



First United Methodist Church Clover, SC

The First Edition

www.firstumcclover.com

January 2026

Pastor's Message

A new year always brings a mix of emotions. There is gratitude for what we have survived, hope for what lies ahead, and sometimes a quiet anxiety about what we cannot yet see. As we step into January 2026 together as the First Clover UMC family, I am reminded of a truth that has echoed through all of our ministries: **God has been faithful, God is faithful, and God will remain faithful.**

Over the past few months, we have reflected on waiting with hope, choosing peace over violence, living generously rather than fearfully, practicing humility, and trusting God even when the path forward felt uncertain. We have talked honestly about faith being tested, about fairness and unfairness, about learning to pray not just for answers but for trust. Through it all, one thing has become increasingly clear—**we are not walking this journey alone.**

As we begin this new year, I invite you to reflect on who we are and who God is calling us to be. The heart of First Clover UMC can be captured in a simple acrostic—one that reflects both our identity and our calling:

F — *Faith rooted in Jesus Christ, even when answers come slowly*
I — *Invitation for all to belong, grow, and serve*
R — *Resilience shaped by grace, not fear*
S — *Service that reflects Christ's love beyond our walls*
T — *Trust in God's presence, especially in uncertain seasons*
C — *Compassion for neighbors near and far*
L — *Listening for the Holy Spirit in prayer and discernment*
O — *Openness to transformation—personal and communal*
V — *Vision shaped by hope, not nostalgia*
E — *Encouragement that lifts one another*
R — *Remaining faithful, together, no matter what comes*

This is who we are striving to be—not just in January, but throughout the year ahead.

As we move forward into 2026, my prayer is that we will continue to walk side by side—asking good questions, extending grace freely, and trusting that God is still doing a new thing among us. May this year be marked not by fear of what we might lose, but by hope in what God is still building through us.

Thank you for being the Church. Thank you for being First Clover. And thank you for continuing this journey of faith together.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott



Mission:

We, the congregation, in humble and selfless service to God, will go forth joyfully, empowered and enabled by the Holy Spirit, to seek out, welcome, accept, and nurture persons to become faithful and effective disciples for Jesus Christ.



FOREVER YOUNG & FRIENDS

Forever Young & Friends Christmas Lunch was on December 11. It was a great time for food & fellowship. Santa & the Elves made a surprise visit which was a big hit & lots of fun. Donations and food were collected for the Food Project & Blessing Bags.

Forever Young & Friends will meet on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 10:30 in room 104.

REPORT ON BLESSING BAGS, COATS, BLANKETS & OTHER WARM ITEMS

Coats, other warm items, blankets, & Blessing Bags can be offered to people who need them. Any of our Church Family can do this. Coats, etc. are located by the Volunteer Office door in the MFC. Blessing Bags are in the Food Project Closet and Volunteer Office. Please offer these to anyone who comes for help.



SPRING YARD SALE

Church Spring Yard Sale is scheduled for March 20 – 28, 2026.

Proceeds go to various missions as well as needs of the church & the community. Please start saving your unwanted treasures now.



Altar Flowers

The 2026 Flower Calendar is now in place on the bulletin board near the door to the Missions & Fellowship Center. This is a lovely way to remember or honor your loved one, or a special day, and is also a beautiful addition to our worship experience. If you would like to provide flowers, please place your name beside the date(s) you would like to reserve.

Godly Play

Our Godly Play will now be held at the 10:00 a.m. hour starting on Sunday, November 30. All children will go directly to the children's area instead of the sanctuary.

After-School Tutor/Mentor Program

Our team is doing well and enjoying the time spent with the children. We currently have 12 Larne Elementary students. Currently we have 8 mentors and are looking for more to help. Our goal is to have one child per one mentor. We meet every Wednesday, according to the school calendar, in the Mission & Fellowship Center 2:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Sherry Gibbs 910-269-7729. We will keep everyone abreast of this partnership and other ways in which our congregation can help our children in our community.

A Minute for Missions

Cold Weather, Warm Hearts! Thank you to everyone who continues to support the missions of FUMC Clover! Including the Food Project! It plays such a vital role in helping our neighbors in need! It is a blessing to be able to BE the hands and feet of Christ in a very tangible way... one box, one can, one bag at a time!

Suggested donations are in the bulletin each week, but any food donation is greatly appreciated!

Notes on Nurture

CHILI COOK OFF and Potluck Lunch-

Join us for a Chili Cook Off and Potluck lunch! January 11th, after church in the MFC.

Please bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch. You can also bring a pot of chili to enter in the Chili cook off! So, mark your calendar and dust off your favorite chili recipe!!!

Let's Do Lunch-Let's Do Lunch will resume in January with our first Lunch date being on January 22nd at 12:00 noon. (Location will be in the bulletin)

Nurture Team Meeting- Our next Nurture Meeting is on January 8th at both 11:00 am and 7:00 pm. All are welcome.

Blood Drive

Mark your calendars for our next blood drive, February 6, 2026 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Mission and Fellowship Center. The collection will be done by OneBlood instead of the American Red Cross.



Nursery Schedule December 2025

Enclosed is the nursery schedule for the upcoming fall months. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and that these autumn months will be full of blessings for you and your families. If there is going to be a problem with a Sunday when you are scheduled, and you aren't able to find someone to swap with, just let me know, and I will be take care of getting it covered. As always, thank you all for your willingness to care for our babies. You are such a blessing to them and their parents - and to me!

8:45 Sunday School

01/04 Christine Payseur

Hope Long

01/11 Hope Long

01/18 Charlotte Dowd

Hope Long

01/25 Sarah Dover

Hope Long

02/01 Christine Payseur

Hope Long

10:00 Service

Chris Wilson (704/913-0212)

Tommy Burton (803/230-8593)

Jeannine Wyatt (803/810-2511)

Ann Grindle (980/329-2984)

Kelly Nellums

Bob Gibbs

April Suh

Hope Long

Lindee Dover

Sarah Dover



First United Methodist Church

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FUMC Staff

Reverend Scott Gilmer, Senior Pastor

Reverend J. Richard Gibson, Pastor Emeritus

Cheri King, Director of Music Ministries – cking@cloverfumc.com

Jay Oden, Organist & Pianist – jay.oden@gmail.com

Christine Payseur, Church Business / Technical Coordinator – cpayseur@cloverfumc.com

Shirley M. Davis, Administrative Assistant / Financial Secretary – sdavis@cloverfumc.com

Tracie Kite, Sexton – kite.tracie@hotmail.com

Hope Long, Nursery Care Worker / Coordinator

Newsletter – suzr74@att.net

Anna Livingston, Lay Leader

Renee Gallien, Jason King, Judy Falls, Conference Lay Members

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				Church Closed 6:30pm - Pack Leadership - Steve		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4pm - Youth - Kitchen/MFC/Gallien	6:30pm - Scouts	11am - Bible Study - Steve Camp	6:30am - Men's Prayer Breakfast 1:30pm - Tutoring -MFC 5:30pm - Dinner 6pm - Children's Choir 6pm - Hand Bells @ MFC 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	11am - Nurture Committee - Steve 4pm - Evangelism - Steve Camp 5:45pm - Volleyball - MFC 7pm - Nurture Committee 7pm - SPRC - Steve Camp		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Chili Cook Off and Potluck 4pm - Youth - Kitchen/MFC/Gallien	10am - Esther Circle - 104 6:30pm - Scouts	9:30am - Staff Meeting - Steve 11am - Bible Study - Steve Camp 7pm - Missions Committee - Steve	6:30am - Men's Prayer Breakfast 1:30pm - Tutoring -MFC 5:30pm - Dinner 6pm - Children's Choir 6pm - Hand Bells @ MFC 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	10:30am - Forever Young Steering 5:45pm - Volleyball - MFC	Food Distribution Preparation @	7:30am - Food Distribution
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
4pm - Youth - Kitchen/MFC/Gallien 5pm - UMM - MFC	Church Closed 6:30pm - Scouts	11am - Bible Study - Steve Camp 3pm - Rebekah Circle - Church	6:30am - Men's Prayer Breakfast 1:30pm - Tutoring -MFC 5:30pm - Dinner 6pm - Children's Choir 6pm - Hand Bells @ MFC 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	10:30am - Forever Young Monthly 5:45pm - Volleyball - MFC		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
4pm - Youth - Kitchen/MFC/Gallien 6pm - Trustees - Steve Camp 7pm - Admin Council	6:30pm - Scouts 6:30pm - York Cluster	9:30am - Staff Meeting - Steve 11am - Bible Study - Steve Camp	6:30am - Men's Prayer Breakfast 1:30pm - Tutoring -MFC 5:30pm - Dinner 6pm - Children's Choir 6pm - Hand Bells @ MFC 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	5:45pm - Volleyball - MFC		

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Jackson Adams	3 Brandi Bartee Allyson English
4 Tina Cargill	5 David Green	6 Tim Lyda Anniversaries: Joon & April Suh	7	8	9 Emily Quinn Wade Ward	10 Sharon James Rozetta Laye Anniversary: Tom & Suzanne Robinson
11	12 Jeremie Conner	13 Andrea Conner Anniversaries: Myra & David Drennan	14 Samantha Miller Rob Nellums	15 Steve Skinnell	16 Susie Edwards	17 Steve Bell
18 Patti Telford	19 Zack Wyatt Elaine Jones	20	21	22	23 Mike Allen Heather Douge Kim Wise	24 Windy Bartee Dick James
25	26 Drew Ballman	27	28 Rachel Reavis Anniversaries: Kirkie and Dick Gibson	29 Joshua Chambers Suzanne Thompson	30	31 Ford Preston Jay Oden