

Our Christian Worship of God
July 26, 2026
Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve

9th Sunday after Pentecost Liturgical Color: Green

The Prelude “Does Jesus Care” -Hall
The Chiming of the Hour
The Call to Worship FWS2164 “Sanctuary” Congregation

The Welcome and Announcements

*The Hymn UMH 707 “Hymn of Promise”

*The Invocation

Pastor: The kingdom of heaven is like a tiny mustard seed—small in the beginning, yet growing beyond what anyone could imagine.
People: **Open our eyes, O God, to see Your kingdom growing among us and within us.**
Pastor: The kingdom of heaven is like a hidden treasure, a priceless pearl, and yeast quietly transforming the whole loaf.
People: **Open our hearts, O Christ, to receive Your grace, seek Your truth, and surrender everything for the joy of following You.**
All: **Come, Holy Spirit, and awaken our faith. Surprise us with Your presence, transform us by Your love, and lead us into the abundant life of Your kingdom—more beautiful, more powerful, and more glorious than we ever imagined. Amen.**

Special Music: “Perfectly” Cathy Norman

*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 “When They Ring the Golden Bells” -Marbelle
*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**
*Offertory Prayer

A Word From The Gideons Mr. Richard Watson

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 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 see insert
Minister: The Word of God for the people of God
People: **Thanks be to God. Amen**

The Sermon “More Than We Imagined” Rev. Scott Gilmer
Prayer of Christian Discipleship
*The Hymn 405 “Seek Ye First”
*The Benediction
*The Choral Response and Recessional

**May the road rise to meet you; May the wind blow at your back.
May the sunshine 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 “Love, Mercy and Grace” -Miles

*indicates worshippers are invited to stand if able

OUR JOYS AND PRAYER CONCERNS July 23, 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: Ted Bartee, Wade Shores, Gloria Baysinger, Jackie Brown, Tommy Crawford, Pat Bono, Melva Jones, Sandy King, Judy Hench & family, Renee Gallien, Jane Turpin, Our Homebound Angels, Dick & Kirkie Gibson, Mary Jean Dowling

Military: Major Virginia Stanton, USMC; Petty Officer Second 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 – kitetracie@hotmail.com

Hope Long, Nursery

Anna Livingston – Lay Leader

Renee Gallien, Jason King, Judy Falls

Lay Members to Annual Conference

Invitation to New Worshippers: 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: Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17 1-7, 15; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14: 13-21

Words of Wisdom: “God’s kingdom often begins in ways that seem small, hidden, or easily overlooked—a tiny seed, a little yeast, a buried treasure. Yet when God is at work, ordinary things become extraordinary, and humble beginnings grow into blessings greater than we ever expected. Come with open hearts, ready to discover that God’s grace, purpose, and promises are always more than we imagined.”

Missions

The Food Project continues to serve our neighbors in need thanks to your generosity! When you give, you are reflecting the heart of God and His love for us! Thank you for opening your hearts and partnering with us to BE the Hands and Feet of Christ. This week’s suggested donations: peanut butter, dried beans, crackers (These are just suggestions. ALL donations are appreciated!)

Nothing But Nurture

Worship Bulletin Submission Reminder: To help us prepare our weekly worship bulletin with care and accuracy, please submit all announcements and bulletin information to Shirley by **Thursday at Noon** each week. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us communicate effectively as we worship and serve together.

Reverend Scott Gilmer’s telephone number is 864-554-8676. Feel free to call if you have need of him.

This Week

Budget Receipts	\$.8,091.00	Week	30
Other	\$ 760.00	% of Budget receive ...	56
Total Budget for 2026...	\$ 484,517	Church School	25
Amount needed weekly...	\$ 9,318	Morning Worship.....	80
		Youth.....	

1/1/26 Bank Balance	\$ 57,059.69
Total giving to date	\$ 271,858.39
Total spending to date	<u>\$ 266,743.05</u>
Current Bank Balance	\$ 51.943.35

7/23/26 Local Operating Balance \$ 58,955.69

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.

Christmas in July: Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Remember to pick up your boxes and return filled boxes along with your check by August 2 in Room 104. Thank you in advance.

The Evangelism Committee

Wonderful Wednesday Meal, August 12 hosted by Nurture Committee
Menu: Chicken Legs, Potatoes, Salad & Ice Cream Social

Matthew 13:31-33; 44-52

³¹ Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:

³² Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

³³ Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

⁴⁴ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

⁴⁵ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

⁴⁶ Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

⁴⁷ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

⁴⁸ Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

⁴⁹ So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

⁵⁰ And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord.

⁵² Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.