



THE WORD

A publication of Dyersburg First United Methodist

Volume LI

August 25, 2026

Copy 34

PASTORAL THOUGHTS

Rev. Emily Sanford

Church Family,

This past Sunday we began a new worship series called “Lessons in Leadership.” I hope you recognize that we are all leaders with our own spheres of influence and places where our gifts make an impact. This week, we will continue in Exodus 3 as the baby boy from the bulrushes has grown up and finds himself tending his father-in-law’s flock in the wilderness. Right in the middle of an ordinary day, something catches his attention: a bush was burning, but it was not consumed. Concerning this passage, Rabbi Lawrence Kushner writes:

The ‘burning bush’ was not a miracle. It was a test. God wanted to find out whether or not Moses could pay attention for more than a few minutes. When Moses did, God spoke. The trick is to pay attention to what is going on around you long enough to behold the miracle without falling asleep. There is another world right here within this one, whenever we pay attention. [Lawrence Kushner, *God was in This Place and I Did Not Know: Finding Self, Spirituality, & Ultimate Meaning* (Woodstock VT: Jewish Lights Publishing, 1991)]

The bush was already burning. God was already present. The ground was already holy. But Moses did not recognize any of it until he stepped away from the path he was walking and turned aside to see. Sometimes we have to pause and slow down long enough to experience the extraordinary in the midst of the ordinary. Moses doesn’t create the miracle, but he stops what he is doing and makes himself available to it.

God may be trying to capture our attention through the person who keeps coming to mind, or the suffering we would rather overlook, or the conversation we need to begin, or through the gift in us that has gone unused.

Sometimes in my discernment, I long for the burning bush moment. I want clarity and a strong sense of God’s direction. But when I’m honest with myself, I am often preoccupied or so focused on the path ahead of me that I don’t stop to pay attention to God’s presence right before me. So I encourage you to pause when beauty interrupts you. When suffering troubles you, linger and look again. When a person captures your attention, become curious and reach out to them. When an idea refuses to leave you alone, bring it before God in prayer. Create enough space to pray: “God, is there something you want me to see?” Then listen.

The bush is already burning. The ground is already holy. God is ready to show you wonders you have not yet experienced, work you have not yet imagined, and a future you thought impossible. The question is: Will you turn aside and see?

I’m excited about the ways God is at work here in Dyersburg. As you are discerning your own gifts, I hope that you will consider ways you can serve and share through our ministries. May we pause and pay attention and follow where the Spirit leads us, and like Moses respond with the words, “Here I Am, Lord.”

Grace and peace,
Emily

AUGUST 30, 2026

USHERS

Bill Yates
Amy Lewis
Tim Taylor
Billy Ozment
Steven Parker

GREETERS

Lena Lewis
David Hayes

LITURGIST

Will Bird

VIDEO RECORDER

Jared Agee



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 (8/23/26)

Online Worship	81
In Person Worship	100
Sunday School	44

OFFERING

Income Year to Date	\$299,627.80
Expenses Year to Date	\$931,752.92
Income (July)	\$57,540.96
Expenses (July)	\$44,574.64



*** 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
- 5:30 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!



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



<https://min.link/Y7e>

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

PANTRY FUND

In memory of:

Katherine Evans
Robert Jamison

Given by

Lowell & Maralyn Beck
Lowell & Maralyn Beck



Our Current Sunday Sermon Series

ATTENTION CHURCH FAMILY

We have an extra copier that could use a home. It is under lease for less than 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.



SOAP
SMALL BOXES MAC N CHEESE
PASTA SAUCE
SMALL JARS OF JELLY

FUMC DYERSBURG

YOUTH GROUP

Gathering at the Bird's home
5:30pm - 8/30/26



5th SUNDAY POTLUCK

Join us THIS SUNDAY, Aug 30th, at 9:00am for our 5th Sunday POTLUCK Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish you would like to share with your church family. We can't wait to see you all this weekend!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Study! Food! Growth!

IT'S COMING BACK!
MARK YOUR CALENDERS
FOR SEPT 16TH

THANKS, FROM REELFOOT RURAL MINISTRIES

Dear Dyersburg FUMC,

This spring has been an exciting time at Reelfoot Rural Ministries. There have been five volunteer teams that have stayed with us on campus in the dorm to assist several of our neighbors with repair needs around their homes. The ReelHOME accessibility and repair program helps seniors to age in place in a safer and healthier home.

Several small projects were completed as well as a major project for the grocery ministry. One team completed a storage building to store food, hygiene products, and household supplies for the grocery store in the Rhea House in Dyersburg.

Your continued support of the work through Reelfoot Rural Ministries allows us to say "yes" when a neighbor has a repair or accessibility need beyond their budget. You are an important part of this hope-restoring ministry, and you are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for the financial support you have given as a church family. Because of your generosity, we can be present in times of need for our neighbors in the Northwest Tennessee and Southwest Kentucky area. May God bless you and those for whom you pray.

Peace,
Robert Craig
Executive Director

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.

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.

1ST THROUGH 5TH GRADE

19-20 SEPT

1:00 PM -
10:15 AM

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
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

Sunday, August 30, 2026
Fourteenth Sunday after
Pentecost

Revised Common Lectionary
Readings:

Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

9:15 am Sunday School
10:00 am Fellowship Time
10:15 am Worship
2:00 pm Parish Choir
4:00 pm Blankets
(2yr - 5th Grade)
5:30 pm Youth
at Bird's Home

Rev. Emily Sanford,
Preaching

#13490
Periodicals
Paid at
Dyersburg, TN

Weekly published by

First United Methodist Church

100 McGaughey, P.O. Box 452, Dyersburg, TN 38024

Church: 731-285-6454

Web Page—www.fumcdyersburg.com