

Our Christian Worship of God
September 13, 2026
Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve

16th Sunday after Pentecost Liturgical Color: Green

The Prelude “Adagio” -Buxtehude
The Chiming of the Hour
The Call to Worship
The Welcome and Announcements

*The Hymn UMH 121 “There’s A Wideness in God’s Mercy”
*The Invocation
Pastor: We gather beneath the mercy of God, where old wounds can be healed, heavy burdens can be released, and grace is always greater than our failures.

People: We are First Clover United Methodist Church, a forgiven people called to become a forgiving people.

Pastor: Christ meets us with open arms and calls us to loosen our grip on resentment, make room for mercy, and walk together in love.

People: Shape this church into a place where grace is spoken, forgiveness is practiced, and every heart can find hope.

All: Forgiving God, breathe Your mercy through First Clover United Methodist Church, heal what is wounded, restore what is broken, and make us living signs of the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Anthem “In This Very Room” 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 Offering
Offertory “It Is Well With My Soul” -Rainey
*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

The Hymn UMH 390 “Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive”
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 18: 21-35 see insert
Minister: The Word of God for the people of God
People: Thanks be to God. Amen

The Sermon “Don’t Forget To Forgive!” Pastor Scott Gilmer
Prayer of Christian Discipleship

*The Hymn UMH 389 “Freely, Freely”
*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 “Toccata” J.S. Bach
*indicates worshippers are invited to stand if able.

Flowers are placed on the altar to the Glory of God and to celebrate Charlotte’s (75th) and Bob’s (78th) September birthdays, given by their children and grandchildren.

OUR JOYS AND PRAYER CONCERNS September 11, 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: Chuck Payseur, John Gossett, Jane Turpin, Ted Bartee, Wade Shores, Gloria Baysinger, Jackie Brown, Pat Bono, Sandy King, Judy Hench & family, Renee Gallien, Mary Jean Dowling, Our Homebound Angels.

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 – 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.

Please join us in wishing Charlotte Dowd a very Happy Birthday! There will be a reception and fellowship in the lobby after the service today.

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.

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.

Weekly Scripture Readings: Exodus 16: 2-15; Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1: 21-30; Matthew 20: 1-16.

Words of Wisdom: “ Grace has canceled our debt, mercy has loosened our chains, and Christ has called us to walk free. May we forgive as we have been forgiven, love as we have been loved, and become living witnesses to the healing power of Jesus.”

Bible Study: Our weekly **Bible Study meets at 11:00AM in the Steve Camp Classroom.** This fall, we will begin a ten-week study, “**Old Testament Lives, New Testament Echoes,**” exploring how Old Testament people and stories help us better understand the New Testament. The guiding question each week would be: “**What does this Old Testament life help us see more clearly in the New Testament?**”. **Our first lesson will focus on Abraham and Paul—Faith That Trusts the Promise focusing on the scriptures of** Genesis 12: 1-9; 15:1-6; Romans 4: 1-25; Galatians 3:6-14. Bring your Bible, your questions, and your curiosity as we discover Scripture together. **Everyone is welcome!**

Attention all men of the church! You (& sons if an appropriate age) are invited to a half day shotgun clay pigeon tournament retreat being hosted at the residence of Rob Hegler (2660 Moton Road, Clover, SC 29710) on Saturday, September 26th, from 3:30pm till dark. Guns as needed are provided and we welcome non-shooters as well to come join everyone for BBQ supper, a campfire and fellowship discussion. Please bring 2-3 boxes of shells plus any you wish to share with non-owners. This is a great time to bring a friend or colleague with whom you may have wanted to share the joy and experience of church outside the sanctuary. Please call, text or email Alan Livingston to reserve a spot as soon as possible! 803-322-0730 or alan.livingston@attt.net.

The Nurture Committee’s Card Ministry is wanting to stay in touch with our college students this year, whether they are away at school or commuting from home. Please call the church office with their names, addresses and phone numbers (we may even send an occasional text!) or you can text them to Hope Long at 803-810-2672. Thanks!

Attendance	Church School	Morning Worship	Youth
9/6/2026	23	74	
Annual Operating Budget	\$ 484,517		
	Operating/Local*	Designated Fds.	Total
Weekly Giving (09/11/26)	\$ 5,513	\$ 220	\$ 5,733
Needed Weekly Giving	\$ 9,318		
Financial Summary Year-to-Date 9/11/26			
	Operating/Local*	Designated Fds.	Total
Giving	\$330,037	\$58,300	\$388,337
Expenses	\$312,474	\$63,502	\$375,976
Net	\$17,563	-\$ 5,202	\$ 12,361

**Local Operating funds are only used for local Clover FUMC Church Operations*

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 or scan the QR**



Code.

Wonderful Wednesday Meal, September 16
Menu: **Potluck** FUMC staff providing Fried Chicken, Rolls, Chocolate Chip Cookies

Name_____#

Dear Esther friends, we will meet Monday at 10:00. Sherry Gibbs will lead I will be taking Ted to the doctor. Denise will miss too. We need someone to give the program in her place. Thank you for your help. Love, Windy

All Saints Memorial Brick: If you would like to purchase a brick to be placed in the All Saints Memorial Park for a loved one, please contact the church office before October 12th. The cost of the brick is \$ 75.00.

Nothing but Nurture

Let’s Do Lunch: We have a fun event planned for September 24th after the Forever Young & Friends meeting. We are going to caravan to Black’s Peaches for lunch and then go to Windy Hill for Apple Doughnuts, Apple Cider, and Apple picking! This should be a wonderful time of food, faith and fellowship!

Fall Festival: October 24th, 2026, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. This is an event for our WHOLE church family! From the tall to the small! So mark your calendar and get ready for an evening of Fun Fall Festivals!

Please continue to pray for our church family members on the Nurture List

Notes on Missions

Thank you to everyone who faithfully supports the Food Project. As the weather starts to turn cooler (hopefully soon) we remember our neighbors in need Thank you for partnering with us in a very real way to meet that need!

This week’s suggested donations: cereal, grits, oatmeal or pancake mix

YARD SALE ---- SEPTEMBER 27 --- OCTOBER 3, 2026

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 30 at Men’s Prayer Breakfast & Wednesday Night Dinner
THURSDAY, Oct. 1 – Bring items for the Country Store
FRIDAY, Oct. 2 – 8:00am – 6:00pm
HOT DOG LUNCH – Friday –10:30 until sold out

SATURDAY, Oct. 3 – 8:00am – 11:00am
HELP NEEDED ALL DAYS

DROP OFF DONATIONS from Sunday 9/27 thru Thursday 10/1.
Room in the building for earlier donations.
Church Family & Friends can shop all week.
Some larger priced things can be purchased now.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS AND SUPPORT!!

Matthew 18: 21-35

²¹ Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? ²² Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. ²³ Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. ²⁴ And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. ²⁷ Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. ²⁹ And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. ³⁰ And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. ³¹ So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. ³² Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: ³³ Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? ³⁴ And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. ³⁵ So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR BLESSING BAGS TOO HELP THE HOMELESS & OTHERS

Blessing Bags are given to people who come to our church for help. The Bags are individual size items that do not need to be refrigerated, heated or a can opener. Items are packed in 2-gallon Ziplock bags. A sample Blessing Bag is on display near the men's bathroom.

Money donations are welcome to buy needed items. Just write Blessing Bags on your check or envelope. Thank you!

List of items needed at this time.

2-gallon Ziplock bags

16 oz. bottled water

Pop Tarts

Granola or fruit bars

Juice boxes or

bottled

Beanie Weenee with pop top cans

Meat pouches or pop top cans--tuna, chicken, salmon, etc.

Hard candy (no chocolate at this time)