

**An Order for the Christian Worship of God
December 31, 2017
Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve**

First Sunday after Christmas Day

Liturgical Color: White

Welcome and Announcements

The Prelude

*Call to Worship

Leader: What a year this has been!

People: So many things have happened. Some of them have been wonderful; others very sad.

Leader: In all of this our Lord has been with us, guiding, healing, comforting, and rejoicing.

People: Thanks be to God for God's continual presence with us.

Leader: Now we are on the threshold to a new tomorrow.

People: We don't know what it will hold for us.

Leader: In all of what is to come, our Lord will be with us.

People: Guiding, healing, comforting, and rejoicing with us.

ALL: Thank you, Lord, for your steadfast love and presence. AMEN.

*Processional Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

UMH #89

*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

*Hymn of Preparation

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

UMH #237

*Affirmation of Faith

“The Apostles' Creed”

UMH # 881

*Gloria Patri **“Glorify 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.”**

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

Luke 2: 22-40

#889

Sermon

“Hope Fulfilled!”

Rev. Molly Wilkes

*Hymn of Commitment

“Take My Life, and Let It Be”

UMH# 399

*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.

We welcome Rev. Molly Wilkes to our pulpit this morning. RA, FL 1992, AM 1997, RA 2005, SC: 1992 Osceola, 1997 Bethune. 1999 LOA, 2001 Mountain View, 2005 Retired. She and her husband, Rev. Tom Wilkes, are retired and live in Landrum, SC. She is the mother of our Senior Pastor, Rev. Tommy Wilkes.

2017 Financial Update

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| 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 end 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.

PLEASE NOTE: TODAY'S OFFERING AND ANY GIVING POSTMARKED IN 2017 WILL BE POSTED TO YOUR 2017 RECORD OF GIVING.

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

Military: Captain Thad Wilson, 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.

No Youth tonight.

Our dear church family,

We have so enjoyed this Advent and Christmas season with you. The many worship services and celebrations have meant more to us that we have words to express and we hope the same has been true for you. To those who have remembered us in particular ways, with cards and gifts, we want to extend a special and warm thank you. Your thoughtful gestures encourage us so much in our ministry with you, and help us to experience God's love for ourselves and for our own family. Merry Christmas to you all, First UMC family, and a Happy New Year to you and yours!

Love and the peace of Christ,
Pastors Tommy and Meg Wilkes

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.

The Food Project Ministry: Next week's 1st Sunday donation is spaghetti and spaghetti sauce. Thank you for your continued support.

Confirmation 2018: Confirmation is a wonderful time where young people are able to ask questions about the faith and learn the basic doctrines and teachings of the Church and Scripture. At the end of this experience, young people will be offered a Confirmation Retreat to Lake Junaluska, NC and a time to confirm their Baptism before the congregation. **Parent Orientation** will be on January 14th at 10:00 in the sanctuary. If you are unable to come that day, we will offer an alternate session on Wednesday, January 17th at 6:30. The first Confirmation class will be on January 17th.

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

Hope Long, Nursery

Windy Bartee, Lay Leader

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