

THE WORD

A publication of Dyersburg First United Methodist Church

Volume LI

June 30, 2026

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PASTORAL THOUGHTS

Rev. Emily Sanford

Dyersburg FUMC family,

Thank you again for the warm welcome I have received! I am grateful for Rev. Robert Craig for his leadership in this time of pastoral transition and enjoyed worshipping online this past Sunday. Several folks have asked, "What am I supposed to call you?" One church member even addressed their gift to me, "To: _____ Emily" since they didn't know what to call me! Most of the time my response is to simply call me Emily, but if you need to use a title, you are welcome to say "Rev. Emily" or "Pastor Emily." While I take my calling and pastoral responsibility seriously, I try not to take myself too seriously. I know that there have been many clergywomen who have gone before me (we are celebrating 70 years of women's ordination in the UMC) who have had to find their way through the stained glass ceiling of ordination and church leadership. Out of respect for them and the many names they have been called over the years, I truly cherish the name "Pastor."

Whenever a person claims me as your pastor in a social media post or out in public, I have a moment of affirmation and pride where I am caught off-guard as I realize that you are talking about me and entrusting me in the holy role of being YOUR pastor. It really makes my day!

Of course, here in the South, many people are in the habit of calling a preacher, "Brother." I grew up at Starkville FUMC calling our pastors "Brother Bob" and "Brother Bill." A few funeral home directors have called me brother over the years, and I know some female clergy who humorously embrace the title. While it's not my preference, I certainly can laugh about it when it happens. However, please know that if you make the natural substitution and call me "Sister Emily," I won't be offended, but I might burst out in a chorus from "Sister Act" or "Nunsense." That's just where my mind goes!

But regardless of what you choose to call me, I hope that you will call on me to be your pastor—to walk with you through challenging times, to pray with you, to encourage you to deepen your discipleship, to order the life of the church, and to help you discern God's calling on your life. I'm here to listen, and I'm excited about journeying with you in the days ahead. I can't wait to know each of you by name.

Before I lead worship for the first time on Sunday, July 12, our nation will mark an important milestone: America's 250th birthday on July 4, our Independence Day. As we celebrate, we also remember our freedom has come at a great cost and give thanks for all who have served in any way. May you have a safe and joy-filled holiday!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Emily

JULY 5, 2026

USHERS

Lowell Beck
Walt Bradshaw
Baird Lewis
Charlie Caldwell
Pierce White

GREETERS

Cindy Taylor
Sandy Prince

LITURGIST

Mark Hayes

VIDEO RECORDER

David Wagner

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

Join Us to Welcome Pastor Emily!

Potluck Breakfast Welcome Reception | Sunday, July 12 | 9:00 a.m. | During Sunday School
Bring a dish to share and come ready to meet your new pastor. We'd love to see the whole church family there!

RECORD OF LOYALTY

ATTENDANCE (6/21/26)

Online Worship	45
In Person Worship	105
Sunday School	52

ATTENDANCE (6/28/26)

Online Worship	55
In Person Worship	85
Sunday School	57

OFFERING

Income Year to Date	\$182,571.02
Expenses Year to Date	\$300,790.54
Income (May)	\$41,145.14
Expenses (May)	\$60,871.50

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.

Deadline is Tuesdays at noon the week before.

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

RESPITE FUND

In memory of:
David West

Given by
Richard & Betty Carraway

WELCOME RECEPTION



— Rhea House —

NEEDS:



CANNED CORN
INSTANT POTATOES
CANNED FRUIT any variety
SHAMPOO

ATTENTION CHURCH FAMILY

We have an extra copier from the preschool that could use a home. It is under lease for 32 more months. We are looking for someone who may be interested in the copier and willing to take on the monthly lease payments. It's a Konica Minolta C4050I with color copies. If you or your business may be interested to learn more about it, please contact Walt Bradshaw or Dustin Seratt.

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.

SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming Events

12 July

9:00am

Rev. Emily Sanford's
Welcome Reception
Potluck Breakfast - Fellowship Hall

26 July

2:00pm - 3:00pm

Back 2 School Bash Part 1
Church Family Kickball
Old Y Field

26 July

3:00pm - 5:00pm

Back 2 School Bash Part 2
Church Pool Party
Location TBD

26 July

11:30am - 12:30am

Acolyte/Crossbearer Training
Lunch Provided

2 August

10:15am - Worship

Blessing Sunday
• Backpack Blessing
• School Employee Blessing



Can I be honest with you for a second?

Summer has thrown me off, always does. The routines disappear, the kids sleep late, the schedule gets replaced with swim lessons and road trips and “what do you want for lunch?” approximately forty-seven times a day.

But here's what I keep coming back to: some of the most powerful discipleship moments don't happen in a classroom or a Sunday morning lesson. They happen in the car. At the dinner table. On a walk around the neighborhood when nobody's in a hurry to be anywhere.

Summer is actually a *GIFT* in disguise for families who want to grow together in faith. You don't need a curriculum binder or a family devotional schedule color-coded by day. What you do need is a little intentionality — the willingness to point your kids to Jesus in the in-between moments that summer gives you in abundance.

Start with what's already happening. Driving somewhere? Ask your kids, “What's something you've been worried about lately?” Open the Bible up to a verse to encourage them. Eating dinner out? Talk about something you each saw God do this week — even something small. Watching a thunderstorm roll in? That's a front-row seat to the power and creativity of God.

Discipleship doesn't have to be formal to be real. It just has to be *intentional*.

Your Summer Challenge:

Pick ONE simple thing your family will do consistently the rest of summer to keep Jesus at the center. Just one. It could be a 5-minute prayer before bed, a Bible verse on the fridge you talk about each week, or asking “how can we pray for you?”

Write it down. Tell someone. Watch what God does with your “yes” — even a small one.

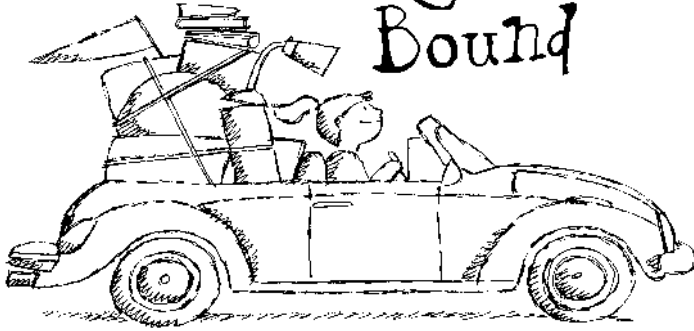
You've got this, families. And we're cheering you on every step of the way.

- Mrs. Tori



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.

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>.

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

Sunday, July 5, 2026
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Revised Common Lectionary
Readings:
Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
Psalms 45:10-17
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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

Rev. Robert Craig, Preaching



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