

Our Christian Worship of God  
February 22, 2026  
Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Liturgical Color: Purple

The Prelude Beautiful Savior” -Burkhardt

The Chiming of the Hour

The Call to Worship “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

The Welcome and Announcements

\*The Hymn UMH 393 “Spirit of the Living God”

\*The Invocation

Leader: Holy and gracious God, as Nicodemus came seeking You in the night, we come seeking You this morning. Some of us come with questions. Some of us come with burdens. Some of us come longing for a fresh start. Meet us here at First Clover United Methodist Church with Your mercy and light.

**People: Lord, open our hearts to the gift of beginning again.**

Leader: God of new birth and boundless love, You did not send Your son to condemn the world, but to save it. When we feel stuck in old patterns, trapped in past mistakes, or weary from the weight of yesterday, remind us that Your Spirit still moves—still renews—still breathes life into dry places.

**People: Breathe on us again, O God, and make us new.**

**ALL: Gracious Savior, as we worship today at First Clover UMC, lead us from darkness into light, from fear into faith, and from hesitation into hope. Help us trust that through Christ, it is never too late to begin again. Amen.**

The Anthem “We Gather at One Table” 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 “Christ, Our Redeemer” -Rheinberger

\*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 John 3: 1-17 see insert

Minister: The Word of God for the people of God

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

The Sermon “Beginning Again” Rev. Scott Gilmer

Prayer of Christian Discipleship

The Sacrament of Holy Communion UMH 12-15

\*The Hymn 297 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

\*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 “Toccatà-Sortie” -Larri

\*-indicates worshippers are invited to stand if able.

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**We welcome our guest organist, Ginger Wyrick, to First UMC this morning. Thank you for sharing your talents with us today..**

## **OUR JOYS AND PRAYER CONCERNS February 20, 2026**

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

**Recent Concerns:** Melva Jones, Denise Bono, Judy Bailes, Albert Wyatt, Steve Pryor, Kathy Collins, Sandy King, Judy Hench & family, Valerie Larsen, Renee Gallien, Jane Turpin, Marie Millen, Our Homebound Angels.

**Military:** Captain Virginia Stanton, USMC; Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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**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](mailto:ssgilmer@bellsouth.net)

Reverend J. Richard Gibson, Pastor Emeritus

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

Jay Oden, Organist – [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, Admin. Asst. / Financial Sec. – [sdavis@cloverfumc.com](mailto:sdavis@cloverfumc.com)

Tracie Kite, Sexton – [kite-tracie@hotmail.com](mailto:kite-tracie@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:** Exodus 17: 1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5: 1-11; John 4: 5-42

**Words of Wisdom:** Today we gather in the presence of the God who meets us in the quiet of the night and in the questions of our hearts. Like Nicodemus, we come seeking understanding—longing to see more clearly and live more fully. In Jesus Christ, we hear the promise that no life is beyond renewal, no heart beyond grace, no story beyond redemption. As we worship, may the Spirit breathe new life within us. May we be open to the holy mystery of being “born from above,” and may we trust that with God, it is always possible to begin again.

**Billy Gallien Memorial Scholarship:** The Billy Gallien Memorial Scholarship is available for students graduating high school in the Class of 2026. To qualify students must be a member of FUMC Clover. Applications are available in the church office. The deadline to return the applications to the church office is April 17, 2026. Scholarship amounts will be based on the funding available. For questions, please contact Renee Gallien at 704-898-7602 / [rgbhist@bellsouth.net](mailto:rgbhist@bellsouth.net).

**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.

### **FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

To better support the ongoing needs of Clover FUMC's facilities and infrastructure, the Finance Committee plans to consolidate the remaining balances of two special-purpose giving accounts – the **Organ Repair & Restoration Fund** and the **Fire Alarm Upgrade Fund** – into the Trustees' **General Building & Facilities Maintenance Fund**. These monies will continue to be used **only** for building and facility needs, **including** but not limited to, organ repair and maintenance and fire alarm system needs.

If you previously contributed to either of these projects and prefer that your donation **not** be transferred, please contact **Shirley Davis**, by **Monday, March 2, 2026**.

**Notes on Missions:** THANK YOU to everyone who continues to make this ministry possible with your thoughtful donations! This week's suggested donations – cereal, grits, oatmeal or pancake mix. (These are suggestions. ALL donations are appreciated!)

**Nothing But Nurture**

**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!

- **“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.) Everyone is invited!
- It will be held once a month, on a Tuesday, at 3:00pm in the MFC.
- Mark your calendars for the following dates: March 17<sup>th</sup>, April 28<sup>th</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup>.
- No sign up required. Just show up ready to have a great time!!!

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**This Week**

Budget Receipts .....	\$ 4,391.00	Week .....	8
Other .....	\$ 635.00	% of Budget received.....	18
Total Budget for 2026.....	\$ 484,517	Church School Attendance .....	
Amount needed weekly.....	\$ 9,318	Morning Worship Attendance .....	95
		Youth.....	

1/1/26 Bank Balance	\$ 57,059.69
Total giving to date	\$ 100,080.68
Total spending to date	\$ <u>88,067.03</u>
Current Bank Balance	\$ 69,073.34

2/26/26 Local Operating Balance \$ 21,099.61

**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](http://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.**

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**Wonderful Wednesday Meal, March 4**

hosted by Gallien Scholarship Fund

Menu: Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls & Desserts

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_

## John 3:1-17

### The New Birth

**3** There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. **2** This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” **3** Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born <sup>[a]</sup>again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” **4** Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” **5** Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ **8** The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” **9** Nicodemus answered and said to Him, “How can these things be?” **10** Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? **11** Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. **12** If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, *that is*, the Son of Man <sup>[b]</sup>who is in heaven. **14** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in Him should <sup>[c]</sup>not perish but have eternal life. **16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **17** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.