

Our Christian Worship of God
March 15, 2026
Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve

4th Sunday in Lent Liturgical Color: Purple

The Prelude "Fairest Lord Jesus" -Richardson

The Chiming of the Hour

The Call to Worship "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

The Welcome and Announcements

*The Hymn UMH 454 "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

*The Invocation

Leader: God of light and truth, You see beyond the surface of our lives. Where we are unaware, uncertain, or spiritually blind, You gently call us toward deeper sight.

People: Open our eyes, O Lord, that we may see Your presence among us and Your grace at work within us.

Leader: When we cling to assumptions, fears, or comfortable ways of seeing the world, You invite us into the transforming light of Christ.

People: Shine Your light upon our hearts, that we may recognize Your truth and walk in Your ways.

ALL: God of healing and illumination, awaken our spirits today. Remove the blind spots that keep us from Your love, and lead us into the breakthrough light of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. Amen.

The Anthem "Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy" 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 Sacrament of Holy Baptism Scotlyn Drew Sullivan UMH 39-44

*The Hymn TFWS 2249 "God Claims You"

The Offering

Offertory "What Wondrous Love" -Carter

*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 9: 1-41 see insert

Minister: The Word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God. Amen

The Sermon "Blind Spots and Breakthrough Light" Rev. Scott Gilmer
Prayer of Christian Discipleship

*The Hymn UMH 378 "Amazing Grace (vs. 1-3, 6)"

*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 "A Mighty Fortress" -Kittel

*-indicates worshippers are invited to stand if able.

The flowers are placed at the altar today to the Glory of God

**and in honor of Scotlyn Drew Sullivan's baptism,
given by Grandparents Chuck and Christine Payseur.**

OUR JOYS AND PRAYER CONCERNS March 12, 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: Pat Bono, Melva Jones, Denise Bono, Judy Bailes, Albert Wyatt, 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 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 – 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: Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8: 6-11; John 11: 1-45.

Words of Wisdom: When Jesus encountered the man born blind, He did more than restore physical sight—He revealed a deeper truth about spiritual vision. In a world quick to judge and explain suffering, Jesus invites us instead to see through the lens of grace. Faith is not about having all the answers: it is about being open to the light Christ brings into our lives. When we allow His light to guide us, our eyes—and our hearts—are opened to God's presence, truth, and transforming love.

Today is UMCOR Sunday. If you would like to give to this cause, please mark your checks in the memo line –UMCOR Sunday. Thank you.

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.

Notes on Missons: Thank you to everyone who faithfully donates to this impactful ministry! This week's suggestions – canned fruit, canned vegetable, and canned soup. And juice is always needed. (These are suggestions. ALL donations are appreciated!)

Nothing But Nurture

- **“Game On: Fellowship Edition”** – Join us on Tuesday, March 17th at 3:00pm in the MFC. This is a new time of fellowship for our church family! This month we will do games and puzzles. Please mark your calendar and make plans to join us. This is open to everyone in our church family!
- **Nurture Bags** – The Nurture Bags are on the table now. Please drop in cards and little gifts to show our Homebound Angels how much they mean to us!
- **Card Ministry**- We will resume the Card Ministry on April 6th at 11:00am. Please let Denise Bono know if there is someone we can add to our list.
- **Nurture Meeting** – The next Nurture Team Meeting will be on April 9th at both 11:00am and 7:00pm. New ideas and new people are always welcome!

Our Easter Egg Hunt is just around the corner. If you would like to help with this event, the Children's Council is collecting candy now through Wednesday, March 25th. A basket will be located near the sign-up table by the Children's Ministry board. Thank you in advance for your donations.

Vacation Bible School: This year VBS will be held on June 14-17, theme: Rome...Paul and the Underground Church. The Children's Council members are requesting daily prayers, asking God to prepare the hearts of church members, workers, and children who will attend. Thank you.

Listening and Learning Lunch: A presentation from the Finance Committee and lunch will be next Sunday, March 22nd following worship service. A sign up sheet is provided since Cathy Bell will need to know how many to prepare for. Please plan to attend and be sure to sign up.

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.

Church family & friends can shop anytime.

Friday – March 20 about 9:30am –Set up and 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 and put items.

WORKERS NEEDED

9:00am - 3:00pm Monday – Thursday

7:30am on Friday and Saturday

12:00 Noon - Lunch on Monday – Thursday

10:30am until gone – Friday Hot Dog Lunch

Wednesday *Selling at Wednesday morning Men's Prayer Breakfast and Wednesday Night dinner.* **HELPERS NEEDED ESPICALLY WEDNESDAY NIGHT BEFORE AND AFTER DINNER.**

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

SATURDAY 7:30am - we start packing up about 11:30am

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026

HOT DOG LUNCH – 10:30AM –UNTIL SOLD OUT

All Beef Hot do combo (hot dog, chips & drink) \$ 5.00
 Individually – Hot Dogs \$ 3.00, Drinks \$ 1.00 & Chips \$ 1.00
COUNTRY STORE – BAKED GOODS & MORE
AT CHURCH YARD SALE

<u>This Week</u>		
Budget Receipts	\$ 4,414.85	Week
Other	\$ 125.00	% of Budget received.....
Total Budget for 2026.....	\$ 484,517	Church School Attendance
Amount needed weekly.....	\$ 9,318	Morning Worship Attendance
		Youth.....
1/1/26 Bank Balance	\$ 57,059.69	
Total giving to date	\$ 121,157.92	
Total spending to date	<u>\$ 104,807.66</u>	
Current Bank Balance	\$ 73,409.95	
3/12/26 Local Operating Balance	\$ 25,505.00	

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.

Wonderful Wednesday Meal, March 18

hosted by Becky Lyda Class

Menu: Baked Potato & Salad Bar with fixings

NAME _____ # _____

John 9: 1-41

A Man Born Blind Receives Sight

⁹ Now as *Jesus* passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. ² And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. ⁴ [a] must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; *the* night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

⁶ When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. ⁷ And He said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

⁸ Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was [b]blind said, “Is not this he who sat and begged?” ⁹ Some said, “This is he.” Others said, [c]“He is like him.” He said, “I am *he*.” ¹⁰ Therefore they said to him, “How were your eyes opened?”

¹¹ He answered and said, “A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to [d]the pool of Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed, and I received sight.” ¹² Then they said to him, “Where is He?” He said, “I do not know.”

The Pharisees Excommunicate the Healed Man

¹³ They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.”

¹⁶ Therefore some of the Pharisees said, “This Man is not from God, because He does not [e]keep the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. ¹⁷ They said to the blind man again, “What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸ But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. ¹⁹ And they asked them, saying, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?”

²⁰ His parents answered them and said, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹ but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not

know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said these *things* because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed *that* He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴ So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, “Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered and said, “Whether He is a sinner *or not* I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ Then they said to him again, “What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, “I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear *it* again? Do you also want to become His disciples?” ²⁸ Then they reviled him and said, “You are His disciple, but we are Moses’ disciples. ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses; *as for* this *fellow*, we do not know where He is from.”

³⁰ The man answered and said to them, “Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! ³¹ Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. ³² Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. ³³ If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing.”

³⁴ They answered and said to him, “You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?” And they [f]cast him out.

True Vision and True Blindness

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, “Do you believe in the Son of [g]God?” ³⁶ He answered and said, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” ³⁷ And Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.” ³⁸ Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him.

³⁹ And Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.” ⁴⁰ Then *some* of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, “Are we blind also?”

⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, ‘We see.’ Therefore your sin remains.