

Our Christian Worship of God
January 4, 2026
Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve

Epiphany Sunday

The Prelude "From God the Father, Virgin Born" -Weber
The Chiming of the Hour
The Call to Worship "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem"

The Welcome and Announcements

*The Hymn UMH 245 "The First Noel"

Children's Moment

*The Invocation

Pastor: Arise, for the light of Christ has come, and God's glory shines upon the world. The star still leads, and Christ still calls us to follow.

People: **We come seeking the light that guides our steps and awakens our hearts. We come ready to worship the Christ revealed to all nations.**

Pastor: The Magi followed the star with trust, bringing their gifts and their obedience. When they encountered Christ, they were changed and sent home by another way.

People: **Open our eyes to see Christ clearly and our hearts to receive His truth. Please give us the courage to leave this place transformed, willing to walk a new path.**

All: **Shine on us, O God, with the light of Christ, that we may worship with joy, listen with faith, and go from here by another way, following Jesus. Amen.**

The Anthem "Guide Us to Thy Perfect Light" Chancel Choir

*The Affirmation of Christian Faith The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

Liturgical Color: White

*The Gloria Patri "Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen."

The Offering

Offertory "Once in Royal David's City" -Gauntlet

*Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him,

all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen"

UMH # 95

*Offertory Prayer

The Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

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

*The Scripture Lesson

Matthew 2: 1-12

see insert

Minister: The Word of God for the people of God

People: **Thanks be to God. Amen**

The Sermon

"Go By Another Way"

Rev. Scott Gilmer

Prayer of Christian Discipleship

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation

The Confession and Pardon

The Great Thanksgiving

Giving of the Bread and Cup *(You may come forward to receive communion or you may receive in your seat using the prepackaged elements.*

*The Hymn UMH 254

"We Three Kings"

*The Benediction

*The Choral Response and Recessional

May the road rise to meet you; May the wind blow at your back.

May the sun shine warmly on your face;

May the rain fall softly on your field,

And until we meet again, until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of His hand. Amen

*The Chiming of the Trinity

*The Postlude "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" -Weber

*-indicates worshippers are invited to stand if able.

OUR JOYS AND PRAYER CONCERNS January 2, 2026

Note: please contact Shirley Davis in the church office to add to the joys and prayer concerns. 222-3496 or sdavis@cloverfumc.com.

Recent Concerns: Sandy King, Alice Appling, Bobbie Jackson, Judy Hench & family, Jeff Ammons, Valerie Larsen, Renee Gallien, Jane Turpin, Marie Millen, Our Homebound Angels.

Military: Captain Virginia Stanton, USMC; Petty Officer 3rd Class William Shearer; Petty Officer Andrew Beaty; Lt. Col. Leeann Hidle Chavers, Air Force; Lieutenant Colonel Thad Wilson; Lt. Col. Nicholas S. Hare; Lt. Col. Blair Preston.

The AEDs, with an alarm system, are located downstairs near the nursery and outside the sanctuary. A list of those who are CPR trained is also included in the boxes.

Reverend Scott Gilmer, Senior Pastor – ssgilmer@bellsouth.net

Reverend J. Richard Gibson, Pastor Emeritus

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

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

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

Shirley M. Davis, Admin. Asst. / Financial Sec. – sdavis@cloverfumc.com

Tracie Kite, Sexton – kitetracie@hotmail.com

Hope Long, Nursery

Anna Livingston – Lay Leader

Renee Gallien, Jason King, Judy Falls

Lay Members to Annual Conference

Reverend Scott Gilmer's telephone number is 864-554-8676. Feel free to call if you have need of him.

Hymns During Communion

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

1. Let us break bread together on our knees, let us break bread together on our knees. When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.
2. Let us drink wine together on our knees, let us drink wine together on our knees. When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.
3. Let us praise God together on our knees, let us praise God together on our knees. When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

"One Bread, One Body"

(Refrain)One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.

And we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

1. Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more. (Refrain)
2. Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all. (Refrain)
3. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one, for all. (Refrain)

Invitation to New Worshippers: Those desiring to unite with our congregation through Baptism, Profession of Faith or Transfer of Membership are encouraged to signify this on the attendance pad, on a visitor card and/or contact our Pastor. We are thankful to have new worshippers. Welcome to the First UMC family.

Weekly Scripture Readings: Isaiah 42: 1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10: 34-43; Matthew 3: 13-17

Words of Wisdom: "The Magi found Christ not by staying on familiar roads, but by following God's light into the unknown. Epiphany reminds us that encountering Jesus changes our direction. When we truly meet the Christ child, we do not simply return to life as it was—we listen more closely, trust more deeply, and, when God calls, we go home by another way."

I want to express my heartfelt thanks for the many thoughtful and meaningful ways you shared your kindness with me during the Christmas season. Each note, card, gift, word of encouragement, and act of love touched my heart more than you may realize. I am deeply humbled by your generosity and grateful beyond words to serve among such a caring and faithful congregation. It is truly a blessing to be your pastor and to walk this journey of faith together. May God continue to bless each of you and the ministry of First Clover United Methodist Church. With gratitude and grace, **Pastor Scott**

Clover FUMC Christmas Mailboxes: Please be sure to pick up your Christmas cards that you have received. The boxes are on the table located in the lobby hall.

Thank you to the SPRC and congregation for your generous Christmas gift. I appreciated it so much and enjoyed all the cards received as well. **Tracie Kite**

Following Worship service today: We would be deeply grateful for any who are able to stay for a few minutes after worship this morning to help take down the Christmas decorations throughout our church. Your time and willingness to serve in this simple but meaningful way is a true gift to our church family. Thank you for all you do to help care for our shared sacred space.

This Week

Budget Receipts	\$ 14,090.50	Week	53
Other	\$ 12,300.64	% of Budget received.....	94
Total Budget for 2025.....	\$ 485,839	Church School Attendance	27
Amount needed weekly.....	\$ 9,343	Morning Worship Attendance	75
		Youth.....	
1/1/25 Bank Balance	\$ 73,652.31		
Total giving to date	\$ 542,226.40		
Total spending to date	<u>\$ 557,413.64</u>		
Current Bank Balance	\$ 58,465.07		
12/31/25 Local Operating Balance	\$ 15,915.76		

2025 Apportionments have been paid in full.

If you want your offering to go to the new Local Operating Fund, please be sure to mark your check clearly.

Stewardship ~ Ways to Give

Regular Tithes and Offerings through the Sunday Morning Offering.

Giving On-Line: Giving to FUMC is available online through our website:

www.firstumcclover.org Thanks for your support of the mission and ministry of FUMC. If you decide to give electronically, please feel free to drop an "Electronic Giver" card in the offering plate on Sundays as an act of worship.

Wednesday, January 7

Menu: Variety of Soups, Bread & Dessert

hosted by Nurture Committee

NAME _____ # _____

Join us as we begin a new six-week Bible study titled **Following Faithfully: Six Biblical Portraits of Discipleship** this **Tuesday, January 6th at 11 AM** in the **Steve Camp classroom (room 104)**. Our first lesson, "**The Call to Follow**", will explore **Matthew 4: 18-22** and **Luke 5: 1-11**, focusing on how Jesus calls ordinary people into extraordinary lives of discipleship. All are welcome as we reflect, learn, and grow together in faith.

I truly appreciate my Christmas gift from the congregation and SPRC. Your generosity was overwhelming. Thank you to everyone who gave me Christmas cards too. **Shirley Davis**

Forever Young & Friends: We will meet on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 10:30 in room 104. Everyone is welcome to attend.

We continue to offer coats, other warm items, and blankets as well as Blessing Bags to people who need them. Coats, etc. are located by the Volunteer Office door in the Missions and Fellowship Center. Blessing Bags are in the Food Project Closet and Volunteer Office. Please offer these to anyone who comes needing help.

Church Spring Yard Sale is scheduled for March 20 – 28, 2026. Proceeds go to various missions and needs of the church and community. Please start saving your unwanted treasures now.

The 2026 Flower Calendar is now in place on the bulletin board near the door to the Missions & Fellowship Center. If you would like to provide flowers, please place your name beside the date(s) you would like to reserve.

Missions Update: 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! All food donations are greatly appreciated!

This week's suggested food donations – spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, mac & cheese, canned meat and juice.

Nothing But Nurture

Something New!!! Starting January 7th, the MFC will be open from 4:30pm to 5:30pm for an hour of gathering and fellowship before the Wednesday Night Meal!

Chili Cook Off and Potluck Lunch

Join us for a Chili Cook Off and Potluck Lunch on 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 will resume in January with our first lunch date being on January 22nd at 12:00 noon. (Location will be in the bulletin later)

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

Matthew 2: 1-12

Wise Men from the East

2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, ^[a]wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, **2** saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

3 When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. **4** And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

5 So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

6 'But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah,
Are not the least among the rulers of Judah;
For out of you shall come a Ruler
Who will shepherd My people Israel.' "

7 Then Herod, when he had secretly called the ^[b]wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. **8** And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

9 When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. **10** When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. **11** And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

12 Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.