

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 15

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

Tuesday, March 17

9:00 a.m. Church Staff Meeting – KC
5:30 p.m. Garden Club – FH

Wednesday, March 18

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast – FH
12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Community Assistance – Rh H

Sunday, March 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

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 Nancy Johnston Varden
Guest Pastor

Walt Bradshaw
Liturgist

Avery Peckenpaugh
Cross Bearer

Olivia Caldwell
Mitchell Dishman
Acolytes

Josh White
Pianist

Tori Armstrong
Director of Children's Ministry

Volunteer
Visuals

Steve Guttery
Sound



ORDER OF WORSHIP
Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 15, 2026

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

THE GATHERING

Prelude

The Chimes

Welcome

✠ Call to Worship
UMH 754

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures;
leads me beside still waters, restores my life,
leads me in right paths for the sake of the Lord's name.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil,
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord as long as I live.
Amen. Let us worship God!

✠ Processional and Hymn of Praise
UMH 128 *He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought* HE LEADETH ME
(vv. 1, 2, 3, 4)

✠ 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 *Psalm 23* SHANE & SHANE
Matthew Stafford, soloist

✠ Lenten Doxology UMH 95 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 Reading 1 Samuel 16:1-13 NSRV

¹The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ²Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’” ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the Lord.” ⁷But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.” ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah. not?”

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

✠ Hymn of Preparation UMH 381 *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* BRADBURY
(vv. 1, 2, 3, 4)

✠ Epistle Lesson Ephesians 5:8-14 NRSV
⁸For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

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

Sermon *You Are the Light*

✠ 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 *Glory Be to the Father* MEINEKE
UMH 70

***Glory 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

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.

✠ Invitation to Christian Discipleship

SENDING FORTH

✠ Sending Hymn UMH 57 *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* AMAZON CM
(vv. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

✠ Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

✠ Benediction

✠ Postlude

The Reverend Nancy Johnston Varden

Nancy grew up on the coast of North Carolina, which was an ideal place for someone that spent years learning and teaching sailing in her youth. Nancy moved inland for college and pursued a degree in Recreation at North Carolina State University.

While at the university, she worked with various youth outreach organizations that lead her to pursue vocational ministry in The United Methodist Church. She followed this call from God to Duke University, where she earned her Masters of Divinity.

With over 30 years of ministry experience, Nancy has led churches in Oxford, England, suburban North Carolina, rural Western Kentucky, and now serves as the District Superintendent with coverage of Western Tennessee and Western Kentucky in the Tennessee–Western Kentucky Annual Conference.

Nancy is married to John Varden. John is also an Ordained Elder in The United Methodist Church. Together, they have three children. Two are in college and one is a junior at Graves County High School in Mayfield, Kentucky. They live in Hickman, Kentucky, where John pastors Hickman First and Beech Grove United Methodist churches.

Our Lenten Doxology

Why are we singing a different doxology after Bnringing Our Tithes and Offerings? During the season of Lent, our practice is to refrain from singing the “Alleluia,” which is contained in “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow,” our customary doxology. Refraining from singing the “Alleluia” is a way of recognizing the solemnity of the season and anticipating the glorious praise we will get to sing as we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection on Easter Sunday.