

THE WORD

A publication of Dyersburg First United Methodist Church

Volume LI

August 5, 2026

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PASTORAL THOUGHTS

Rev. Emily Sanford

Church family,

Our prayers are with our students, teachers, staff, and administrators as school begins. I'm grateful for the way our congregation embraces children in the life of the church and takes our baptismal covenant with them and their families very seriously. Of course, we make this commitment not only for our children but all of us at every age and stage of life. As a congregation, we promise that:

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

I smiled when I heard young voices proudly reciting the Lord's Prayer with us on Sunday. (Thanks to Mrs. Todameka for teaching them!)

We live into that promise everyday through our Sunday School classes, ministries to all ages, worship, and care for one another. This past Sunday, we shared in a special blessing of the backpacks to recognize and lift up our students, teachers, and school staff in prayer. We focused on the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000. When Jesus asked the disciples to give them something to eat, they responded by saying that there is only enough for "us." Which is true both in the beginning and throughout the story. Part of the miracle that happens is the transformation of the disciples' definition of "us." Their "us" was multiplied. We will see this happening too as we welcome guests and eventually new members in our congregation. As Jesus says to us, "you give them something to eat," how will we respond? Where is God inviting us from an economy of scarcity into one of abundance? As we share what we have, God works a miracle to transform us into people of generosity.

Whatever this week holds for you, I pray that you will give attention to your spiritual well-being and find a place to connect with a Sunday School class, small group, or way of serving. I trust that offering a "loaf" of your time to study God's Word and grow will be time well spent that God will redeem and multiply in your life. After all, the same power that raised Jesus from the dead and fed the 5000 is the same power at work in your life empowering you to serve God and love others. Our teachers have been preparing their classrooms, while parents and families are gathering supplies and getting children ready for school to start. How are you preparing for what God has in store for you this year? Are you ready to be filled with what God provides? I can only imagine what will happen as we all discover and respond to the Spirit at work in our lives. I'm excited to see what God will do with the "loaves and fish" you offer in faith today.

Grace and peace,
Emily

AUGUST 9, 2026

USHERS

Bill Yates
Amy Lewis
Tim Taylor
Billy Ozment
Steven Parker

GREETERS

Lena Lewis
David Hayes

LITURGIST

Thomas Lemons

VIDEO RECORDER

Walt Bradshaw



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 (8/2/26)

Online Worship	187
In Person Worship	126
Sunday School	56

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
Communion (Weekend Food for Kids)	\$756.00



...the children of Mrs. Katherine Evans, who passed on July 28, 2026; Mrs. Jane Sharp, Mrs. Lynn Johnson, Mr. Jimmy Evans, and Mrs. Amy Dennis. We also extend our heartfelt sympathy to Mr. Steve Guttery, her brother, and all the members of their loving family. Mrs. Katherine has been a member of our church since March 1951, for 75 years.



...Mrs. Cindy Taylor and her family with the passing of her father, Robert "Bob" Jamison, on August 3, 2026. Services will be held in Alpharetta, GA. Please keep Cindy and her family in your prayers.



<https://min.link/Y7e>

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.

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

GENERAL FUND

<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Given by</i>
Katherine Evans	Ronnie Cole
Katherine Evans	Penny Hearn Law

YOUTH FUND

<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Given by</i>
Katherine Evans	Richard Sharp

PANTRY FUND

<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Given by</i>
Tommy Barrineau	Bernie Cheatham

MUSIC FUND

<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Given by</i>
Katherine Evans	Paula and Darrell Whitaker, Joseph, Jack, and Martha

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.



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)

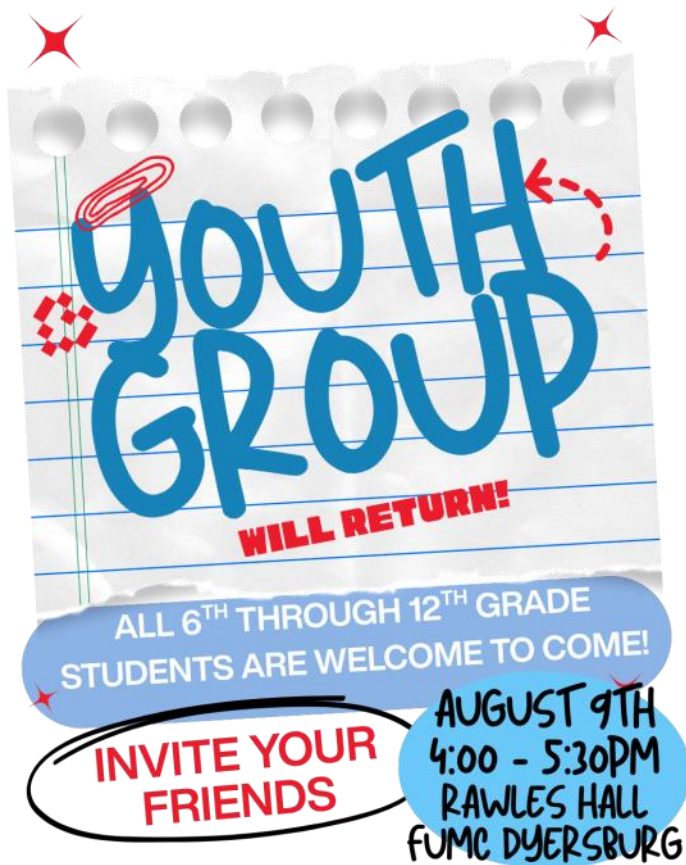
For Adults

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!



Parents are welcome to join us for our first night as we plan and prep for the year!



CANNED SOUP
SMALL CANS CANNED CHICKEN
BEEF STEW
SINGLE TOOTHBRUSHES



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.



Rise Against Hunger works in countries worldwide to fight hunger, targeting communities facing high rates of food insecurity.

Join the movement!

Will you join us for an exciting, hands-on volunteer opportunity to package meals for global hunger relief? Check out our Rise Against Hunger Experience meal packaging event details below. We hope to see you there!



August 22, 2026

9 am - 2 pm

Centerville UMC
 103 College Ave,
 Centerville, TN 37033

by TWK United Women in Faith

Open to Ladies ages 8-108

Call 931-242-0428 by August 10, 2026 to register!



**We had great time at the
onboarding with the church laity!**



Prayer Requests

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

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 9, 2026
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Revised Common Lectionary

Readings:

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Psalms 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

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)

4:00 pm Youth Group

(6th - 12th Grade)

Rev. Emily Sanford, Preaching

Weekly published by

First United Methodist Church

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Church: 731-285-6454

Web Page—www.fumcdyersburg.com