

Our Christian Worship of God
January 11, 2026
Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve

Baptism of the Lord Liturgical Color: White

The Prelude "Adagio" -Mendelssohn
The Chiming of the Hour
The Call to Worship "O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing"

The Welcome and Announcements
*The Hymn UMH 252 "When Jesus Came To Jordon"

*The Invocation
Leader: Gracious and loving God, as Jesus stepped into the waters of the Jordan, You revealed Your Son and affirmed Your purpose. Today, we come remembering the waters of baptism—waters that wash, renew, and call us into new life.
People: We come, O God, remembering that we, too, have been claimed by Your grace and named as Your beloved children.
Leader: By Your Spirit, stir within us the promises spoken over us in baptism: that we are forgiven, called, and sent to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in the world.
People: Renew us, O Lord, so that the waters that once touched our lives may continue to shape our hearts, our faith, and our witness at First Clover UMC.
All: Open us now to Your presence and purpose. As we worship, remind us that we are washed not only for ourselves, but for the sake of the world You love. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Anthem "Waters of Grace" 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.

*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 "Baptized in Water" -Saward
*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 TFWS 2107 "Wade In The Water"

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 3: 13-17 see insert
Minister: The Word of God for the people of God
People: **Thanks be to God. Amen**

The Sermon "Washed For A Purpose" Rev. Scott Gilmer
Prayer of Christian Discipleship

Congregation Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant UMH 50-53

*The Hymn UMH 500 "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"
*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 "St. Anne" -Willan

*-indicates worshippers are invited to stand if able.

OUR JOYS AND PRAYER CONCERNS January 9, 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 Worshipers: 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 49: 1-7; Psalm 40: 1-11; 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9; John 1: 29-42

Words of Wisdom: “In the waters of Jesus’ baptism, we are reminded that baptism is not simply a moment to remember, but a life to live. When Jesus rises from the Jordan, heaven opens, the Spirit descends, and a voice declares love and purpose. In our own baptism, God names us as beloved and sends us into the world—not to remain unchanged but to live as people marked by grace, guided by the Spirit, and committed to Christ’s way of love. To be washed is to be claimed; to be claimed is to be sent.”

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.

Join us in a new six-week Bible study titled **Following Faithfully: Six Biblical Portraits of Discipleship on Tuesday 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.

Missions Update: The holidays have passed and the New Year has begun. Thank you to everyone who donated their time or resources last year to help the missions of this church! Jesus calls us to be “the hands and feet of Christ” and time and time again FUMC Clover has stepped up and shown overwhelming generosity! Thank you!

Suggested donations for the Food Project this week – cereal, grits, oatmeal, pancake mix, or 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

TODAY is the Day! Join us after church today for a Chili Cook Off and Potluck lunch! This will be a time of great food and great fellowship!

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)

<u>This Week</u>			
Budget Receipts	\$ 11,040.00	Week	1
Other	\$ 1,130.50	% of Budget received.....	3
Total Budget for 2026.....	\$ 484,517	Church School Attendance	42
Amount needed weekly.....	\$ 9,318	Morning Worship Attendance	91
		Youth.....	

1/1/26 Bank Balance	\$ 57,736.22
Total giving to date	\$ 12,170.50
Total spending to date	\$ 16,142.80
Current Bank Balance	\$ 53,763.92

1/9/26 Local Operating Balance \$ 19,370.23

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 14
Menu: Spaghetti, salad, bread & dessert

hosted by Missions Committee

NAME _____ # _____

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

Thank you:
I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the choir, congregation and SPRC for your generous support this Christmas and all year long. I am grateful to be a part of such a loving church family, and I look forward to the upcoming year!

Cheri King

Pastor Scott and friends of the church,
Thank you for remembering me this Christmas and all the beautiful and wonderful gifts. Happy New Year to all. Love,

Melva Jones

I want to thank the Ladies’ Circles, the Nurture Committee, and my church family for all the goodies, cards, visits and prayers. I want to say a special thank you to Rev. Gilmer, Judy Falls and Cathy Bell for bringing Communion to my home during the Christmas Holidays. It made my Christmas so special. Thank you everyone for always thinking about me.

Betty Robinson

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.

Matthew 3:13-17

John Baptizes Jesus

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ And John *tried to* prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

¹⁵ But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit *it to be* so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and ^[a]He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."