

# Our Christian Worship of God

## January 25, 2026

### Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

## Liturgical Color: Green

The Prelude	“In God My Faithful God”
The Chiming of the Hour	
The Call to Worship	“O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing”

## The Welcome and Announcements

\*The Hymn UMH 344      "Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"

### \*The Invocation

Leader: Along the edges of our ordinary days, Jesus still walks—calling out across the waters of our lives.

**People:** We arrive with full hands and guarded hearts, carrying what we fear to lose and what we do not yet know how to release.

Leader: He calls disciples from their nets and names, from what they know into what they cannot yet see.

**People:** We confess our hesitation, O God—the weight of what we clutch, the comfort of what we keep.

**ALL:** Calling Christ, empty our pockets. Unburden us of fear, pride, and self-reliance. Free our hands to follow, our hearts to trust, our lives to be shaped by your Kingdom—where nothing is held back, and everything is given in love. Amen.

## The Anthem: "Shine On Us" 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                    "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"                    -Bish  
\*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"                    UMH # 95  
\*Offertory Prayer

The Hymn TFWS 2175      “Together We Serve”

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 4: 12-23      see insert  
Minister:      The Word of God for the people of God  
People:      **Thanks be to God. Amen**

The Sermon "No Pockets In The Kingdom" Rev. Scott Gilmer  
Prayer of Christian Discipleship

\*-indicates worshippers are invited to stand if able.

## OUR JOYS AND PRAYER CONCERNS January 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](mailto:sdavis@cloverfumc.com).

**Recent Concerns:** Albert Wyatt, Steve Pryor, Kathy Collins, Mel Smith, Becky Pendleton, Sandy King, Bobbie Jackson, Judy Hench & family, Jeff Ammons, Valerie Larsen, Renee Gallien, Jane Turpin, Marie Millen, Our Homebound Angels.

**Military:** Captain Virginia Stanton, USMC; Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:ssgilmer@bellsouth.net)

Reverend J. Richard Gibson, Pastor Emeritus

Cheri King, Director of Music Ministries – [cking@cloverfumc.com](mailto:cking@cloverfumc.com)

Jay Oden, Organist – [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, Admin. Asst. / Financial Sec. – [sdavis@cloverfumc.com](mailto:sdavis@cloverfumc.com)

Tracie Kite, Sexton – [kitetracie@hotmail.com](mailto:kitetracie@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 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:** Micah 6: 1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31; Matthew 5: 1-12

**Words of Wisdom:** "In the kingdom of God, we are not called to carry what weighs us down, but to follow the One who sets us free. Jesus calls ordinary people to leave what is familiar, to trust without guarantees, and to walk lightly into a life shaped by grace and purpose. There are no pockets in the kingdom—only open hands, willing hearts, and lives ready to be transformed."

**Help Save Lives:** Our February **One Blood** donation is scheduled for Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> in the Missions and Fellowship Center from 1:00pm to 6:00pm. All donors will receive: \$ 20 eGift Card, Long-sleeved T-shirt and Wellness Checkup including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count and cholesterol screening. Make your appointment today by visiting: [oneblood.org/donate-now](http://oneblood.org/donate-now) and then use **sponsor code 42679**.

For more information, contact Sherry Gibbs 910-269-7729

### **Music Ministry:**

If you are interested in singing in the choir or ringing with our handbell choir, please contact Cheri King. [cking@cloverfumc.com](mailto:cking@cloverfumc.com)

**The Esther Circle and Forever Young & Friends** want to thank you for all the coats, blankets and other warm items you donated to the Coat Project. Many people of all ages are warmer this winter because of your generous donations.



Celebrate Valentine Day with the Forever Young & Friends on  
**Thursday, FEBRUARY 12, 2026 at 12:00**

in the Mission & Fellowship Center.

The meat will be provided.

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

There will be a place for donations and/or food for the  
Blessing Bags and the Food Project.

**Everyone is invited!**

**SPRC** would like to thank Forever Young and Friends, as well as the congregation, for the generous Christmas donations for our staff. SPRC also is very appreciative of the monetary gifts given to show our love for our pastor.

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### This Week

Budget Receipts .....	\$ 10,478.00
Other .....	\$ 140.00
Total Budget for 2026.....	\$ 484,517
Amount needed weekly.....	\$ 9,318

Week .....	3
% of Budget received.....	8
Church School Attendance .....	35
Morning Worship Attendance .....	84
Youth.....	

1/1/26 Bank Balance	\$ 57,736.22
Total giving to date	\$ 35,373.50
Total spending to date	<u>\$ 35,457.37</u>
Current Bank Balance	\$ 57,652.35

1/23/26 Local Operating Balance \$ 20,595.35

**2025 Apportionments have been paid in full.**

**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](http://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.

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**Wednesday, January 28**

Menu: Nachos & Desserts

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_

hosted by Nurture Committee

**Notes on Missions:** THANK YOU to everyone who continues to make this ministry possible with your thoughtful donations!

This week's suggested donations – peanut butter, dried beans, crackers (These are suggestions. ALL donations are appreciated!)

### Nothing But Nurture

**Gathering Hour** – Please join us for a time of fellowship before the meal on Wednesdays. We will "gather" from 4:30pm to 5:30pm and then enjoy dinner at 5:30pm.

**Homebound Angels** – Please continue to pray for our Homebound Angels and Friends of Nurture! Our Nurture Bags will be on the table in March with an Easter Theme!

### "GAME ON: FELLOWSHIP EDITION!"

- **"GAME ON FELLOWSHIP EDITION" – This is a NEW Fellowship Opportunity!**  
Come visit with your church family members and engage in some fun activities!  
(Drinks and light snacks will be provided.)
- It will be held once a month, on a Tuesday, at 3:00pm in the MFC.
- Mark your calendars for the following dates:  
February 17<sup>th</sup>, March 17<sup>th</sup>, April 28<sup>th</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Here are some of the activities you can look forward to:  
Bingo, Chair Yoga, Karaoke, Bible Themed Pictionary, Rummy Cube, Cornhole, "What's on my Back" Game, Taboo-Bible edition, Chair Volleyball with Beach Balls, Puzzles, Games, Name That Tune, and Conversation Started Cards.
- No sign up required. Just show up ready to have a great time!!!
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**Everyone is invited!**

**The 2026 Flower Calendar** is now in place on the bulletin board near the door to the Missions & Fellowship Center. If you would like to provide flowers, please place your name beside the date(s) you would like to reserve.

## Matthew 4: 12-23

### Jesus Begins His Galilean Ministry

<sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

<sup>15</sup> “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,  
By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,  
Galilee of the Gentiles:

<sup>16</sup> The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,  
And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
Light has dawned.”

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven <sup>[a]</sup>is at hand.”

### Four Fishermen Called as Disciples

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” <sup>20</sup> They immediately left *their* nets and followed Him.

<sup>21</sup> Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James *the son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, <sup>22</sup> and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

### Jesus Heals a Great Multitude

<sup>23</sup> And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.