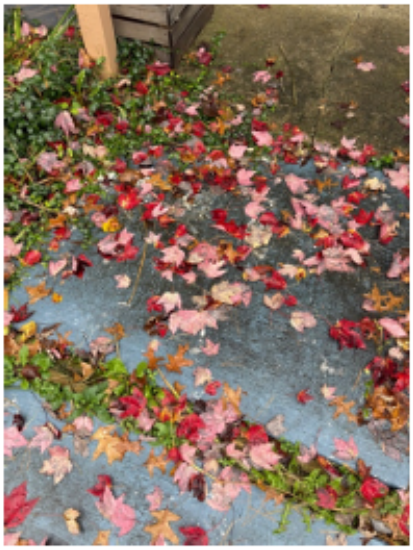
Dover Congregational United Church of Christ ~An Open & Affirming Congregation~

DOVER VOICES

November 2026



While I was on vacation, we had a fire to cook hotdogs and smores. It was the most beautiful fall evening, just cool enough. This was the first time to cook hotdogs over a fire for 2 of our grandkids, Dimitri and Phoebe. They had lots of questions and weren't sure they wanted to eat the hotdog because it was a bit charred. I looked down and saw the crack in the patio, two parts of a whole.



As we continue to look at what the next steps are for the church, you may feel you are in the crack. I am working to make sure the next steps are available for the leadership to access. I will be sharing about boundaries after retirement and expectations soon. We all will be leaning into emotions. I also will be leading us into what God is calling us to do and be at this time and place.

What if we asked ourselves questions about what God is calling us to?
What if we ponder, wonder, listen for the Spirit, before we make a decision?
What if we move out of our comfort zone, and listen to God?
What if we take the next months before I retire, and the time following to listen for the still speaking voice that is surrounding us in love and hope?
What if we reminded ourselves, we are not alone?
These are God moments.

How can you be in this God moment?
How are you finding ways to listen in your faith?

I believe that we start every question, every thought, everything we do, praying and listening to God as we live into our mission, "to seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God."
I believe that where our passion is, that is where our treasure will be as well.
Theology is the study of the nature of God, how we understand God.
Theology is how we try to explain a relationship that is bigger than ourselves, how we understand and grow in God.
How do we live our mission in our relationship with God?

I believe in this God moment, we are God's children, we listen and communicate in our relationships, in our community of faith.

Blessings and hope abound, Pastor Mindy

2239 Dover Center Road, Westlake, OH 44145 ~ 440-871-2239
www.doverucc.org



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.



A New Parlor is Coming!

The renovation of the parlor has begun. Special thanks to the Calling & Caring Ministry and generous benefactors. Stay tuned and watch for progress!

Jamie and Kia Have Developed an Amazing System for Choir Music

When Jamie Kunselman stepped into the music director role at Dover Congregational UCC, he inherited a music library built over decades, but no catalog showing what was actually in it. The story of how he sorted through everything and then how Kia Frank created an amazing digital catalog system (that can also be used by other churches or music ensembles), is detailed in the attached web page Dover Congregational UCC Case Study | Sage Score.

Jamie has also set it up so the choir can see the upcoming schedule with scores and practice recordings, and it is linked to the Revised Common lectionary.



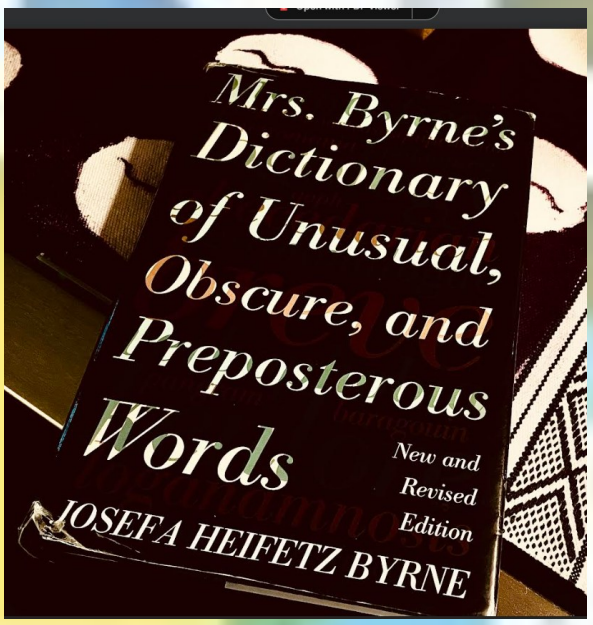
Table of 8 hosted by the DiLauros

A table packed with great food, lively conversation, plenty of laughs, and of course—a spirited round of *Mrs. Burne's Dictionary!* Good food, good friends, and a few words that may or may not actually exist! What more could you ask for?











Reggie's Wreath Class



On Sunday, November 29th after the 10:00 AM worship service, Reggie will be demonstrating how to make a deco mesh wreath for the holiday. The cost is $17/person, and everything is included.

If you attended Reggie's scone baking class, you know how much fun her classes are!

Sign up at The Hub.

Generous Dover Golf Team Contributes to Mission Trip

Even with all the rain this year impacting their season, the Dover golf team contributed $241 to the Mission trip to Back Bay mission. A big thanks to them for their generosity.



Dover Congregational United Church of Christ

2239 Dover Center Road
Westlake, Ohio 44145-3199

Phone: 440-871-1050
email: doverucc44145@gmail.com

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

October 26, 2026

To the Dover Congregational Church UCC Congregation

On October 13, 2026, Council voted to accept a Personnel and Nominating Committee recommendation to bring to the Congregation the following Constitutional changes to the structure of Council:

- The number of Council Representatives be decreased from 7 to 5.
- The Moderator and Vice Moderator be allowed to serve 3 consecutive years to match the Representatives.
- The definition of a quorum is redefined to be a majority of elected members.
- Representatives can be elected to serve longer than one term.
- Past Moderators may serve as an ex-officio for one year after their term to allow for a smoother transition.

History: In December of 2021 until March 2023, an Ad Hoc Committee appointed by Council reviewed the Constitution. The main suggestion was to decrease the size of Council based on the UCC Governance Restructuring recommendations.

In June 2024, the Rev. Nayiri Karijian spoke to Council about these UCC Governance Restructuring suggestions and the need to move from a traditional structure to a missional structure where the mission of the Church gives direction and purpose, and the gifts of the congregation are used. Specifically, more Ministry teams are created for specific tasks and new ministries, sometimes for a short duration instead of using the traditional Committees. While more study is needed on how this structure would work at Dover, the specific change of reducing the size of Council can be done now.

Reasons: By having less congregational members involved in governance, we allow them to use their talents in other areas of their interests and expertise. The UCC has found that while some have been reluctant to commit to serving on a Council for three years, they have been more willing to lead a smaller specific project.
By allowing the Moderator and Vice Moderator to serve three terms if they wish, it not only copies the representative's terms but also corrects a concern of past Moderators. Specifically, the first year they are figuring out the position, second year they start initiatives and the third year would allow them to follow through on these projects.

In the past few years, we have had to fill unfilled terms when a Representative moves to an Officer position. By allowing a Representative to serve longer than one term, it allows us to use a representative who already has knowledge of the work of Council to fulfil a term.

By suggesting the past Moderator can stay on as Ex-Officio, this change would allow the Past moderator to serve as a transitional resource for the new Moderator and Council for the next year. With knowledge of the Council's history and understanding of why decisions were made, they can advise on current issues facing the Council. As an ex-officio they would not be allowed to vote.

Constitutional Change:

To change the make-up Councill, we would need to change the Constitution by a vote at a Special Meeting. Below is the Current Constitution and the proposed changes in red.

Article X

Council and Moderator

Section 1. Definition and Composition of Council:

The Council shall be the executive body of the Church. The members of Council shall be four officers -- Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer -- and ~~seven~~ five Congregational Representatives. The Minister(s), ~~Director of Christian Education, Minister of Justice and Congregational Lay Leader~~ ~~shall~~ will be ex-officio member(s) of Council. It is recommended that the past Moderator stay on Council for one year after their elected term as an ex-0fficio.

~~Amended at the Annual Meeting, January 29, 2017~~

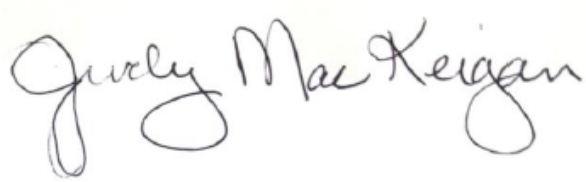
The Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer shall be elected annually. It is recommended that the Moderator and Vice-Moderator shall serve no more than ~~two~~ three consecutive terms. The ~~seven~~ five Congregational Representatives shall be elected to serve terms of three years, two to be elected each year and ~~three~~ one to be elected every third year. ~~Congregational Representatives may serve no more than one full term consecutively.~~

~~Seven~~ A majority of officers and representatives ~~voting members~~ shall constitute a quorum. All elected members of Council may vote.

~~Amended February 13, 2000~~

A Question and Answer session will be held after each of the Sunday services on Sunday November 15th. Please attend if you have any questions or wish to express any concerns. If you cannot attend, please feel free to email Dody Chadwick, Chair of the Personnel and Nominating Committee at DGCC629@aol.com and she will relay any concerns to Council and get answer for any questions.

Sincerely,



Judy MacKeigan
Moderator

What is normal aging and what is not?



Dementia is an umbrella term for loss of memory and other thinking abilities severe enough to interfere with daily life. One type of dementia is Alzheimer's Disease and accounts for 60-80% of the cases. Other types include Dementia with Lewy Bodies, Vascular, Frontotemporal and many others. Dementia symptoms vary depending on the cause, but there are some common signs and symptoms. Although some of the symptoms may be from non- dementia conditions, such as stress, pain, medications, infection and metabolic disorders, there are 10 warning signs and symptoms and if you notice any of them, don't ignore them. Schedule an appointment with your doctor.

Memory loss that disrupts daily life
One of the most common signs of Alzheimer's disease, especially in the early stage, is forgetting recently learned information. Others include forgetting important dates or events, asking the same questions over and over, and increasingly needing to rely on memory aids (e.g., reminder notes or electronic devices) or family members for things they used to handle on their own.

What's a typical age-related change?
Sometimes forgetting names or appointments, but remembering them later.
Challenges in planning or solving problems
Some people living with changes in their memory due to Alzheimer's or other dementias may experience changes in their ability to develop and follow a plan or work with numbers. They may have trouble following a familiar recipe or keeping track of monthly bills. They may have difficulty concentrating and take much longer to do things than they did before.
What's a typical age-related change?
Making occasional errors when managing finances or household bills.
Difficulty completing familiar tasks
People living with memory changes from Alzheimer's or other dementias often find it hard to complete daily tasks. Sometimes they may have trouble driving to a familiar location, organizing a grocery list or remembering the rules of a favorite game.

What's a typical age-related change?
Occasionally needing help to use microwave settings or to record a TV show.
Confusion with time or place
People living with Alzheimer's or other dementias can lose track of dates, seasons and the passage of time. They may have trouble understanding something if it is not happening immediately. Sometimes they may forget where they are or how they got there.
What's a typical age-related change?
Getting confused about the day of the week, but figuring it out later.
Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships
Some people living with Alzheimer's or other dementias could experience vision changes. This may lead to difficulty with balance or trouble reading. They may also have problems judging distance and determining color or contrast, causing issues with driving.

What's a typical age-related change?
Vision changes related to cataracts.

New problems with words in speaking or writing
People living with Alzheimer's or other dementias may have trouble following or joining a conversation. They may stop in the middle of a conversation and have no idea how to continue or they may repeat themselves. They may struggle with vocabulary, have trouble naming a familiar object or use the wrong name (e.g., calling a "watch" a "hand -clock").

What's a typical age-related change?
Sometimes having trouble finding the right word.

Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps
A person living with Alzheimer's or other dementias may put things in unusual places. They may lose things and be unable to go back over their steps to find them again. He or she may accuse others of stealing, especially as the disease progresses.

What's a typical age-related change?
Misplacing things from time to time and retracing steps to find them.

Decreased or poor judgment
Individuals living with Alzheimer's or other dementias may experience changes in judgment or decision-making. For example, they may use poor judgment when dealing with money or pay less attention to grooming or keeping themselves clean.

What's a typical age-related change?
Making a bad decision or mistake once in a while, like neglecting to change the oil in the car.

Withdrawal from work or social activities
A person living with Alzheimer’s or other dementias may experience changes in the ability to hold or follow a conversation. As a result, they may withdraw from hobbies, social activities or other engagements. They may have trouble keeping up with a favorite team or activity.

What's a typical age-related change?
Sometimes feeling uninterested in family or social obligations.

Changes in mood and personality
Individuals living with Alzheimer’s or other dementias may experience mood and personality changes. They can become confused, suspicious, depressed, fearful or anxious. They may be easily upset at home, with friends or when out of their comfort zone.

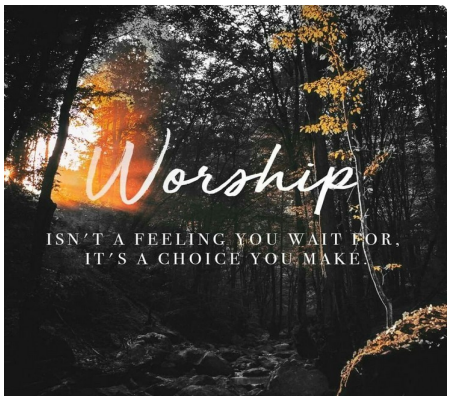
What's a typical age-related change?
Developing very specific ways of doing things and becoming irritable when a routine is disrupted.

When to seek medical advice??
If you notice one or more signs in yourself or another person, it can be difficult to know what to do. It’s natural to feel uncertain or nervous about discussing these changes with others. Voicing worries about your own health might make them seem more “real.” Or, you may fear upsetting someone by sharing observations about changes in his or her abilities or behavior. However, these are significant health concerns that should be evaluated by a doctor, and it’s important to take action to figure out what’s going on.

Information taken from Alz.org

Blessings and Prayers, Julie Kiefer, RN

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 EXPLORERS
Safe. Loved. Growing in God.

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.

From your friends at DOVER CONGREGATIONAL UCC

FAITH EXPLORERS
Safe. Loved. Growing in God.

MANY HANDS, MANY HEARTS, ONE GREAT DAY!

With heartfelt appreciation, we want to give a BIG shout-out to everyone who helped make our documentary "Faith Formation: Everyone is Welcome" and our Explorers' Coffee Hour such a wonderful success.

For the documentary—"Faith Formation: Everyone is Welcome"

Michael and Jan DiLauro—To our very own Emmy-winning director and producer—Thank you for your vision, knowledge, professionalism, and humor along the way. Your time, talent, and dedication brought this special project to life and helped tell the story of what happens downstairs while the congregation is worshiping upstairs. What a gift you have given our Faith Formation program! Thank you to those who stepped u p to share y our story on the documentary. You helped create something unforgettable.

Jamie Kunselman—Thank you for adding just the right musical touch tio the documentary. The dynamics of your music brought so much feeling and dimension to Michael's work. It was the perfect addition!

Adam Jakubiak—Thank you for sharing your technical expertise and making sure our documentary appeared on screen during coffee hour. Your behind-the-scenes helped make it all happen!

For our Explorers' Coffee Hour

Dawn Smith—Thank you for arriving early to get the coffee brewing and for lending a hand with cleanup at the end. We appreciate your willingness to jump in wherever you were needed!

Dody Chadwick and Kathleen Poe—Thank you for your helping hands, your time, and

your care for all our Explorers. Having you alongside us helped make the morning run so smoothly.

Dody Chadwick—An extra special thanks for the beautiful flowers in both the chapel and sanctuary, honoring our Faith Formation program, our children, our teachers, and all our volunteers. Such a thoughtful and meaningful touch!

And, of course, our AMAZING Explorers!

Oh, if only we could bottle their enthusiasm and excitement! They worked together, served with happy hearts, shared their laughter, and showed our congregation what happens when children are given the opportunity to be part of something bigger than themselves. They were wonderful, and we couldn't be prouder!

Ms. Martha and I feel so privileged to be part of these children's young religious journey. Watching them learn, grow, serve, and discover their place in our church family is a blessing beyond words.

And to the congregation, thank you for welcoming our Explorers, appreciating their efforts, and reminding them that they are an important part of our church family.

Stay tuned for our next Explorer journey with the congregation! We have more growing, learning, serving and fun ahead of us!

With love and gratitude, Ms. Jacquie and Ms. Martha

Grief Support Group

To continue discussion of "How can we go about supporting each other", let's gather on 2nd Sunday of November for a short time after coffee hour. I feel like this is the next step in identifying what will be the most help to our people who are suffering the feeling of loss. This, in definition, could be any loss.
Please join us on Nov. 8th in the Chapel after coffee hour.
Pam Compton



Planning to come into Dover for a meeting or to work?

If you are attending a meeting at Dover during the week, or are planning to come to do some type of work, whether it is in the office or another part of the church, would you please let the office know in advance—particularly if it is at a time when no one is expected in the building, like the afternoon. Pastor Mindy does hold confidential meetings in her office in the afternoon, and it can be difficult to protect the sensitivity of the meeting and the individuals she is meeting with if she is not aware of people coming into the office, or other parts of the building.

We ask that you call prior to plans to be here and just let us know!

Thanks!

Sunday, November 22nd!!

Right after 10:00 AM worship service



Come and enjoy a bowl . . .or 2. . .or 3 . . . of some of the best chili in Cleveland! Chili, beverages, crackers and toppings will be provided!

Please contact Martha Vivona (martygras2@gmail.com) if you are able to provide a crockpot of chili.

A free will offering will be taken to benefit the Back Bay Mission trip.

November 2026

	1	8	15	22	29
Altar Flowers	Stuarts	Kevin Kurth	Peggy Montgomery	Nichols	Roberta Moorman
Coffee	Worship Committee	MacKeigans	Peggy Montgomery	Chili Cook-off	
Liturgist	Ken Delfing	Judy MacKeigan	John McDougald	Don Nichols	Sharrie Nichols



Mark your calendar!

11/1: Poinsettia sales begin
11/1: All Saints Sunday
11/1: Coffee Hour honoring 80+ members
11/8: Stewardship Sunday—bring pledge cards
11/22: Chili Cookoff—Coffee Hour
12/13: Cookie Walk/Auction
12:20: Open House—Pastor Mindy's & Jeff Davis

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20th

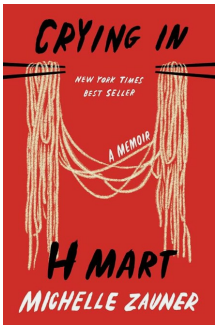
Please send all submissions to:

doverucc44145@gmail.com before that date.

Monday Afternoon Book Group
Monday, Nov. 2, 12:30 PM
Parlor

Crying in H Mall
By
Michelle Zauner

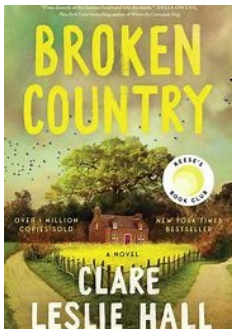
In this exquisite story of family, food, grief, and endurance, Michelle Zauner proves herself far more than a dazzling singer, songwriter, and guitarist. With humor and heart, she tells of growing up one of the few Asian American kids at her school in Eugene, Oregon; of struggling with her mother's particular, high expectations of her; of a painful adolescence; of treasured months spent in her grandmother's tiny apartment in Seoul, where she and her mother would bond, late at night, over heaping plates of food.



Evening Book Group
Monday, Nov. 16 , 7:00 PM
Dody Chadwick's house

Broken Country
By
Clare Leslie Hall

Beth and her gentle, kind husband Frank are happily married, but their relationship relies on the past staying buried. But when Beth's brother-in-law shoots a dog going after their sheep, Beth doesn't realize that the gunshot will alter the course of their lives. A sweeping love story with the pace and twists of a thriller, Broken Country is a novel of simmering passion, impossible choices, and explosive consequences that toggles between the past and present to explore the far-reaching legacy of first love.



NOVEMBER
Perfect for reflective, cozy & emotionally resonant reading

"November is often associated with introspection, gratitude, and the transition into winter. Reading during November can focus on themes of inheritance, reckoning, forgiveness, and belonging, reflecting both personal and collective experiences. It is a time to slow down, enjoy warm drinks, and immerse yourself in stories that evoke the quiet beauty of early dusk, family gatherings, and the start of the holiday season."

Some suggestions to enhance the seasonal mood:

Fiction: *The Night Ends with Fire* by K.X. Song

Nonfiction & Memoir: *What I Ate in One Year* by Stanley Tucci; *The Book of Delights* by Ross Gay

Contemporary Fiction: *Penitence* by Kristin Koval; *Playworld* by Adam Ross; *All That Life Can Afford* by Emily Everett

Poetry and Essays: *What I Learned from the Trees* by L.E. Boman

Books set in November: *Thanksgiving Night* by Richard Bausch; *What Was Mine* by Helen Klein Ross

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.

Church Council

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-oficio 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

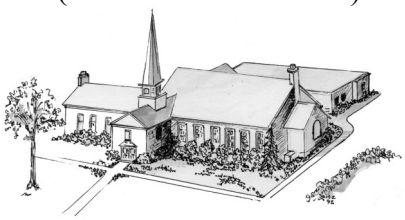
Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened

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:

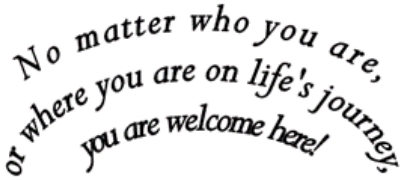
Sandy Aber, Amanda & Elizabeth (Ruth Kroll's daughters), Family of Dr. Richard Corradi (Ruth Beach's father), Karen Bellebuono (Friend of Mary Ann & Joe Brizzolara and Judy Brizzolara), Janet Leopold-Caden (friend of Judy & Dave MacKeigan), Mark Chomoa (Rae-Rita Chomoa's son), Russell Choma (Rae-Rita Chomoa's son), Gail Cordy, Betty Correll (Sandy Burkey's mother), Dale (Keith Stuart's brother-in-law),Katie & Kristi, Nick & Sue Keserich (Friends of Peggy Montgomery), Carolyn Leonard (Friend of Jane Coil), Inge Moorman, Sarah Parker (Julie Rinehart's daughter), 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), Bruce Quellhorst (Pastor Mindy's cousin), Jeff Stewart (Roger Stewart's brother), David Stewart (Roger Stewart's brother), Holly Stout (Mother of friend of Carolyn Emmer), Kathleen Tuthill, Melissa Wexler (Joe Brizzolara's sister)

2239 Dover Center Road
Westlake, OH 44145



440-871-1050
doverucc.org





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