

Our Christian Worship of God
January 18, 2026
Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

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| The Prelude | "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us" | -Innes |
| The Chiming of the Hour | | |
| The Call to Worship | "O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing" | |
| The Welcome and Announcements | | |

*The Hymn UMH 398

"Jesus Calls Us"

***The Invocation**

Leader: Holy and gracious God, You meet us where we are—curious, searching, hesitant, and hopeful. You call us by name before we know how to answer, and You invite us not simply to believe, but to follow.

People: Open our eyes, O God, to see the Lamb you have sent. Open our hearts too hear your invitation: "Come and see."

Leader: Some of us come today wrapped in comfort and certainty. Others come exposed, uncertain, and still finding our footing. Yet You receive us all—just as we are—and call us into something more.

People: Give us the courage to follow, even when we do not know the full path ahead. Help us trust that Your grace is enough—blanket or no blanket.

ALL: Lord Jesus, we come to see, to stay and to follow. Lead us deeper into Your love and send us out as your witnesses. Amen.

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| The Anthem | "Image of God" | 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.**

*universal

*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 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" -Shakley

*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 Hymn 469 "Jesus Is All The World To Me"

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

John 1: 29-42

see insert

Minister: The Word of God for the people of God

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

The Sermon

"Blanket or No Blanket, AMEN!"

Rev. Scott Gilmer

Prayer of Christian Discipleship

*The Hymn UMH 396

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

*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

"Festal Song"

-Young

*-indicates worshippers are invited to stand if able.

OUR JOYS AND PRAYER CONCERNS January 16, 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, 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.

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 9: 1-4; Psalm 27: 1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18; Matthew 4: 12-23

Words of Wisdom: “When John the Baptist points to Jesus and declares, ‘Here is the Lamb of God’, everything changes. Two disciples move from curiosity to commitment simply because they are willing to follow and stay. Faith often begins with a simple question—“*Where are you staying?*”—and grows when we accept Jesus’ invitation to “*Come and see.*” Whether we feel fully prepared or completely exposed—*blanket or no blanket*—Christ meets us as we are and calls us to remain with Him. And when we do, our lives are never the same. Amen.”

Help Save Lives: Our February **One Blood** donation is scheduled for Friday, February 6th in the Missions and Fellowship Center from 1:00pm to 6:00pm. All donors will receive: \$ 20 eGift Card, Long-sleeved T-shirt and Wellness Checkup including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count and cholesterol screening. Make your appointment today by visiting: oneblood.org/donate-now and then use **sponsor code 42679**.

For more information, contact Sherry Gibbs 910-269-7729

Music Ministry:

If you are interested in singing in the choir or ringing with our handbell choir, please contact Cheri King. cking@cloverfumc.com.

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.

SPRC would like to thank Forever Young and Friends, as well as the congregation, for the generous Christmas donations for our staff. SPRC also is very appreciative of the monetary gifts given to show our love for our pastor.

This Week

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Budget Receipts | \$ 11,454.00 |
| Other | \$ 1,131.00 |
| Total Budget for 2026..... | \$ 484,517 |
| Amount needed weekly..... | \$ 9,318 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Week | 2 |
| % of Budget received..... | 6 |
| Church School Attendance | 33 |
| Morning Worship Attendance | 84 |
| Youth..... | 9 |

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1/1/26 Bank Balance | \$ 57,736.22 |
| Total giving to date | \$ 24,755.50 |
| Total spending to date | <u>\$ 24,331.04</u> |
| Current Bank Balance | \$ 58,160.68 |

1/15/26 Local Operating Balance \$ 20,535.23

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 21

hosted by Moped to Memphis

Menu: Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Homemade Chili, Homemade Slaw, Desserts

NAME _____ # _____

Notes on Missions: Yesterday was the food project giveaway. Every month we pass out brown paper bags filled not only with boxes and cans, but also with God's love, mercy, compassion and grace. THANK YOU to everyone who continues to make this ministry possible with your thoughtful donations!

This week's suggested donations – canned fruit, canned veggies, canned soup and juice. (These are suggestions. ALL donations are appreciated!)

Nothing But Nurture

Let's Do Lunch – Our next "Lunch Date" is on January 22nd after the Forever Young & Friends meeting. We are having lunch at El Preferido at 12:00pm. So, grab your sombrero and get ready for a fiesta!

Gathering Hour – Please join us for a time of fellowship before the meal on Wednesdays. We will "gather" from 4:30pm to 5:30pm and then enjoy dinner at 5:30pm.

Homebound Angels – Please continue to pray for our Homebound Angels and Friends of Nurture! Our Nurture Bags will be on the table in March with an Easter Theme!

Chili Cookoff and Potluck Lunch -CONGRATULATIONS to our Chili Cookoff Winners!!! 1st place – Aubree Nellums (Hip Hip Hooray!!!); 2nd Place – Renee Gallien (Yea!) 3rd Place: there was a Three-way tie! Joe Creech, Melody and Denise Bono. Congratulations to all of our winners! **Thank you** to everyone who made chili, cooked for the potluck, made a dessert, or helped with clean up! It was a group effort with LOTS of helping hands, and it was a wonderful, *yummy* afternoon!

"GAME ON: FELLOWSHIP EDITION!"

- **"GAME ON FELLOWSHIP EDITION" – This is a NEW Fellowship Opportunity!** Come visit with your church family members and engage in some fun activities! (Drinks and light snacks will be provided.)
- It will be held once a month, on a Tuesday, at 3:00pm in the MFC.
- Mark your calendars for the following dates:
January 20th, February 17th, March 17th, April 28th and May 19th.
- Here are some of the activities you can look forward to:
Bingo, Chair Yoga, Karaoke, Bible Themed Pictionary, Rummy Cube, Cornhole, "What's on my Back" Game, Taboo-Bible edition, Chair Volleyball with Beach Balls, Puzzles, Games, Name That Tune, and Conversation Started Cards.
- No sign up required. Just show up ready to have a great time!!!

John 1: 29-42

The Lamb of God

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who ^[a]is preferred before me, for He was before me.' ³¹ I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water."

³² And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. ³³ I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

The First Disciples

³⁵ Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. ³⁶ And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!"

³⁷ The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?"

They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?"

³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).

⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John *speak*, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the ^[b]Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of ^[c]Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, ^[d]A Stone).