

Our Christian Worship of God
March 8, 2026
Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve

3rd Sunday in Lent

Liturgical Color: Purple

The Prelude "Ah, Holy Jesus" -Brahms
The Chiming of the Hour

The Call to Worship "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

The Welcome and Announcements

*The Hymn UMH 357 "Just As I Am, Without One Plea (verses 1-3, 6)

*The Invocation

Leader: Gracious God, at this hour we gather as people who thirst—thirst for hope, for healing, for belonging, for grace.

People: Like the woman at the well, we come carrying stories, questions, and places within us that long to be known.

Leader: You meet us in ordinary places—at wells and workplaces, in sanctuaries and quiet moments—seeing beyond appearances into the depths of our hearts.

People: You know our past, our struggles, and our silent fears, yet You do not turn away.

ALL: Holy God, draw near to us now. As we worship at First Clover UMC, remind us that we are fully seen, fully known, and still completely loved. Fill our thirsty souls with Your living water. Amen.

The Anthem "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" 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 "Jesus Paid it All" -Dwyer

*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 UMH 378 "Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross"

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 John 4: 4-29 see insert

Minister: The Word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God. Amen

The Sermon "Seen, Known and Still Loved" Rev. Scott Gilmer
Prayer of Christian Discipleship

*The Hymn UMH 641 "Fill My Cup, Lord"

*The Benediction

*The Choral Response and Recessional

May the road rise to meet you; May the wind blow at your back.

May the sun shine 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 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" -Middlesworth

*-indicates worshippers are invited to stand if able.

OUR JOYS AND PRAYER CONCERNS March 6, 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: Melva Jones, Denise Bono, Judy Bailes, Albert Wyatt, Steve Pryor, Kathy Collins, Sandy King, Judy Hench & family, Valerie Larsen, Renee Gallien, Jane Turpin, Marie Millen, Our Homebound Angels.

Military: Captain Virginia Stanton, USMC; Petty Officer 3rd 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: 1 Samuel 16: 1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5: 8-14 John 9: 1-41

Words of Wisdom: In John 4, Jesus meets a woman at the well and speaks into the places of her life she would rather keep hidden. He sees her completely, knows her truthfully, and loves her anyway. At First Clover UMC, we are reminded that the same Christ who met her at noon meets us here—seeing our stories, knowing our struggles, and loving us still.

UMCOR Sunday: Next Sunday is UMCOR Sunday. If you would like to give to this cause, please mark your checks in the memo line –UMCOR Sunday. Thank you.

Billy Gallien Memorial Scholarship: The Billy Gallien Memorial Scholarship is available for students graduating high school in the Class of 2026. To qualify students must be a member of FUMC Clover. Applications are available in the church office. The deadline to return the applications to the church office is April 17, 2026. Scholarship amounts will be based on the funding available. For questions, please contact Renee Gallien at 704-898-7602 / rgbhist@bellsouth.net.

Notes on Missions: THANK YOU to everyone who continues to make this ministry possible with your thoughtful donations! This week's suggested donations – cereal, grits, oatmeal or pancake mix. (These are suggestions. ALL donations are appreciated!)

Nothing But Nurture

Homebound Angels – Please continue to pray for our Homebound Angels and Friends of Nurture! Nurture Bags for Easter are on the table ready for you to fill with love and care.

- **“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.) Everyone is invited!
- It will be held once a month, on a Tuesday, at 3:00pm in the MFC.
- Mark your calendars for the following dates: **March 17th**, April 28th and May 19th.
- No sign up required. Just show up ready to have a great time!!!

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.

Vacation Bible School: This year VBS will be held on June 14-17, theme: Rome...Paul and the Underground Church. The Children's Council members are requesting daily prayers, asking God to prepare the hearts of church members, workers, and children who will attend. Thank you.

Thank You: My Special Church Family,
Thank you for all the cards, phone calls and prayers. These meant so much to me.
Please keep me in your prayers that I will receive some vision in my eye.
Thank you again, Love **Judy Bailes**

This Week

Budget Receipts	\$ 11,807.00	Week	9
Other	\$ 3,347.49	% of Budget received.....	21
Total Budget for 2026.....	\$ 484,517	Church School Attendance	37
Amount needed weekly.....	\$ 9,318	Morning Worship Attendance	71
		Youth.....	7

1/1/26 Bank Balance	\$ 57,059.69
Total giving to date	\$ 116,614.17
Total spending to date	<u>\$ 100,129.32</u>
Current Bank Balance	\$ 73,544.54

3/5/26 Local Operating Balance \$ 23,269.61

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.

Wonderful Wednesday Meal, March 11

hosted by Forever Young & Friends

Menu: Pork Loin, Potato Salad, Green Beans, Pineapple Casserole & Dessert

NAME _____ # _____

John 4: 4-29

But He needed to go through Samaria.

⁵ So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶ Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷ A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." ⁸ For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. ⁹ Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. ¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

¹¹ The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? ¹² Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" ¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." ¹⁵ The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."

¹⁷ The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly."

¹⁹ The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

²⁵ The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

The Whiteden Harvest

²⁷ And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?" ²⁸ The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, ²⁹ "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"