



The Presbyterian Church of Dover

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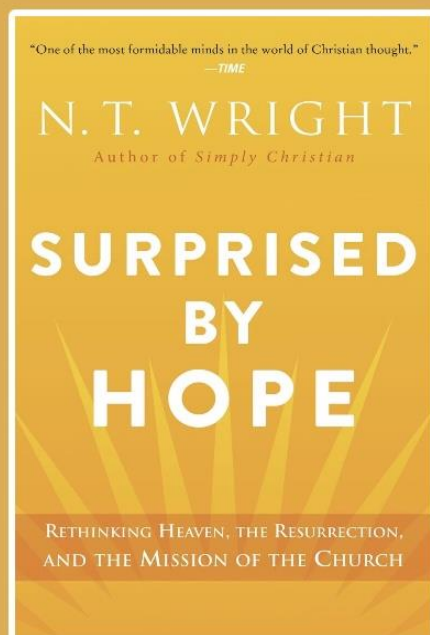
Office Hours M-Th, 8:30 AM - 1 PM
Rev. Dr. Mark E. Parsons II, Pastor
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March 5, 2025

Our Lent Journey Continues

Where are you? God knows exactly where we are and who we are, and God lovingly invites us to be honest with ourselves about the reality of where we are. Though this level of self-assessment may leave us feeling exposed and vulnerable, we are not alone. We are held, loved, and welcomed back into God's arms over and over again. Lent provides an opportunity for us to do the hard and necessary work of looking within. Take advantage of these opportunities for spiritual growth:

- **A meditation guide** that provides the weekly theme, scripture reading, and accompanying work of art along with brief prompts for each day designed to encourage you to spend some quiet moments in reflection, listening, and speaking with God.
- **A Lenten study** of N.T. Wright's book *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church* on Wednesday nights from 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM in person and on Zoom beginning February 25. (See graphic below)
- **Maundy Thursday Worship, April 2**, 6 PM, with a service of dramatic readings, prayer, and contemplative music.



Pastor's Lenten Study
Wed., 6:00-7:15 PM
Feb. 25 - Apr. 1, 2026
In person and Zoom

Whatever you've thought about
Heaven, resurrection, and the
church, **THINK AGAIN.**

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81773185228?pwd=3RMknuMoAt17m1FLFFViTkbjAeZ1p2.1>

Easter Flowers

The Easter lily and tulip order forms will be available this Sunday, March 8, through Sunday, March 22 (final day to order). These Easter Flower order forms will be available in the narthex. For your convenience, there will be paperclips and envelopes available. You can simply complete the form and place it with the payment in an envelope or attach your payment to the form with a paperclip before placing it on the plate. The price per plant is \$12.00.



PCD Church Library



Our library is open and is waiting for you to explore all the offerings of books, puzzles, and games that we have catalogued and shelved. We just received a donation of puzzles for our collection...why not stop by and check them out? All available for borrowing...just sign the item out on the sheet provided. Don't forget to return and sign them back in as well. We have a good number of books on a variety of topics. Our library is open before and after worship and when the church office is open. Stop by and take a look! Are you searching for a particular topic? title? author? Why not request the Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet of all our items and you can peruse at home, then come in and make your selection? Contact Barb Bayers for this catalog and for any questions you might have: babayers@gmail.com or call/text 203-260-4295. We are sorry, but due to space limitations, we cannot accept any donations at this time.

"Sweet Delilah Swim Club" at Kent County Theater Guild

Our very own Heather Thomson is featured in the current show at Kent County Theater Guild. The five woman show is filled with love, life, and laughter. It runs this weekend, March 6-8, and again next weekend, March 13-14. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.kctg.org.

The Children's Theatre of Dover

The C.S. Lewis classic, "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" will be performed by The Children's Theatre of Dover on Saturday, March 7 at 7 PM and again on Sunday, March 8 at 2 PM. Tickets are \$15 (plus a \$1.46 fee) and can be found at www.thechildrenstheatreinc.org/shows. The performances will take place at The Schwartz Center for the Arts, 226 South State Street, Dover.

Prayer Requests

Please *email* requests to the church office by *Tuesdays at 2 PM*.

- Military service personnel, the homeless, those suffering from COVID-19, those affected by natural and unnatural disasters, those in the hospital and care facilities, those with life-threatening issues, those impacted by gun violence, especially the family and friends of Renee Good & Alex Pretti, those working to repair broken systems of injustice, those impacted by war and violence around the world, especially in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, & Armenia.
- Those with health concerns, specifically Ellen Estus, Addy Babus, Chris Case, Brendan Ward, Carolyn Sanborn, Terry Bone, the Manigar family, Pat Franze, Joseph Franze, Larry France, Deb & Jim Stuck and family, Joe Allmond, Lynn Musil, and the Garinger Family.
- Homebound members and friends, specifically, Kathleen Boone, Claire Bradley, Marianne Leavitt, Charlie Lohrmann, Betty Maine, Charlotte Massey, Sandy Rhodes, Eva Ritter, and Dorothy Vowels.

Upcoming Events at The Presbyterian Church of Dover

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
Mar. 8 Daylight Saving Time Worship 11 AM (Sanctuary)	Mar. 9 Pastor Mark's Day Off Bells of Praise 6 PM (CR) KCC Rehearsal 7 PM (Sanctuary)	Mar. 10 Pastor in Class 9 AM - Noon (Zoom) Worship Committee 6 PM (Zoom)	Mar. 11 CKB Studios 11 AM - 7:30 PM (SH) Prayer Shawl 1 PM (Library) 'Surprised by Hope' Lenten Book Study 6 PM (Library) Chancel Choir 7:30 PM (CR)	Mar. 12 Cemetery Committee 10 AM (Alcove) NA 6:15 PM (SH)	Mar. 13	Mar. 14
Mar. 15 Worship 11 AM (Sanctuary) Christian Education 12 PM (Library) Deacons' Meeting 12 PM (Alcove)	Mar. 16 Bells of Praise 6 PM (CR) KCC Rehearsal 7 PM (Sanctuary)	Mar. 17 St. Patrick's Day Pastor's Vacation 3/17 - 3/19 Ruth Women's Circle 12:30 PM (Westminster Village) P.E.O. Chapter M 6 PM (Library) Esther Women's Circle 7 PM (Zoom)	Mar. 18 CKB Studios 1 PM - 7:30 PM (SH) 'Surprised by Hope' Lenten Book Study 6 PM (Library) Special Presbytery Meeting 7 PM (Zoom) Chancel Choir 7:30 PM (CR)	Mar. 19 NA 6:15 PM (SH) Del Rods 7 PM (Library)	Mar. 20	Mar. 21 P.E.O. State Chapter 8:30 AM - 1 PM (SH & Library)

**The next newsletter will be published on Thursday, March 19, 2026.
 Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, March 10, 2026.**

DAY 11 - Monday, March 2

Consider this week's theme ("Searching"), scripture, and photograph by digital artist Pexels from Pixabay.com. What might God be inviting you to see? Spend time reflecting on the photo and scripture. Ask God to speak to you.

DAY 12 - Tuesday, March 3

Nicodemus is the model for how our searching usually begins: timidly, in the dark of night, with an earnest (and naïve) heart. Are we still willing to sit in the night with Jesus and trust him to transform us? Imagine Jesus is sitting right with you. Talk with him like an old friend.

DAY 13 - Wednesday, March 4

Read Luke 15 and consider how God's searches for us like the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. Which of these stories most resonates with you? Talk to God about it.

DAY 14 - Thursday, March 5

Consider this quote by Deepak Chopra: "How can you seek God if he's already here? It's like standing in the ocean and crying out, 'I want to get wet.' You want to get over the line to God. It turns out he was always there... When it really sinks in that there's nothing you can do to find God, he suddenly appears. That's the deepest mystery, the only one that counts." (from *Why is God Laughing?: The Path to Joy and Spiritual Optimism*)

DAY 15 - Friday, March 6

Consider the first stanza of the hymn text "Seek Ye First" found in our *Glory to God* hymnal #175. What is God saying to you in these words?

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things will be added unto you. Allelu, Alleluia!

Stanza 1 by Karen Lafferty, 1971; ©1972 Universal Music - Brentwood/Calvary
Chapel Costa Mesa dba CCCM Music (admin. Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing)

DAY 16 - Saturday, March 7

At the end of this week, consider where you are on the journey of faith. What word or words would you use to describe where you find yourself? Offer this simple prayer to God: "I am _____,"
Now imagine what God says back to you.

LENT 2026

Where are you?

THIRSTY

John 4:5-42 (Common English Bible)

5 He came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, which was near the land Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from his journey, so he sat down at the well. It was about noon. 7 A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me some water to drink." 8 His disciples had gone into the city to buy him some food.

9 The Samaritan woman asked, "Why do you, a Jewish man, ask for something to drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (Jews and Samaritans didn't associate with each other.) 10 Jesus responded, "If you recognized God's gift and who is saying to you, 'Give me some water to drink,' you would be asking him and he would give you living water." 11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you don't have a bucket and the well is deep. Where would you get this living water? 12 You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave this well to us, and he drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."

13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life."

15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will never be thirsty and will never need to come here to draw water!" 16 Jesus said to her, "Go, get your husband, and come back here." 17 The woman replied, "I don't have a husband." "You are right to say, 'I don't have a husband,'" Jesus answered. 18 "You've had five husbands, and the man you are with now isn't your husband. You've spoken the truth."

19 The woman said, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you and your people say that it is necessary to worship in Jerusalem."

21 Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you and your people will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You and your people worship what you don't know; we worship what we know because salvation is from the Jews. 23 But the time is coming—and is here!—when true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth. The Father looks for those who worship him this way. 24 God is spirit, and it is necessary to worship God in spirit and truth."

25 The woman said, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one who is called the Christ. When he comes, he will teach everything to us." 26 Jesus said to her, "I Am—the one who speaks with you."

27 Just then, Jesus' disciples arrived and were shocked that he was talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" 28 The woman put down her water jar and went into the city. She said to the people, 29 "Come and see a man who has told me everything I've done! Could this man be the Christ?" 30 They left the city and were on their way to see Jesus.

31 In the meantime the disciples spoke to Jesus, saying, "Rabbi, eat." 32 Jesus said to them, "I have food to eat that you don't know about." 33 The disciples asked each other, "Has someone brought him food?"

34 Jesus said to them, "I am fed by doing the will of the one who sent me and by completing his work. 35 Don't you have a saying, 'Four more months and then it's time for harvest'? Look, I tell you: open your eyes and notice that the fields are already ripe for the harvest. 36 Those who harvest are receiving their pay and gathering fruit for eternal life so that those who sow and those who harvest can celebrate together. 37 This is a true saying, that one sows and another harvests. 38 I have sent you to harvest what you didn't work hard for; others worked hard, and you will share in their hard work."

39 Many Samaritans in that city believed in Jesus because of the woman's word when she testified, "He told me everything I've ever done." 40 So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. 41 Many more believed because of his word, 42 and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this one is truly the savior of the world."



DAY (7 -

Monday, March 9

Consider this week's theme ("Thirsty"), scripture, and the 1886 painting "Thirst" by William Adolphe Bouguereau (1825-1905) which is from Wikipedia Commons. What might God be inviting you to see? Spend time reflecting on the artwork and on the scripture. Ask God to speak to you.

DAY (8 -

Tuesday, March 10

Where in the midst of our daily lives, in the mundane, in the everyday, is God inviting us to live more fully and freely? Imagine Jesus is sitting right with you. Talk with him like an old friend.

DAY 19 - Wednesday, March 11

Consider Psalm 63:1 (NRSV): "O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water." Recall a time when you've thirsted for God's presence. What was that like? Talk to God about it.

DAY 20 - Thursday, March 12

Consider the poem "Thirst" by Mary Oliver, and notice which words or phrases capture your attention:

Another morning and I wake with thirst
for the goodness I do not have. I walk
out to the pond and all the way God has
given us such beautiful lessons. Oh Lord,
I was never a quick scholar but sulked
and hunched over my books past the hour
and the bell; grant me, in your mercy,
a little more time. Love for the earth
and love for you are having such a long
conversation in my heart. Who knows what
will finally happen or where I will be sent,
yet already I have given a great many things
away, expecting to be told to pack nothing,
except the prayers which, with this thirst,
I am slowly learning.

DAY 21 - Friday, March 13

Consider the refrain of the hymn text "Ho, All Who Thirst" found in *Glory to God* hymnal #479.
What is God saying to you in these words?

Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water,
and all whose souls are parched and weary, come and drink!
Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water,
and from your heart will flow a never-failing spring!

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DAY 22 - Saturday, March 14

At the end of this week, consider where you are on the journey of faith. What word or words would you use to describe where you find yourself? Offer this simple prayer to God: "I am _____,"
Now imagine what God says back to you.

LENT 2026 | FORGOTTEN

Where are you?

(Samuel 16:1-13 (Common English Bible)

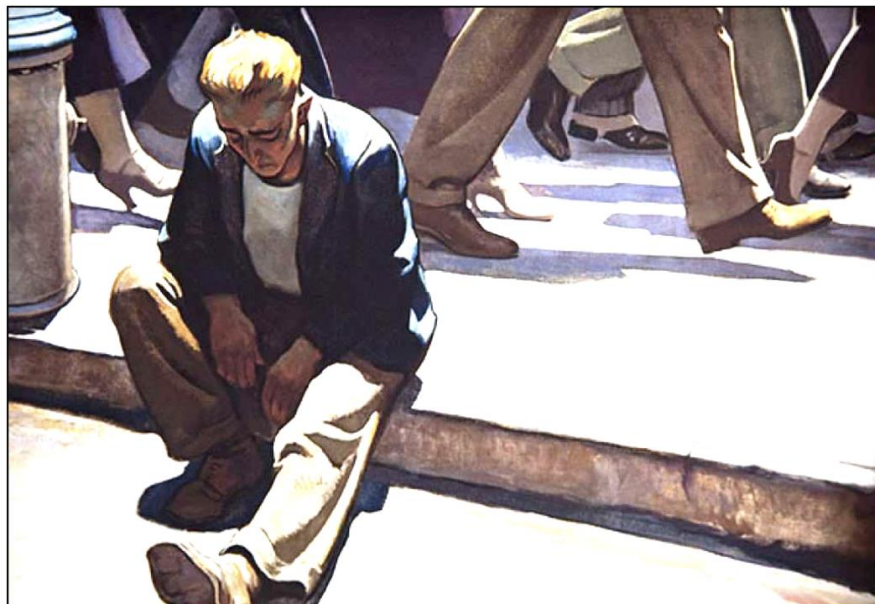
1 The Lord said to Samuel, "How long are you going to grieve over Saul? I have rejected him as king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and get going. I'm sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem because I have found my next king among his sons."

2 "How can I do that?" Samuel asked. "When Saul hears of it he'll kill me!"
3 "Take a heifer with you," the Lord replied, "and say, 'I have come to make a sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will make clear to you what you should do. You will anoint for me the person I point out to you."

4 Samuel did what the Lord instructed. When he came to Bethlehem, the city elders came to meet him. They were shaking with fear. "Do you come in peace?" they asked.

5 "Yes," Samuel answered. "I've come to make a sacrifice to the Lord. Now make yourselves holy, then come with me to the sacrifice." Samuel made Jesse and his sons holy and invited them to the sacrifice as well. 6 When they arrived, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, That must be the Lord's anointed right in front. 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Have no regard for his appearance or stature, because I haven't selected him. God doesn't look at things like humans do. Humans see only what is visible to the eyes, but the Lord sees into the heart."

8 Next Jesse called for Abinadab, who presented himself to Samuel, but he said, "The Lord hasn't chosen this one either." 9 So Jesse presented Shammah, but Samuel said, "No, the Lord hasn't chosen this one." 10 Jesse presented seven of his sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord hasn't picked any of these." 11 Then Samuel asked Jesse, "Is that all of your boys?" "There is still the youngest one," Jesse answered, "but he's out keeping the sheep." "Send for him," Samuel told Jesse, "because we can't proceed until he gets here."



12 So Jesse sent and brought him in. He was reddish brown, had beautiful eyes, and was good-looking. The Lord said, "That's the one. Go anoint him." 13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him right there in front of his brothers. The Lord's spirit came over David from that point forward. Then Samuel left and went to Ramah.

DAY 23 - Monday, March (6)

Consider this week's theme ("Forgotten"), scripture, and the 1934 oil on canvas painting "Forgotten Man" by Maynard Dixon (1875-1946) located at Brigham Young University Museum of Art. What might God be inviting you to see? Spend time reflecting on the artwork and scripture. Ask God to speak to you.

DAY 24 - Tuesday, March (7)

Samuel's visit to Jesse's house is so exciting that he literally forgot about one of his children—the very one God especially remembered. God sees differently. While we might be limited by our human perception, God sees perfectly. Who are we not seeing? What are we not seeing? How might God be seeing us more perfectly than we see ourselves?

DAY 25 - Wednesday, March (8)

Sometimes forgetting is good. Consider Jeremiah 31:34 (NRSV): "No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more." How does it feel to know that God forgives all our sins? Talk to God about it.

DAY 26 - Thursday, March (9)

Consider the first stanza and chorus from the song "You Will Be Found" from the Broadway hit musical *Dear Evan Hansen*. The song is sung by the male lead, a high schooler who has no friends and goes to great lengths to feel included. Benj Pasek and Justin Paul write:

Have you ever felt like nobody was there?
Have you ever felt forgotten in the middle of nowhere?
Have you ever felt like you could disappear?
Like you could fall, and no one would hear?

Well, let that lonely feeling wash away
Maybe there's a reason to believe you'll be okay
'cause when you don't feel strong enough to stand
you can reach, reach out your hand.
And oh, someone will come running, and I know, they'll take you home.

Even when the dark comes crashing through,
When you need a friend to carry you,
And when you're broken on the ground,
You will be found.