

Our Christian Worship of God
September 20, 2026
Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve

17th Sunday after Pentecost Liturgical Color: Green

The Prelude “Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word” -J.S. Bach
The Chiming of the Hour

The Call to Worship
The Welcome and Announcements

*The Hymn TFWS 2172 “We Are Called”

*The Invocation
 Pastor: Come, people of God, into the presence of the One whose grace cannot
 be earned, measured, or contained.

 **People: We come thankful for a mercy greater than we deserve and a love
 wider than we can imagine.**

 Pastor: At First Clover UMC, may we release our comparisons, our judgments,
 and our need to keep score.

 **People: Open our hearts to rejoice in your goodness, even when your grace
 surprises us.**

 **All: Gracious God gather us into your presence, transform us by your
 extravagant love, and teach us to live as people of grace. Amen.**

The Anthem “Like a River” 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 “Wonderful Words of Life” -Mercer
 *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 TFWS 2162 “Grace Alone”

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 20: 1-16 see insert
 Minister: The Word of God for the people of God
 People: Thanks be to God. Amen

The Sermon “The Scandal of Grace” Pastor Scott Gilmer
Prayer of Christian Discipleship

*The Hymn UMH 355 “Depth of Mercy”
*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 “Fanfare” -Lemmens

*indicates worshippers are invited to stand if able.

OUR JOYS AND PRAYER CONCERNS September 18, 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: The Lott Family (friends of Elizabeth Gover Preston), 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.

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: Exodus 17: 1-7; Psalm 78: 1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2: 1-13; Matthew 21: 23-32

Words of Wisdom: “Grace does not keep score. It does not measure worth by hours worked, mistakes made, or how late someone arrives. Grace sees the overlooked, welcomes the undeserving and gives more than we could ever earn. The scandal of the Gospel is that God's love is not fair by human standards—it is far better. So instead of comparing what others receive, may we simply marvel that the God of grace came looking for us, too.”

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

Finance Potluck Lunch: Next Sunday, September 27, we will have a Finance Potluck Lunch immediately following worship service. The goal of this lunch is to provide an update on Clover FUMC's financial health and fiscal priorities for next year. Please plan to attend.

The Board of Trustees will meet at 4:00 this afternoon.

The UMM will not meet this evening.

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	28	77	2
Annual Operating Budget	\$ 484,517		
	Operating/Local*	Designated Fds.	Total
Weekly Giving (09/18/26)	\$ 9,518	931	10,449
Needed Weekly Giving	\$ 9,318		
Financial Summary Year-to-Date 9/18/26			
	Operating/Local*	Designated Fds.	Total
Giving	\$339,555	\$59,231	\$398,786
Expenses	\$325,050	\$64,964	\$390,014
Net	\$14,505	-\$ 5,733	\$ 8,772

**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 23
Menu: Variety of Soups

Sponsored by Youth Group

Name_____#_____

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 1st. The cost of the brick is \$ 75.00.

Hello Clover FUMC Family, Greetings from the Pacific Northwest. We have arrived safely and mostly sane! It has been a long few weeks for us. We are in our house now. I would not say that we are “settled” yet, as there are many boxes still to be sorted out and unpacked. We are enjoying the 60 and 70 degree weather here. It just seems more pleasant right now. We are also enjoying, of course, being close to family. We were able to attend a large family wedding celebration just this past weekend. We think that we have found a church to attend—Vancouver First United Methodist Church. Our hope and prayer is that it is as warm, and inviting, and invested in Christian living as we found with you. If you are ever in the Portland / Vancouver area, please let us know.

With love and blessings, Kelly and Jackie Brown

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: canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned soups

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 20: 1-16

¹For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard.

²And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

³And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,

⁴And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way.

⁵Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise.

⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle?

⁷They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive.

⁸So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first.

⁹And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny.

¹⁰But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny.

¹¹And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house,

¹²Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day.

¹³But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny?

¹⁴Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee.

¹⁵Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?

¹⁶So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.