

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 22

- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. First Cup Fellowship – S.S. Hall
- 10:15 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary
- 2:00 p.m. Parish Choir Practice – MS
- 4:00 p.m. Blankets – EW
- 4:00 p.m. Fuel For the Soul – RH

Tuesday, February 24

- 9:00 a.m. Church Staff Meeting – KC

Wednesday, February 25

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast – FH
- 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Community Assistance – Rh H
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner and Small Groups

Thursday, February 26

- 9:30 a.m. Pre-School Character Classes – Chapel

Sunday, March 1

- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. First Cup Fellowship – S.S. Hall
- 10:15 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary
- 2:00 p.m. Parish Choir Practice – MS
- 4:00 p.m. Blankets – EW
- 4:00 p.m. Fuel for the Soul – RH

FH – Fellowship Hall
 S.S. Hall – Sunday School Hall
 Rh H – Rhea House
 KC – Koinonia Classroom
 MS – Music Suite
 EW – Education Wing
 RH – Rawles Hall

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 mail them or give online. Checks can be mailed to P.O. Box 452, Dyersburg, TN 38025, online @ <https://fumcdyersburg.com/donate>, or scan the following QR code with your phone.



Assisting in Worship...

The Reverend Steven Lefebvre
 Pastor

Elizabeth Lemons
 Liturgist

Charlie Caldwell
 Cross Bearer

Olivia Caldwell
 Avert Peckenpaugh
 Acolytes

Presley Dishman
 Director of Music

Tori Armstrong
 Director of Children's Ministry

J Dan Gullett
 Visuals

Steve Guttery
 Sound



ORDER OF WORSHIP
 First Sunday of Lent
 February 22, 2026

✠ Please rise in body or in spirit.
Bold words are spoken responsively.

THE GATHERING

Prelude

The Chimes

Welcome

✠ Call to Worship *Psalm 32:1-5*
 Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Blessed are those whom the Lord does not hold guilty, and, in whose spirit, there is no deceit.

When I did not declare my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

For day and night, your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord"; then you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Amen. Let us worship God!

✠ Processional & Hymn of Praise
 UMH 269 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* LAND OF REST
 (vv. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

✠ Opening Prayer
Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Celebration of Young Disciples

Children ages Birth through 2nd grade may join Mrs. Tori and Mrs. Todameka in the back of the sanctuary for Children’s Church.

Bringing Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Music *How Firm A Foundation*
Steve Barton, viola

✠ Doxology
UMH 94 OLD 100TH

***Praise God throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the spirit who imparts
God’s love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.***

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

Old Testament Lesson Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 NSRV

¹⁵The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’ ” ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Response to the Word

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

✠ Hymn of Preparation
TFWS 2152 *Change My Heart, O God* CHANGE MY HEART

✠ Gospel Reading Matthew 4:1-11 NRSV

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the

Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ” ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ” ⁷Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ” ¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.”

Response to the Word

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon *I Would Never*

✠ Affirmation of Faith Apostles’ Creed
Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now reverently and sincerely declare:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

✠ Gloria Patri *Gloria Be to the Father* MEINEKE
UMH 70

***Gloria be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen. Amen.***

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation: Let us pray to the Lord.
Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who

trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

✠ Sending Hymn
UMH 377 *It Is Well with My soul* VILLE DU HAVRE
(vv. 1, 2, 3, 4)

✠ Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

✠ Announcements

✠ Benediction

✠ Postlude

The Season of Lent

Lent is a season of preparation for the celebration of Easter. The word *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon *lencten*, which means *spring*, the time of the lengthening of days. Lent lasts for forty days, not counting Sundays.

The Lenten season developed over a thousand years or so. It began as an observance lasting 40 hours in the church of the first century because the Lord’s body rested in the tomb that length of time between burial and resurrection. Later, the season was stretched to six days of fasting and special observance called Holy Week. In the fourth century, Holy Week was practiced in Jerusalem by going to various sites associated with the passion of our Lord, later referred to as the stations of the cross.

Next, six days grew into 36 days, a tithe of the number of the days in the year. Around 730 A.D., four days were added to total 40. The significance of 40 refers to the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, the 40 days Moses was on Mount Sinai to receive the commandments and the 40 days our Lord was tempted by Satan.

Sundays were never considered a part of Lent, since Sunday was always celebrated as the Lord’s resurrection day. The purpose of Lent is to help us enter the redemptive drama of Christ’s death through transformation and renewal. The Lenten season helps us experience anew Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Liturgical Colors

During this season, the liturgical color of the paraments in the chancel is purple. This color designates seasons of preparation (Advent and Lent) and represents both royalty and penitence. This color will be used throughout the Lenten season as we prepare for Easter. On that day, white will be used to designate the beginning of a festival season and to symbolize the joy of Christ’s Resurrection