



#### 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.



First United Methodist Church Clover, SC

## The First Edition

[www.firstumcclover.com](http://www.firstumcclover.com)

February 2026

### Pastor's Message

February brings a day that holds many emotions—**Valentine's Day**. For some, it is a celebration filled with cards, flowers, and shared memories. For others, it can stir feelings of loss, loneliness, or longing. And for many, it is simply another day on the calendar. Wherever we find ourselves, Valentine's Day invites us to reflect on something that touches every life: love.

As I think about the power of love, I am reminded of a line from the film **Love Actually**. In the opening scene, the narrator—played by Hugh Grant—describes watching people reunite in the arrivals area at Heathrow Airport. He observes that in those moments of embrace and relief, love appears simple and unmistakable. He then reflects on the tragedy of September 11, noting that when the planes struck the Twin Towers, the final phone calls made from those planes were not filled with anger or hatred, but with words of love.

That reflection reminds us of something deeply important: when everything else falls away, **love remains**.

Love shows up in many forms—romantic love, family love, friendship, and the quiet care we extend to one another in times of need. Yet nothing is more powerful, faithful, or enduring than the love of God. It is a love that does not depend on a season, a relationship status, or a perfect set of circumstances. It is a love that meets us exactly where we are.

We may not always experience the picture-perfect love portrayed in greeting cards or movies. Life is more complicated than that. But God's love is not fragile or fleeting. It is steady. It is patient. It is present—even when we struggle to feel it. And when we allow ourselves to receive that love, we are reminded that we were never meant to keep it to ourselves. God's love flows through us so that it may be shared with our neighbors, our community, and our world.

So, what does love have to do with it? **Everything**.

Scripture reminds us with confidence and hope: *"What can separate us from the love of Christ? For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

May this truth shape our hearts this month—and always—as we live, serve, and love together at First Clover United Methodist Church.

God Bless,

Pastor Scott



## **VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCH**



Celebrate Valentine's Day on  
Thursday, FEBRUARY 12, 2026 at 12:00  
in the Mission & Fellowship Center.

The meat will be provided.

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Donations and/or food for the  
Blessing Bags & the Food Project are much appreciated.

Everyone is invited!

Please sign up or call the church office.

## **FOREVER YOUNG & FRIENDS BLESSING BAGS**

We continue to offer Blessing Bags to people who need them. They are located in the Food Project Closet and Volunteer Office. Please offer a Blessing Bag to anyone who comes needing help.



### **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.

## Notes on Nurture

**Let's Do Lunch**-Join us after the Forever Young and Friends meeting on February 26<sup>nd</sup> at 12:00 noon at Courtney's. Come and enjoy good BBQ and great conversation!

**Nurture Team** – We will meet quickly (at 11 am February 12<sup>th</sup> before the Valentine's day lunch. We will also meet at 7:00 pm on the 12<sup>th</sup> for those that can't make the morning meeting.

## 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!

# fun & games

## GAME ON: FELLOWSHIP EDITION!

- This is a NEW Fellowship Opportunity! Come visit with your church family members and engage in some fun activities!
- Our first gathering will be February 17<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm in the MFC. Join us for some great fellowship and then enjoy pancakes at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.
- Mark your calendars for the following dates: March 17<sup>th</sup>, April 28<sup>th</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup>
- Here are some of the activities you can look forward to:  
Bingo, Karaoke, Puzzles, Games, and Name That Tune.
- No sign up required. Just show up ready to have a great time!!!



## Blood Drive

Our February One Blood donation is scheduled for Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://oneblood.org/donate-now) and then use sponsor code 42679. For more information, contact Sherry Gibbs 910-269-7729





FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
124 BETHEL STREET  
CLOVER, SC 29710



Yard Sale March 23 – 28, 2026

Wednesday, March 25 at Men's Prayer Breakfast  
& Wednesday Night Dinner

FRIDAY, March 27 8:00am – 6:00pm

**HOT DOG LUNCH – Friday 10:30–until sold out**

*All Beef Hot dog combo (hot dog, chips, & drink) \$5.00*

*Individually - Hot Dogs \$3.00, Drinks \$1.00 & Chips \$1.00*

**COUNTRY STORE – BAKED GOODS & MORE**

SATURDAY, March 28 8:00am – 11:00pm

Drop off Donations at the church Sunday March 22  
through Thursday March 26.

Room in the building for earlier donations.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS AND SUPPORT!!**

# Nursery Schedule February 2026

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

02/01 Christine Payseur  
Hope Long  
02/08 Hope Long  
  
02/15 Charlotte Dowd  
Hope Long  
02/22 Sarah Dover  
Hope Long



## 10:00 Service

Lindee Dover  
Sarah Dover  
Courtney Rogers  
Hope Long  
Chris Wilson  
Tommy Burton  
Jeannine Wyatt  
Ann Grindle

## From Melva

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



## From The Esther Circle & the Forever Young & Friends

Thank you for all the coats, blankets & other warm items you donated to the Coat Project. Many people of all ages are warmer this winter because of you generous donations.

## From the SPRC

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.

## **First United Methodist Church**

**124 Bethel Street**

**Clover, SC 29710**

**(803) 222-3496**

[www.firstumcclover.org](http://www.firstumcclover.org)



### **FUMC Staff**

Reverend Scott Gilmer, Senior Pastor

Reverend J. Richard Gibson, Pastor Emeritus

Cheri King, Director of Music Ministries – [cking@cloverfumc.com](mailto:cking@cloverfumc.com)

Jay Oden, Organist & Pianist – [jay.oden@gmail.com](mailto:jay.oden@gmail.com)

Christine Payseur, Church Business / Technical Coordinator – [cpayseur@cloverfumc.com](mailto:cpayseur@cloverfumc.com)

Shirley M. Davis, Administrative Assistant / Financial Secretary – [sdavis@cloverfumc.com](mailto:sdavis@cloverfumc.com)

Tracie Kite, Sexton – [kite.tracie@hotmail.com](mailto:kite.tracie@hotmail.com)

Hope Long, Nursery Care Worker / Coordinator

Newsletter – [suzr74@att.net](mailto:suzr74@att.net)

Anna Livingston, Lay Leader

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

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue  | Wed   | Thu   | Fri                                    | Sat                              |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|----------------------------------|
| 1<br>11:15am - Children Council - Steve<br>4pm - Listening & Learning -<br>4pm - Youth - Kitchen/MFC/Gallien | 2<br>Youth Ski Trip - Bus<br>6:30pm - Scouts       | 3<br>11am - Bible Study - Steve Camp   | 4<br>6:30am - Men's Prayer Breakfast<br>1:30pm - Tutoring -MFC<br>5:30pm - Dinner<br>6pm - Children's Choir<br>6pm - Hand Bells @ MFC<br>6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal                                   | 5<br>4pm - Evangelism Committee -<br>5:45pm - Volleyball - MFC<br>6:30pm - Pack Leadership - Steve                      | 6<br>12pm - Blood Drive                | 7                                |
| 8<br>4pm - Youth - Kitchen/MFC/Gallien   | 9<br>10am - Esther Circle - 104<br>6:30pm - Scouts | 10<br>9:30am - Staff Meeting - Steve<br>11am - Bible Study - Steve Camp  | 11<br>6:30am - Men's Prayer Breakfast<br>1:30pm - Tutoring -MFC<br>5:30pm - Dinner<br>6pm - Children's Choir<br>6pm - Hand Bells @ MFC<br>6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal                                  | 12<br>8am - Forever Young -<br>11am - Nurture Committee - Steve<br>5:45pm - Volleyball - MFC<br>7pm - Nurture Committee | 13                                     | 14                               |
| 15<br>4pm - Youth - Kitchen/MFC/Gallien<br>5pm - UMM - MFC<br>6pm - Trustees - Steve Camp                    | 16<br>6:30pm - Scouts                              | 17<br>11am - Bible Study - Steve Camp<br>3pm - Game on: Fellowship Edition<br>3pm - Rebekah Circle - Church<br>5:30pm - Shrove Tuesday - | 18<br>6:30am - Men's Prayer Breakfast<br>1:30pm - Tutoring -MFC<br>5:30pm - Dinner<br>6pm - Ash Wednesday Service -<br>6pm - Children's Choir<br>6pm - Hand Bells @ MFC<br>6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal | 19<br>5:45pm - Volleyball - MFC   | 20<br>Food Distribution Preparation @  | 21<br>7:30am - Food Distribution |
| 22<br>4pm - Youth - Kitchen/MFC/Gallien<br>7pm - Admin Council   | 23<br>6:30pm - Scouts                              | 24<br>9:30am - Staff Meeting - Steve<br>11am - Bible Study - Steve Camp  | 25<br>6:30am - Men's Prayer Breakfast<br>1:30pm - Tutoring -MFC<br>5:30pm - Dinner<br>6pm - Children's Choir<br>6pm - Hand Bells @ MFC<br>6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal                                  | 26<br>10:30am - Forever Young Monthly<br>5:45pm - Volleyball - MFC  | 27<br>5pm - Pinewood Derby Setup - MFC | 28<br>Pinewood Derby - MFC       |



# February Birthdays and Anniversaries

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue   | Wed                                   | Thu  | Fri  | Sat                               |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1  | 2   | 3<br>Eleanor Eakes                            | 4<br>Matthew Maslankowski             | 5<br>William Stewart                               | 6<br>Mitch Barr<br>Landen Baysinger                  | 7                                 |
| 8  | 9<br>Ken Farris   | 10  | 11<br>Wynn Bartee                     | 12<br>Gloria Baysinger                             | 13   | 14                                |
| 15<br>Anniversaries:<br>Anthony and Heather<br>Carricato | 16<br>Renee Farris<br>Jo Gossett<br>Tyler Wise<br>Hollis Young<br>Denise Bono | 17<br>Anniversaries:<br>Cathy and Chris Allen | 18<br>Emma Amrhein                    | 19<br>Dana Doster                                  | 20<br>Kathy Hayes<br>Elizabeth Sukkert<br>Katie Bono | 21<br>Sange Ammons<br>Ron Gilmer  |
| 22<br>Nate Bell<br>Amber Hedderman                       | 23<br>Vicki Reavis<br>Scott Falls   | 24  | 25<br>Lilly Rogers<br>Virginia Rogers | 26<br>Shirley Davis<br>Mari Heckle<br>Becky Vaughn | 27   | 28<br>Ian Telford<br>Don Robinson |