

THE WORD

A publication of Dyersburg First United Methodist Church

Volume L

August 28, 2025

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PASTORAL THOUGHTS

Pastor: Rev. Steve Lefebvre

Dear Friends in Christ,

This past Sunday was a tough one. Our preschool gossip made the front page of the local paper, our church van was vandalized, our children's director was out sick, and somewhere in the middle of it all I managed to lose my wife's wallet at Walmart (thankfully, someone turned it in!).

Let me assure you: we are handling the preschool situation with openness, cooperation, and transparency and the children are safe and being lovingly cared for. Let me also say this—there are no enemies here. What we face are concerned parents and social media platforms that too often reward outrage. My prayer is that we continue to respond to our neighbors with kindness, grace, and truth. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Even with all the distractions, Sunday was a deeply meaningful morning together, wasn't it? The Holy Spirit was alive and present among us. In spite of the enemies best efforts to derail our works of grace and mercy: The Rhea House just received eight pallets of food from Reelfoot Rural Ministries, which will bless hundreds of hungry families this fall. We have hired a new choir director! She will join us in just a few weeks and I can't wait for you to meet her. Our children and youth ministries continue to thrive. Beginning September 17th, we will gather once again on Wednesday nights. We will offer a variety of small groups; it will be a time for healing, listening, and discerning where God is leading us next.

On Sunday, I preached about being set free together. It once again resonated deeply with so many of you. I believe Christ has been working over these past years to set our church free from many kinds of bondage. That work has been painful, and we grieve our losses but who and what remains is strong, faithful, and lovingly working to build God's Kingdom here in Dyersburg.

The dust will settle. God is faithful. If we keep our eyes on the love and healing of Jesus Christ, and hold fast to one another with grace and mercy, we will discover a freedom that brings great joy.

Hang in there, friends—the best is yet to come.

Grace and peace to you all,

Pastor Steve

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

USHERS

Charles Brown
Thomas Lemons
Tim Taylor
Baird Lewis
Bill Yates

GREETERS

David Hayes
Sandy Prince

LITURGIST

Ellie Chandler

VIDEO RECORDER

David Wagner

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 (8/24/2025)

ATTENDANCE

Online Worship	33
In Person Worship	110
Sunday School	63

OFFERING

Income Year to Date	\$462,169.89
Expenses Year to Date	\$455,591.14
Income (July)	\$51,991.47
Expenses (July)	\$52,397.76

ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER

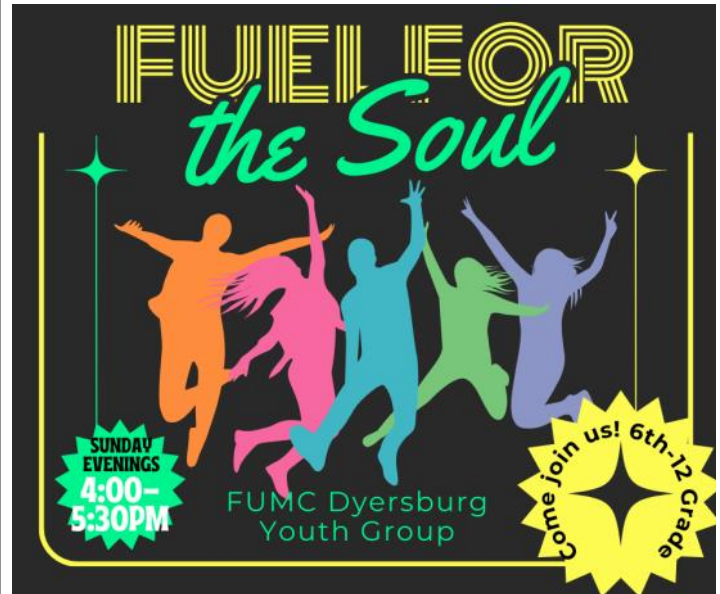
Do you have information to be printed in the newsletter? Maybe you have a birth announcement, a wedding announcement, a prayer request/update, or an upcoming Sunday School social. Please send your information to Tori and Karen in the church office. It's easy. Call 731-285-6454 or email - tfrazier@fumcdyersburg.com 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.



The **September/October** 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.



RECEIVING THE WORD NEWSLETTER

Hello Church Family,

As we look ahead, we anticipate some necessary changes in how *The Word* is shared. To help us plan, we are asking every household to let us know how you would like to receive the newsletter—or if you would prefer not to receive it at all. You can complete the form online (link below) or fill out a paper version available at the church office and return it to the church office by **September 22**. This change is needed because we are soon to fall below the minimum number of recipients required for the USPS bulk mail rate. Your response will help us continue sharing *The Word* in the best way possible.

Peace & Grace
Tori

<https://min.link/V25>



1ST THROUGH 6TH GRADE

20-21 SEPT
12:45PM -
9:45AM

KIDMIN FUMCDYERSBURG

**LOCK
IN**

REGISTER AT:

[HTTPS://MIN.LINK/V23](https://min.link/v23)

COMING SOON: ARCHIVES & RECORDS ROOM

A new addition to the church campus is the Archives & History Room. The contents of this room will preserve and celebrate the rich spiritual heritage of Dyersburg First United Methodist Church for generations to come.

The room will house valuable historical documents, photographs, artifacts and records that tell the story of our faith community's journey beginning in 1842 and continuing through the present and moving into the future. The Archives & History Room will provide a secure, organized and welcoming environment where members and visitors can explore our legacy and be inspired by the enduring impact of our ministry.

Much has already been done to physically transform the room which housed the Food Pantry before its relocation to the Rhea House. The room now has new flooring, lighting, paint and bookshelves. However, the room's contents will be its highlight. There will be bulletins from the 1940's to the present as well as all editions of *The Way* and *The Word*. Other items will be membership records which date as far back as 1892, minutes of Administrative Board (now Church Council) meetings, photos and a display of blueprints and other schematic drawings of structural additions and alterations over the years, and there will be more, too. Having a dedicated space for displaying the church's history will allow us to honor our past while building a stronger foundation for the future. Thank you for your support of the Food Pantry Ministry



— *Rhea House* —

NEEDS:



**30-40 oz Laundry Detergent -
Men's Deodorant - Women's Deodorant -
Feminine Hygeine Products**

FROM THE CHURCH ARCHIVES * THE NEWSLETTER TURNS 67!

THE FIRST EDITION OF THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER, THEN THE WAY, DEBUTED ON AUGUST 27, 1958. THE FOLLOWING WAS THE INTRODUCTORY ARTICLE:

This is The Way.

This little weekly paper comes to you to tell you of the Christian WAY and the Methodist WAY. We firmly believe that they are the same. We hope and pray that they will always be the same. We have called this mid-week paper "THE WAY" because we feel that this paper will carry the news of the way to worship, serve and live with our Lord. Let us always remember that the WAY of Christ is the only WAY that leads to abundant living.

J Dan/Coming Soon: Archives & History Room

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**.

Nadia Browning
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.*



Tomato Soup
Chicken Noodle Soup
Vienna Sausage

Sunday, August 31, 2025
Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Jeremiah 2:4-13
Psalms 81:1, 10-16
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

9:00 am Potluck Breakfast
10:00 am Fellowship Time
10:15 am Worship

Rev. Steven Lefebvre, Preaching

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

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