

THE WORD

A publication of Dyersburg First United Methodist

Volume LI *November 3, 2026* *Copy 44*

PASTORAL THOUGHTS

Rev. Emily Sanford

Church Family,

It was amazing to see everyone's efforts and donations come together this past weekend in the Downtown Detour event on Halloween night! I loved seeing the Connect Center filled to the brim with spaghetti noodles, sauce, crackers, and candy. From the Koinonia class members who came early to cook and wrap 800 hot dogs to the committed folks who braved the rain to share spaghetti in a bag, hot dogs, popcorn, candy, and bottled water with the children and families to everyone who helped set up and clean up, there was a beautiful spirit of service.

In less than 24 hours we transitioned from Halloween into All Saints Sunday, where our altar guild used their gifts once again to create a beautiful visual to enhance our worship and remembrance of our FUMC saints.

I am blown away by your willingness to serve and the spirit of generosity in this congregation. I am grateful for the kindness and compassion that our Rhea house volunteers show weekly as they greet folks, help them shop for groceries, and carry them out to their vehicles. I'm excited to see people connect their passions and gifts with our new respite ministry for caregivers of persons with dementia.

In 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18, Paul instructs us to "*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances!"* Paul says give thanks IN all circumstances, not FOR all circumstances. Even in tough times, we can be grateful for what is going well and for the resources, relationships and faith that will help us through whatever we are facing.

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, no matter what your circumstances, I invite you first to take a moment to pray. Thank God for every day, the abundance all around us, and the opportunity to be in ministry through our church and in all that you do. Before you begin your day, list 10 things for which you are grateful, write down three things you are learning from your challenges, and five people in your life who make it better when they are with you. These could be friends, family or strangers! Starting your day with this kind of focus on gratitude will shape how you interact the rest of the day. If you aren't a morning person, use these prompts to reflect at the end of the day, and read through them as you begin the next day. Hopefully this practice will help you to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks with a grateful heart to God!

In gratitude to be in ministry with you,
Emily

NOVEMBER 8, 2026

USHERS
Charles Brown
Tim Taylor
Billy Ozment
Dustin Seratt
Sam Petty

GREETERS
Maralyn Beck
Lisa Traverse

LITURGIST
Baird Lewis

VIDEO RECORDER
David Wagner

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 (11/01/26)

Online Worship	66
In Person Worship	106
Sunday School	51

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 (Reelfoot)	$1615.00

HOW TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER?

Hello Church Family,

Looking ahead, we anticipate some necessary changes in how *The Word* is shared. To help us plan, we are asking every household to let us know how you would like to receive the newsletter—or if you would prefer not to receive it at all. You can complete the form online (link below) or call the church office for a paper version.

This change is needed because we are soon to fall below the minimum number of recipients required for the USPS bulk mail rate. Your response will help us continue sharing *The Word* in the best way possible.

Peace & Grace,
Tori

https://min.link/g5n

Rhea House



LARGE CANNED CHICKEN
SMALL BAGS - DRIED BEANS
15OZ TOMATO SAUCE CANS
SHAMPOO

LOVE OFFERING FOR PRESLEY

This Sunday, November 1, was Presley's final Sunday with us. We are deeply grateful for the ways she has shared her many gifts with us through music and worship since September 2025. If you would like to contribute to a love offering in appreciation of Presley's ministry, please bring your gift this Sunday and indicate "Presley Dishman Love Offering" on the memo line or in online giving. We give thanks for every note sung and every moment of praise we've shared together as we send her off with prayers and blessings for the journey ahead.



RESPITE MINISTRY REPORT

Hello to all! I have been on board a couple of weeks now and things are moving very quickly! In October we applied for not one, but two grants, for the Respite Ministry. The grants were for the "Respite for All" Foundation; and the Cox Foundation in Union City with a presentation as well! Updates on these will be sent out through the newsletter as developments arise.

Presently we need Volunteers, Volunteers, Volunteers! There are three opportunities at the present time:

- Volunteering for task-oriented work Examples are: stuffing envelopes, typing and creating flyers, marketing materials, input into our volunteer master list, typing minutes. etc. These volunteer opportunities are specific to tasks relating to the launch of the Respite Ministry. These are "as needed" and typically require a one-to-two-hour commitment.
- Volunteering for Steering Committee positions These positions are currently being developed for heading up of our different teams within the Respite Ministry. Examples are: food, activities, facilities and equipment, music, etc. These require a commitment of three months in duration on a weekly basis with some exceptions, of course, during the holiday season!

- Volunteering for "Companion" positions for the program itself We will hold training mid-January 2027 for these positions for the program launch in the first quarter of early 2027. Dates will be determined. After training, these positions require a weekly commitment (on Tuesdays) each week from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 pm for a period of three months in duration. These can be renewed!

While I do not have a sign-up sheet completed as of the time of writing this article, please send over your contact information including: telephone number, name and address, and the position you are interested in to happyfriendsrespite@gmail.com and I will reach out to you soon! I am so excited to be a part of this wonderful program and working with all of you! God bless!

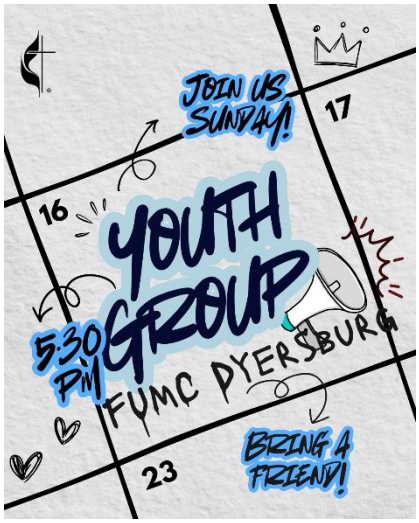
Bobbie Squires, Happy Friends Respite Program Director

FUMC Dyersburg KidMin

SCAN THE QR CODE & FIND OUT MORE OF OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SCAN ME

https://min.link/Y7e



CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

As we are nearing the end of another quarter, please be on the lookout in your email, or in your physical mailbox for your Quarterly Contribution Statement.
We are working to get them out to you as soon as we can. If you have any other questions regarding your Quarterly Statement, please call the Church Office (731-285-6454) or email Karen (kkesterson@fumcdyersburg.com).





Prayer Requests

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

Charles Barnes (Melissa Barnes' father)
Jacqueline Stafford
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, November 8, 2026
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

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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