

THE WORD

A publication of Dyersburg First United Methodist Church

Volume LI

July 14, 2026

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PASTORAL THOUGHTS

Rev. Emily Sanford

Hello Church family,

Thank you for such a beautiful welcome reception on Sunday! It was a joy to experience my first official Sunday with you and share in Holy Communion. I felt God's Spirit in our midst, in particular as we sang "The Spirit Song."

I hope that each of you have found a place to plant your seeds from Sunday. If you missed picking them up in worship, we have a few extra here in the church office. I'd love for you to share pictures of where you plant them, so we can watch together as they grow and see how far and wide the seeds are sown. We'll continue in Matthew 13 this week with another parable of Jesus- the Wheat and the Weeds.

Of course, what some call weeds, others call wildflowers! I have noticed many beautiful gardens throughout Dyersburg. St. Thérèse of Lisieux (1873-1897) discovered in a field of wildflowers, an analogy to the spiritual life and her vocation that changed her life. In "Story of a Soul," she wrote: "I understood how all the flowers God has created are beautiful, how the splendor of the rose and the whiteness of the Lily do not take away the perfume of the little violet or the delightful simplicity of the daisy. I understood that if all flowers wanted to be roses, nature would lose her springtime beauty, and the fields would no longer be decked out with little wildflowers. And so it is in the world of souls, Jesus' garden."

I love the image of Jesus as a gardener, one who tends and cultivates our souls for growth and flourishing. We remember that as God created plants, animals, and all living things including humans in the beginning, God saw it was good. We are part of Jesus' garden—full of beauty and diversity. God has created each one of us with a purpose and a place to bloom. When we worry about trying to look like someone else, we miss out on living out who we are created to be.

So today, may you be rooted and grounded in God's love right where you are. Whether it is the side of a mountain, on the path, or an in between space, may you live into God's purpose to bring beauty and joy to others. I pray that we come together to form a brilliant display of God's creativity.

Grace and peace,
Emily

JULY 19, 2026

USHERS

Charles Brown
Mark Hayes
Dustin Seratt
Sam Petty
David Wagner

GREETERS

Maralyn Beck
Lisa Traverse

LITURGIST

Amy Lewis

VIDEO RECORDER

Will Bird



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

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

ATTENDANCE (7/12/26)

Online Worship	56
In Person Worship	117
Welcome Reception	83

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



...Family and friends of Mrs. Carolyn Cooper, who passed away on July 7. Carolyn was the financial secretary and treasurer for our church for 22 years before her retirement in 2013.

Visitation for family and friends was held by Dyersburg Funeral Home, Sunday, July 12.

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.

KIDMIN FUMC DYERSBURG



FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL MRS TORI:
TARMSTRONG@FUMCDYERSBURG.COM

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

RESPITE FUND

In memory of:
Dorothy Sue Avison

Given by
Alyce Ann Lecklitner





CANNED SOUP
SMALL CANS CANNED CHICKEN
BEEF STEW
SINGLE TOOTHBRUSHES



*** DYERSBURG ***

FIRST UNITED METHODIST Church

For Children

9:15 AM - Birth-Pre-K Sunday School
 9:15 AM - K-5th Sunday School
 10:15 AM - Birth-Pre-K Children's Church
 10:15 AM - K-2nd Children's Church
 4:00 PM - Blankets (2yr-5th Grade)

For Youth

9:15 AM - 6th-12th Sunday School
 4:00 PM - Fuel For the Soul (6th-12th Grade)

For Adults

9:15 AM - Koinonia Sunday School
 9:15 AM - Sojourners Sunday School

For Everyone

10:00 AM - Coffee and Fellowship
 (Gathering Space)
 10:15 AM - Worship Service (Sanctuary)

We have a place for you!



Some quick encouragement for you!

Some days I wonder if we put too much pressure on ourselves as parents to have the perfect devotional, the right words, the Pinterest-worthy family quiet time. Then I remember...that's not actually what our kids need most.

They need US. Present. Willing to talk about God like He's real, because He is.

You are the primary disciple-maker in your child's life. Not me, not our church, not their favorite Bible teacher. YOU. That's not a weight meant to crush you — it's a gift meant to free you, because it means you don't need a special program to do this well. You just need to keep showing up.

Maybe that looks like answering a hard question honestly instead of rushing past it. Maybe it's letting your kids see you pray when you're worried, not just when things are fine. Maybe it's simply saying, "I don't know, but let's find out together," when they ask something about God that you don't know the answer to.

Your kids are watching how you carry your faith more than they're listening to what you say about it. From what I see in our church family, you're doing better than you think.

So if today was messy, if the Bible stayed closed and the prayer got skipped... don't worry...you haven't failed. *You're still their person. There's still tomorrow.*

God is doing more in your homes than you can see.

Keep going, families.

Mrs. Tori

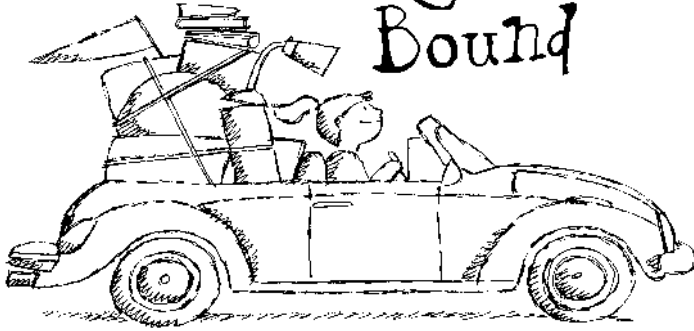
ATTENTION CHURCH FAMILY

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.



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

#13490
Periodicals
Paid at
Dyersburg, TN

Sunday, July 19, 2026
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Revised Common Lectionary
Readings:
Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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

Rev. Emily Sanford, Preaching

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