

An Order for the Christian Worship of God
March 12, 2017
Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve

2nd Sunday in Lent

Liturgical Color: Purple

Welcome and Announcements

The Prelude "All Hail the Power of Jesus Name" -L. Larson

*Call to Worship (Genesis 12, Psalm 121, John 3)

Leader: Come, all who need help!

People: Our help comes from God, the one who made heaven and earth.

Leader: Come, all who desire blessing!

**People: Our blessing comes from God, the God of Abraham, the God of the ages.
 Come, all who long for salvation!**

Leader: Our salvation comes from Jesus Christ, the one sent by God to save the world.

**People: Abiding and Trustworthy God, we give thanks and celebrate your nearness,
 and your continuing presence with us, as we journey towards our hope
 and home in you. Amen.**

*Processional Hymn "God Will Take Care of You" UMH # 130

*Passing of the Peace

Time with the Children

(All children under 12 years are invited to the front. Afterwards, during second service only, children ages 3 thru kindergarten are invited to children's church and will be escorted to room #113. Parents may pick them up there after the service.)

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Prayer (Genesis 12, Psalm 121, John 3)

God of the ages,

we come into this holy space asking for your blessing,

only to find that the abundance of your love is already around us.

Open our eyes to see the blessing of your creation in the beauty all around us.

Open our ears to hear the blessing of your word as it is proclaimed in story and song this day.

Open our hearts to experience the blessing of faith through the gentle touch of a friend or the supportive smile of a stranger.

And open our doors,

That we may become vessels of your blessing to a world still in need of salvation.

All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ.

*Hymn of Preparation "He's Got the Whole World In His Hands" insert

*Scripture Reading John 3: 1-4, 10-17 #924

*Affirmation of Faith The Apostles' Creed UMH # 881

*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 Anthem "Pie Jesu" The Chancel Choir
"Merciful Jesus, Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world"

The Giving of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us with He Leadeth Me" -W. Bradbury

*The Doxology **"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

*Prayer of Illumination (in unison)

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of Your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are
 read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what You say to us this day. Amen.**

Scripture Psalm 121 # 536
 Sermon "Lifting Up Our Eyes" Rev. Wilkes

*Hymn of Commitment "God Be with You till We Meet Again" UMH #673

*The Benediction

*The Recessional

"Irish Blessing"

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

*Chiming of the Trinity

*The Postlude "March in C" -J. Haydn

**Invitation to Newcomers: 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 one of
 our Pastors. We are thankful to have newcomers among us. Those considering uniting with FUMC are also
 encouraged to join us for our Faith & Church 101 group beginning today at 4:30pm.**

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 The flowers are placed on the altar today to the Glory of God and  
 in honor of the ninth birthday of A.J. Dover with love, Mom and Dad.  
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2017 Financial Update

Needed to meet General Fund Budget to date 2/28/17 \$ 112,877
Actual General Fund Spending as of 2/28/17 \$ 94,680
Received for General Fund as of 2/28/17 \$ 97,014

“Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can.” ~ John Wesley

Please continue to remember the church in your giving as we begin this new year of ministry together. Most of you give through the Sunday morning offerings but below are some other ways to give if you so choose. **Electronic Debit Giving:** The card reader is now available in the lobby. Touch any key to begin and then follow the posted directions. **Be sure to leave a receipt with your name printed on it in the locked black receptacle.** This is the only way your offering can be posted to your contribution records. A second receipt is also offered for your personal convenience.



Also takes Discover, American Express & Apple Pay.

Direct Draft Giving is now available for free: We are now offering the opportunity for automatic draft from your bank to our bank, Clover Community Bank. Please pick up and/or hand in your authorization for Direct Draft form from Shirley in the office, or put in the offering plate. This method has proven to be an effective and timely way to regularly give to the church. "I am an electronic giver" cards are in the pews for your use if you choose to use this method of giving.

Giving On-Line: Giving to FUMC is now available online through our website: www.cloverfumc.org. **Thanks for your support of the mission and ministry of FUMC.**

Our two cemetery plots were sold last week. Thanks to Beverly Alsobrooks (Trustee) for seeing the project through for the church. Thanks also to Bratton Funeral Home for our referral of sale.

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- Reverend Tommy Wilkes, Senior Pastor – twilkes@cloverfumc.org
 - Reverend Brandon Lazarus, Associate Pastor – bclazarus@umcsc.org
 - Reverend J. Richard Gibson, Pastor Emeritus
 - Reverend Meg Wilkes, Minister of Christian Educ. & Spiritual Formation – mwilkes@cloverfumc.org
 - Jon Valentine, Director of Children & Youth Ministries – jvalentine@cloverfumc.org
 - Cheri King, Director of Music Ministries – cking@cloverfumc.org
 - Christine Payseur, Church Business / Technical Coordinator – cpayseur@cloverfumc.org
 - Shirley M. Davis, Administrative Assistant / Financial Secretary – sdavis@cloverfumc.org
 - Natasha Bilousova, Pianist
 - Tracie Kite, Sexton – kitetracie@hotmail.com
 - Hope Long, Nursery
 - Windy Bartee, Lay Leader
 - Ray Reavis, David Edwards, Bob Grindle, Conference Lay Members
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Wonderful Wednesday meal, March 15th Hosted by: Clover Salkehatchie
Menu: pork loin, potatoes, green beans & dessert.

Name: _____ Number _____

OUR JOYS AND PRAYER CONCERNS

Contact pastors or Shirley Davis @ 222-3496 or sdavis@cloverfumc.org to add to joy and prayer concerns:
Recent Concerns: Sandy Chapman, Lacy Robinson, Betsy Mullis (Starr’s sister), Eloise Mallen, Susan Self, Rolfe Sukkert, Margaret Pendleton, Katie Clark, 2017 Confirmands, Doris Shepard (Barb Millay’s mother), Josie Skinnell, Michelle Pressley (Sukkerts’ granddaughter), Jill Sifford, Jimmy Dixon, Lottie Priester, Loretta Malenfant, Susan Camp, Amber Berry (Angela Travis’ sister), Estelle Camp, Glenn Adams, Dave Stanton, Jr., Joe Killian, Randy Flora, Dave Jones, Naurice Smith (White Oak, York)

Note of Sympathy: Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Allen Boyd.

Military: Lt. Col. Nicholas S. Hare, Senior Chief Martin Johnson, Major Blair Preston, 2nd Lt. Rion Cartin, LCPL Chris Propst, M.Gy. Sgt. Terry Kenneth Lowman, Jr.

Donate Your Bicycles for “Bikes for the World”

This year our annual conference has adopted “Bike for the World” as our mission focus. The conference has a goal of 1200 bikes, meaning that our district has a goal of 100 bikes. FUMC has set a goal of 25 bikes from our congregation. The bikes can be new (please assemble them first), used, or even in parts. Bring them to the church by 4/1 when they will be taken to a central location. All 1200 bikes (or hopefully more!) will be brought to Greenville in June for our annual conference gathering. Some will stay in SC to be given to children and adults who do not have transportation while the majority will be shipped international to low-income families across the world. We will also be collecting financial donations as \$10 will be needed to help subsidize the cost of shipping each bike. Please bring the donated bikes to the Missions & Fellowship Center where they will be moved during the week for transport.

Circles meeting this week:

- Esther Circle** will meet at 10:00am on Monday, March 13th, at the church.
- Martha Circle** will meet on Monday, March 13th, at 7:00pm at the home of Chris Wilson.
- Rebekah Circle** will meet on Tuesday, March 14th, at 7:00pm at the church.

You are invited to the 90th Birthday Party for Mrs. Evelyn Stanton on Saturday, March 18th. Drop by between 1:30pm – 3:00pm at HarborChase Activity Pavilion. No Gifts Please!

The Shack

Those interested in going to see the movie, *The Shack*, on Tuesday, March 14th, at 4:10pm or 7:15pm in Gastonia, please contact Rev. Tommy Wilkes at twilkes@cloverfumc.org or the church office, 222-3496 or sdavis@cloverfumc.org.

Salkehatchie: Proceeds from our Wonderful Wednesday meal this week will go to Clover Salkehatchie. The meal will consist of pork loin, potatoes, green beans and dessert. **Anyone who wishes to volunteer some time for set up, serving and/or clean up, please let Evelyn Cameron know.**

Registration is open for all the Salkehatchie camps.

Youth, Children and Tweens

YOUTH ~ Today: Jr. High ~ 6:00pm Sr. High ~ 7:00pm

BIG, TWEENS, and Youth at 6:30pm right after the Wonderful Wednesday meal.

BIG (Believers in God) - Preschool in the nursery classroom
Kindergarten through 3rd grade in the BIG classroom

TWEENS - 4th, 5th, and 6th graders welcome!

Meeting again this year in the 5th grade Godly Play room

YOUTH - Junior and Senior High Youth *together* in the youth room upstairs.

Clover Optimist Club Oratorical

Reminder, the Clover Optimist Club Oratorical (speech) competition will be held March 25th at 10:00am. Plan to arrive by 9:30 to finish filling out paper work. If you have not started your speech, there is still time. To get an application see Jon, Josie or Ashby. On the day of the contest bring your application, copy of your speech and a copy of your birth certificate. Your speech must be between 4 to 5 minutes on the Optimist topic "What the World Gains from Optimism". Any questions or for more information please contact Josie at sknnl@aol.com or 803-684-2008.

Forever Young and Friends

Remember our meeting this month! **Thursday March 23** - Meet and Eat covered dish! Bring your choice of a dessert/side dish to share. Meeting is at 10:30. Lunch 11:30.
Contact Suzanne Thompson for questions or info about our meeting.

Wisdom and Grace August 7-10

We enjoy this spiritual formation every year as a part of our Forever Young continuing education and faith emphasis for a life time of growth and service. Rockers and worship, good teaching and good food, fellowship and prayer are important aspects of this annual opportunity in beautiful Lake Junaluska! Cost will be \$75 for registration plus \$345 per person double occupancy, which covers all buffet meals there and all workshops. Forever Young will help to cover some of the cost for registration. Please sign up today. We will reserve rooms this week based on interest (You do not have to pay anything this week.)

This year's theme ~ Forgiveness with Dr. Everett Worthington (Platform Speaker). Worthington is internationally known for his research on how to forgive, not just others but also ourselves. He became interested in forgiveness through his practice in couple counseling, and began conducting research on forgiveness in 1990. He has published over 35 books and over 400 articles and scholarly chapters, mostly on forgiveness, positive psychology, marriage, religion and spirituality. Currently, he works as a Commonwealth Professor in the Department of Psychology at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Fort Caswell – A Retreat by the Sea September 4-7

This trip will be very cost effective! \$42 per person-per night for the accommodations. Food expenses will be of average cost, and we will have the opportunity to enjoy some local, inexpensive excursions while we are there. Relax for a few days in the comfortable and unique environment of a WWII Fort-turned Retreat center in beautiful Oak Island, NC. Only 44 spaces reserved – please sign up today so that we can get an idea how many rooms to pay for!

Also: Please pick up a 2017 Forever Young Calendar of Events from the lobby today! Or refer to your March Newsletter to stay updated on all the wonderful activities we are enjoying. Contact Rev. Meg Wilkes about getting involved in this senior adult ministry! mwilke@cloverfumc.org 803-622-1315

Popcorn and a Movie!

On February 28 several senior adults visited with Kirkie and Dick Gibson in Rock Hill to watch and discuss *The Best Marigold Hotel*. What a sacred time! Sharing about faith and issues related to these precious golden years of life, when there is still so much to learn and to offer as children and servants of God. We loved it so much we have decided to schedule one per month rather than quarterly!

NEXT MOVIE: *Quartet*, a British comedy - drama. March 28th

Only space enough for 12 -14 movie watchers. Please sign up on the sheet in the lobby if interested in this specific Popcorn and a Movie event for senior adults.

We will be leaving the church at 12:30pm. Meg will be driving the bus!! :)

Contact Rev. Meg Wilkes for more information. mwilkes@cloverfumc.org 803-622-1315

Tai Chi - for senior adults

We are still giving Tai Chi a go! Although we are finding it a challenge to practice it *perfectly*, we are still finding this method of body mindfulness and exercise to be of true benefit for health and wholeness. Deep breathing, slow movements, meditative - this is a good way to wind down and focus on "being" as well as taking care of our bodies. Hope to see you there for our next session in the Missions and Fellowship Center. **Thursday March 16 @ 9:30**. This time change is purposeful to suit schedules. Please take note of the earlier time.

A BIG thank you to Cheri King and Jon Valentine for leading in my absence last week, and to Tommy Wilkes for repeatedly managing our Audio Visual for us, as well as assisting with our movements as he sees the need, in between studying for his sermon. ☺ Over and above the call! Thank you.

KAIROS

On March 23, Rev. Tommy Wilkes and our brother in Christ, Eddie Sherwood will be leaving Clover and entering into a 4 day weekend of ministry with several incarcerated individuals of Kershaw Correctional Institute, a maximum security prison in SC. Jesus invites us to live a life of love in so many ways, including visiting those who are in prison. You may not be able to visit in person, but KAIROS (which in Greek means God's time) invites **you** to *visit through the baking of homemade cookies* to send to the incarcerated individuals during this weekend. Each night of Kairos, every incarcerated person in the Kershaw prison will receive a full bag of cookies just for himself. It takes many churches baking to accomplish this endeavor - a Christian witness proven to be a profound act of love through the eyes of these men who rarely experience such kindness in their circumstance. There are only certain types of cookies allowed. The best choice is homemade chocolate chip. **PLEASE CONTACT Margie McCarter 222-3827 to be included in this Cookie Baking Project! Specific information about the cookie baking project is provided on the bulletin board in the lobby and will be given to all who would like to serve in this way.**

He's Got The Whole World In His Hands

He's got the whole world in His hands
He's got the whole world in His hands
He's got the whole world in His hands
He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got the itty bitty baby in His hands
He's got the itty bitty baby in His hands
He's got the itty bitty baby in His hands
He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got a-you and me brother in His hands.....

He's got a-you and me sister in His hands....

The Mommas and the Pappas in his hands....

Everybody Here in his hands....

Chorus ~ He's got the whole world in His hands

Confirmation News

Our 15 confirmands, *Matthew, Daniel, Mallory, Aliyah, Aleea, Andrea, Trace, RaeLyn, Sarah, Niko, Jessica, Kyra, Tyler, Caleb and John McClain* will be taking a field trip in March!

On **Wednesday the 29th of March** we will be taking a field trip to *Epworth Children's Home* in Columbia, SC. This is a historic United Methodist Home that has been life changing for thousands of orphaned children. Epworth is a vital ministry of the UMC for the children who call Epworth home. I feel it is so important that our young people see the broader vision of what it means to be the Body of Christ in the world.

Please plan to bring your child to the church by **3:45pm** on the 29th to depart for Columbia before 4pm. We will go to Epworth, share in a meal with the residents in the mess hall, eat peanut butter ice cream (made by Epworth folks), and take a tour of the campus, then go to the Epworth Chapel for a Q and A with the chaplain, Rev. Meg Cook. If your child has conflicting activities that day, I encourage you, please ask their leaders to understand the importance of this confirmation journey and to release them for this experience. **We should be getting back to Clover around 9pm.**

Upcoming Mission Opportunities

Mission Day At Epworth Children's Home March 18th-

On Saturday March 18th a group will be meeting at the church at 7am to head down to Columbia to help with landscaping on the property of Epworth Children's Home. All 14 and older are welcome. If you have landscaping tools please bring them but you do not have to have your own to come. If interested contact Brandon at blazarus@cloverfumc.org.

Cookies for Kairos

Rev. Wilkes and Eddie Sherwood will be participating in a Kairos Prison Ministry weekend from March 23-26 at Kershaw Correctional Facility. They are asking that we help with providing 50 dozen cookies for the inmates they will be ministering with. If you are interested contact Rev. Wilkes at twilkes@cloverfumc.org

Disaster Relief Mission

The South Carolina Annual Conference is still in need of volunteers to help rebuild homes destroyed by Hurricane Matthew. FUMC will be putting together a group to travel to a Hurricane hit part of our state in May. The tentative dates are May 8-10. If you are interested in participating or even leading this group contact Rev. Lazarus at blazarus@cloverfumc.org or Doug Baysinger at mabaysinger318@bellsouth.net.

South Carolina Annual Conference Mission Fair

The South Carolina Annual Conference will be meeting in Greenville, SC at the TD Convention Center from June 4-7. On Monday June 5th from 12pm-2pm there will be a mission fair highlighting the work of local churches throughout our state. If you would be interested in going to represent FUMC please contact Rev. Lazarus at blazarus@cloverfumc.org or Doug Baysinger at mabaysinger318@bellsouth.net.

Habitat for Humanity Organizer Needed

For the last three years FUMC Clover has teamed up with Habitat for Humanity to help with rebuilds in the Roosevelt Community. The project is usually in late August but planning will need to begin by May. We will need a member of our church to help coordinate volunteers and communicate with Habitat for Humanity to find the right project for our church. If you or someone you know is interested in coordinating our church's work group please contact Rev. Lazarus at blazarus@cloverfumc.org or Doug Baysinger at mabaysinger318@bellsouth.net.

Salkehatchie

Each year we have dozens of members who attend Salkehatchie mission trips. Our most attended trips are to Bishopville (June 24- July1), Clover (July 15-22), and Shaw (July 22-29). For a full list of camps visit <http://www.salkehatchie.org>. **Please register ASAP online** and check the church will send in payment. The cost of the trip is \$230 but the church will cover half the cost (\$115) for each camper, youth or adult. The check will need to be given to Shirley in the church office and written out to FUMC Clover for \$ 115 with the camp name you will be attending. For more information contact Tommy at twilkes@cloverfumc.org

Message from the Wilkes

The Reverends Tommy and Meg want you to know they are celebrating (and planning the ceremony and reception for!) the upcoming wedding of their first born child, Luke Wilkes to his precious fiancé Vanessa Jimenez! These young people have visited with us several times over the last two years. Some of you know them and have shown them such love and grace! Vanessa's parents and brother, Hernando and Cilia and Mateo have also come to FUMC some and LOVE it here, especially Easter and Christmas. (They live in Fort Mill). Even though the wedding won't take place here in Clover, we hope you will share in our joy, and remember to offer your good wishes to the couple whenever they are able to visit again! (before or after) The wedding will take place on April 1st (no foolin'!) at Beulah UMC in the Lexington SC area, and will be officiated by Tommy's parents, The Reverends Tom and Molly Wilkes! Lydia will be maid of honor. Tommy is best man, Seth will be taking the photos, and Meg will be "directing." :) Please pray for us!!!! This season of preparing for the wedding and for Holy Week is so full. What blessings, though. We are grateful and filled with awe for the way God provides and cares for us day by day.

United Methodist Women will host the fourth annual "Festival of Tables" ladies luncheon on Saturday, May 20, 2017. Tables can be reserved for \$ 5.00 and decorated in your chosen theme, using your tableware and decorations. Guest tickets are \$ 8.00 each. Last year one hundred women attended to preview the decorated tables and enjoy a delicious lunch. To reserve a table or for further information contact Linda Abernathy (222-7591) or Grace White (222-7528). Hope you will join us!

The Food Project Ministry: Next week's 3rd Sunday donations are the following item: dried beans. Thank you for your continued support.