

## Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 26

9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
 10:00 a.m. First Cup Fellowship – GS\*  
 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, April 28

9:00 a.m. Church Staff Meeting – KC

Wednesday, April 29

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast – FH  
 12:30 p.m. Community Assistance – Rh H  
 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Bloodmobile – Upper Lot

Thursday, April 30

9:00 a.m. Preschool Chapel – Chapel

Sunday, May 3

9:00 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  
 EW – Education Wing  
 GS – Gathering Space – Room 217  
 Rh H – Rhea House  
 MS – Music Suite  
 RH – Rawles Hall  
 KC – Koinonia Classroom

\*GS – Beginning this morning, coffee and cookies are available in the Gathering Space, Room 217.

## 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 Steve Lefebvre  
 Pastor

Amy Lewis  
 Liturgist

Miller Baker  
 Cross Bearer

Mitchell Dishman  
 Acolyte

Presley Dishman  
 Director of Music

Tori Armstrong  
 Director of Children's Ministry

Volunteer  
 Visuals

Steve Guttery  
 Sound



ORDER OF WORSHIP  
 Fourth Sunday of Easter  
 April 26, 2026

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

### THE GATHERING

Prelude

The Chimes

Welcome

✠ Call to Worship

*Adapted from Acts 2:42-47*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship and to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

**All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.**

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.

**And, day by day, the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

✠ Hymn of Praise  
 UMH 127

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* CWM RHONDA  
 (vv. 1, 2, 3)

✠ Opening Prayer

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebration of Young Disciples

Children aged Birth through 2nd Grade may join Mrs. Todameka and Mrs. Tori in the back of the sanctuary for Children's Church.

Bringing Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Music

‡ Doxology OLD 100TH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

Scripture Reading Psalm 23 UMH 754

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup>The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures; leads me beside still waters, <sup>3</sup>restores my life, leads me in right paths for the sake of the Lord's name. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup>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.

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

‡ Hymn of Preparation UMH 400 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* NETTLETON  
(vv. 1, 2, 3)

‡ Gospel Lesson John 10:1-10 NRSV  
<sup>1</sup>"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

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

Sermon *The Shepherd's Voice*

‡ 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  
O God, our light, our beauty, our rest: In the resurrection of your Son, you have brought us into your new creation. Form us into your people and order our lives in you; through Christ our Lord.  
*Amen. Alleluia.*

*Offer your silent prayers for growth and healing.*

O God, our rainbow, our dove, our promised land: In the resurrection of your Son, you have brought us into your ark. Protect us from storms and ferry us to your welcoming shore; through Christ our Lord.  
*Amen. Alleluia.*

*Offer your silent prayers for God's protection.*

O God, our shepherd, our gate, our lamb: In the resurrection of your Son, you have brought us into your pasture. Guide us to your clear streams and tame the wolf at our gate; through Christ our Lord.  
*Amen. Alleluia.*

*Offer your silent prayers of thanksgiving.*

O God, our grove, our love, our well: In the resurrection of your Son, you have brought us into your garden. Bind us now and forever and give us to eat from the tree of life; through Christ our Lord.  
*Amen. Alleluia.*

*Offer your silent prayers to grow in faith.*

O God, our bread, our milk, and our honey: In the resurrection of your Son, you have brought us to your table. Feed us with your plenty and enlarge our table for all the hungry; through Christ our Lord.  
*Amen. Alleluia.*

*Offer your silent prayers for the physically and spiritually hungry.*

O God, our sovereign, our banquet, our crown: In the resurrection of your Son, you have brought us into your palace. Train us to be heirs to your throne, that we may shield the needy through Christ our Lord.  
*Amen. Alleluia.*

*Offer your silent prayers for the poor and powerless in our midst.*

O God, Holy One, our altar, our cloud: In the resurrection of your Son, you have brought us into your temple. Accept the sacrifices we offer and draw us into the fire of your Spirit, through Christ our Lord.  
*Amen. Alleluia.*

*Offer your silent prayers asking God's forgiveness for our sin.*

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 140 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* FAITHFULNESS  
(vv. 1, 2, 3)

‡ Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

‡ Benediction

‡ Postlude

---

*from the Church's Archives ~ "The Night We Became a Hospital"*

It was a warm spring night, warmer than normal for April. Large marshmallow clouds had been transformed into angry black clouds. This sudden change was nothing unusual for this part of the country where spring goes into summer, accompanied by thunderstorms.

As the day turned to evening, rains battered the area. Tornado! One had touched down on the RoEllen Highway, leaving a path of destruction and death in its wake. Three or four more tornadoes hit in various parts of the county. Many would be injured, and thirteen would be killed that night.

Neither Methodist Hospital of Dyersburg nor even Parkview Hospital was in existence in 1952. Baird-Brewer was where we all were born, made well, and sometimes died. On that night, the patients far outnumbered the hospital beds.

Situated directly across from First Methodist Church, the hospital began the transfer of non-critical patients to the basement of our church, which, by then, had been made into a temporary hospital and housing unit.

As always, the women of First Methodist rose to the occasion. Our Methodist mothers and fathers toiled throughout the night, notably providing food, coffee, bandages, beds, and comfort for their dazed neighbors – neighbors that had lost not only all their belongings but relatives or whole families. Among them, too, were strangers who will never forget the Methodists who helped that night as they put into action the words of our Lord – "I was a stranger, and you took me in." This act of serving our neighbors continued and still continues to be the concern of our church which began years before that April night in 1952.