

## Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 31

9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
 9:45 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship – Narthex  
 10:15 a.m. Worship

Monday, January 1

Holiday – Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 2

10:15 a.m. Staff Meeting – TR  
 6:00 p.m. Men’s Basketball – FLC

Wednesday, January 3

6:30 a.m. Men’s Prayer Breakfast – FH

Thursday, January 4

9:30 a.m. Yoga – FLC  
 12:30 p.m. Community Assistance

Saturday, January 6

8:00 a.m. Upward® Games Week 3 – FLC  
 1:00 p.m. Pickleball – FLC

Sunday, January 7

9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
 9:45 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship – Narthex  
 10:15 a.m. Worship  
 1:00 p.m. Visitation for Family and Friends of  
 Jerry Weaver – Sanctuary  
 2:00 p.m. Memorial Service for Jerry Weaver –  
 Sanctuary  
 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class  
 4:00 p.m. Blankets  
 4:00 p.m. Youth: Dayspring – RH

FLC – Family Life Center  
 FH – Fellowship Hall  
 TR – Trinity Classroom  
 RH – Rawles Hall

## 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 mail them or give online. Checks can be mailed to P.O. Box 452, Dyersburg, TN 38025, online @ <https://fumcdyersburg.com/donate>, or scan the following QR code with your phone.



## Assisting in Worship...

Rev. Dr. Mary Beth Bernheisel  
 Pastor

Jay Bernheisel  
 Liturgist

Josh White  
 Accompanist

Tori Armstrong  
 Children’s Ministry Director

Steve Guttery  
 Audio

Clare Bernheisel  
 Video



First Sunday after Christmas Day

December 31, 2023

✚ Please stand as you are able

Prelude

Welcome and Centering Words

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Reader: We come giving thanks that the gifts that God has given us are gifts that we can give to others.

**People: And we open our hearts, preparing to share ourselves with others in this new year.**

*(Candles are lit.)*

**People: We light these candles as a sign that we will be present with the good news of Christ in the world.**

*What can I give him, poor as I am?  
 If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
 If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
 Yet what can I give him: I will give him my heart.*

Reader: Holy Living Light of God, you are the light of the world. Help us to shine your light for others that they may know the fullness of your love. Amen.

✚ Opening Hymn UMH 369 ASSURANCE  
*Blessed Assurance*  
*(vss. 1, 2, 3)*

Celebration of Young Disciples

Children ages 3 through 1<sup>st</sup> Grade may join Mrs. Tori in the back of the sanctuary for Children’s Church.

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 62:1-3 NRSV

Liturgist: For Zion’s sake, I will not be silent

**People: and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,**

Liturgist: until her vindication shines out like the dawn,

**People: and her deliverance like a flaming torch.**

Liturgist: The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory;

**People: and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give.**

Liturgist: You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,

**People: a royal diadem in the hand of your God.**

Galatians 4:4-7

CEB

But when the fulfillment of the time came, God sent his Son, born through a woman, and born under the Law. <sup>5</sup>This was so he could redeem those under the Law so that we could be adopted. <sup>6</sup>Because you are sons and daughters, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba, Father!” <sup>7</sup>Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son or daughter, and if you are his child, then you are also an heir through God.

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Bringing Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Music *Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child* Traditional  
Children’s Choir

✠ Doxology 94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

✠ Hymn of Praise UMH 220

REGENT SQUARE

*Angels from the Realms of Glory  
(vss. 1, 2, 4)*

Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:22-40

CEB

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their ritual cleansing, in accordance with the Law from Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>It’s written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male will be dedicated to the Lord.” <sup>24</sup>They offered a sacrifice in keeping with what’s stated in the Law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. <sup>25</sup>A man named Simeon was in Jerusalem. He was righteous and devout. He eagerly anticipated the restoration of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he wouldn’t die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. <sup>27</sup>Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple area. Meanwhile, Jesus’ parents brought the child to the temple so that they could do what was customary under the Law. <sup>28</sup>Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said, <sup>29</sup>“Now, master, let your servant go in peace according to your word, <sup>30</sup>because my eyes have seen your salvation. <sup>31</sup>You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples. <sup>32</sup>It’s a light for revelation to the Gentiles and a glory for your people Israel.” <sup>33</sup>His father and mother were amazed by what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “This boy is

assigned to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that generates opposition <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your innermost being too.” <sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, who belonged to the tribe of Asher. She was very old. After she married, she lived with her husband for seven years. <sup>37</sup>She was now an 84-year-old widow. She never left the temple area but worshipped God with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>She approached at that very moment and began to praise God and to speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup>When Mary and Joseph had completed everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to their hometown, Nazareth in Galilee. <sup>40</sup>The child grew up and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God’s favor was on him.

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer (in unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

✠ Sending Hymn UMH 246

ANTIOCH

*Joy to the World  
(vss. 1, 2, 3, 4)*

✠ Announcements

✠ Benediction

✠ Postlude

*Sermon Notes...*