

THE WORD

A publication of Dyersburg First United Methodist

Volume LI

October 13, 2026

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PASTORAL THOUGHTS

Rev. Emily Sanford

Church family,

Every time we pray the Lord's Prayer, we offer God these familiar words: "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." We have prayed them so often that we may sometimes overlook just how bold—and how deeply personal—they are. "Thy will be done" is more than a line we recite. It is a prayer of surrender. It is a declaration that our lives belong to God and that we want everything entrusted to us—our time, our abilities, our relationships, our influence, and our financial resources—to be used for God's purposes. This prayer reveals the heart of kingdom stewardship.

Stewardship is sometimes reduced to a conversation about budgets, pledges, and paying the church's bills. While those things matter and are part of the conversation, Christian stewardship begins somewhere much deeper. It begins with the recognition that everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. It starts with gratitude as we give thanks for the gift of life, the resources we share, and the spiritual gifts God has entrusted to each of us. As King David prayed: "Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."—1 Chronicles 29:14

We are not the owners of God's gifts; we are their stewards. God places resources, opportunities, and relationships into our hands and invites us to use them faithfully. The question of stewardship is not simply, "How much should I give?" The deeper question is, "God, what do You want to do through the life You have given me?" When we pray, "Thy will be done," we are placing all of life before God.

Thy will be done with my calendar.
Thy will be done through my gifts and abilities.
Thy will be done in my relationships.
Thy will be done with my decisions.
Thy will be done with my finances.
Thy will be done through my church.

This is not a prayer of reluctant obligation. It is a prayer of joyful participation and gratitude. God is already at work renewing lives, healing wounds, feeding the hungry, welcoming the lonely, forming disciples, nurturing children, strengthening families, and sharing the hope of Jesus Christ. Stewardship is our opportunity to join God in that work. Through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, we help make the love of God visible "on earth as it is in heaven."

(continued on page 2)

OCTOBER 18, 2026

USHERS

Walt Bradshaw
Bill Yates
David Wagner
Steven Parker
Baird Lewis

GREETERS

Cindy Taylor
Sandy Prince

LITURGIST

Mark Hayes

VIDEO RECORDER

Will Bird

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 (10/11/26)

Online Worship	51
In Person Worship	106
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
Communion (Pastor's Discretionary)	\$150.00

(continued from page 1)

Over the next few weeks, we will focus on what it means to practice kingdom stewardship and grow in gratitude as individuals and as a congregation. This is an invitation for each of us to listen prayerfully and ask:

- Lord, what have you entrusted to me?
- How are you calling me to use all that I have to glorify you?
- Where are you asking me to trust you more fully and live gratefully?

Here at FUMC Dyersburg, we believe that we are called to love God above everything and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Living into that calling requires more than a few generous people. It requires a whole congregation willing to pray, serve, give, and live with open hands. Imagine what God can do through a church in which every person earnestly prays, "Not my will, but Yours." Imagine what can happen when our generosity is shaped not by fear or scarcity, but by gratitude, faith, and confidence in God's abundance.

As our nominations team prepares to meet to select lay leadership for 2027, we invite you to fill out a survey for your commitment to serve. We want to help everyone get connected with ways to share their gifts and time for God's kingdom.

As we move through our stewardship focus, may the Lord's Prayer become more than words we speak. May it become the posture of our lives:

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done.

Through my life.

Through my generosity.

Through our church.

In the heart of downtown Dyersburg and beyond.

On earth as it is in heaven.

Together, may we pray it—and together, let us live it.

Grace and peace,
Emily

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

RESPIRE FUND

In memory of:

Dorothy Kirk Avison
Carolyn Cooper
Randa Ragan

Given by

Rick & Debbie Hill
Patrick & Amy Heckethorn
Rick & Debbie Hill

GENERAL FUND

In memory of:

Ardis Phillips

Given by

Patrick & Amy Heckethorn

PANTRY FUND

In memory of:

Randa Ragan

Given by

Patrick & Amy Heckethorn

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of:

Will Hopper
Janie Stafford

Given by

Patrick & Amy Heckethorn
Rick & Debbie Hill

In honor of:

Rev. Emily Sanford

Given by

David & Sara Hayes

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.

Rhea House

NEEDS:



FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS

SPAM

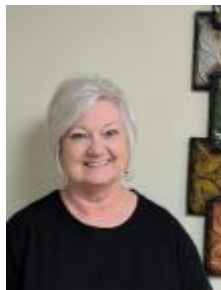
VEGETABLE BEEF SOUP

CANNED GREEN BEANS

LAITY SUNDAY IS COMING!

On Sunday, October 25, we will celebrate Laity Sunday and the various ways we live out our discipleship. Delores Smith from Trenton UMC, who is a certified lay servant in the TWK conference, will be sharing a message on 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

Please let Pastor Emily know if you would like to participate by offering one of the prayers or leading a creed as part of the worship service.

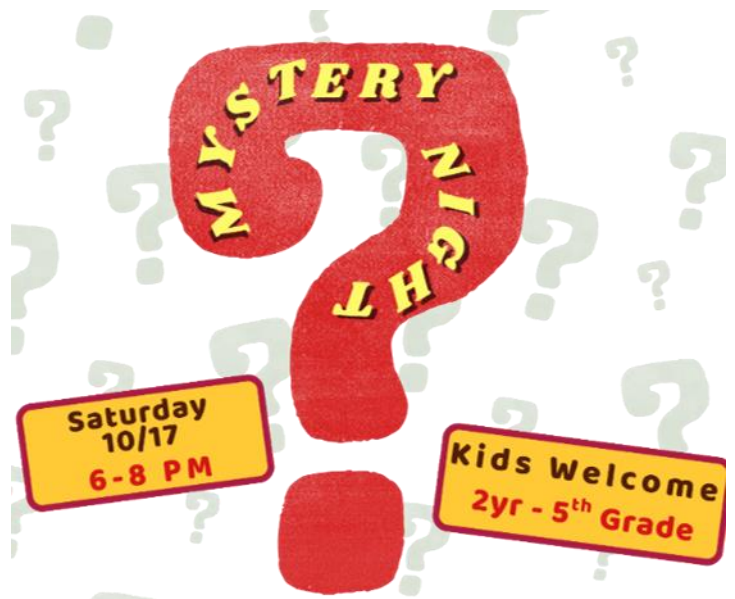


CAN YOU HELP US OUT?

TRUNK-OR-TREAT CANDY DRIVE

Bags of Individually wrapped candy only.

LEAVE IN CONNECT CENTER



SPAGHETTI DIMMER IN A BAG



**Leave full bags in the Connect Center.
Contact Nancy West for more details!**



**WEDNESDAY
OCT 21**

**CLASSES WILL
START AT 5:45
PM FOR ALL.**

**EVERYONE
WELCOME!**

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 18, 2026
**Twenty-First Sunday after
Pentecost**

Revised Common Lectionary
Readings:
Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

9:15 am Sunday School
10:00 am Fellowship Time
10:15 am Worship
4:00 pm Blankets
5:30 pm Youth Group

Rev. Emily Sanford, Preaching

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