

# THE WORD

A publication of Dyersburg First United Methodist Church

Volume LI

June 23, 2026

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## PASTORAL THOUGHTS

Rev. Emily Sanford

Greetings Dyersburg FUMC family,

I am wrapping up the final days of my current appointment in Mississippi and preparing to move to West Tennessee. It was a joy to meet many of the staff and church leadership last month! I also had the opportunity to attend two days of the TWK Annual Conference after being part of the Mississippi Annual Conference the first week of June. When I walked forward to receive holy communion during the Memorial Service, I passed by David Wagner on the way to the communion station and the rest of our Dyersburg crew after I had received the Lord's supper. In the midst of a crowded Sanctuary at FUMC Murfreesboro, I sensed God's assurance that I was right where I needed to be—receiving God's grace in a new place, while finding familiar, smiling faces meeting me along the way. During the morning communion service on Wednesday, I knelt for a few moments in prayer as God's Spirit connected me with a clergywoman next to me. As Rev. Nancy Varden offered a prayer and anointing, she began pouring out her heart. At the end of the prayer, I looked into her eyes and gave her a hug. She invited me to come sit in a rocking chair on her front porch, and I thanked her for being an answer to my prayer that day for connections and to find my people in a new conference! One of my favorite parts is—her name is Joy! God has a way of surprising us and providing who and what we need, even joy where we least expect it. I'm learning to trust God more and more.

I enjoyed spending time with our delegates from Dyersburg FUMC and their spouses, meeting many new colleagues, and reconnecting with folks I have known for decades from our broader UMC connection. Our congregation was represented well through our delegates as well as Rev. Robert Craig sharing about the Rhea House at the Reelfoot Rural Ministries table at the ministry fair. I was very proud to introduce myself as your incoming pastor to everyone I met. The appointments were set by our district superintendent, Rev. Nancy Varden, and Bishop David Graves on Wednesday at the close of TWK Annual Conference, so it's official!

I deeply appreciate your prayers and support in the transition! I cannot wait to get to know you, your families, the community of Dyersburg, and all the many ways God is already at work in and through this incredible congregation! I would love to join you on your front or back porch, on the baseball field, for a meal at your favorite restaurant, and simply meet you right where you are. In the midst of your summer travels and schedule, I want to make a connection with you and begin a strong foundation for deep relationships as we serve God together.

Grace and peace,  
Emily

**JUNE 28, 2026**

### USHERS

Lowell Beck  
Walt Bradshaw  
Baird Lewis  
Charlie Caldwell  
Pierce White

### GREETERS

Cindy Taylor  
Sandy Prince

### LITURGIST

David Hayes

### VIDEO RECORDER

Jared Agee

### 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 (6/14/2026)**

**ATTENDANCE**

Online Worship	74
In Person Worship	90
Sunday School	46

**OFFERING**

Income Year to Date	\$141,425.88
Expenses Year to Date	\$239,919.04
Income (April)	\$25,744.48
Expenses (April)	\$66,375.41

**PICTURES FROM ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
from Rev. Emily Sanford



**SUMMER KIDS CLUB 2026**

**JULY 11**

**POOL PARTY**  
2 PM - 4 PM

**MOVIE NIGHT**  
6 PM - 8 PM

**JULY 18**

**JULY 26**

**BACK TO SCHOOL BASH**  
2 PM - 5 PM

**FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL TORI:  
KIDMINFUMCDYERSBURG@GMAIL.COM**

**MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS**

**GENERAL FUND**

*In memory of:* Janie Stafford *Given by* Claudia Featherstone

**RESPITE FUND**

*In memory of:* Max Maddox David West *Given by* Betsy and Ed Kelly Molly Culbreath

**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.

**ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

Do you have information to be printed in the newsletter? Maybe you have a birth announcement, a wedding announcement, a prayer request/update, or an upcoming Sunday School social. Please send your information to Tori in the church office. It's easy. Call 731-285-6454 or email - [tfrazier@fumcdyersburg.com](mailto:tfrazier@fumcdyersburg.com). **Deadline is Tuesdays at noon the week before.**



- CANNED CORN**
- INSTANT POTATOES**
- CANNED FRUIT** any variety
- SHAMPOO**

# WELCOME RECEPTION



**REV. EMILY SANFORD**  
**ON JULY 12TH**

**9:00AM DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR**  
**IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

## WINSHAPE CAMP WAS AMAZING!

We had an awesome week of WinShape Camp here in Dyersburg, TN. We ate lots of icy juicies, cheered until our voice went, made new friends, tried new skills, and learned a lot about how meeting God on Holy Ground happens everyday. We're excited for WinShape 2027, so check out some memories from this year!



# FISHY SOCIAL

— Koinonia Class —

Sign up in Classroom



**SUNDAY, JUNE 28**

4:00 p.m | at Boyettes in Tiptonville

See Nancy West for more details



*Sunday, June 28, 2026*  
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Revised Common Lectionary  
Readings:  
Genesis 22:1-14  
Psalm 13  
Romans 6:12-23  
Matthew 10:40-42

9:15 am Sunday School  
10:00 am Fellowship Time  
10:15 am Worship

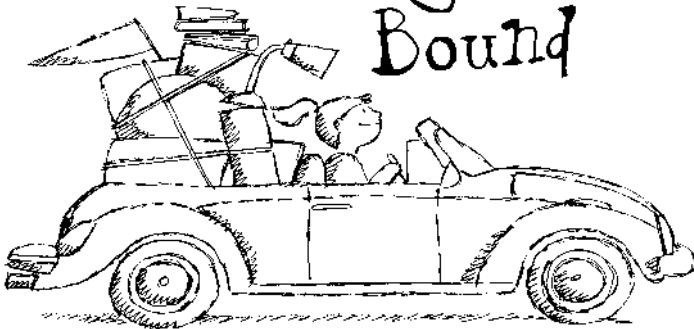
Rev. Robert Craig, Preaching

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The **July/August** 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.

## College Bound



If you have a child going off to college, now would be a great time for them to sign up on the church's webpage to get e-newsletters from the church. It's a great way to keep in touch with some home town news. <https://fumcdyersburg.com/media/newsletters>

# Prayer Requests

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

Cindy Taylor  
Tiffany Riggins (Elaine McCormick's daughter)  
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>.