

THE WORD

A publication of Dyersburg First United Methodist Church

Volume LI

April 28, 2026

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MISSION MOMENT

The Missions Committee

Friends,

Our communion offering this month will be for the food pantry. Since the 1970s, FUMC has had a food pantry and has used it to take care of and love our neighbors. With the opening of the Rhea house, we have given people the dignity to shop for themselves in the pantry and make personal connections with our neighbors. We have prayed with them, listened to their stories, heard them encourage and help one another. The Rhea House has become a blessing, not just for those who come for assistance but for all the volunteers who help on Wednesdays, donate food and hygiene products, give their time to shop and to stock shelves, and all who keep this ministry in their prayers. During the season of Lent, we had a group of volunteers who helped stock shelves, bag laundry sheets and donate frozen food items. The Rhea house is assisting an average of 35-50 families a week, every Wednesday except the fourth Wednesday of each month. The average cost of food for each family is around \$55, and we allow people to shop once every 60 days. The average weekly cost to stock the food pantry is around \$2,300. J. Dan Gullett shared with us a couple of weeks ago about the \$5,000 grant we received, and we have just received a grant from the TVA that will be matched by Dyersburg Electric System! Our community is seeing the difference the Rhea house is making and they want to help and support us. Thank you for your continued support of this much needed pantry!

John Wesley said, "The world is my parish" and "A courageous church: loving like Jesus, acting for justice, united in hope." With your faithful help, we can treat our community as our parish and continue to love like Jesus by taking care of the most basic need: hunger.

Your Ministry Team

SUNDAY, MAY 3

USHERS

Mark Hayes
Billy Ozment
Lena Lewis
Tim Taylor
Joe Yates

GREETERS

Vicki Dunagan
Carolyn Helton

LITURGIST

Lena Lewis

VIDEO RECORDER

David Wagner

COMMUNION STEWARDS

Pierce and Amy White
Caroline, Jack, and Ellen White

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

STEWARDS

Lisa and Duane Traverse

RHEA HOUSE

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS



Shampoo

Bar soap

Canned fruit

Beef stew

Canned soup

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 (4/19/2026)

ATTENDANCE

Online Worship	56
In Person Worship	100
Sunday School	49

OFFERING

Income Year to Date	\$115,681.40
Expenses Year to Date	\$173,540.63
Income (March)	\$47,160.09
Expenses (March)	\$67,971.40

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Given by</i>
Ron Gathright	Ron & Penny Switzer
Dr. John Reaves, Jr.	Ralph Henson
Max Maddox	Dudley Davis
Max Maddox	Ralph Henson
Max Maddox	Ron & Penny Switzer
David West	Ralph Henson
David West	Ron & Penny Switzer

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



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!

Dyersburg
8-12 JUNE

WinShape Camps™

COST \$275

camp is calling

SCAN TO LEARN MORE!

Completed K-5TH Grade

MUSIC, DANCE, SPORTS, GAMES, ARTS, CRAFT AND MORE!



The **May/June** 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.

OUR NEW RESPITE MINISTRY

Matthew 11: 28: Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Caring for others through missions has long been a vital part of our ministry here at Dyersburg First UMC. When a church member's family was featured in a documentary titled "*A Place of Belonging*" about an organization called "*Respite for All*," we felt called to learn more and discern whether this could become a meaningful mission opportunity for our church and community. <https://min.link/bMU>

"Respite for All" is a nonprofit foundation that helps faith-based communities create volunteer-led respite programs for individuals living with dementia and their caregivers—offering a true place of belonging and social engagement. So, what does that mean in practical terms? This program provides caregivers with a few hours of rest and renewal while their loved ones are cared for by trained volunteers in a safe, structured, and welcoming environment. It is a non-medical program focused on meaningful interaction and engagement.

Not only does this ministry give caregivers a much-needed break, but it also reduces isolation and fosters community—helping both participants and caregivers build new relationships. Key aspects of "Respite for All" include being volunteer-driven, faith-based, intergenerational, and centered around structured activities—without requiring medical staff.

A small group of dedicated volunteers has been researching, reaching out, and even visiting churches where this program is already in place. They are now working toward establishing a respite ministry here—one that can become a proven response to a real need, bringing hope, healing, and renewal.

If you're thinking this will take many volunteers—you're right! But the vision extends beyond our church. We hope to partner with other churches and organizations throughout the community, and encouragingly, others have already expressed interest in joining this effort.

We invite you to be part of the conversation. Join us on May 31st at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to learn more and explore how you might be a part of this exciting opportunity.



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

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**

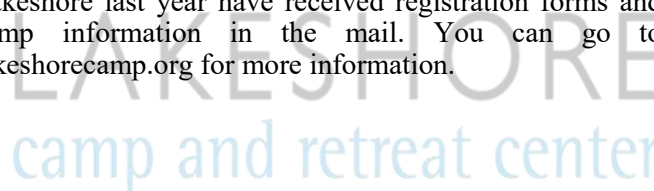
JOIN US FOR WORSHIP FROM ANYWHERE

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.

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 for more information.



#13490
Periodicals
Paid at
Dyersburg, TN

Sunday, May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

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



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.

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.

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>.