



THE WORD

A publication of Dyersburg First United Methodist Church

Volume LI

August 11, 2026

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PASTORAL THOUGHTS

Rev. Emily Sanford

Church family,

It's hard to believe that I have been here with you a little over one month! We've had an incredible summer, but it has flown by all too quickly. A few of the highlights have included:

- Welcome Reception and Celebration of a New Appointment on July 12
- Rhea House assisted 171 households with a total of 411 members with groceries and 54 households with a total of 147 members in other ways in June and July
- Christmas in July and Presentation of Third Grade Bibles
- Blessing of the Backpacks and Those in the Field of Education
- On-boarding with Staff and Lay Leadership
- Annual End of Summer Kickball game and Pool Party

The song "Seasons of Love" from the musical *Rent* plays in my mind as I think about the past month:

525,600 minutes, 525,000 moments so dear.

525,600 minutes - how do you measure, measure a year?

In daylight, in sunsets, in midnights, in cups of coffee.

In inches, in miles, in laughter, in strife. In 525,600 minutes - how do you measure a year in the life? How about love?...Measure in love. Seasons of love.

I am grateful for the time I have had with you already, and I look forward to spending more time serving alongside you in worship, Bible study, and ministry together. In *Just Like Jesus*, Max Lucado writes that the average American spends a total of six months waiting at stoplights, eight months opening junk mail, 18 months looking for items we've lost and five years standing in line. All the while, many of us grumble: "What a waste of time! I could be doing something much more important! Where are my keys?" But Lucado suggests that we give these moments to God. Rather than whispering to ourselves, we can speak to God in prayer "Simple phrases such as 'Thank you, Father,' 'Be sovereign in this hour, O Lord,' 'You are my resting place, Jesus' can turn a commute into a pilgrimage," he writes. "You needn't leave your office or kneel in your kitchen. Just pray where you are. Let the kitchen become a cathedral or the classroom a chapel. Give God your whispering thoughts." When we do this, "the common becomes uncommon," Lucado adds. What's more, "wasted" time becomes valuable; boring waits become meditative; the lost — your time, if not also your keys — is redeemed.

I hope that as we enter the fall semester that we will seek God in all of our moments—nothing is wasted in God's economy. May you be blessed to be a blessing as God redeems the time that seems "wasted" in your life.

Grace and peace,
Emily

AUGUST 16, 2026

USHERS

Bill Yates
Amy Lewis
Tim Taylor
Billy Ozment
Steven Parker

GREETERS

Lena Lewis
David Hayes

LITURGIST

Nancy West

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 (8/9/26)

Online Worship	87
In Person Worship	101
Sunday School	48

OFFERING

Income Year to Date	\$242,086.84
Expenses Year to Date	\$347,178.28
Income (June)	\$59,515.82
Expenses (June)	\$46,387.74



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 - UMYF (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!

UPDATES FROM PASTOR EMILY

I look forward to working with a team to consider what some mid-week opportunities for food, study, and fellowship might look like. Please let me know if you would like to serve on a team or provide input.

I will be away from the office the week of August 17, and I am grateful that Rev. Phillip Cook has agreed to be "on call" if there are any pastoral needs while I am out of town.

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

GENERAL FUND

In memory of:

Katherine Evans
Katherine Evans
Katherine Evans
Katherine Evans
Katherine Evans
Katherine Evans
Katherine Evans
Katherine Evans
Katherine Evans
Katherine Evans
Katherine Evans
Robert Jamison

Given by

Elizabeth and David Dingess
Sallye and Bruce Dunlap
Linda and David Gregory
Sissie and Glenn Hargreaves
Janie Puckett Hendrix
Kristen and Dave Malone
Mary Jane and Michael McWherter
Becky and Guy Parker
Peri Pate
Greg Patton
Mary Sharp
Sara and David Hayes

PANTRY FUND

In memory of:

Katherine Evans

Given by

Joan Gilliland

MUSIC FUND

In memory of:

Katherine Evans

Given by

Amy and Patrick Heckethorn

REELFOOT RURAL MINISTRIES

In memory of:

Edgar Shults

Given by

Amy and Patrick Heckethorn

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of:

Katherine Evans
Katherine Evans

Given by

Jennifer Davis
Debbie and Rick Hill

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.



SCAN THE QR CODE & FIND
OUT MORE OF OUR
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



<https://min.link/Y7e>

FUMC Dyersburg
**YOUTH
GROUP**
Upcoming Events

August 16, 2026

Trip to Fusion Newbern
Leave after church (by
the church bus) **11:30AM**
All 6th to 12 Graders are
welcome to join us!

August 22, 2026

Memphis Red Birds Game
Leave at 2:30 pm
Talk with the Birds by
Sunday Aug 16th to join so
we can get the correct
number of tickets!

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.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

This quarter's contribution statements will be sent out soon. If you do not get yours or need to update something, please call or email, Karen in the church office. 731-285-6454, kkesterson@fumcdyersburg.com.

Safe Sanctuary

**KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE:
SAFE SANCTUARY**

Here at First United Methodist Church of Dyersburg, protecting our children, youth, and vulnerable persons isn't just a policy — it's something we take to heart. Our Safe Sanctuary guidelines are in place so every child in our care is safe, and so every volunteer and staff member serving them is supported and protected too.

If you work with kids, youth, or vulnerable persons in any capacity — whether you're a Sunday school teacher, a youth leader, a paid staff member, or a volunteer who helps out here and there — Safe Sanctuary training is required. This isn't a box to check. It's how we look out for one another and for the families who trust us with their kids.

Certifications expire every year, so if yours is due for renewal (or you haven't gotten started yet), just reach out to me, Tori Armstrong, at tfrazier@fumcdyersburg.com and I'll get you set up.

Thank you for helping keep our church a safe, trusted place for everyone who walks through our doors.

Rhea House

NEEDS:



SOAP

SMALL BOXES MAC N CHEESE

PASTA SAUCE

SMALL JARS OF JELLY

1ST THROUGH 5TH GRADE

19-20 SEPT

1:00PM -
10:15AM

KIDMIN FUMCDYERSBURG

**LOCK
IN**

REGISTER AT:

<https://min.link/dsm>

prayer Requests

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

Rebecca Sanders (Vicki Dunagan's mother)
Kelly King
Children of Ginny and Bill Acree
Cindy Taylor and Family
Randy Prince
Family of Katherine Evans
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, August 16, 2026
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Revised Common Lectionary

Readings:

Genesis 45:1-15

Psalms 133

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

9:15 am Sunday School

10:00 am Fellowship Time

10:15 am Worship

11:30 am Youth Lunch at Fusion

Newbern (by church bus)

2:00 pm Parish Choir

4:00 pm Blankets

(2yr - 5th Grade)

Rev. Emily Sanford, Preaching

Weekly published by

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Church: 731-285-6454

Web Page—www.fumcdyersburg.com