

An Order for the Christian Worship of God  
March 5, 2017  
Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

Liturgical Color: White

Welcome and Announcements

The Prelude "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley" -arr. Livingston

\*Call to Worship

Leader: The tempter comes with a seductive sweetness in his voice.

**People: The tempter comes promising us the world.**

Leader: The tempter comes, and without you, dear Jesus, and we are defenseless.

**People: Help us Lord!**

Leader: Cities of steel and fields of gold, the world's allure glitters in the morning sun.

**People: But you alone, O Lord, shine brighter than them all. Hold us close, that we might love you as you love us, fully, completely, and eternally.**

**All: Today we come to Worship You, seeking your help. Amen.**

\*Processional Hymn "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley" FWS # 2112

\*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

"Jesus in the Desert" ~ A Musical Narrative

*"Jesus remember me, when you come into your kingdom."*  
(The congregation is invited to sing "Jesus Remember Me")

The Giving of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory

\*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.**

\*Gospel Reading  
Homily

Matthew 4: 1-11  
"Temptations!"

#837  
Rev. Wilkes

Prayer of Confession / Absolution and Pardon

Sacrament of Holy Communion

\*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

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

-arr. Hopson

**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 place on the altar today to the Glory of God and  
in memory of my grandmother, Beatrice Hicks, given by Jeannette Stabler.  
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*"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](http://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](mailto:twilkes@cloverfumc.org)  
Reverend Brandon Lazarus, Associate Pastor – [bclazarus@umcsc.org](mailto:bclazarus@umcsc.org)  
Reverend J. Richard Gibson, Pastor Emeritus  
Reverend Meg Wilkes, Minister of Christian Educ. & Spiritual Formation – [mwilkes@cloverfumc.org](mailto:mwilkes@cloverfumc.org)  
Jon Valentine, Director of Children & Youth Ministries – [jvalentine@cloverfumc.org](mailto:jvalentine@cloverfumc.org)  
Cheri King, Director of Music Ministries – [cking@cloverfumc.org](mailto:cking@cloverfumc.org)  
Christine Payseur, Church Business / Technical Coordinator – [cpayseur@cloverfumc.org](mailto:cpayseur@cloverfumc.org)  
Shirley M. Davis, Administrative Assistant / Financial Secretary – [sdavis@cloverfumc.org](mailto:sdavis@cloverfumc.org)  
Natasha Bilousova, Pianist  
Tracie Kite, Sexton – [kitetracie@hotmail.com](mailto:kitetracie@hotmail.com)  
Hope Long, Nursery  
Windy Barteel, Lay Leader  
Ray Reavis, David Edwards, Bob Grindle, Conference Lay Members  
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Wonderful Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> Hosted by: Confirmation Class  
Menu: Spaghetti Casserole, Salad, Garlic Bread & Dessert

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_

### **OUR JOYS AND PRAYER CONCERNS**

Contact pastors or Shirley Davis @ 222-3496 or [sdavis@cloverfumc.org](mailto:sdavis@cloverfumc.org) to add to joy and prayer concerns:  
**Recent Concerns:** Allen Boyd, 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, Lacy Robinson, Glenn Adams, Dave Stanton, Jr., Joe Killian, Randy Flora, Sandy Chapman, Dave Jones, Naurice Smith (White Oak, York)

**Military:** Lt. Col. Nicholas S. Hare, Senior Chief Martin Johnson, Major Blair Preston, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### **Wind in the Wilderness Lenten Bible Study**

Rev. Lazarus will teach a Bible study using the book "Wind in the Wilderness" written by DJ del Rosario. The book and class will study the Hebrew prophets and how they connect to Jesus' life and ministry. The study will be Wednesday nights 6:30-7:30pm in the Steve Camp Classroom beginning March 8. If you are interested in joining the study please contact Rev. Lazarus at [blazarus@cloverfumc.org](mailto:blazarus@cloverfumc.org).

**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 Shack**

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

**Thank you:** I want to thank everyone for all the Birthday and Get Well cards, along with the visits, phone calls and most of all your prayers during my recent illness. It meant so much to be remembered so often. May God bless each of you. *Josie Skinnell*

### 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:sknnl@aol.com) or 803-684-2008.

**The Food Project Ministry:** Next week's 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday donations are the following item: cereal, grits, pancake mix & syrup, or oatmeal Thank you for your support

#### **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! Rates and other specific information are still forthcoming....waiting on the brochures.

#### **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](mailto: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. [mwilke@cloverfumc.org](mailto:mwilke@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 9 @ 9:30**. This time change is purposeful to suit schedules. Please take note of the earlier time.

#### **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.**

#### **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.**