These methods do not work.

WATCH FOR SYMPTOMS:

Fever/chills: (With all tickborne diseases, patients can experience fever at varying degrees and time of onset)

Aches and pains: Tickborne disease symptoms include headache, fatigue, and muscle aches. With Lyme disease, you may also experience joint pain. The severity and time of onset of these symptoms can depend on the disease and the patient's personal tolerance level.

Rash: Different tick types can result in distinctive rashes.

Tickborne diseases can result in mild symptoms treatable at home to severe infections requiring hospitalization. Although easily treated with antibiotics, these diseases can be difficult for physicians to diagnose. Early recognition and treatment of the infection decrease the risk of serious complications. See your healthcare provider immediately if you have been bitten by a tick and experience any of the symptoms described here.

Information taken from odh.ohio.gov

Blessings and Prayers for a healthy Spring! ~ Julie Kiefer, RN

Key Health Observances in May

Mental Health Awareness Month: encourages open discussion about mental health, reduces stigma, and promotes early intervention and support for those affected by mental illness.

Cervical Cancer Awareness Month: focuses on educating women about the importance of regular screenings and HPV vaccinations.

Hypertension Awareness Month: reminds individuals to monitor blood pressure and adopt lifestyle changes to prevent heart disease

Thyroid Health: highlighted through International Thyroid Awareness Week and World Thyroid Day (May 15th)

Maternal and Reproductive Health: observed through Safe Motherhood Week and the International Day of the Midwife (May 5th) promoting safe pregnancies, childbirth, and maternal mental health

Road Safety Month: raises awareness about safe driving practices and accident prevention

AIDS Candlelight Memorial Day: the third week of May honors those who were lost to HIV/AIDS and encourages prevention and support for affected communities

National Walking Month: promotes physical activities like Walk to Work Week and Walk to School Week



JUST PEACE SERVICE OPPORTUNITY FOR MAY

On Sat. May 23 from 10-1, Sleep in Heavenly Peace is looking for 20 people to help deliver and put together beds for kids who don't have beds of their own. Their motto is:

"No kid sleeps on the floor in our town."

They are located at 1593 Brookpark Rd, Brook Park, OH. That's about 8 miles (18-minute drive) from Dover. More information and sign up at: [OH-Cuyahoga W - Sleep in Heavenly Peace](#) .

Any questions?

Contact Amy Storms (Amy-storms@att.net or 314-704-7534) OR Heather Harris (hharissrows04@gmail.com or 440-339-0583) who can also sign you up.

May 2026

	3	10	17	24	31
Altar Flowers		Lucy Bufkin	Wedding Flowers		Lucy Bufkin
Coffee	Dawn Smith		Calling & Caring	NO COFFEE JHOUR	The DiLauros
Liturgist	Don Nichols	Sharrie Nichols	Joan Brickley	Julie Rinehart	Eileen Schultz



Mark your calendar!

- 5/2:** World Labyrinth Day
- 5/17:** Take a hike!
- 6/7:** Graduate Recognition Sunday

ARTICLES / PICTURES FOR THE JUNE EDITION OF DOVER VOICES ARE DUE:

FRIDAY, MAY 15TH

**Please send all submissions to:
doverucc44145@gmail.com before that date.**

“KEEP READING. IT’S ONE OF THE MOST MARVELOUS ADVENTURES THAT ANYONE CAN HAVE.”

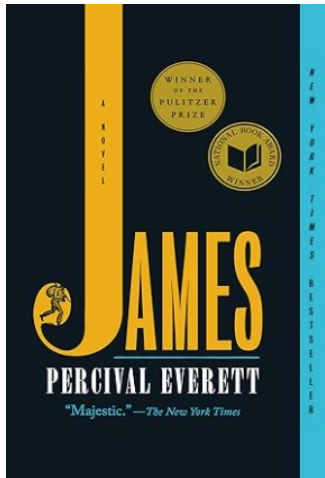
~LLOYD ALEXANDER

MONDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

James

By
Percival Everett

Monday, May 4, 2026
12:30 PM Parlor



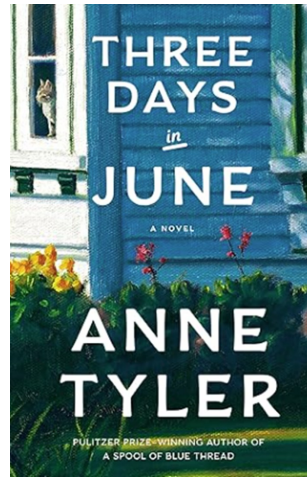
“A brilliant, action-packed reimagining of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, both harrowing and darkly humorous, told from the enslaved Jim's point of view.”

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Three Days in June

By
Anne Tyler

Monday, May 18, 2026
7:00 PM Heather Harris' house



“A socially awkward mother of the bride navigates the days before and after her daughter's wedding. . . a story told with deep sensitivity and a tart sense of humor, full of the joys and heartbreaks of love and marriage and family life.”

May is . . . “Get Caught Reading Month!”



This month-long celebration was founded in 1999 by the Association of American Publishers and aims to promote a lifelong enjoyment of reading. The campaign encourages individuals to read at home, in the car, and even outdoors, creating a reading-friendly environment. It also promotes reading during stressful times as a way to distract the mind and refocus.

To get into the spirit of “Get Caught Reading Month,” consider these ideas:

- * Read comic books together on Free Comic Book Day, May 1st
- * Tuck magazines into your bag—anytime you have some free time you will have something to read
- * Create a “Family Picks” booklist with recommendations from relatives.
- * Organize a reading-related service project, such as a book drive or an intergenerational reading day.
- * Use social media to share your reading experiences and encourage others to read.
- * Encourage reading during stressful times as a way to distract the mind away from worries and to refocus.

These activities can promote reading and also foster a sense of community and shared enjoyment of literature.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The generosity of our congregation is evident every single day. If you are mailing in your pledge to the church office or a donation to another ministry, **please indicate on the “Memo” section of the check, e.g. pledge, Denison food pantry, Calling & Caring, etc.**



Online Giving

The Dover website (doverucc.org) provides an easy link for making online donations--one-time, recurring or to special funds. You can make a notation in the “Note” field: if you are leaving a memorial--who the donation is in memory of, etc. OR -- you can scan this QR code with the camera on your phone or a QR reader app and be directed to our giving page on our website. Contact Jane Coil if you have any questions how to use the online giving feature. doverucc44145@gmail.com



HOSPITAL/HOME VISITS

Please notify the church office at 440-871-1050 if you are admitted to the hospital so a phone call or visit from our parish nurse Julie or a member of the Calling & Caring committee can be arranged. When you are recovering, Julie and members of the Calling & Caring committee are available to give you a call; just call the church office to let them know you desire a call. We are not notified by hospitals of admissions.



Please notify the church office if you have a change of address, telephone number(s) or a new email address. A church directory is emailed quarterly to congregation members, and we would like to have the correct information for you!

HAVE A CONCERN OR QUESTION FOR CHURCH COUNCIL? MEET YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS.



Moderator - Judy MacKeigan
Vice Moderator - Terry Chadwick
Clerk - Sharron Wilkins
Treasurer - Liz Emmer

Members at Large:

Lucy Bufkin, Judy Brizzolara, Sandy Burkey, Reggie Pratt, Noreen Thompson, Scott Thompson

Ex-officio Members:

Rev. Mindy Quellhorst

Serving the Church

Judy MacKeigan Council Moderator
Terry Chadwick Council Vice Moderator
Sharron Wilkins Council Clerk
Liz Emmer Council Treasurer
Jane Coil..... Office Administrator

Rev. Mindy Quellhorst..... Pastor
Rev. Scott Patterson Pastor Emeritus
Jamie Kunselman Music Director
Nichole Fehrman..... Organist
Julie Kiefer, R. N. Parish Nurse

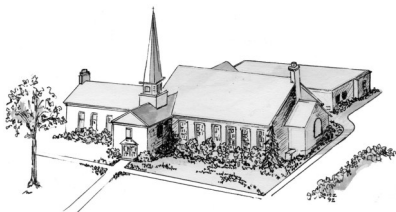
Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened

Matthew 11:28

~ Prayer Requests---Please pray for God to be with these individuals, and for them to feel God's presence in the midst of their concerns:

Sandy Aber, Adeena & Dustin (Friends of Jen Bokenyi), Karen Bellebuono (Friend of Mary Ann & Joe Brizzolara and Judy Brizzolara), Janet Leopold-Caden (friend of Judy & Dave MacKeigan), Mark Chomoa (Rae-Rita Chomoa's son), Russell Choma (Rae-Rita Chomoa's son), Gail Cordy, Betty Correll (Sandy Burkey's mother), Bobbi English (Friend of Lois McCreight), Sharon Jaskolka, Andy Klemens (Friend of Mary Ann & Joe Brizzolara), Loretta (Friend of Kevin Kurth's), Family of Jim Mesaros, Inge Moorman, People of Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, Gaza, Myanmar/Middle East, Venezuela, and Haitian people of Springfield, OH, Roger Polefko (Friend of Kim & Ken Delfing), Bob Pozwick (Pat Houser's brother)

2239 Dover Center Road
Westlake, OH 44145



440-871-1050
doverucc.org



*No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

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