

## The First Edition

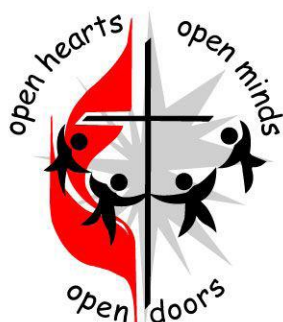
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JULY 2026



### 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.



## A Heartfelt Thank You

Over the past several weeks, I have been reminded in a very powerful way of what it means to be the Body of Christ.

On Sunday, June 14, what began as what I believed was simple acid reflux quickly became something much more serious. By the grace of God, the care of medical professionals, and the loving concern of members of this church family, I received the treatment that I needed after suffering a heart attack caused by a 100% blockage that required immediate intervention.

Since that day, I have been overwhelmed by the prayers, cards, phone calls, text messages, visits, meals, and countless expressions of love and concern from so many people. The support that I have received from First Clover United Methodist Church, my family, friends, colleagues, and the wider community has humbled me beyond words. During frightening, uncertain, and physically challenging moments, your prayers became a source of strength, encouragement, and comfort.

Scripture reminds us in Galatians 6:2, "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (NRSV). I have experienced that scripture firsthand. You have carried me through difficult days, and I will always be grateful.

As many of you know, my recovery journey is not yet complete. In the coming weeks, I will undergo another procedure to address a second blockage that is approximately 70%. I will also begin cardiac rehabilitation during July as part of the healing

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process. The doctors have assured me that recovery will take time, patience, and careful attention to my physical and emotional well-being.

Because of this, I will be returning to work on a part-time basis as I continue focusing on recovery and self-care. Please know that I remain deeply committed to serving as your pastor. I will continue to be present with you in worship, ministry, pastoral care, and the life of our congregation. At the same time, there will be moments when I must listen to what my body and mind are telling me and allow myself the time I need to rest and heal.

I ask for your continued patience, grace, and understanding during this season. One of the lessons God is teaching me is that caring for ourselves is not a sign of weakness but an act of faithful stewardship. Just as we encourage one another to care for our physical, emotional, and spiritual health, I am learning to do the same.

Throughout this experience, you have demonstrated what it truly means to be the church—not only within these walls, but far beyond them. You have lived out your faith through compassion, kindness, generosity, and prayer. You have reminded me that the church is not merely a building or a place we gather on Sundays. The church is God's people, loving and serving one another in Christ's name.

As we continue our journey together, I am filled with hope for what God has in store for First Clover UMC. Even in difficult seasons, God remains faithful. God continues to guide us, strengthen us, and lead us down pathways of ministry, fruitfulness, and service. I am grateful to be walking that path alongside each of you.

Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your love. Thank you for being the church.

May God continue to bless this congregation, guide our ministries, and bring healing to all who stand in need of His grace.

God Bless,

Pastor Scott

## Happy Birthday to Our Homebound Angel

In July we celebrate the birthday of Margaret Bowman.



## Esther Circle

Esther Circle will meet Monday, July 6, 2026 in room 104 at 10:00.

## Forever Young & Friends

The Forever Young & Friends will not meet in July.

The next meeting will be Thursday, August 27, 2026 at 10:30 in room 104. After the August meeting there will be a lunch. More information nearer the date.



## 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-

**Nurture Team Meeting-** Our next Nurture Team Meeting is on July 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. (This time is different from our usual meeting time. Please mark your calendars.)

*July's Nurture Team Meeting will be a "planning meeting" for the upcoming year's activities and events.*

Some ideas we will be discussing are a Churchwide Picnic, an Old Fashion Country Fair, another Chili Cookoff, a Dessert Bake-off, Cookies and Conversations, Potluck Lunches, Movie Nights, Game Nights, Karaoke Night, and Chair Yoga.

Everyone is welcome to come and be part of the conversation!

## A Minute for Missions



*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” – John 13:34*

The Food Project is a practical way we can share the love of Jesus with our neighbors in need. Each month volunteers gather to pack grocery bags with the food that this Church Family lovingly provides. On the third Sunday of the month, volunteers gather in our parking lot to give out these grocery bags. This time is blessed

with sunshine, laughter, love and prayer! Thank you to everyone who faithfully supports this meaningful ministry!

## SPRING YARD SALE BLESSINGS

- \* Bibles – English & Spanish given out
- \* \$400.00 to Worship for black & white fabric and Candle Lighter
- \* \$250.00 to Rise from Hunger Cluster Mission project
- \* Suit Cases for Mission Trips
- \* Clothes & other items for a Lady who just had her leg amputated
- \* Coupons given at Food Project & with Blessing Bags used for needed items
- \* Things given for different programs/areas of the church.
- \* Lunches provided for workers & others
- \* Donations to Larne Elementary School.
- \* Coats & warm clothing for Coat Project
- \* Items to Tender Hearts & Goodwill
- \* Others

As of May 27, 2026



United  
Women  
in Faith

## Attention Women--

Those at the gathering of women on June 7<sup>th</sup> voted to re-activate the United Women in Faith (UWF) unit at Clover First UMC. United Women in Faith is a world-wide organization of Christian women that take bold action to improve the lives of women, children and youth. UWF is recognized by the United Methodist Church.

Even though we are associated with the United Methodist Church we welcome all Christian women who have a desire to join in our mission.

The following officers were elected:

President – Hope Long

Vice-President – Barb Burgmeier

Secretary – Denise Bono

Treasurer – Suzanne Robinson

Our next meeting is August 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 AM in the sanctuary. All women are invited to the meeting.

## Evangelism

**Blood Drive** -Thank you for all members that donated or volunteered to help with our blood drive that was held on June 26. We had 13 donors and a collection of 12. Our next drive will be held October 23, 2026.



**Christmas in July** is something new. We will be handing out Samaritan Purse boxes on Sunday, July 12 for us to start collecting items now while things are on sale. We ask the boxes be returned by August 2. Should you have any questions contact Sherry Gibbs, Kelly Brown or Leslee Lengyel.

**Vacation Bible School** - Another one in the books and I would like to thank ALL the volunteers that made this possible. Even though the attendance was down, everyone, kids and adults alike had a great time. Watch for a VBS Wonderful Wednesday night presentation this fall.

Sherry Gibbs

## Forever Young & Friends

### July 2026

We thank the congregation for the contributions for the Blessing Bags. It's been brought to our attention that we need to standardize the contents of the Bags. A display and written components of the 2 gallon bags displayed on the table. It would be appreciated if contributions were as displayed and described. Thank you for all your efforts in making the Blessing Bags a success.

All cans need to be pull top

### Summer Blessing Bag requirements:

Each 2 gallon slider bag will contain these items:

All cans need to be pull top

2 bottles of water 16 oz

1 fruit cup 4 oz

1 pudding 3.2 oz

1 fruit juice box 6.75 oz

1 package pop tarts

2 granola/fruit bars

1 peanut butter and jelly 2 jelly ½ oz, Peanut Butter 1.1 oz

3 package of crackers

1 package tuna/chicken 2.6 oz

1 can of meat (vienna sausage/chicken) 4.6 oz

2 packages cutlery

some hard candy

2 Hand wipes small moistened in package

# Nursery Schedule July 2026

Enclosed is the nursery schedule for the upcoming month. I know that with vacations coming up your Sunday might not work in your schedule, so if you can just try to swap with someone, or let me know, we will get it covered.

\*\*\*Also, beginning the first of June we will have a new procedure. If no little ones are in the nursery by 10:00 or soon afterwards, the caregivers can go up to the sanctuary to be able to be part of the worship service. If the usher who is manning the cameras in the church office lets someone in who needs a nursery worker, they will have a list of the current caregivers and their phone numbers. They will text that you are needed downstairs. If you will just sit near the back so there will be as little disturbance to the service as possible. And as always, thank you all for your willingness to care for our babies. I continue to pray that we will soon have some little ones to fill up our nursery!

## 8:45 Sunday School

7/05 Christine Payseur

Hope Long

07/12 Hope Long

07/19 Charlotte Dowd

Hope Long

07/26 Sarah Dover

Hope Long

08/02 Christine Payseur

Hope Long

## 10:00 Service

April Suh (704/315-3146)

Hope Long

Bob Gibbs (910/386-7464)

Ann Grindle (980/329-2984)

Chris Wilson

Courtney Rogers

Lindee Dover

Sarah Dover

Tommy Burton

Jeannine Wyatt



## **First United Methodist Church**

**124 Bethel Street**

**Clover, SC 29710**

**(803) 222-3496**

[www.firstumcclover.org](http://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](mailto:cking@cloverfumc.com)

Jay Oden, Organist & Pianist – [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, Administrative Assistant / Financial Secretary – [sdavis@cloverfumc.com](mailto:sdavis@cloverfumc.com)

Tracie Kite, Sexton – [kitetracie@hotmail.com](mailto:kitetracie@hotmail.com)

Hope Long, Nursery Care Worker / Coordinator

Newsletter – [suzr74@att.net](mailto:suzr74@att.net)

Anna Livingston, Lay Leader

Renee Gallien, Jason King, Judy Falls, Conference Lay Members

| Sun                                                                                 | Mon                            | Tue                            | Wed                                                         | Thu                                                              | Fri                             | Sat                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 28                                                                                  | 29                             | 30                             | 1                                                           | 2                                                                | 3                               | 4                          |
|                                                                                     |                                |                                | 6:30am - Men's Prayer Breakfast                             | 2pm - Evangelism Committee -<br>6:30pm - Pack Leadership - Steve |                                 |                            |
| 5                                                                                   | 6                              | 7                              | 8                                                           | 9                                                                | 10                              | 11                         |
| 5pm - Youth - Kitchen/MFC/Gallien                                                   |                                |                                | 6:30am - Men's Prayer Breakfast                             | 11am - Nurture Committee - Steve<br>7pm - Nurture Committee      |                                 |                            |
| 12                                                                                  | 13                             | 14                             | 15                                                          | 16                                                               | 17                              | 18                         |
| 11:15am - Children's Council<br>5pm - Youth - Kitchen/MFC/Gallien                   | 10am - Esther Circle - 104     | 9:30am - Staff Meeting - Steve | 6:30am - Men's Prayer Breakfast                             | 10:30am - Forever Young Steering                                 | Food Distribution Preparation @ | 7:30am - Food Distribution |
| 19                                                                                  | 20                             | 21                             | 22                                                          | 23                                                               | 24                              | 25                         |
| 5pm - UMM - MFC<br>5pm - Youth - Kitchen/MFC/Gallien<br>6pm - Trustees - Steve Camp |                                | 3pm - Rebekah Circle - Church  | 6:30am - Men's Prayer Breakfast<br>6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal | 10:30am - Forever Young Monthly                                  |                                 |                            |
| 26                                                                                  | 27                             | 28                             | 29                                                          | 30                                                               | 31                              | 1                          |
| 5pm - Youth - Kitchen/MFC/Gallien                                                   | 9:30am - Staff Meeting - Steve |                                | 6:30am - Men's Prayer Breakfast                             | 7pm - Finance Meeting - Steve                                    |                                 |                            |

# July Birthdays and Anniversaries

| Sun                                                                                                      | Mon                                                                          | Tue                                                       | Wed                                                                                        | Thu                   | Fri                                                                                                      | Sat                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                          |                                                                              |                                                           | 1<br>Casey Stewart                                                                         | 2<br>Justin McDaniel  | 3<br>Rick Wyatt                                                                                          | 4                                                                               |
| 5<br>Ted Bartee<br>Judy Payne                                                                            | 6<br>Anna Allen<br>Anniversaries:<br>Bill Archer & Wanda Road                | 7                                                         | 8<br>Jessica Killian<br>Sherry Gibbs                                                       | 9<br>Olivia Carricato | 10                                                                                                       | 11                                                                              |
| 12<br>Cathy Bell<br>Samantha Pierson                                                                     | 13                                                                           | 14<br>Tracy Dixon<br>Rhett Hurst                          | 15                                                                                         | 16<br>Tom Meyer       | 17<br>Eli Allen<br>Margaret Bowman<br>Mason Bell<br>Kelly Brown<br>Anniversaries<br>Jackie & Kelly Brown | 18<br>Judy Bailes<br>Emma Scott Livingston<br>Carmen McCarter<br>June Yarbrough |
| 19<br>Sara Neil William<br>Vaughn<br>Anniversaries<br>Heather & Tracy<br>Dixon<br>Chip & Elaine<br>Jones | 20<br>Cheyanna Dann<br>Caylee Millay<br>Anniversaries:<br>Renee & Ken Farris | 21<br>Davis McCarter<br>Anniversaries: Sue<br>& Jim Gover | 22<br>Grayson Hurst<br>Lofton Livingston<br>Walter Thompson<br>Dee Wise<br>Lawrence Bartee | 23                    | 24<br>Karen Burton<br>Kim Eleazer<br>Jon McClain Beanguard                                               | 25                                                                              |
| 26<br>Jonathan Ford                                                                                      | 27<br>Brian Maslankowski                                                     | 28<br>Scott Adams                                         | 29                                                                                         | 30<br>Ray Baker       | 31<br>Cody Chambers Taylor Dann                                                                          |                                                                                 |