



First United Methodist Church Clover, SC

The First Edition

www.firstumcclover.com

May 2026



May 2026: A Month of Meaning, Mission, and Movement

There are seasons in the life of the Church that seem to gather momentum—where each week invites us deeper into who God is and who we are called to be. May is one of those sacred seasons. It is not simply a full calendar; it is a faithful invitation. An invitation to pray more intentionally, to love more deeply, to remember more gratefully, and to live more fully into our identity as disciples of Jesus Christ.

We begin with the **National Day of Prayer (May 7th)**—a reminder that prayer is not an afterthought, but the foundation of our relationship with God. It is in prayer that we listen, that we are shaped, and that we align our hearts with God’s will for our lives, our church, and our world.

Just days later, we celebrate **Mother’s Day (May 10th)**—a time to give thanks for the women who have nurtured, guided, and loved us. Whether biological, spiritual, or chosen family, these relationships reflect the nurturing and steadfast love of God, reminding us that faith is often passed not just through words, but through daily acts of care and devotion.

On **Ascension Sunday (May 17th)**, we remember Christ’s return to the Father. This is not a moment of absence, but of commissioning. Jesus entrusts His followers with the work of the Kingdom, reminding us that we are now His

(Continued on next page)

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 continued)

hands and feet in the world—called to carry His love beyond the walls of the church.

That calling comes to life on **Pentecost Sunday (May 24th)**, when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is the birth of the Church—a powerful reminder that we are never left alone. The Spirit equips, empowers, and unites us, giving us the courage to speak, serve, and love in ways that transform lives and communities.

We then observe **Memorial Day (May 25th)**, a sacred time to honor those who gave their lives in service to others. As people of faith, we hold gratitude and grief together, remembering that sacrifice and love often walk hand in hand. We give thanks for their witness and pray for a world shaped more fully by peace.

Finally, we celebrate **Trinity Sunday (May 31st)**—a day that invites us into the mystery and beauty of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is a reminder that at the very heart of God is relationship, unity, and love—and that we, too, are created to live in that same divine harmony with one another.

Taken together, these moments are more than dates—they are milestones on our journey of faith. Each one offers us an opportunity to grow in understanding, to deepen our discipleship, and to live more intentionally as the Body of Christ here at First Clover UMC.

As we move through this meaningful month, may we not simply observe these days, but truly engage them. May our prayers be more sincere, our love more visible, and our witness more faithful. And may we be reminded, again and again, that God is not only present in these sacred moments—but actively at work within us, shaping us into the people we are called to be.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott

Graduates

If you have a high school or college student graduating this spring, please let the church office know.



Esther Circle

Esther Circle will meet on May 11th at 10 am in the Steve Camp room.

Forever Young & Friends

The Forever Young & Friends will meet on Thursday, May 28, 2026 at 10:30 in room 104. After the meeting we will join the Let's Do Lunch group & go out to eat at El Preferito. Everyone is welcome to join us.

If you have any pictures, of the Yard Sale, Valentine Lunch, Christmas Lunch, Flat Rock Playhouse Trip, Wednesday night dinner, or anything FY&F has done in the 2025 or 2026, please text, email or give them to Christine Payseur or Suzanne Thompson.

Spring Yard Sale Report

Yard Sale Week, March 22 – 28, 2026, was a great time of missions, fellowship, and learning. There are always new things, people, & experiences.

Thank you so much to all of you that prayed, donated, shopped, picked up, delivered, arranged items, fixed food, put out signs, made all the people who came feel welcome, & any of the other many things that make the Yard Sale a success. As of April 20, the Yard Sale made \$6,386.37 after expenses. This does not count the things we gave to other worthy causes, church needs, & missions during the sale.





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.

Nothing But Nurture-

Let's Do Lunch- This month we will be enjoying lunch together at El Preferito on May 28th at noon after the FYF meeting.

Mark your calendar and join us for a wonderful fiesta!!!

Prayer- Please continue to pray for our Homebound angels and friends.

And please continue praying for the families in our church family that have lost loved ones recently.

Card Ministry- Our next Card Ministry is on Monday May 4th at 11:00 am. Please let Denise Bono know if you know of someone who needs a little extra encouragement.

Our next Nurture Meeting will be May 14th at both 11:00 am and 7:00 pm. We are always open to new ideas and new people.

Notes on Missions-

As the days grow warmer, we are reminded of all the ways God blesses us. Please take a minute and think of how you can share those blessings with someone else. All of us can share something- a word of encouragement, some extra canned food, a hug, or even a smile!

We can all make a difference in someone's life! And we are all called to do so! So, take a minute and think of how you can be the "Hands and Feet of Christ" -in our family, in our Church, and in our community!

Children Ministry Events

- May 6, 13, 20, 27 – Children’s Choir meets Wednesdays at 6 pm.
- Vacation Bible School - June 14 -17 with dinner



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

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



Thank you

Hello this is Sophie Hastings, I wanted to say thank you for supporting my Loofah Food Library project. I was able to fill over 5 food boxes around Clover and hope this will greatly benefit the community. I appreciate each and every donation that was made, and wish you a nice day!



Amelia's Marriage Announcement



Suzanne & Walter Thompson wish to announce the marriage of their daughter, Amelia Thompson to Rollin Stevens. The couple was married on April 16, 2026 in Greenville, South Carolina.

Nursery Schedule May 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

05/03 Christine Payseur

Hope Long

05/10 Hope Long

05/17 Charlotte Dowd

5/24 Sarah Dover

Hope Long

05/31 Hope Long

10:00 Service

Chris Wilson

Hope Long

Kelly Nellums

Tommy Burton

Jeannine Wyatt

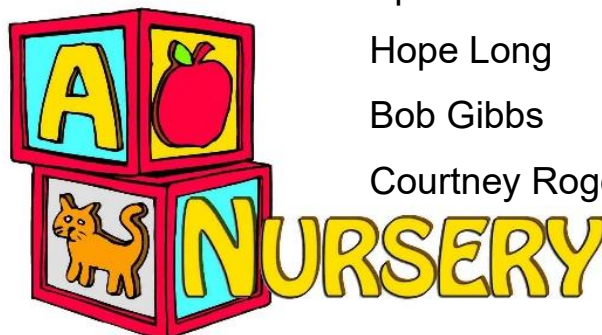
Ann Grindle

April Suh

Hope Long

Bob Gibbs

Courtney Rogers



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FUMC Staff

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Reverend J. Richard Gibson, Pastor Emeritus

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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
26	27	28	29	30	1	2 2pm - Linda Holmes -
3 12:30pm - Safe Sanctuary Training 5pm - Youth - Kitchen/MFC/Gallien	4 6:30pm - Scouts	5 Special Election 9:30am - Staff Meeting - Steve 11am - Bible Study - Steve Camp	6 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	7 5:45pm - Volleyball - MFC 6:30pm - Pack Leadership - Steve	8	9
10 5pm - Youth - Kitchen/MFC/Gallien	11 10am - Esther Circle - 104	12 11am - Bible Study - Steve Camp	13 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	14 11am - Nurture Committee - Steve 7pm - Nurture Committee 7pm - SPRC - Steve Camp	15 Food Distribution Preparation @	16 7:30am - Food Distribution
17 11am - Renee Farris - MFC 5pm - UMM - MFC 5pm - Youth - Kitchen/MFC/Gallien 6pm - Trustees - Steve Camp	18	19 9:30am - Staff Meeting - Steve 11am - Bible Study - Steve Camp 3pm - Rebekah Circle - Church	20 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	21 10:30am - Forever Young Steering	22 4:30pm - Mandy Cabe - Graduation	23 9am - VBS Training - MFC
24 5pm - Youth - Kitchen/MFC/Gallien 7pm - Admin Council	25	26 11am - Bible Study - Steve Camp	27 6:30am - Men's Prayer Breakfast 6pm - Children's Choir 6pm - Hand Bells @ MFC 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	28 Youth - Table Rock Camping - Bus 10:30am - Forever Young Monthly	29	30
31 Youth - Table Rock Camping - Bus 5pm - Youth - Kitchen/MFC/Gallien	1	2	3	4	5	6

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Cathy Allen Joe Dover Anna Livingston Anniversaries: Janet & Charlie Love	4 Stephen Clinton Jane S. Robinson	5	6 Clara Dover Bob Grindle Mary Margaret Bartee Kathy McCready Anniversaries: Lee & Terri Keller	7 Libby Issacks Betty Robinson Bailes Barr Scott Millay Anniversaries: Mary Helen & Mike Allen	8 Maren Preston Anniversaries: Whicker & Beverly Alsobrooks	9 Peg Flint
10	11 Clay Bartee Mary Gover	12 Ginny Turner Daryl Pierzinski Anniversaries: Tim & Mary Beth McAllister	13	14 Becca Bridges	15 Jenny Orr	16
17 Andrea Hughes	18 Amber Skinnell Brian Maslankowski Jr. Brene Hegler	19	20 Jason Ander son Christian Lengyel	21 Victoria Wilson Anniversaries: David & Starr Wray	22 Beverly Alsobrooks Connie Counts Mike Riordan Sandy Robinson	23
24	25 Whicker Alsobrooks Elizabeth Preston April Suh	26	27 Caleb Dixon Taylor Wilson Anniversaries: Dick & Sharon James	28 Preston Brown	29 Alyssa McCain Anniversaries: Cheri & Jason King	30 Jerry & Delores Killian
31 Delores Killian						