

# THE WORD

A publication of Dyersburg First United Methodist Church

Volume LI

April 21, 2026

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## PASTORAL THOUGHTS

Rev. Steve Lefebvre

Friends,

One of the gifts of Easter is that it is not confined to a single Sunday morning. Easter is a season, fifty days in which we continue to learn what resurrection means for our life together.

Over the past three Sundays, our Gospel readings have invited us deeper into that mystery. On Easter morning with Mary at the tomb, we saw that resurrection often begins in places of grief, confusion, and unanswered questions. Mary stayed. She lingered in the sorrow long enough to hear Jesus call her by name. Her story reminds us that sometimes faith asks us not to rush past the hard places, but to press in, trusting that Christ meets us there.

The following week, Thomas gave voice to the struggle many of us know well. He could not believe on someone else's experience alone. Rather than rebuking him, Jesus met him with peace and compassion. Thomas reminds us that the church must be a place where we believe one another's struggle, where questions are welcomed, and where doubt is not the opposite of faith but often a doorway into deeper trust.

Then on the road to Emmaus, Jesus came as a stranger walking alongside two weary disciples. They did not recognize him until they welcomed him to the table and he broke the bread. Their story invites us to draw ourselves closer to the stranger in our midst, trusting that Christ often appears in the faces we least expect.

My prayer for us in this Easter season is that we continue pressing in, believing one another's burdens, and drawing near to one another in love. Resurrection is still unfolding among us.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Steve

## SUNDAY, APRIL 26

### USHERS

Walt Bradshaw  
Dustin Seratt  
Bill Yates  
David Wagner  
Amy Lewis

### GREETERS

Lena Lewis  
David Hayes

### LITURGIST

Amy Lewis

### VIDEO RECORDER

John Feith

### 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*



## OFFICE HOURS

**Monday - Friday**  
8:30am - 12:00pm  
1:00pm - 4:00pm

**RECORD OF LOYALTY (4/12/2026)**

**ATTENDANCE**

Online Worship	19
In Person Worship	65
Sunday School	42

**OFFERING**

Income Year to Date	\$68,521.31
Expenses Year to Date	\$105,569.23
Income (February)	\$30,888.28
Expenses (February)	\$55,082.98
Communion (UMCOR)	\$150.00

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP FROM ANYWHERE**

Our Sunday morning service is viewable each Sunday morning at 10:15 am from our church's webpage at <https://www.fumcdyersburg.com/media> or our Facebook page at Dyersburg First United Methodist Church. You can also watch previous sermons on either site.



The **March/April** 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.



**WELCOME MORGAN PECKENPAUGH**

We are excited to share that Morgan Peckenpaugh has joined our Children's Ministry team as a Children's Ministry Assistant. We're grateful to have her as a part of our team.

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

**PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

*In memory of:*  
David West  
David West

*Given by*  
Bill Acree  
Jennifer Davis



Preschool Open Enrollment is Happening Now!

We are excited to share that preschool open enrollment is officially underway! We serve children ages 2-5 years, with flexible program options designed to meet your family's needs—from half days, 2 days a week to full days, 5 days a week (7:00 AM-5:15 PM).

Enrollment is quick and easy—just scan the QR code to access registration information and get started. Spaces fill quickly, so don't wait!



We can't wait to welcome our church families and friends into the preschool!



**OPERATION: RESCUE - KIDMIN RETREAT 2026**

We had an exciting time learning about the life of Moses and how what he went through and God's promises/commands still guide and protect us today.

These are just a few of the AMAZING memories that we made over the weekend. Don't worry though, we will do it all again NEXT YEAR. We've also got a plan to UPGRADE the retreat in a way that will be super impactful.

**KOINONIA SUNDAY**  
**SCHOOL CLASS**  
**6 OF MAY**

**"Day After Cinco de Mayo"**  
**Patio Party**  
**Wednesday, May 6th**  
**5:00 PM**  
**Nancy West's Patio**  
**Spanish Food\***

**\*Sign-up sheet in the classroom**

**GROW WITH US**

Join us this Sunday to experience peace, hope, and joy as we learn together.



**BLANKETS 4-5:30PM**  
**Kids 2yr - 5th Grade**



**FUEL FOR THE SOUL 4-5:30PM**  
**Youth 6th - 12th Grade**



**PARISH CHOIR REHEARSAL 2:00 PM**

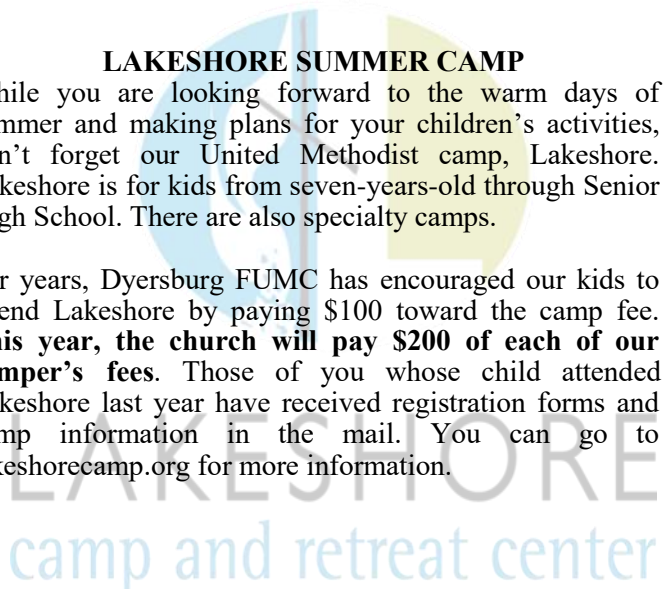
**KIDMIN IS HOSTING A**  
**POOL PARTY:**  
**Summer Kickoff**

**LOCATION TBD**  
**DYERSBURG, TN**  
**MAY 16, 2026 |**  
**2:00-4:00PM**

**LAKESHORE SUMMER CAMP**

While you are looking forward to the warm days of summer and making plans for your children's activities, don't forget our United Methodist camp, Lakeshore. Lakeshore is for kids from seven-years-old through Senior High School. There are also specialty camps.

For years, Dyersburg FUMC has encouraged our kids to attend Lakeshore by paying \$100 toward the camp fee. **This year, the church will pay \$200 of each of our camper's fees.** Those of you whose child attended Lakeshore last year have received registration forms and camp information in the mail. You can go to [lakeshorecamp.org](http://lakeshorecamp.org) for more information.



#13490  
Periodicals  
Paid at  
Dyersburg, TN

*Sunday, April 26, 2026*  
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Acts 2:14a, 36-41  
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
1 Peter 1:17-23  
Luke 24:13-35

9:15 am Sunday School  
10:00 am Fellowship Time  
10:15 am Worship  
2:00 pm Parish Choir Rehearsal  
4:00 pm Blankets - 2yr - 5th Grade  
4:00 pm Fuel for the Soul - 6th - 12th  
Grade

Rev. Steve Lefebvre, Preaching

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Church: 731-285-6454  
Web Page—[www.fumcdyersburg.com](http://www.fumcdyersburg.com)



**Vegetable Beef Soup**  
**Canned Fruit**  
**Small Jelly**  
**Toothpaste**

### **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](mailto: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.

# Prayer Requests

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

Bobbie Williams  
Janie Stafford  
Raney Webb  
Tiffany Riggins (Elaine McCormick's daughter)  
Carolyn Cooper - Bells Nursing and Rehab. Center,  
213 Herndon Drive, Room 218, Bells, TN 38006

Bill Troy  
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.*

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## TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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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>.