Dover Bethany Global Methodist Church

www.dbgmc.org

Rev. Salvatore E. Buonocore, Senior Pastor **Rev. Emily Sydor, Associate Pastor**

December 2026 Church Newsletter

It's the Holiday Season: Blessed & Holy

The word "holiday" comes from the Old English compound hāligdæg, meaning "holy day". Originally referring to consecrated religious festivals and days of worship, the word gradually expanded to include non-religious days of rest, celebration, and time off work. Today there is not too much that is holy in regards to our holidays.

Sometimes I have referred to this season as holidaze. There is so much busyness and distraction that afterwards everything is just a blur.

There are all sorts of emotions that get tugged at during our holidays. There is stress and anxiety. There is conflict with some of *those* relatives. There is sadness and grief for those we have lost. Some of us are overwhelmed and some of us are depressed. Moments of happiness and joy are sprinkled in there, but they are often few and far between.

We begin our Advent season on the last Sunday of November. I'm not ready for that yet! The Christmas season should be the most holy and blessed time of the year. For many of us, it is anything but that.

As we enter the holiday season, consider this invitation. God commands the Israelites to come to the place of worship (at that time, the tabernacle) and... *"There, in the presence of the Lord your God, you and your families shall eat and shall rejoice in everything you have put your hand to, because the Lord your God has blessed you."* Deuteronomy 12:7 NIV



How does that sound for a holiday! My prayer for you (and me!) is that the holidays will be holy and blessed.

"Take Risks" and God Bless,
Pastor Sal

Pray for the Light to Shine in the Darkness:



This Advent, we will be reflecting on the prayers of Christmas, with a specific focus on the prayer for Jesus's coming to bring light and life to all people. Christ brought his light to us and charged us to spread that light to others. Please join us in both praying for friends and family who do not know Jesus, and inviting them to one of the Christmas services to hear the good news.

To remind us to pray for those who are lost, on Sunday, December 6th, please bring a candle(s) to represent those you are praying for to invite to church. During communion, we will place the candles around the Advent wreath, and they will be lit for the remaining Sundays of Advent as a visual reminder of those we are praying for. Since the candle will be lit multiple times, please bring a larger unscented candle. They can be new or used candles.

Volunteer at a Shoebox Processing Center!

Volunteer at the Baltimore Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Processing Center

When we send out our shoebox gifts, they go to Baltimore where they are double checked and sorted by age and gender before they are shipped around the world. Our team will travel together down to Baltimore. We have reserved the following date/time (Sign up on your Communication Card): Saturday, December 12, from 1:00—5:00 pm

York Area Homeschool Choir Christmas Concert



The York Area Homeschool Choir will be having their Christmas Concert on Friday, December 4th, with pre-concert music beginning at 6:30 PM and the formal concert at 7 PM. The concert will be at Northeastern High School, Manchester. The choir is under the direction of Nancy and Pastor Sal Buonocore. Elaine Myers is the Junior Choir accompanist.

December 2026 Volunteer Schedule	6	13	20	24 Christmas Eve Service		27
				4:00 pm	7:00 pm	
Greeters	Dennis & Joan Wilt Deb Kemper Jack McLeod	Steve & Carla Green Luke & Britney Yeager	Jason & Maria Spence Darren & Jami Weiland	*We need you!*	*We need you!*	Carol Sarver Denise Brulinski Sue McCarty Sue Hamburg
Nursery	Beth Trout Carolyn Blymire	Tracy Henze Jami Weiland	Tennille Burkhart Aleia Brown	*We need you!*	N/A	Carla Green Ginger Lehr
Hospitality	Mark & Margie Burkhart	Jeff & Lynette Stief	Darlene Lookingbill Scott Enders	N/A	N/A	Marlin & Kathy Aughey
Head Usher	Jason Spence	Elaine Kroft	Jeff Stief	*We need you!*	*We need you!*	Mike Lehr
Counters	Deb Kemper & Fran Peifer					

We need your help with our Christmas Eve services for greeters, ushers for both services and nursery for the early service. Please sign up on your Communication Card. Thank you!

Christmas Eve Schedule, Thursday, December 24th

1st Service (child friendly glow sticks) at 4 PM

Potluck Meal at 5:30 PM - Please bring a dish or two to share. Please sign up on your Communication Card so we have an approximate count. If you can make it at the last minute, please still come. There will be plenty for everyone.

2nd Service (traditional candles) at 7 PM



Christmas Day Worship on Friday, December 25th at 10 am

Shoebox Report

Praise God that we were able to make 1,547 shoebox gifts at our packing party! We were short 54 shoeboxes and were short on our shipping goal by about $1,400. We need to thank God for this accomplishment. We don't always reach our goals – but we have to have something to reach toward. **Start watching for sales and bargains.** Our 2027 goal is 1,601 shoeboxes.

Financial Life of our Church

GENERAL FUND – Thru October 2026

REVENUE	
Contributions	
General Fund/Sunday School	$274,353
Other Donations	2,537
Memorial Gifts	525
Other Income	5,420
TOTAL REVENUE	**$282,835**
EXPENSES	
GMC Connectional Funding	$11,395
Human Resources	
Pastoral Support	150,620
Lay Employees	29,296
General Operations	
Church Administration	6,834
Church/Parsonage Utilities	32,337
Property Maintenance	25,145
Taxes, Insurance, Fees, etc	24,826
Team Expenses – Serving, Growing, Sharing, Knowing	21,084
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$301,537**
BOTTOM LINE	**($18,702)**

Connectional Funding expenses are those payments to the Global Methodist Church denomination and our annual Conference.

For 2026, we have remitted:

- $ 283/month (1% of previous year income) to General Conference/denomination
- $ 849/month (3% of previous year income) to the Northeast Annual Conference.

2027 will assess using the same percentages.

Featured Expenses

- Pitney Bowes - $25/month for meter lease
- Wells Fargo - $113/month for copier rental
- Terminix - $256/quarter – pest control in church and parsonage.
- Goodville Mutual Casualty Co. - $1,280/month for property insurance.
- Rightnow Media – $95.39/month - biblical videos accessible to everyone in congregation

Balance in our Checking Account as of October 31, 2026 - $78,583.
$29,188 is available for General Fund

New Year Opportunities

- First Sunday night of the month – healing service with extended worship times. We usually do evening stuff at 7pm. Watch the bulletin for the time, we might try to move it up.
- DNA (Discipleship and Accountability) Groups. January would be a great time for you to start a DNA group or join one. Again, watch the bulletin for some times and opportunities.

Prayer Conference

Mark your calendars for Friday and Saturday, February 12 -13th. This is an extremely helpful event in shaping your own prayer time. Dr Steve Seamands from Asbury Seminary will be teaching this. **You do not want to miss this!** Time and place will be coming soon.

Christmas Caroling

We will join together on Sunday afternoon, December 13th, meeting at the church at 1 PM. We will carpool to the homes of shut-ins from our church. If you know someone who would be blessed to have us stop and sing some carols, please submit their name, address and phone number to the church office by December 10th so we can include them in our caroling schedule.

Caroling is following by a meal for anyone from the church. The location and time will be announced in the bulletin. If you are not available to carol, still come and join in the fellowship meal.

Dover Bethany Global Methodist Church Calendar — December 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30pm Trail Life	2 8:30 am Mission Central Trip 6pm Line Dancing	3	4	5
6 8am Helping Hand Class 9:00am Worship	7	8 6:30pm Trail Life 7pm Board of Director's Meeting	9 9am Stitches of Love 6pm Line Dancing	10	11	12 Church Basement Reserved
13 8am Helping Hand Class 9:00am Worship 1PM Christmas Caroling PM - Fellowship Meal at Restaurant Time and Place to Be Announced	14	15 6:30pm Trail Life	16 6pm Line Dancing	17 6pm TLC – Cancer Support Group	18	19
20 8am Helping Hand Class 9:00am Worship	21	22 6:30pm Trail Life	23 9am Stitches of Love 6pm Line Dancing	24 4 pm Christmas Eve Service 5:30 pm Potluck 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 10:00 am Christmas Morning service	26
27 8am Helping Hand Class 9:00am Worship	28	29 6:30pm Trail Life	30 6pm Line Dancing	31		



You can bring your gifts for Harvest of Blessings Annual Toy Drive to our church by Friday, December 4th. Thank you for your generous gifts!!

KNOWING GOD GROWING IN FAITH SERVING OTHERS SHARING THE GOOD NEWS