



First United Methodist Church Clover, SC

The First Edition

www.firstumcclover.com

March 2026



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.



Pastor's Message

March invites us into one of the most sacred and transformative seasons of the Christian year—Lent. These forty days are not meant to be rushed through or merely observed; they are meant to be walked. Lent gives us space to slow down, to examine our hearts, to repent where needed, and to draw closer to the One who walked steadfastly toward Jerusalem for our sake.

At First Clover UMC, we continue that journey through our Lenten Bible Study:

Walking With Them to the Cross: Six Biblical Characters of Holy Week

Each week, we step into Holy Week by standing beside familiar—and sometimes overlooked—figures in the Gospel story. As we reflect on their choices, struggles, and faith, we begin to see our own discipleship more clearly. We meet on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. in the Steve Camp Classroom, and all are welcome.

March also brings us to the celebration of St. Patrick, whose life beautifully echoes the Lenten journey. Saint Patrick was not born a missionary. He was kidnapped as a teenager and enslaved in Ireland. In the isolation of hardship, he discovered a deep dependence on God. What began as suffering became surrender. What began as captivity became a calling.

After escaping and returning home, Patrick later chose to go back—not with bitterness, but with the Gospel. His ministry was

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(Pastor's Message continued)

rooted in courage, humility, and an unwavering trust in the Trinity. In many ways, his story mirrors Lent itself: hardship refined by grace, surrender transformed into purpose, and obedience leading to resurrection hope. As we journey toward the cross, Patrick's witness reminds us that God can redeem even our most painful chapters and use them for holy purposes.

As our Lenten journey moves toward Holy Week, I invite you to mark your calendar:

- Maundy Thursday – April 2 at 6:00 PM (Sanctuary)
We will gather for a sacred service of Holy Communion, remembering the upper room and Christ's command to love one another.
- Good Friday Tenebrae – April 3 at 6:00 PM (Sanctuary)
Through readings from John's Gospel, we will walk step-by-step toward the crucifixion in a solemn and reflective service. A sign-up list will be available for those willing to read a passage.
- Easter Sunday – April 5
Sunrise Service at 7:00 AM (Parking Lot)
Morning Worship at 10:00 AM (Sanctuary)

From the quiet darkness of Good Friday to the radiant joy of Easter morning, we will proclaim together that death does not have the final word. Christ is risen. Hope is alive. Grace has triumphed.

As we walk these weeks together at First Clover UMC, my prayer is that we will not merely observe the Lenten season and the events of Holy Week, but that we will experience them. That we will not simply remember the cross but be shaped by it. And that when Easter morning dawns, our joy will be even deeper because we have truly walked the road that leads there. I am grateful to be on this journey with you.

With hope and anticipation,

Pastor Scott

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.

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 Gallian 704-898-7602 / rgbfhist@bellsouth.net

Children Ministry Events

Put these on your calendar now:

- Wonderful Wednesday Meal March 25 the children will host. Come support this fundraiser.
- Easter Egg Hunt - Palm Sunday, March 29 2 to 4 p.m. public is invited
- Parent's Night Out - Friday, April 24 - more information to come
- Vacation Bible School - June 14 -17 with dinner



Notes on Nurture

As we go through Lent, let us take time to show God's love to those around us.

A Prayer for Nurture-

Father, Fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we can share your love and compassion with others. Help us to love and comfort those around us the way you love and comfort us. Thank you for each opportunity we have to hold each other up, and encourage each other. Give us eyes to see when our brother or sister is hurting, and hearts to respond with love and kindness. Strengthen us in this journey of Lent and help us grow closer to You each day. Amen.

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

A Minute for Missions

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another." John 13:34

Each month at FUMC Clover, we live out loving one another by opening our hearts and our hands and serving. The Food Project has been quietly serving our neighbors in the community for many years. Thank you to everyone who donates their time to pack bags, sort food, or shop! Thank you to everyone who picks up extra groceries and puts them in the shopping cart in the lobby! Thank you to everyone who donates their resources so our neighbors in need have something to eat!

This is an impactful ministry that touches the lives of those in need in a practical way! Thank you for helping us show God's love to others!

Suggested donations-

1st Sunday- spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, macaroni and cheese, and canned meat

2nd Sunday- Cereal, grits, oatmeal, and pancake mix

3rd Sunday- canned fruit, canned vegetables, and canned soup

4th Sunday- peanut butter, dried beans, and crackers

5th Sunday- toilet paper, and juice

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



After-School Tutor/Mentor Program

Our Wednesday after school tutoring program is growing and we really need 2 more volunteers. If you enjoy helping children and can spare a couple of hours, please contact Sherry Gibbs 910-269-7729.

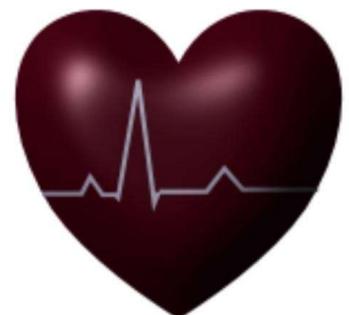
Blood Drive

Whether you were a donor or volunteer, thank you for your participation in our "One Blood" drive on February 6. Our goal was 15 and we secured 14 units.

Our next drive will be held on June 26 in the Mission and Fellowship Center.

Sign up today by logging on to:

oneblood.org/donate-now using Sponsor Code: 42679



March Godly Play Schedule

March 1 - No Godly Play - Communion

March 8 - Ann Grindle and Courtney Hastings

March 15 - Hope Long Gloria Baysinger

March 22 - Eddie Sherwood and Tammy Creech

March 29 - Hope Long and Kelly Nellums

Volunteers Schedule for Yard Sale

March 20 – 28, 2026

Any amount of time you can help is great! There are lots of different jobs, so you can pick one that works for you. Everyone is welcome. FRIDAY – March 20 about 9:30 – Set up & arrange tables.

SUNDAY March 22 through Thursday, March 26 - Please bring your donations. There is storage if you need to bring things earlier. People are needed to help unload people's items & to sort & put out items.

WORKERS Needed:

9:00am – 2:00pm Monday –Thursday

7:30 am on Friday & Saturday

12:00 Noon - Lunch on Monday – Thursday.

10:30 am – Friday Hot Dog Lunch

WEDNESDAY Selling @ Wednesday morning Men's Prayer Breakfast & Wednesday night dinner. HELPERS NEEDED ESPECIALLY WEDNESDAY NIGHT before & after dinner.

FRIDAY 7:30am – 6:00pm. If possible, wear a green shirt.

SATURDAY –7:30am – we start packing up about 11:30.

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!!

Message from Samaritan's Purse

We praise God that Samaritan's Purse collected 12,205,900 Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts in 2025. Thank you for your faithful partnership to help take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. We know these shoeboxes are a result of numerous hours of planning, packing, and prayer that required a lot of support. We are now 10 months away from National Collection Week.

The Evangelism and Mission Committee will be participating in Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes this year with our Christmas in July event. So start thinking about what you will want to purchase and hit those sales throughout the coming months.

Nursery Schedule March 2025

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

03/01 Christine Payseur (980/253-6084)
Hope Long (803/810-2672)

03/08 Hope Long
Courtney Rogers (434/579-9287)

03/15 Charlotte Dowd (803/526-1103)
Hope Long

03/22 Sarah Dover
Hope Long

03/29 Hope Long
Tommy Burton
(803/230-8593)

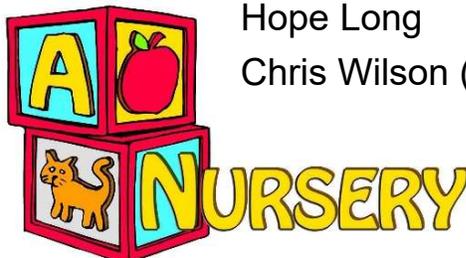
10:00 Service

April Suh (704/315-3146)
Hope Long

Bob Gibbs (910/386-7464)

Lindee Dover (803/526-1482)
Sarah Dover (803/610-7032)
Kelly Nellums (910/880-1758)
Hope Long

Chris Wilson (704/913-0212)



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 – kite_tracie@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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 4pm - Youth - Kitchen/MFC/Gallien	2 6:30pm - Scouts	3 11am - Bible Study - Steve Camp	4 6:30am - Men's Prayer Breakfast 1:30pm - Tutoring -MFC 4:30pm - Children Council - Steve 5:30pm - Dinner 6pm - Children's Choir 6pm - Hand Bells @ MFC 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	5 5:45pm - Volleyball - MFC 6:30pm - Pack Leadership - Steve	6	7
8 4pm - Youth - Kitchen/MFC/Gallien	9 10am - Esther Circle - 104 6:30pm - Scouts 6:30pm - York Cluster	10 9:30am - Staff Meeting - Steve 11am - Bible Study - Steve Camp	11 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	12 11am - Nurture Committee - Steve 5:45pm - Volleyball - MFC 7pm - Nurture Committee 7pm - SPRC - Steve Camp	13	14
15 4pm - Youth - Kitchen/MFC/Gallien 5pm - UMM - MFC 6pm - Trustees - Steve Camp	16 6:30pm - Scouts	17 11am - Bible Study - Steve Camp 3pm - Rebekah Circle - Church	18 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	19 10:30am - Forever Young Steering 5:45pm - Volleyball - MFC	20 Forever Young Spring Yard Sale Food Distribution Preparation @	21 7:30am - Food Distribution
22 Forever Young Spring Yard Sale	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 2pm - Easter Egg Hunt - MFC 4pm - Youth - Kitchen/MFC/Gallien	30 6:30pm - Scouts	31 11am - Bible Study - Steve Camp 6pm - Girl Scout Recruitment - MFC	1 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	2 10:30am - Forever Young Monthly 7pm - Finance Committee - Steve	3	4

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Anniversaries: Mike & Denise Bono	2 Kevin Carricato Lee Keller Eliza Stanton	3 Gary Engels Jim Gover Hannah Hopper Chip Jones	4 Bobbie Jackson	5 Tom Bowman	6	7
8 Seth Hurst Eric Hedderman	9	10 Addie Yarbrough	11 Sarah Keller	12 Bill Bartee AJ Dover Zachary Miller	13 Susan Miller	14 Jonathan Beamguard
15 Bailey Bartee Drew Sullivan Barbara Ogle	16 Jeff Stewart	17 Chris Allen Luke McCarter Daniel Maslankowski Beth McAllister	18 Michelle Baysinger Kara Douge Leonard Laye	19 Patty Ledford Jennica Millay	20 Alan Robinson Dick Gibson	21 Anniversaries: Amy and Scott Adams
22 William Amrhein Logan Pierzinski	23	24 Alan Livingston	25 David Drennan Mack McCarter	26 Jakob Clinton Paige Deal	27 Kathy Gesner	28
29 Jason King Laura Skinnell	30 Rachel Boyd Mallory Dover Drew Gordon Todd Ward Anniversaries: Hope and Jeff Long Rodney & Jenny Orr	31 Janet Love Terri Keller Ethan Schriefer				