



THE WORD

A publication of Dyersburg First United Methodist Church

Volume XLVIII

December 6, 2023

Copy 47

PASTORAL THOUGHTS

Mary Beth Bernheisel, Senior Pastor

Dear Dyersburg FUMC Family and Friends,

I sit here on Monday morning, and I can't help but think of what a difficult week this has been for our church family. One of our beloved church members went to his home in eternity this week, and we mourn with another family who lost a precious father and grandfather. On Tuesday I had the honor of officiating at a graveside service for a former member of our congregation, and on Saturday I attended a memorial service for a retired elder in the United Methodist Church who has been at various times in my ministry both friend and mentor.

It is all so heavy, especially in a season when everything around us is decorated to be cheery and bright.

In that same memorial service that I attended on Saturday, one of the speakers who offered witness to the life of our mutual friend was Rev. Randy Cooper. Rev. Cooper shared these words of Thomas Aquinas who said, "Our ultimate destiny is to be made friends with God."

It has given me great comfort over these past few days, and I hope it will comfort each of you as well, to consider that these saints who have gone before us have now reached their ultimate destiny of friendship with God. They were certainly friends of God while they lived among us in this life, but to now see their friend face to face must be unspeakably joyful—to be able to share their thoughts with their friend as they spend time together must be something to behold.

Advent reminds us that God desired friendship and companionship with us so much that he put on an earthly body and came to live among us. As we are his friends now in this life, so we look forward to the consummation of that friendship in the next.

What a friend we have in Jesus,

Mary Beth

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

LITURGIST

Pierce White

VIDEO RECORDER

Will Bird

USHERS

Patrick Lemons, Eddie Dunagan,
Charles Brown,
Fred and Ellen Moore

GREETERS

Carolyn Helton
David Hayes

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP FROM ANYWHERE

Our Sunday morning service is viewable each Sunday morning at 10:15 am from our church's webpage at <https://www.fumcdyersburg.com/media> or our Facebook page at Dyersburg First United Methodist Church. You can also watch previous sermons on either site.

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



The deadline to order poinsettias is quickly approaching! Poinsettias will be displayed in the sanctuary starting Sunday, December 17. This year, poinsettias will be sold

by the church and proceeds will go to the Organ Fund. Poinsettias are \$30. You can place your order by using an order form, scanning the QR code below, text 'flower' to 731-207-8878, or from our website (<https://fumcdyersburg.com/events>).

The deadline to place an order is this **Sunday, December 10.**





...Mrs. Charlotte Weaver, Mrs. Melanie Todd, and their family in the death of their husband and father, Mr. Jerry Weaver. Mr. Jerry passed away on November 29. He was a member of First United Methodist since 1998.

RECORD OF LOYALTY (12/3/2023)

ATTENDANCE

Online Worship	140
In Person Worship	125
Sunday School	56

OFFERING

Monthly Income (October)	\$27,434.00
Monthly Expenses (October)	\$70,366.60
Income Year to Date	\$436,420.80
Expenses Year to Date	\$547,210.22

December Communion (Hannah's Hope)	\$454.00
------------------------------------	----------

Publish/Issue Date:

December 20 – **last** newsletter published for the year – All articles should be turned in by Noon on Tuesday, 12/19.

kkesterson@fumcdyersburg.com

Newsletter
DEADLINE

HOLIDAY *Schedule*

Sunday, December 10

Poinsettia Order Deadline

9:00 am	Sunday School
10:15 am	Morning Worship
5:00 pm	Holiday Harmonies—Sanctuary
6:00 pm	Plum Pudding—Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 11

6:30 pm	Church Council—Fellowship Hall
---------	--------------------------------

Tuesday, December 12

Last Day of Preschool (out 12/13/2023—1/2/2024)

9:00 am	Preschool Christmas Program— Fellowship Hall
11:30 am	Staff Christmas Party

Sunday, December 17

9:00 am	Christmas Breakfast—Fellowship Hall
10:15 am	Morning Worship
4:00 pm	Blankets
4:00 pm	Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 24

9:00 am	Christmas Music Play and Sing Along— Sanctuary
10:15 am	Morning Worship
5:00 pm	Family Christmas Eve Service with Communion
11:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion

Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26

Church Offices and Family Life Center closed for Christmas holiday

Christmas Pottuck Breakfast *located in The Fellowship Hall*

DATE

17

Sun. December

We will provide juice, milk, and a hot chocolate bar!

There will be Christmas crafts for the kids, a photo op background, and lots of good food and fellowship.

Please bring food pantry items to help us stock up for the holiday season.

TIME

9:00

in the morning



KIDMIN KORNER

Hello Church Family!

We've got the date for our Spring KidMin Retreat. It will be **May 3rd-5th, 2024** at **NaCoMe Camp & Retreat Center in Pleasantville, TN**. We have **20 SPOTS**, at the moment. **Spots will go quickly**. (We can always increase out number of spots, but we can't decrease them.) Register here: <https://min.link/Frg>

We'll stay in a cabin together, eat meals with other groups, play large group games, worship as a group, and many more fun and exciting things! Be on the lookout for an information packet coming soon. See Mrs. Tori if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

The Upward Sports League 2024 is underway. We're looking for volunteers to serve at the concession stand, lead devotionals, referee games, and coach cheer and/or basketball teams. If you're interested, you can sign up here (<https://min.link/DEd>) or you can let me know and I'll get you down on the schedule.

Peace & Grace
Tori

CHRISTMAS MUSIC PLAY AND SING ALONG

Sunday, December 24
9 am in the Sanctuary

Join us for a morning of Christmas music. Bring your instruments and your voices to make wonderful Christmas music for the Lord!



PRESCHOOL HAPPENINGS

The preschool is accepting applications for school year 23-24 and will begin 24-25 registration in January. For more information please call Paula Brandt, the Preschool Director, at 731-287-1251.

If you want more information about our preschool or would like to tell someone where to find more information, please check out our website. The preschool has up-to-date information and a great video to watch about the program. Registration forms are available on the church's website (<https://fumcdyersburg.com/connect/preschool>) and on the preschool's Facebook page (FUMC Preschool).

Preschool Christmas Program is Dec 12 at 9:00 am and preschool families are invited. We would like to thank the Evangelical Team for graciously providing refreshments.



MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

MUSIC FUND

In memory of:
Jerry Weaver

Given by:
Sojourners Sunday School Class

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of:
Martha Lynn
Jerry Weaver

Given by:
Porter and Joan Ryland
Porter and Joan Ryland

PANTRY FUND

In memory of:
Sally Gee Fowlkes
Jerry Weaver

Given by:
George and Cherry Robertson
Fred and Ellen Moore

Memorials not listed this week will be listed in next week's issue.

BAKERS NEEDED!

The 49th annual Plum Pudding will be on Sunday December 10th following Holiday Harmonies at 5 pm. We need bakers to help provide the plum pudding cakes. The cake needs to be baked in a bundt pan and brought on an aluminum foil wrapped piece of cardboard to make it easy for our gentlemen to carry them. To make sure we have plenty of cakes, please contact Kelli Hayes at (731) 676-9023 if you are willing to provide one for this fun evening.

Plum Bundt Cake

2 cups self rising flour
1 tsp cinnamon
2 cups sugar
1 tsp nutmeg
1 cup oil
1 tsp vanilla
3 eggs
2 jars plum baby food (may substitute plum pie filling or prune baby food)
Combine all ingredients and mix well. Pour into a well greased and floured bundt pan.
Bake for 1 hour at 350 degrees.





Hospitality Corner

From the Evangelism Team

A pitfall of church people is to work against the “love thy neighbor” commandment. We try to fulfill the Christian way of life, and when we judge that others do not, we deem them unworthy.

MAKE SURE YOUR RECORDS AND THE CHURCH'S RECORDS MATCH

To ensure that your 2023 church contributions are deductible, please do not file your 2023 income tax return until you have received a statement of your contributions from the church. Your records and our records should match, but it is wise to wait for this year's contributions statement to be sure that the deductions you claim match the records the church has of your giving.

2023 CONTRIBUTIONS MUST BE TURNED IN BY END OF DECEMBER

In order for your contributions to the church in 2023 to be claimed as a deduction on your 2023 tax form, they must be given in 2023. If they are mailed, they must be postmarked by December 31, 2023. Only those contributions received by the church, or if mailed postmarked by **December 31, 2023 can be credited and claimed** for tax purposes in 2023, regardless of when the check is dated.



Needs for December

Chicken Noodle Soup
Tomato Soup
Vegetable Beef or Vegetable Soup
Powdered Milk
Salt and Pepper Shaker Sets



**HOSPITAL AND
RECENTLY ILL**

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

Patty Johnson
Brady Heidenreich
David Wagner
Veronica Merrell
Cherry Robertson
Greg Corley (Bobbie Williams' son-in-law)
Carolyn Joslin (Bobbie Williams' friend)
Patty Rosemeyer - friend of Ginger Voss
Amy Pope McIntosh - Steven Parker's cousin
Jerry and Carolyn Cooper - Bells Nursing and Rehab.
Center, 213 Herndon Drive, Room 218, Bells,
TN 38006
Jake Gold - Ginny Acree's nephew
Andrea Young Pope - Steven Parker's Mom
Joann Lewis
Eddie Anderson
Bill Troy
Jimmy Wilkes
Patti Hill
Lorna Donaldson

**Please continue to remember the Home Bound.*

Send form #3579 to The Word, P.O.Box 452, Dyersburg, TN 38025, FUMC

Sunday, December 10, 2023
Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15
Mark 1:1-8

9:00 am Sunday School
9:45 am Fellowship
10:15 am Worship
Rev. Dr. Mary Beth Bernheisel,
preaching

Weekly published by

First United Methodist Church

100 McGaughey, P.O. Box 452, Dyersburg, TN 38024
Church: 731-285-6454, Family Life Center: 731-285-4794
Web Page—www.fumcdyersburg.com

#13490
Periodicals
Paid at
Dyersburg, TN