

THE WORD

A publication of Dyersburg First United Methodist Church

Volume LI

May 12, 2026

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STAFF REFLECTIONS

Tori Armstrong

Hello Church Family,

Change is hard. Even when we know it's coming, even when part of us is ready, it still has a way of catching us off guard and stirring up feelings we didn't expect. If that's where you are right now, you're not alone — and you're not wrong for feeling it.

Our church family is in a season of transition. Some things we've loved are shifting, and it's okay to sit with that for a minute. But here are two of my favorite verses that I keep coming back to:

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." - JEREMIAH 29:11

What gets me about this verse is that God said it while His people were right in the middle of a really hard stretch — not after it was over. He wasn't saying "hang in there, the good part is coming." He was saying *I've got you, right now, in this.* That's the kind of God we serve.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." - JOSHUA 1:9

I don't think this means we have to feel brave. It just means we don't have to face any of this alone. God goes with us into whatever is next — and so does those we call our community. Lean on each other. Pray together. Show up for one another. That's how we get through seasons like this.

God isn't done with us. Not even close.

With love and hope for what's ahead,
Tori Armstrong

SUNDAY, MAY 17 SENIOR SUNDAY

USHERS

Mark Hayes
Billy Ozment
Lena Lewis
Tim Taylor
Joe Yates

GREETERS

Vicki Dunagan
Carolyn Helton

LITURGIST

Elizabeht Lemons
Morgan Peckenpaugh
Caroline White

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*



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

RECORD OF LOYALTY (5/3/2026)

ATTENDANCE

Online Worship	56
In Person Worship	100
Sunday School	46

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

GENERAL FUND

<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Given by</i>
Nadia Browning	Ginger Voss
Dr. John Reaves, Jr.	Ginger Voss
Max Maddox	Ginger Voss
David West	Ginger Voss

PANTRY FUND

<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Given by</i>
David West	Joan Gilliland

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Given by</i>
Dr. John Reaves, Jr.	Scooter, Mike, & Betsy Taylor
David West	Claudia Featherstone

CONGRATS GRADUATES!



Caroline White
University School of
Jackson



Morgan Peckenpaugh
Dyersburg High School



Elizabeth Lemons
Dyersburg High School



Presley Dishman
Dyersburg State
Community College

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 family and friends of Sue Nicks, who passed on May 4, 2026. Services were held on May 12, 2026 at Fowlkes United Methodist Church.

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.

PRESCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT

Hello Church Family,

We are writing to share an important update regarding the future of the FUMC Preschool program. As part of a long-term vision for expanding and enhancing children's programming alongside the YMCA, we will be entering a one-year transition period during which the preschool will be closed. This pause will allow the YMCA to begin necessary structural changes and improvements as they develop the new Children's Center. Additionally, with recent staff and leadership changes, we find it is best suited to take a break and start fresh when the YMCA can fully support and strengthen the program.

While we know this is an unexpected decision for many, we want to remain transparent that these decisions were not made lightly. This has been a thoughtful and prayerful process, with careful consideration given to what is best for our children, families, and the broader community in the years ahead.

We are grateful for the relationships, memories, and growth that have taken place within our preschool, and we understand this transition may bring questions or concerns. Our hope is that this time of renewal will allow the program to return stronger and better equipped to serve our families.

We are excited about what lies ahead and the opportunities the new Children's Center will bring. We hope to see everyone beginning the 2027-28 school year as the program reopens with renewed spaces and programs designed to better serve our community.

Thank you for your understanding, trust, and continued support.

With Gratitude,
Dyersburg First United Methodist Church
Church Council and Preschool Board

School Closing Date: May 12, 2026 2:30 PM

*Please look for updates from the YMCA on the new children's center for the year 2027.



Shampoo
Bar soap
Canned fruit
Beef stew
Canned soup

LOVE OFFERING FOR LEFEBVRES

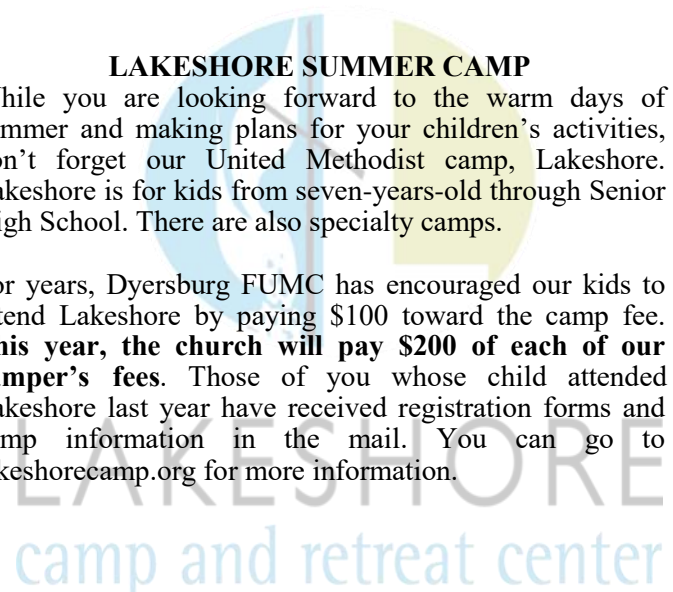
As we show love for our graduates, we also want to share some love for our pastor, Steve, as he and his family prepare for their next journey. A farewell reception will be this Sunday during the Sunday School hour at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall.

If you wish to contribute to the love offering for Steve, donations will be accepted from now until Friday, May 29. You may drop them off at the church office, in the offering plate or donate online at www.fumcdyersburg.com/give.

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.



Sunday, May 17, 2026
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Senior Sunday

Send form #3579 to The Word, P.O.Box 452, Dyersburg, TN 38025, FUMC

#13490
Periodicals
Paid at
Dyersburg, TN

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:
Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

9:00 am Farewell Reception
10:00 am Fellowship Time
10:15 am Worship
4:00 pm Blankets

Rev. Steve Lefebvre, Preaching

Weekly published by
First United Methodist Church
100 McGaughy, P.O. Box 452, Dyersburg, TN 38024
Church: 731-285-6454
Web Page—www.fumcdyersburg.com

Congrats,
GRADS
Class of 2026



CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Contribution statements through the end of March are going out soon, mostly by email. If you do not have an email on file, your statement will automatically be sent in the mail. If you do not receive yours, please let Karen know. She will be glad to print one for you.

Prayer Requests

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

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.

KIDMIN IS HOSTING A
POOL PARTY:
Summer Kickoff

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

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>.