

THE WORD

A publication of Dyersburg First United Methodist Church

Volume L

July 16, 2025

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PASTORAL THOUGHTS

Rev. Steve Lefebvre

My dear friends in Christ,

It has begun. With yesterday's beautiful, loving, and Spirit-filled service celebrating this new appointment, our next chapter together at First UMC is officially underway. I am so grateful to your previous pastor and my friend, Mary Beth, for her resiliency and grace leading you all through a very painful six years. Though we've cut back many branches in her time here, the core that remains of this community shines beautifully.

I know growth is on many of our minds. Will we ever again see as many people in the pews as we did before COVID, disaffiliation, and all that came with it? Honestly, I don't know exactly what God has in store for the future of our church, but I do know this: we are absolutely moving in the right direction.

Church growth experts consistently tell us that the number one reason someone visits a new church for the first time is because someone personally invited them. I've seen the many ways you've already been spreading the word—including that gigantic banner with my face on it! Thank you for your efforts, and keep it up - but perhaps one sign with my face on it is enough.

Still, let's be honest: having a shiny new preacher with cute kids can only draw people for so long. Real, lasting growth—the kind that transforms lives through the love of Jesus Christ—takes time. It happens when we commit to meaningful work in Christ's name, when we remain passionate about acts of mercy and service to our community, when we grow in love for God and one another, and when we open our doors with grace and welcome.

That's how the Kingdom of God takes root—on earth as it is in heaven. That kind of growth matters far more than average Sunday attendance.

So keep going. Keep loving. Keep serving. Keep inviting your friends to be part of the good and blessed work we're doing together.

The people will come.

Grace and peace to you,
Pastor Steve

SUNDAY, JULY 20

USHERS

Pierce White
Lowell Beck
Charles Brown
Mark Hayes
Dustin Seratt

GREETERS

Baird Lewis
Carolyn Helton

LITURGIST

Beth Feith

VIDEO RECORDER

Will Bird

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 (7/13/2025)

ATTENDANCE

Online Worship	841
In Person Worship	144
Sunday School (Lefebvre Reception)	112

OFFERING

Income Year to Date	\$258,149.06
Expenses Year to Date	\$334,148.43
Income (May)	\$61,341.91
Expenses (May)	\$118,411.04
Communion Offering (School Supplies)	\$1139.00



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.

SUMMER CALENDAR OF EVENTS
FUMC Dyersburg KidMin

June 21 Hide N Seek & Movie Party 5 pm - 7 pm

June 28 BARTON HOME TIME 3-5pm Summer Kick-off Pool Party **DONE**

July 12 Splash Pad Meetup 11 am - 1 pm

July 19 Bird Home TIME TBD Evening Pool Party

July 26 irl Board Game Fun 5 pm - 7 pm

WinShape Camps June 2-6 Register at: <https://camps.winshape.org/day-camps/dyersburg-tn/>

For more info contact us at: kidminfumcdyersburg@gmail.com

Church Family BACK TO SCHOOL BASH
3 AUGUST 2025
4:00pm
Kickball and Pool Party
Kickball at the old Y field
Pool Party at the Bird's home

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 and Karen in the church office. It's easy. Call 731-285-6454 or email - tfrazier@fumcdyersburg.com kkesterson@fumcdyersburg.com.

Send to both emails to make sure we get your information correct and into the newsletter.

Deadline is Tuesdays at noon each week.



A Ray of Hope at the
Rhea House
"Restoring Hope, One Relationship at a Time."
 (731) 285-6454




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.

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 (731-285-6454) 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.



NOT GETTING CHURCH EMAILS?

We have been experiencing undeliverable emails for church members' accounts. If you regularly get emails from any of the staff, please add us to your email contacts and safe sender list. Our emails are not always getting through. This will help keep it from getting blocked or going to spam and junk mail.

Church Mass Email

noreply@shelbynexthms.com

Rev. Steve Lefebvre, Senior Pastor

steve@fumcdyersburg.com

Matthew Brown, Building Superintendent

mbrown@fumcdyersburg.com

Tori Armstrong, Director of Children's Ministry

tfrazier@fumcdyersburg.com

Karen Kesterson, Administrative Assistant

kkesterson@fumcdyersburg.com

Desiree Dolan, Director of Music & Worship Arts

ddolan@fumcdyersburg.com

Paula Brandt, Preschool Director

fumcpreschooldirector100@gmail.com



TREET
Chicken Noodle Soup
Tuna

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>.

prayer Requests

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

Texas Flood Victims and Families

Ardis Phillips

Carolyn Cooper - Bells Nursing and Rehab. Center,
 213 Herndon Drive, Room 218, Bells, TN 38006

Bill Troy

Ron Gathright

George Robertson

Cherry Robertson

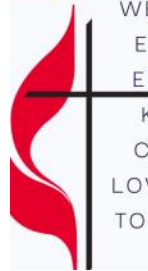
Linda Jones

**Please continue to remember the Home Bound.*

**If you'd like to send cards, contact the church office for addresses if you need them.*

HOSPITALITY CORNER

FROM YOUR EVANGELISM TEAM



WE ARE THANKFUL TO OUR CREATOR FOR EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD, BUT MOST ESPECIALLY FOR LOVING US. WHEN WE KNOW HOW MUCH GOD LOVES US, WE CANNOT HELP LOVING GOD IN RETURN. LOVING GOD FORMS A BENEVOLENT HEART TOWARDS OTHERS BECAUSE WE KNOW OF GOD'S LOVE FOR THEM.

Sunday, July 20, 2025
Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

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

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Amos 8:1-12

Psalm 52

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

9:00 am Sunday School

9:45 am Fellowship Time

10:15 am Worship

Rev. Stephen Lefebvre, Preaching

Weekly published by

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Church: 731-285-6454

Web Page—www.fumcdyersburg.com

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