



THE WORD

A publication of Dyersburg First United Methodist

Volume LI

September 15, 2026

Copy 37

PASTORAL THOUGHTS

Rev. Emily Sanford

Church Family,

As I was watching some of our children and youth in the fair last week, someone asked me what has been my favorite part of being here in Dyersburg with you. After two months of worshipping, serving, and being part of this community, I am most grateful for the moments of true connection: every text with a picture of your zinnia seeds sprouting and growing, the bumpy bus ride to Chisolm Lake with the young adults, holding a hand as we pray for an upcoming surgery, watching our Rhea House volunteers interact with guests to help them shop for groceries and carry them out to their car, hearing about what spoke to you from the sermon or Sunday school lesson, hanging out by the pool with our kids and youth, and singing karaoke with the respite group in Paris, TN.

Christian community doesn't just happen during worship on Sunday mornings. It is formed around dinner tables, in shared laughter, during conversations, and in the simple joy of being together. These ordinary moments become extraordinary because Christ has promised to be present with us whenever we gather in Christ's name. As the church, we offer something very rare and special in today's world as we strive to be a place where everyone is known, loved, and invited to belong. Only through Christ can we make that a reality where God's love is made real in how we treat one another.

Our mission statement in the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Here at Dyersburg FUMC, our mission is to know, love, share, and serve Christ. We live into that mission together as a community as we seek to love God above everything and love our neighbors as ourselves. As we worship together, study together, serve together, and share life together, we are being shaped into the people God has called us to be.

Over the past couple of weeks in worship, we've been learning from Jesus what it means to belong to the Kingdom of God. Following Jesus means confronting those who have wronged us, and it means forgiving over and over again. This week, we get another lesson in Kingdom living, as we listen in on another conversation between Jesus and his disciples. It might be one of the most challenging lessons for the disciples and for us to learn as Jesus uses the parable of the vineyard to show us that "the last will be first, and the first will be last."

As we enter into a new season of ministry, may we continue to invest in one another. Invite someone to lunch or coffee. Join one of our Wednesday Night groups. Attend a fellowship event. Introduce yourself to someone new. Volunteer at the Rhea house. Every relationship cultivated strengthens the Body of Christ and becomes a way that God's love is made visible in the world. Gathering together on Wednesday nights makes a huge impact on the spiritual lives of our entire church family. *(Continued on page 2)*

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

USHERS

Joe Yates
Lowell Beck
Charles Brown
Amy Lewis
Pierce White

GREETERS

Vicki Dunagan
Carolyn Helton

LITURGIST

TBD

VIDEO RECORDER

John Feith

OFFICE HOURS

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 (9/13/26)

Online Worship	78
In Person Worship	79
Sunday School	38

OFFERING

Income Year to Date	\$299,627.80
Expenses Year to Date	\$391,752.92
Income (July)	\$57,540.96
Expenses (July)	\$44,574.64
Communion (Project 20/20)	\$392.00



*** 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>

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>.



FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS

SPAM

VEGETABLE BEEF SOUP

CANNED GREEN BEANS

(Continued from page 1)

We'll benefit from what you have to offer as well around the table as we share a meal, pray for one another, and study God's Word together. We have seven more opportunities scheduled from now until November 18.

There is a place for you here at the table, and together, by God's grace we will continue becoming the church God is calling us to be in this season. I look forward to connecting with each of you and for what God has in store for us these next few weeks.

Grace and peace,
Emily

Downtown Detour Needs

Renamed from Trunk-or-Treat

We'll be a rest stop for those travelling throughout downtown. We still will have trunks and hot dogs. Focus is now more on food offerings than trunks of candy

FIVE Car Trunks

We still will be accepting Candy donations to hand out!



Hot Dog Team

People to prep, cook, and serve the hotdogs.



Pop Corn Team

Serving popcorn and making it through the night



Hot Cocoa Team

Serving and making Hot Cocoa through the night

Dinners-in-a-Bag

One Bag containing:

- Box of Spaghetti
- Jar of Pasta Sauce
- Box of Saltine Crackers

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT
SEPT 23 MENU**

JIMMY



\$5 per person

JOHNS

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY
ADULT CRAFT CLASS
WALKING GROUP**

Children's Christmas Practice

RSVP BY 9/22 @NOON

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

This quarter's contribution statements have been sent out. 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.

MOVING FORWARD WITH THE FLC

We are grateful for our FLC Team who will meet to explore our best options for moving forward following the YMCA closure at the end of the month. We will keep you updated once we have recommendations.

David Wagner (chair)
Kristen Bird
Mark Hayes
Joe Yates
J Dan Gullett
Tori Armstrong
Nancy West

JOIN US FOR A

Pet Blessing

GATHERING SUPPLIES FOR OUR
LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTER AND
BLESSING OUR SWEET PETS

SATURDAY | OCT 4 | 3:30PM
VESPER RING IN FRONT OF FLC
ALL PETS WELCOME TO JOIN US!

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SUPPLIES NEEDED: PURINA DOG FOOD, CHEW
TOYS, BLANKETS, LEASHES, AND HARNESSSES



Prayer Requests

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

Samantha Garcia
Linda DeBerry
Rebecca Sanders (Vicki Dunagan's mother)
Kelly King
David and Sara Hayes
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.*

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership

☒ If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 09/15/2026 issue of this publication. ☐ Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner	Title	Date
Tori Armstrong	Children's Director	09/10/2026 14:41:06 PM

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

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

#13490
Periodicals
Paid at
Dyersburg, TN

Sunday, September 20, 2026
Seventeenth Sunday after
Pentecost

Revised Common Lectionary
Readings:

Exodus 16:2-15
Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

9:15 am Sunday School
10:00 am Fellowship Time
10:15 am Worship
4:00 pm Youth Bowling
– Prime Time Bowling

Rev. Emily Sanford, Preaching

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