



THE WORD

A publication of Dyersburg First United Methodist Church

Volume LI

July 21, 2026

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PASTORAL THOUGHTS

Rev. Emily Sanford

Dyersburg FUMC family,

This Sunday we are going to celebrate Christmas in July, and I'm looking forward to singing Christmas carols and experiencing the Christmas story with you! I hope that you will experience it in a fresh way in a different season—though we know that we are still in the hustle and bustle with the end of the summer approaching and our teachers returning to school next week. While our service will still be quite traditional in terms of music and format, you are encouraged to dress festively in summer beachwear style. You might wear a Hawaiian shirt and bright colors instead of busting out your ugly (and hot!) Christmas sweater. Please take time the next few days to personally invite family, friends, neighbors, or co-workers to join us this Sunday.

Flamingos are such a tangible picture of God's creativity. I recently came across the quote, "why fit in when you were born to stand out?" All too often, we spend our energy trying to look like someone else or match the expectations of others rather than simply being the unique person God has created us to be. Even as a church we can fall into that same trap of comparing ourselves to other congregations or even the congregation you were years ago rather than who we are called to be in this season. Did you know that the vibrant color of the flamingos actually comes from their diet? At birth, they are gray. When they are malnourished, they are white or pale. However, their feathers become vibrant when they eat a diet of shrimp and algae.

God has created each one of us with gifts to share with the community of faith. Consider your own spiritual health—are you vibrant like a flamingo and glowing with the light of Christ or are you malnourished and worn out? Perhaps you might take a look at your spiritual diet to make sure you are spending time in scripture and prayer. Maybe you have been missing the connection and encouragement that we receive in community through regular worship, Sunday School, Bible Study, sacraments, and serving others. If you are in a season of spiritual health and vibrance, it can be an encouragement to others for you to share the source of your joy and fulfillment.

I'm dreaming of a pink Christmas this Sunday, July 26! One where we can proclaim together: "Joy to the world! The Lord is come, Let earth receive her King! Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing...sing...sing!"

Merry Christmas (in July)!
Emily

JULY 26, 2026

USHERS

Charles Brown
Mark Hayes
Dustin Seratt
Sam Petty
David Wagner

GREETERS

Maralyn Beck
Lisa Traverse

LITURGIST

Baird Lewis

VIDEO RECORDER

John Feith



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 (7/19/26)

Online Worship	83
In Person Worship	107
Welcome Reception	34

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
Communion (School Drive)	\$711.00

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Given by</i>
Dorothy Sue Avison	Keith and Lockey Sue Rodden



...Sympathy and prayers to Mrs. Gay Carole Wagner and family in the death of her brother, Carley Lester, who passed away July 19, in Johnson City, TN.

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.



CANNED SOUP
SMALL CANS CANNED CHICKEN
BEEF STEW
SINGLE TOOTHBRUSHES

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!



Blankets is Back on August 2nd!

Mark your calendars, friends! Blankets returns Sunday, August 2nd from 4:00-5:30pm!

If you're new to our church family (or just need a refresher): **BLANKETS** is our evening programming for kids ages 2 through 5th grade. It's a night for your kids to play, laugh, worship, dig into God's Word, and create something with their hands - all in one evening.

I know evenings can be a lot to keep straight, so here's what a typical Blankets night looks like:

- 4:00-4:10pm — Welcome & Free Play
- 4:12-4:25pm — Game Time
- 4:30-4:40pm — Worship
- 4:40-5:00pm — Lesson Time
- 5:05-5:15pm — Snack Time
- 5:15-5:25pm — Craft/Activity Time
- 5:30pm — Check Out & Dismissal

We have fun - **a lot of it** -but we're not just winging it. Every minute is planned with your kids in mind, so you can drop them off knowing exactly what their evening holds, and know that we're teaching them Biblical truths in ways that are relevant to their age levels.

Our full ministry calendar went out before this newsletter was printed, but if it slipped past you (it happens!), we'll have paper copies available at church. Grab one and stick it on the fridge.

We can't wait to see your kids on August 2nd!

Mrs. Tori



<https://min.link/Y7e>



KidMin's
BLANKETS

Bring your little ones aged
2yr through 5th grade to a
night full of fun and faith
adventures!

SUNDAY 4-5:30PM
Starts back Aug 2nd!

Email Mrs. Tori to learn more or you
have questions.

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 26, 2026
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Revised Common Lectionary
Readings:
Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

9:15 am Sunday School
9:15 am Acolyte/Crossbearer
Training (3rd-5th Grade)
10:00 am Fellowship Time
10:15 am Worship
2:00 pm Back to School Bash

Rev. Emily Sanford, Preaching

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