

THE WORD

A publication of Dyersburg First United Methodist

Volume LI

October 6, 2026

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PASTORAL THOUGHTS

Rev. Emily Sanford

Church family,

I hope that everyone is enjoying “fall break” and all the signs of a new season around us. This Sunday, we will conclude our series in the book of Philippians with Paul’s words in chapter 4, which has much to say about prayer, the peace of God, and rejoicing in the Lord. As we pray for all that is happening in our world, I find encouragement in verse 8. Paul gives instructions to the people of Philippi (and to us) to not simply obsess over all that is going wrong, including all the evil and destruction we see in the world, but rather to turn our attention to things that really matter, to where you see action that is worthy of respect, to places where justice is being done, and to goodness in all its forms.

⁸Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (NRSV)

As you consider your thoughts and actions this past week, what have you given time and focus? If someone were to evaluate every thought you’ve had this week, would they describe it as: true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, excellent, praiseworthy? If not, here are some questions to ask as you try to focus on the qualities from Philippians 4:8 and apply them to your life—your thoughts, your social media posts, and your comments.

- **True** – Is this factually true or speculation? Is it based from rumor or gossip? If it is factually true, is it being presented in an inflammatory or biased way to imply something that isn’t actually true?
- **Honorable** – Is it encouraging the morals and virtues laid out in Scripture? Does it show the integrity and respect of my Christian faith?
- **Just** – Is this right? Will this help or hinder the pursuit of righteousness? Does it align with my understanding of doing justice?
- **Pure** – Is this free from impurity? Is it something that makes me fearful or confident in the Lord’s work? Is the end goal focused on eternity and the coming Kingdom of God or earthly circumstances?
- **Pleasing** – Is this something that brings me joy or angst? Does it bring delight to God?
- **Commendable** – Is this something I would share with others? If so, would I do so confident that this would further my Christian witness and the hope I have in Christ?

(continued on page 2)

OCTOBER 11, 2026

USHERS

Walt Bradshaw
Bill Yates
David Wagner
Steven Parker
Baird Lewis

GREETERS

Cindy Taylor
Sandy Prince

LITURGIST

Gay Carole Wagner

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*

OUR HEARTFELT SYMPATHY TO...

...family and friends of Ardis Noonan Phillips who passed on September 30, 2026. Mrs. Ardis was a faithful member of FUMC Dyersburg for 20 years. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2026 at 11:00am. Visitation will be held from 10:00am until 11:00am. Services will be in the Chapel of Johnson-Williams Funeral Home.

RECORD OF LOYALTY

ATTENDANCE (10/4/26)

Online Worship	48
In Person Worship	87
Sunday School	45

OFFERING

Income Year to Date	\$335,083.12
Expenses Year to Date	\$467,065.98
Income (August)	\$35,455.32
Expenses (August)	\$73,313.64

(continued from page 1)

- **Excellence** – Is this well done? Has this been crafted with care and a proper stewarding of the gifts of God? Am I seeking to bring out the best in myself and others?
- **Worthy of Praise** – Does this stir my affections for the Lord? Does it make me rejoice and lift up God's holy name?

May we consider these questions and how Christ might renew and transform our minds, hearts, and lives to focus on these things—for each of these qualities points us to the One who embodies them and who empowers us to do the same.

Grace and peace,
Emily

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

RESPIRE FUND

In memory of:

Katherine Evans
Sammy Hummer
Sammy Hummer
Randa Ragan

Given by

Doris Rosenbloom Cardin
Carol Harris
Barbara Wyrick
Carol Harris

GENERAL FUND

In memory of:

Katherine Evans

Given by

Rory Johnson



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.



FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS
SPAM
VEGETABLE BEEF SOUP
CANNED GREEN BEANS

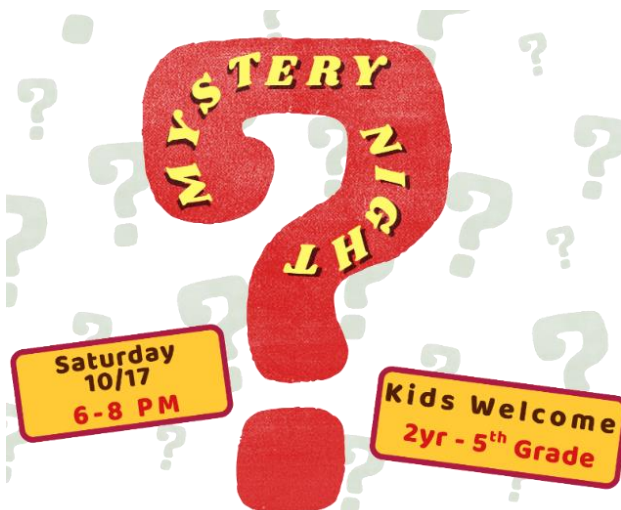
THANK YOU FROM NEW LIFE UNION MISSION

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your generous gift to our ministry. Most school children receive two meals per day while school is in session. However, some children will not have adequate food available to them over the weekend. Your gift to the Weekend Food For Kids program will help meet this need.

We value your thoughtfulness and support of the Mission's ministries. We are excited about this opportunity to work together providing food for children who might otherwise do without. Thank you again for your generous support.

Sincerely,
 Neal Chatham



UPDATE REGARDING FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Over the next few days, the YMCA will remove their electronics and other office equipment. We are excited to share that, to our understanding, they will leave much of the new exercise equipment they installed when they moved into the facility.

We are also thankful that the YMCA is leaving the building in much, much better condition than when they first took it over. We appreciate the care they have given to the facility during their time with us.

As we transition into this exciting new chapter, we will have very limited access to the Family Life Center throughout October. Groups and/or individuals outside of the FUMC will be restricted access until November 2nd. This will give us time to establish schedules, procedures, and safety protocols for FUMC members and make sure we are ready to use the facility in the best way possible.

We ask for your patience and understanding during this transition. We know many of you are eager to see all that the Family Life Center can become, and we are excited too!

There are many fun opportunities ahead—for fellowship, exercise, ministry, church activities, and community events. We look forward to seeing our Family Life Center filled with laughter, fellowship, and opportunities to serve and grow together.

We have much to look forward to, and we can't wait to see what God has in store for our Family Life Center!

David Wagner

POTLUCK

Wednesday Meal

Sharing Good Food & Great Company!

October 14 – 5:00pm

Formation Team will provide the main
meat for the meal!

We're asking everyone else to bring
sides, salads, rolls, and dessert!



Prayer Requests

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

Jacqueline Stafford
Greg Corley (Bobbie Williams Son-in-law)
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, October 11, 2026
Twentieth Sunday after
Pentecost

Revised Common Lectionary
Readings:
Exodus 32:1-14
Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

9:15 am Sunday School
10:00 am Fellowship Time
10:15 am Worship
4:00 pm Youth Paintball Trip

Rev. Emily Sanford, Preaching

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