

**An Order for the Christian Worship of God**  
**December 3, 2017**  
**Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Liturgical Color: Blue**

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation ~ Eternal God, we are seeking signs of your presence in our lives. Open our eyes, open our ears, open our hearts to receive some word of hope as we anticipate the coming of the One whom you are sending.

The Prelude "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"  
*Chimes: Zoe Dubiski Liturgical Dance: Tameika Ramseur*

\*Call to Worship

Leader: Righteous One, to you alone we lift our souls;

**People: in you alone we place our trust;**

Leader: for you alone we wait all day long.

**People: For you are the God of our salvation,**

Leader: abounding in mercy and steadfast love.

**People: Help us remain alert and watchful for the coming of your promised One**

Leader: the One who comes with power and glory,

**People: the One drawing near to bring our salvation. Amen.**

\*Processional Hymn "People. Look East" UMH# 202

\*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.)*

Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Candle

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

This first candle is HOPE.

Let us pray together:

**Almighty and eternal God, as we await the coming of our savior, give us the courage to hope. Help us to see your plans of redemption for our lives, for this community and for the world. Through Jesus Christ, who is the source of our redemption and hope. Amen.**

Scripture Reading Isaiah 64: 1-9 #643

The Anthem "Rise Up, Come On and Get Ready" *The Chancel Choir*  
*Soloist: Rita Beamguard Liturgical Dance: Tameika Ramseur*

\*Hymn of Preparation "View the Present through the Promise" W&S# 3048

Offertory Prayer The Giving of Tithes & Offerings  
Offertory

\*The Doxology "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise

\*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 Mark 13: 24-39 #882

Sermon "Preparing for the Promise" Rev. Tommy Wilkes

\*Hymn of Commitment "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" UMH# 196

\*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.

**Liturgical Dance**

Friends, we are delighted to have with us this morning the beautiful liturgical dancer Ms. Tameika Ramseur. Tameika is the new Dance Instructor for the Clover High School 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy. She has been meeting with our Worship Arts Team to plan her participation with us during the Advent and Christmas Season. Today, she invites us to worship God through her gift of sacred movement as she joins the Choir in a special rendition of "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" and for the anthem, "Rise Up, Come On and Get Ready." Tameika is also working with some of our children and youth who will present their own liturgical movement during the children, youth and Chancel Choir performance, "I Wonder as I Wander" to take place here at First UMC on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. PLEASE make plans to come for dinner (Johnny Adams is cooking for us!) and then to stay for this delightful Christmas program. Bring your friends and family!

Financial Stewardship

Please continue to remember the church in your giving as we continue this 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. 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.**

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- Reverend Tommy Wilkes, Senior Pastor – [twilkes@cloverfumc.org](mailto:twilkes@cloverfumc.org)
  - Reverend Meg Wilkes, Associate Minister – [mwilkes@cloverfumc.org](mailto:mwilkes@cloverfumc.org)
  - Reverend J. Richard Gibson, Pastor Emeritus
  - 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
  - Nannette Carnes, Organist
  - Tracie Kite, Sexton – [kitetracie@hotmail.com](mailto: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, December 6**

Menu: Country Breakfast  
Sponsored by: United Methodist Men

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

**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:** Anne Adams, Jean Rodriguez (Kim Britton's mother), J.B. Jenkins (Starr Jenkins' brother), Carol Chariker, Fred Byers, Dave Blanton, Sandy Chapman, Barb Millay, Jim Heckle, Josie Skinnell, Dolly Killian, Larry Beamguard, Tammy Bailes, Tom Dann, Rhett Hurst, Margaret Pendleton, Eloise Mallen, Rolfe Sukkert.

**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.

**Administrative Council Meeting:** Called Administrative Council Meeting at 9:45 this morning in the Sanctuary.

Following the 11am service, we will hold a brief **dedication of the Meditation Prayer Chapel** in the All Saints Park

**Holiday at the Gardens Trip, Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>:** The bus is still being repaired, so we will travel in cars. Plan to meet at Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens at 5:00pm. No problem if you plan to arrive later, Group Sales did not issue us tickets, they will check us off as we arrive. Tell Admissions you are with the First United Forever Young group. If you need a ride, call Suzanne Thompson at 803-222-7334.

**UMM Christmas Shopping Spree:** It's hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner! The UMM will again sponsor our annual Christmas Shopping Spree for around 30 children in our community. It will take place on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00am to noon. For those not familiar with the shopping spree, we will serve breakfast to the children and accompany them on a trip to the Family Dollar Store. They will be allowed to spend approximately \$30 on gifts for their family members. They will return to the Missions & Fellowship Center where we will assist them in wrapping their gifts. Of course, Santa will be there to visit with each child and they will hear the **true** Christmas Story in the Sanctuary. The last thing on the agenda is to present each child with gifts especially for him or her. Again we will be asking for volunteers to accompany the children and help with the wrapping. This is an amazing and wonderful experience not only for the children but also for all of the volunteers that are involved. We hope that many of you will join us and help with this as you have in the past. Merry Christmas! *First United Methodist Men*

**Forever Young & Friends:** You are invited to celebrate the season with the Forever Young & Friends at their Christmas Lunch on **Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 12:00 noon** in the church's Mission & Fellowship Center. The meat will be provided, but please bring a side or dessert to share. Our Love Offering will be a donation or canned good for the Food Project. Tommy will have a short devotion. Cheri & Bob will lead us in singing some favorite Christmas Carols. We hope you are able to join us for great food and fellowship. **RSVP** by signing the list located on the "sign up" table (hall table where the Wednesday night sign-up sheet is).

**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 Wednesday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Youth, Children and Tweens**

**Youth: Tonight: Jr. High ~ 6:00, Sr. High ~ 7:00**

**OUR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** practices have begun. It is going to be a wonderful time of song and storytelling! BE SURE TO BE HERE FOR PRACTICE at 6:30pm Wednesday.

**Christmas Program with the Choir and Children will be at 7:00pm on Wednesday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**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](http://www.cloverfumc.com) or [tinyurl.com/rev2018](http://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](mailto:jvalentine@cloverfumc.org)

**Poinsettias ~ 2017**

United Methodist Women (UMW) will be decorating our church for the upcoming Advent Season. Members will again have the opportunity to purchase a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. They will decorate our church on three Sundays, December 10<sup>th</sup>, December 17<sup>th</sup> and Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$ 13.00 each. Twenty five poinsettias will be purchased and any amount collected over the cost of 25 plants will be donated to the UMW General Fund for missions. A list of the donated poinsettias will be in the bulletin on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Orders will be taken through Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. After the service on Christmas Eve, plants can be taken home. Thank you for your support.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

**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](http://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](http://www.upperroom.org)) during the Advent season and consider doing the center section that includes advent devotionals for your family.

**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 will be delivered after Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

**Thank You:** Thank you for all the cards and prayers after the passing of my Grandmother. Also, thank you for the cards, calls and prayers for Rhett as he has been dealing with back issues. Please continue to pray for Rhett as he will have another back surgery on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Teresa Hurst*

**Christmas Needs:** Several families have called the church office requesting assistance with Christmas for their family. If your Sunday School class, committee or group, or family would like to help one of these families please contact the church office.

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