

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 13

10:00 a.m. First Cup Fellowship – GS
10:15 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary
4:00 p.m. Blankets – EW
5:30 p.m. Youth Group – RH

Tuesday, September 14

5:30 p.m. Garden Club – LCR

Wednesday, September 16

6:30 a.m. Men’s Prayer Breakfast – FH
11:30 a.m. Respite Community Luncheon – FH
12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Community Assistance – Rh H

Saturday, September 19

1:30 p.m. KidMin Lock-In Begins – RH

Sunday, September 20

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. KidMin Breakfast/Lock- In Check-Out – FH
10:00 a.m. First Cup Fellowship – GS
10:15 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary
4:00 p.m. Youth Bowling – Prime Time Bowling

EW – Education Wing
FH – Fellowship Hall
GS – Gathering Space – Room 217
KC – Koinonia Classroom
Rh H – Rhea House
RH – Rawles Hall
LCR – Lower Conference 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 mail them or give online. Checks can be mailed to P.O. Box 452, Dyersburg, TN 38025, online @ <https://fumcdyersburg.com/donate>, or scan the following QR code with your phone.



Assisting in Worship...

Pastor
The Rev. Emily Sanford

Liturgist
Beth Feith

Acolyte
Jim Agee

Cross Bearer
Mitchell Dishman

Director of Children’s Ministry
Tori Armstrong

Music Accompanist
Presley Dishman

Visuals
J Dan Gullett

Sound
Steve Guttery



ORDER OF WORSHIP
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026

✠ Please rise in body or in spirit. **Bold words** are spoken responsively.

THE GATHERING

Gathering Music

The Chimes

Welcome

✠ Call to Worship
Sing songs of hope and peace.
God’s love and power have lifted us.
Sing songs of mercy and grace.
God’s mercy and forgiveness frame our lives.
Thanks be to God for all God’s love and mercy.
Praise be to God for the healing power God extends to each one of us.

Christ in Our Midst

✠ Hymn of Praise
UMH 419 I Am Thine, O Lord I AM THINE
(vv. 1, 2, 3, 4)

✠ Opening Prayer
Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebration of Young Disciples
Afterwards, children ages birth through 2nd grade may join Mrs. Tori and Mrs. Todameka in the back of the sanctuary for Children's Church.

Bringing Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Music *I'm Still Holding On*
Roy Tipton, soloist

✚ Doxology OLD 100TH
UMH 94

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination
*Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit that,
as the Scriptures are read and the Word proclaimed, we may hear with
joy what you say to us today. Amen.*

Old Testament Reading Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 CEB
^{1b} I will sing to the Lord for an overflowing victory! Horse and rider,
he threw into the sea! ²The Lord is my strength and my power; he
has become my salvation. This is my God, whom I will praise, the
God of my ancestors, whom I will acclaim. ³The Lord is a warrior;
the Lord is his name. ⁴Pharaoh’s chariots and his army, he hurled into
the sea; his elite captains were sunk in the Reed Sea. ⁵The deep sea
covered them; they sank into the deep waters like a stone. ⁶Your
strong hand, Lord, is dominant in power; your strong hand, Lord,
shatters the enemy! ⁷With your great surge, you overthrow your
opponents; you send out your hot anger; it burns them up like straw.
⁸With the breath of your nostrils, the waters swelled up; the floods
surged up in a great wave; the deep waters foamed in the depths of
the sea. ⁹The enemy said, “I’ll pursue, I’ll overtake, I’ll divide the
spoils of war. I’ll be overfilled with them. I’ll draw my sword; my
hand will destroy them.” ¹⁰You blew with your wind; the sea covered
over them. They sank like lead in the towering waters. ¹¹Who is like
you among the gods, Lord? Who is like you, foremost in holiness,
worthy of highest praise, doing awesome deeds?

²⁰Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her
hand. All the women followed her playing tambourines and dancing.
²¹Miriam sang the refrain back to them: “Sing to the Lord, for an
overflowing victory! Horse and rider, he threw into the sea!”

Response to the Word
The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

✚ Hymn of Preparation
UMH 365 *Grace Greater Than Our Sin* MOODY
(vv. 1, 2, 3, 4)

✚ Gospel Lesson Matthew 18:21-35 CEB
²¹Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, how many times should I forgive
my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as
seven times?” ²²Jesus said, “Not just seven times, but rather as many
as seventy-seven times. ²³Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a
king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he
began to settle accounts, they brought to him a servant who owed
him ten thousand bags of gold. ²⁵Because the servant didn’t have
enough to pay it back, the master ordered that he should be sold,
along with his wife and children and everything he had, and that the
proceeds should be used as payment. ²⁶But the servant fell down,
kneeled before him, and said, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I’ll pay
you back.’ ²⁷The master had compassion on that servant, released him,
and forgave the loan. ²⁸When that servant went out, he found one of
his fellow servants who owed him one hundred coins. He grabbed
him around the throat and said, ‘Pay me back what you owe me.’
²⁹Then his fellow servant fell down and begged him, ‘Be patient with
me, and I’ll pay you back.’ ³⁰But he refused. Instead, he threw him
into prison until he paid back his debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw
what happened, they were deeply offended. They came and told their
master all that happened. ³²His master called the first servant and said,
‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you appealed
to me. ³³Shouldn’t you also have mercy on your fellow servant, just
as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴His master was furious and handed him
over to the guard responsible for punishing prisoners, until he had
paid the whole debt. ³⁵My heavenly Father will also do the same to
you if you don’t forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Response to the Word
The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon *Lessons in Leadership: Grace*

✚ Affirmation of Faith
UMH 883
A Statement of Faith of The United Church of Canada

**We are not alone; we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,**

**to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God. Amen. Amen.**

✚ Gloria Patri *Glory Be to the Father* MEINEKE
UMH 70
*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.*

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer
*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy
kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us
this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive
those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but
deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and
the glory, forever. Amen.*

✚ Invitation to Christian Discipleship

SENDING FORTH
✚ Sending Hymn
UMH 354 *I Surrender All* SURRENDER
(vv. 1, 2, 3, 4)

✚ Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

✚ Benediction

✚ Postlude
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*Lessons in Leadership: Grace*

Today, our worship focuses on the transformative power of leading with  
grace and the ongoing work of reconciliation. True grace is not about  
avoiding conflict or being overly permissive but rather acting as a conduit for God's abundant forgiveness while maintaining  
healthy boundaries.

Jesus came to be the face of God. To lead like Christ is to lead with grace.  
It is to walk alongside those who are oppressed by debt and by generational  
poverty, to find solidarity with those who have been marginalized because  
of race or country of origin, to build community based on shared respect  
and empowerment. We are called, invited, and encouraged to lead with  
grace and partner with the Spirit as we build toward the kingdom, the kin-  
dom, the home space that Jesus proclaimed.