



First United Methodist Church Clover, SC

The First Edition

www.firstumcclover.com February 2026

Pastor's Message



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.



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 26nd 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 12th before the Valentine's day lunch. We will also meet at 7:00 pm on the 12th 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^ggames

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 17th 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 17th, April 28th and May 19th
- 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 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



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

thankyou

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 your 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



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 – kitetracie@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

Clover FUMC Annual Calendar

Feb 2026 (Eastern Time - New York

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

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

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