



THE WORD

A publication of Dyersburg First United Methodist Church

Volume LI

January 09, 2026

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PASTORAL THOUGHTS

Rev. Steve LEfebvre

Happy New Year, Church Family!

As we begin a new year together, I would like to propose a theme for our life and ministry at First United Methodist Church: **Doing Meaningful Ministry Together.**

Over the past year, we planted important seeds of partnership. The Rhea House, in collaboration with Reelfoot Rural Ministries, has become a powerful way we serve our food-insecure neighbors. Not only is it meeting a real and pressing need, it is also creating meaningful opportunities for Christian discipleship. Each week, more than a dozen members of our church go up to that old house to serve and to share the love of Jesus. I cannot help but believe that God is using this work to form the good Methodists of Dyersburg more fully into the image of Christ.

Another exciting partnership is just beginning. The YMCA launch is underway, and I am hopeful that many new opportunities for ministry will grow from it. In addition to the obvious ministries of camps, sports, exercise, and fellowship, I will begin facilitating small groups for YMCA members in March—offered as a kind of *spiritual exercise class*. Friends, this is classic Methodism: Small Groups meetings in spaces outside of the church building! If you are a member of both our church and the YMCA, I hope you will prayerfully consider participating in this discipleship opportunity. I also encourage you to begin imagining how we might use this partnership to further our shared calling to *Do Meaningful Ministry Together*. How might God be calling you, to orchestrate a community outreach using the YMCA resources?

And I believe God is not finished opening even more doors. A steering committee is currently discerning the launch of a respite ministry for caregivers. Our church—situated in the heart of town, where Main Street ends—has incredible facilities, generous space, and, most importantly, loving people. We have only begun to tap into the potential God has placed among us.

As we step into this new year, I invite you to pray a simple but powerful question:

“How can I join FUMC and encourage others to do meaningful ministry together?”

Grace be our guide. Big things are coming for FUMC and for our community.

One body in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Steve

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

USHERS

Walt Bradshaw
Lowell Beck
Steven Parker
Charles Brown
Pierce White

GREETERS

Virginia Parker
Vicki Dunagan

LITURGIST

Will Bird

VIDEO RECORDER

TBD

Our Mission Statement

*To Know, Love, Share,
and Serve Christ*

Our Vision Statement

*We seek to love God above
everything and to love our
neighbors as ourselves*

Our Values

*Hospitality, Outreach, Loving,
Tradition, Community,
Teaching, Family*

RECORD OF LOYALTY (1/4/2026)

ATTENDANCE

Online Worship	69
In Person Worship	103
Sunday School (12/14)	48

OFFERING

Income Year to Date	\$684,215.30
Expenses Year to Date	\$791,205.81
Income (November)	\$43,063.44
Expenses (November)	\$62,009.81



WELCOME NEW BABY

We'd like to welcome Cooper Jack Helton into this world. Cooper was born on December 26th. He is the grandson of Carolyn Helton.

What's Happening This Sunday

9 AM

Sunday School

There's a class for every age and stage of life!

**10:15
AM**

Worship

Children's Church Available

4 PM

Blankets

Kids 2yr-5th grade Evening Bible Study

4 PM

Fuel For The Soul

Students 6th-12th Grade Evening Bible Study

4 PM

Parish Choir

Practice for those sharing their musical gifts.

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

PANTRY FUND

In memory of:
Nadia Browning
John Peeples

Given by
Mary Pierce
Mary Pierce

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of:
Nadia Browning
Nadia Browning

Given by
Randy & Sandy Prince
Frankie McBryde

2025 CONTRIBUTIONS MUST BE TURNED IN BY END OF DECEMBER

In order for your contributions to the church in 2025 to be claimed as a deduction on your 2025 tax form, they must be given in 2025. If they are mailed, they must be postmarked by December 31, 2025. Only those contributions received by the church, or if mailed postmarked by **December 31, 2025 can be credited and claimed** for tax purposes in 2025, regardless of when the check is dated.

REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS

If you are 72 years old and have an IRA, by law you must withdraw a RMD (required minimum distribution) each year. The RMD is taxable to you **UNLESS** you divert part or all of this distribution to a non-profit organization. This year, when you withdraw your RMD, please consider diverting all or part of your distribution to Dyersburg First United Methodist Church. It's a win/win!

MAKE SURE YOUR RECORDS AND THE CHURCH'S RECORDS MATCH

To ensure that your 2025 church contributions are deductible, please do not file your 2025 income tax return until you have received a statement of your contributions from the church. Your records and our records should match, but it is wise to wait for this year's contributions statement to be sure that the deductions you claim match the records the church has of your giving.



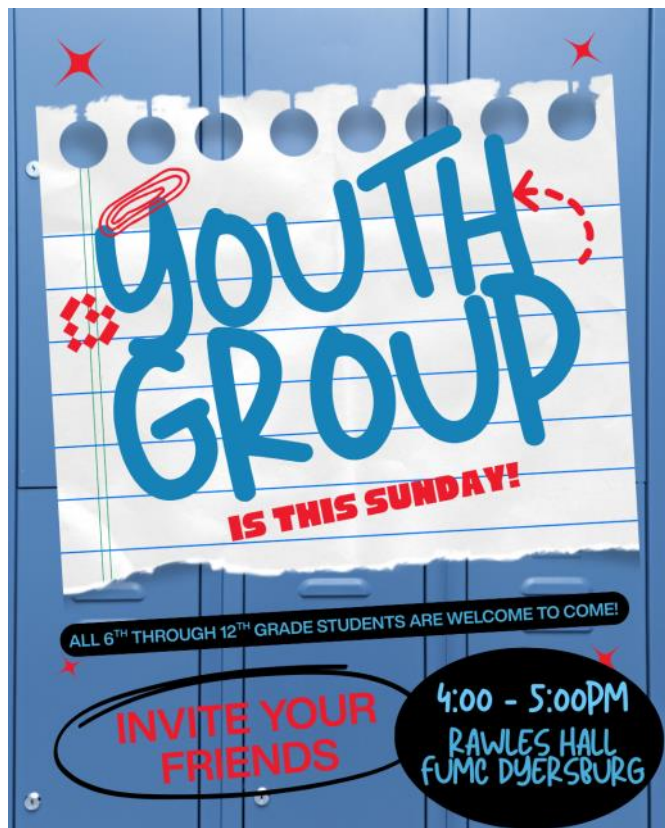
Miller Lane - 01/04/2026

Happy New Year Happy New Year Happy New Year

CALENDAR YEAR STARTS NEW

Now is the time to start looking at your calendar and thinking about what you have coming up this year at the church. Please don't wait until after your group or event meets to get on the calendar. This prevents overlapping of events and meetings happening at the same time in the same place at the church. Please call or email Karen in the church office with your upcoming events or meeting schedules.

731-285-6454 or kkesterson@fumcdyersburg.com



Are you up to date?

Help us make sure your information is accurate at the church. Have you dropped your landline or changed your cell phone number? Have you changed your email address or moved? Please call the church (285-6454) or email (kkesterson@fumcdyersburg.com) and let us know. If you are not sure if you have updated this information at the church, please send it to us anyway.



The **January/February** Upper Rooms are in! Please remember to save and recycle your previous devotional. Bring it with you when you pick up your new devotional. Both can be dropped and picked up in the Connect Center.

Rhea House NEEDS:



Cream of chicken soup
Cream of mushroom soup
Spaghetti noodles
Small bottles of dawn

Sunday, January 11, 2026
Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

9:15 am Sunday School
10:00 am Fellowship Time
10:15 am Worship
4:00 pm Blankets
4:00 pm Fuel For the Soul
4:00 pm Parish Choir

Rev. Steve Lefebvre, Preaching



Weekly published by

First United Methodist Church

100 McGaughey, P.O. Box 452, Dyersburg, TN 38024

Church: 731-285-6454

Web Page—www.fumcdyersburg.com

ONLINE GIVING FOR 2026

Dear Online Givers to Dyersburg First United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your generous and ongoing financial gifts to the church! This is a reminder that it's time to update your **recurring online gifts** to reflect that they will go to the General Fund in 2026. You can do this by logging into your online giving account on the church website (<https://fumcdyersburg.com/donate>) or by contacting Karen in the church office.

Thank you in advance for continuing to support God's work in Dyersburg through DFUMC!

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The mission and ministry of Dyersburg FUMC is now more vital than ever. Although you can bring your offerings with you to church on Sunday, you can also still mail them or go online. It's easy: mail your check to the church at P.O. Box 452, Dyersburg, TN 38025 OR give online by going to <https://fumcdyersburg.com/donate>.

Prayer Requests

In order to keep our teams informed about persons you've requested prayer for, please send updates every **three weeks**.

Rachel Flynn (Elaine McCormick's granddaughter-in-law)

David West

Ardis Phillips

Carolyn Cooper - Bells Nursing and Rehab. Center,
213 Herndon Drive, Room 218, Bells, TN 38006

Bill Troy

Millete Gathright and Family

George Robertson

Cherry Robertson

Linda Jones

**Please continue to remember the Home Bound.*

**If you'd like to send cards, contact the church office for addresses if you need them.*



Monday - Friday

8:30am – 12:00pm

1:00pm – 4:00pm