



THE WORD

A publication of Dyersburg First United Methodist

Volume LI

September 22, 2026

Copy 38

PASTORAL THOUGHTS

Rev. Emily Sanford

Church Family,

Happy equilux to you! This week we have both the equinox and the equilux. I learned that Wednesday September 23, (the day after the official equinox) is the day where we have a truly equal day/night split. Apparently on the day of the equinox there is a little more daylight than night because of the way we measure a sunrise. Here in the Northern Hemisphere, Tuesday was the autumnal equinox while it was the vernal equinox to everyone in the southern half of the globe. Though we tend to think of the whole day as the equinox, it actually happens at a particular moment, specifically, the point when the sun is directly above the earth's equator at 7:05 p.m.

Darkness and daylight come in nearly equal measure on this day. You may be wondering why I am bringing this to your attention. We are entering in the changing of a season all around us. For some, it means getting out the fall decorations and pumpkin spice scented candles. For others, it means you are looking forward to football and hunting seasons. I walked out of my door this week and just took a moment to breathe in the slightly cooler, non-100% humidity air.

With the changing of seasons, it's a good time to think about balance and how we find that in our lives. A while back I realized that it's not really balance I'm looking for in my life, at least not the kind of balance that implies a sameness to my days. I need some variety to keep me engaged. I tend to think more in terms of finding a rhythm of life that sustains me in the work (and the rest) to which I'm called. Some seasons are more intense than others, and I know it's not a pace I can keep throughout the year.

Finding a healthy rhythm that fits me is part of my ongoing work. It can be a real challenge since the rhythm I need changes from season to season. I celebrate the gifts that come with each season, and the freedom to find the rhythms that bring wholeness to these days. I pray this week you can bring some attention to the measure of your days. How does the way you are spending your time in work, in play, rest, in worship, and in service reflect your priorities and core values? What kinds of shifts would help you direct your energy and time to what really matters?

1 John 1 reminds us “⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷ but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.” Even as the days get shorter, we are called to be children of God's light and love.

(continued on page 2)

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

USHERS

Joe Yates
Lowell Beck
Charles Brown
Amy Lewis
Pierce White

GREETERS

Vicki Dunagan
Carolyn Helton

LITURGIST

TBD

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 (9/20/26)

Online Worship	66
In Person Worship	84
Sunday School	45

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

Welcome New Baby

ARCHER EASTON KING

ARCHER WAS BORN ON SEPTEMBER 12TH TO
KELLY AND GAGE KING. KAREN AND MIKE
KESTERSON ARE HIS GRANDPARENTS.



(Continued from page 1)

I am reminded of the Advent hymn, "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light." May we reflect the light of Christ in our words and actions and in the way we spend our days and nights.

In the *Carmina Gadelica*, the collection of prayers gathered by Alexander Carmichael in Scotland in the 19th century, we find a prayer called "Jesus the encompasser" that strikes me as a good fit for this day. It reads, in part:

*My Christ! my Christ! my shield, my encircler,
Each day, each night, each light, each dark;
My Christ! my Christ! my shield, my encircler,
Each day, each night, each light, each dark.*

*Be near me, uphold me, my treasure, my triumph,
In my lying, in my standing, in my watching, in my sleeping.*

*Jesu, Son of Mary! my helper, my encircler,
Jesu, Son of David! my strength everlasting;
Jesu, Son of Mary! my helper, my encircler,
Jesu, Son of David! my strength everlasting.*

By day and by dark, blessings to you.

May you sense the care and love of Christ encircling you this day!

Grace and peace,
Emily

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

GENERAL FUND

<u>In memory of:</u>	<u>Given by</u>
Katherine Evans	Becky & Mendy Mendoza

RESPITE FUND

<u>In memory of:</u>	<u>Given by</u>
Dorothy Sue Avison	Richard & Betty Carraway
Carolyn Cooper	Richard & Betty Carraway
Katherine Evans	Richard & Betty Carraway
Sammy Hummer	Richard & Betty Carraway
Max Maddox	Rickey & Margaret Lents
Janie Parker	Richard & Betty Carraway
Mary Dorthula Pope	Bill & Ginny Acree
Phillip White	Bill & Ginny Acree
Johnnie Reaves	Richard & Betty Carraway

REELFOOT RURAL MINISTRIES

<u>In memory of:</u>	<u>Given by</u>
Katherine Evans	Edsel Bates

OUR HEARTFELT SYMPATHY TO...

...family and friends of William Thomas
"Will" Hopper who passed on September 17,
2026. Please hold his family in your prayers.

NOT GETTING CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS?

We have been experiencing undeliverable emails for church members' accounts. If you regularly get emails from any of the staff, please add us to your email contacts and safe sender list. Our emails are not always getting through. This will help keep it from getting blocked or going to spam and junk mail.

Church Mass Email

noreply@shelbynextchms.com

Rev. Emily Sanford, Senior Pastor

emily@fumcdyersburg.com

Matthew Brown, Building Superintendent

mbrown@fumcdyersburg.com

Tori Armstrong, Director of Children's Ministry

tfrazier@fumcdyersburg.com

Karen Kesterson, Office Manager

kkesterson@fumcdyersburg.com

If you're not getting Mass Texts from the church, make sure you look for texts from the number **341-66**. Please reach out if you have other concerns or questions.

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

Rhea House

NEEDS:



FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS

SPAM

VEGETABLE BEEF SOUP

CANNED GREEN BEANS

THANK YOU!

I would like to send a heartfelt thank you to Thomas Lemons and his buddy, Landon, for helping me move. They did a great job and are so very much appreciated. God bless them!!

Marty Jasper - St. Joseph's Manor

JOIN US FOR **WEDNESDAY TACO BAR**

September 30th

5:00 pm - Meal Start

\$5 per person

CLASSES TO FOLLOW!



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 HARNESSES



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)
David and Sara Hayes
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, September 27, 2026
**Eighteenth Sunday after
Pentecost**

Revised Common Lectionary
Readings:

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

9:15 am Sunday School
10:00 am Fellowship Time
10:15 am Worship
4:00 pm Blankets
(2yr-5th Grade)
5:30 pm Youth Group
(6th - 12th Grade)

Rev. Emily Sanford, Preaching

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