

An Order for the Christian Worship of God
December 17, 2017
Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve

3rd Sunday of Advent

Liturgical Color: Blue

Welcome and Announcements

The Prelude "Once in Royal David's City" Handbells

*Call to Worship

Leader: Be patient! Wait and Watch for the Lord is drawing near to us.

People: We have gathered here this day to hear again the good news and to gather strength for the times to come.

Leader: Be at peace with one another and listen to the voice crying in the wilderness.

People: Prepare for the Way of the Lord, make straight His paths.

Leader: Lord, give us the ability to hear again the Good News.

People: Lord, give us Joy, Love, Wisdom and Courage as we witness for you.

All: O Come, O Come Emmanuel! AMEN.

*Processional Hymn "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" UMH# 203

*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.)

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Today we light the third candle of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning.

This third candle is JOY.

Let us pray together:

Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. Amen.

Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

The Anthem "Canticle of the Turning" *The Chancel Choir*
Jason King ~ Flute

*Hymn of Preparation "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" UMH# 206

Scripture Reading Isaiah 61: 1-4; 8-11 # 641

Offertory Prayer 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.

*Scripture John 1: 6-8; 19-28 # 922

Sermon "Getting Started" Rev. Tommy Wilkes

*Hymn of Commitment "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" UMH# 240

Reception of New Members Doug and Kathy Pryor
Jeremie Conner

*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

*Postlude

*indicates worshippers are invited to stand, if able

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.

2017 Financial Update

Needed to meet General Fund Budget as of 11/30/17 \$ 603,824
Actual General Fund Spending as of 11/30/17 \$ 522,266
Received for General Fund as of 11/30/17 \$ 523,955

Financial Update for December! Thank you for your continued support for the ministry of Christ through FUMC. You have been so generous all year long in your ministry support and in your giving to internal ministries and external outreach. Even during this Thanksgiving/ Christmas Season we have seen giving in wonderful ways for the ministry before us to the needy. **As we begin December, please remember that we have ministry obligations to finish out our year in a healthy way that must be met before December 31st. We are two payments behind on our Apportionments that support world missions and the extension ministries of the United Methodist Church. We have done well in keeping up all year, but we want to make sure we complete these gifts in December as well as meet our ending obligations for ministry and beyond. Please help us to end the year well, financially!** Please do not forget the church in your giving as we move through the end of the year. If you would like to know where you are presently in your giving in order to meet your Pledge to the church, please contact Shirley Davis (financial secretary at the church and request this over the phone, ask for current print out or to have this info emailed to you.) Each member will be mailed an end of the year statement in January of 2018 for your tax records.

Thanks in advance for your faithfulness and your giving to Christ's church at First United Methodist and for the ministry made possibly through your generous giving. May the God who always provides seed for the sower bear fruit in your lives, bear fruit in this community and bear fruit through our giving to the wider world.

My hope is that we as a church finish out the year well so we can begin in 2018 strong and healthy. Giving can be made for 2017 up until December 31st through the church office, the Sunday Offering, on line or through the debit machine at church. Remember, any proceeds we collect in 2017 for the budget beyond our spending in 2018 will only go to help us in our reserves for the coming year.

Peace to you ~ Rev. Thomas Wilkes

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.

If you decide to give electronically or through Direct Draft, please feel free to drop an "Electronic Giver" card in the offering plate on Sundays as an act of worship.

Wonderful Wednesday Meal, December 20

Menu: Pork Lion, Brown Rice, Green Beans, Sweet Potatoes, Homemade Biscuits & Desserts
Sponsored by: Killian Family

NAME _____ No. _____

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: Barb Millay, Rhett Hurst, Margaret Ann Palmer (one year old niece of Brandi Bartee), Anne Adams, Mitch Barr, Jean Rodriguez (Kim Britton's mother), J.B. Jenkins (Starr Jenkins' brother), Carol Chariker, Fred Byers, Dave Blanton, Sandy Chapman, Jim Heckle, Josie Skinnell, Dolly Killian, Larry Beamguard, Tammy Bailes, Tom Dann, Margaret Pendleton, Eloise Mallen, Rolfe Sukkert, Dave Jones.

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.

Welcome New Members

This morning we welcome Doug and Kathy Pryor into the membership of First UMC by transfer from Allison Creek Presbyterian Church. Their address is 811 River Stone Court, York. Welcome Doug and Kathy into your new family of faith.

This morning we welcome Jeremie Connor into the membership of First UMC by profession of faith. Jeremie and his family live at 1304 Regal Oaks Drive, Clover. Welcome Jeremie into your family of faith.

Martha Circle will meet on Monday, December 18th, at 6:30pm at the home of Ann Grindle. Please bring food to share and items for nurture gift bags.

Our Advent Bible Study will be Matt Rawle's The Redemption of Scrooge. We will meet in the Steve Camp classroom at 6:30pm on Tuesday, Dec. 19th.

Christmas Bags for our Nurture friends are placed on the table in the usual spot in the church hallway and are ready and available to receive any donations of cards and/or small gifts from the congregation. Each of the gift bags also contain a box of good old-fashioned Southern cheese straws along with an assortment of chocolates for our friends to enjoy as a gift with love from our church and its Nurture Committee. The bags can be delivered after today. Thank you.

Our 2018 Flower Calendar is now available for you to sign up to provide flowers for the altar. It is located on the bulletin board near the Missions & Fellowship Center. You can place them in honor or in memory of a loved one. This is a way to add a beautiful part of God's creation to our worship experience. There are guidelines in a folder near the calendar if you need assistance.

December 20 Christmas Caroling 3:30pm
Dinner 5:45pm
Christmas Caroling 6:15pm

December 24th 4th Sunday of Advent
Morning Service (11:00am ONLY) "Lessons & Carols" in the sanctuary
5:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service
11:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Youth, Children and Tweens

Youth: Jr High MYF ~ 6:00pm Sr High MYF ~ 7:00pm

Our Wednesday night programs:

BIG (children) and Tweens at 6:30pm
Youth Fellowship at 6:30.

Revolution, January 26-28, 2018: sign-ups are now open - go to www.cloverfumc.com or tinyurl.com/rev2018. Price is \$135.00. Contact Jon for payment plan setup.

Be sure to check out the table in front of the Youth Room for all our upcoming event sign-up sheets!

Escape Room Tournament September through January

Be on the lookout for emails, posters, and Instagram posts for full details.

If you haven't already, text 1clovermyf to 95577 for text reminders!!

Contact Jon Valentine for information about youth ministries at FUMC, jvalentine@cloverfumc.org

Advent Reminder

Advent, anglicized from the Latin word adventus meaning "coming", is a season observed in many Western Christian churches, a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. It is the beginning of the Western liturgical year and commences on Advent Sunday, called Levavi.

Latin adventus is the translation of the Greek word parousia, commonly used in reference to the Second Coming of Christ. For Christians, the season of Advent serves as a reminder both of the original waiting that was done by the Hebrews for the birth of their Messiah as well as the waiting of Christians for Christ's return from Heaven where he now sits at the Right Hand of God. Taken from www.FaithandWorship.com

Devotionals ~ I encourage each of you to reach for your Upper Room Devotionals (provided by the church or on line at www.upperroom.org) during the Advent season and consider doing the center section that includes advent devotionals for your family.

The Food Project Ministry: Next week's 4th Sunday donation is soup. Thank you for your continued support.

The Newsletter deadline is December 25th. Please put your item in the church newsletter mailbox or you can email it to Ann.Shearer@clover.k12.sc.us.

Thank you:

The United Methodist Men would like to say a big THANK YOU to all of the wonderful and generous people in our congregation who donated money and time in making our 2017 Christmas Shopping Spree such a huge success! We are sure that all who participated had their hearts filled with joy in seeing how these wonderful children not only were able to show their love for their families through their gifts, but also were able to hear the true story of Christmas and Jesus' birth. This would not be possible without all of you!

Yours in Christ,

United Methodist Men

Thanks for all the cards, well wishes, calls and prayers during this time as I lost my father. Sincerely,

Faye Brown

Reverend Tommy Wilkes, Senior Pastor – twilkes@cloverfumc.org

Reverend Meg Wilkes, Associate Minister – mwilkes@cloverfumc.org

Reverend J. Richard Gibson, Pastor Emeritus

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

Nannette Carnes, Organist

Tracie Kite, Sexton – [kitetracie@hotmail.com](mailto:kitracie@hotmail.com)

Hope Long, Nursery

Windy Bartee, Lay Leader

Ray Reavis, David Edwards, Bob Grindle, Conference Lay Members