



THE WORD

A publication of Dyersburg First United Methodist

Volume LI

October 20, 2026

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PASTORAL THOUGHTS

Rev. Emily Sanford

Church family,

This week marks our Laity Sunday, which is a special Sunday defined by General Conference, "to celebrate the ministry of all Christians" (2016 *Book of Discipline*, ¶ 264.2). Through this special emphasis in our worship service, we will express the deep conviction that *all* are called to participate in God's mission in communities that share abundant life in Jesus Christ. FUMC embodies this every day through our ministries and strong lay leadership. I will be out of town from Friday, October 23- Monday, October 26. Rev. Dr. Phillip Cook has graciously agreed to be on call for any pastoral needs this weekend.

November 1 is All Saints Day, a holy day which usually is overshadowed by the day before, All Hallows' (Saints') Eve, which we call Halloween. If you drive around some of the neighborhoods here in Dyersburg, you'll see lots of yards filled with spooky scenes. This Sunday, November 1 we will celebrate All Saints Day as we remember the FUMC members who have died this last year and all of the saints who have gone before us. During communion, we will each have an opportunity to remember in our hearts those we love who have died in a time of prayer as a candle is lit. One of my favorite lines in the Apostle's Creed talks about our belief in the "communion of saints" which includes whole community of faithful followers of Christ, living and dead from all time and places. Every time we celebrate Holy Communion, we experience the communion of saints, feasting with believers past, present and future.

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, enjoyed and celebrated All Saints Day. In a journal entry from November 1, 1767, Wesley calls it "a festival I truly love." On the same day in 1788, he writes, "I always find this a comfortable day." The following year he calls it "a day that I peculiarly love." As I reflect on All Saints, there is a peculiar holiness about it as we give thanks for those who have gone before us in the faith. All Saints reminds us that we stand on the shoulders of all those faithful witnesses who have gone before us; the living and the dead. It is a time to celebrate our history and tradition of the church. From the early days of Christianity, there is a sense that the Church consists of not only all living believers, but also all who have gone before us.

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OCTOBER 25, 2026

USHERS

Walt Bradshaw
Bill Yates
David Wagner
Steven Parker
Baird Lewis

GREETERS

Cindy Taylor
Sandy Prince

LITURGIST

Beth Feith

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 (10/18/26)

Online Worship	46
In Person Worship	100
Sunday School	49

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

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The author of Hebrews 12 reminds us that these saints are a “great cloud of witnesses,” surrounding and cheering us on as we continue our journey of faith. Who are the saints you will remember this year? Who are the people through whom the grace of Christ has flowed for you, to introduce you to God’s love, to bring you to receive the gifts of faith, repentance, and assurance? Who are the saints whose lives have shaped and formed your faith? How might you set aside time to reach out to their loved ones with care and concern this week or honor them in some way? May we give thanks to God for them today and every day as we live our lives to cheer on others in the great cloud of witnesses. The way we live our lives is an opportunity to share with our neighbors, friends, and family about God’s love for them. What a joyful privilege it is to be saints representing Christ and bearing good news.

I pray that each of you have a wonderful All Saints Day. As we give thanks to God for the tremendous sacrifices made by those who have gone before us, may we remember them—their faithfulness and witness. May we learn how to walk wisely from their examples of faith, dedication, worship, and love.

Grace and peace,
Emily

OUR HEARTFELT SYMPATHY TO...

...family and friends of Nellie Frances Ramey who passed on October 18, 2026. Visitation will be held from 5:00pm until 8:00pm on October 21st. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, October 22, 2026 at 3:00pm. Services will be at Dyersburg Funeral Home.

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

PANTRY FUND

In memory of:
Dorothy Hicks
Ardis Phillips
Randa Ragan

Given by
Penny Hearn Law
Penny Hearn Law
Penny Hearn Law

NEW RESPITE DIRECTOR

Ms. Squires is an Operating and Management Executive who has been successful at building high performance teams and organizations.

She is skilled at establishing operational excellence within cross functional teams, and executing multi-faceted business development campaigns, forecasts and budgets, policies, procedures, and compliance.

Bobbie established her career as a COO or CFO across many business industries, including BrainSavers for Alzheimer's patients and the Silver Sneakers program, a physical activity program for seniors through their health plan networks.

She has an MBA in Business and Finance from North Central College in, Naperville, IL, as well as a Bachelor of Science degree from Mississippi State University.



Rhea House

NEEDS:



FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS

SPAM

VEGETABLE BEEF SOUP

CANNED GREEN BEANS

CAN YOU HELP US OUT?
**TRUNK-OR-TREAT
CANDY DRIVE**

**Bags of Individually
wrapped candy only.**

LEAVE IN CONNECT CENTER

**SPAGHETTI DINNER
IN A BAG**



package of
spaghetti
noodles



box of
saltine crackers



pasta sauce
no glass jars

**Leave full bags in the Connect Center.
Contact Patty Yates for more details!**

Sign up at: <https://min.link/fJJ>

DOWNTOWN DETOUR

31 October, 2026

05:00PM - 07:30PM at FUMC Dyersburg

**Hot Dogs, Cocoa,
Popcorn, and Candy**

in conjunction with Downtown Trunk-or-Treat

WELCOME BABY LANE

We welcomed Charles Lane through a Baby dedication service, into our church family, on October 11, 2026.





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

#13490
Periodicals
Paid at
Dyersburg, TN

Sunday, October 25, 2026
Twenty-Second Sunday after
Pentecost
Laity Sunday

Revised Common Lectionary
 Readings:
Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalms 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

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

Delores Smith, Preaching

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Church: 731-285-6454

Web Page—www.fumcdyersburg.com