

Our Christian Worship of God  
April 26, 2026  
Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Liturgical Color: White

The Prelude "The Power of Your Love" -Holstein  
The Chiming of the Hour  
The Call to Worship "Christ Risen"

The Welcome and Announcements

\*The Hymn UMH 138 "The King of Love My Shepherd Is (verses 1-2, 4, 6)"

\*The Invocation

Leader: Good Shepherd, You call us by name and gather us Into Your presence.

**People: We come, listening for Your voice, longing to be led in Your truth.**

Leader: When the noise of the world confuses and distracts us, You speak with clarity and grace.

**People: Help us to recognize Your voice above all others, and to follow where You lead.**

Leader: You are the gate, the protector, and the giver of abundant life.

**People: Lead us into Your safety, Your peace, and Your promise of fullness.**

**All: Loving Shepherd, guide us home this day and always. Amen.**

The Anthem "Sing to the Lord a New Song" Chancel Choir

\*The Affirmation of Christian Faith The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.**

\*universal

\*The 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 Offering

Offertory "Softly and Tenderly"

-Raney

\*Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

**"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**

\*Offertory Prayer

\*The Hymn UMH 128 "He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought"

The Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen**

\*The Scripture Lesson John 10: 1-10 see insert

Minister: The Word of God for the people of God

**People: Thanks be to God. Amen**

The Sermon "Knowing the Voice That Leads Us Home" Rev. Scott Gilmer

Prayer of Christian Discipleship

\*The Hymn UMH 381 "Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us"

\*The Benediction

\*The Choral Response and Recessional

**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**

\*The Chiming of the Trinity

\*The Postlude "Praise to the Lord the Almighty" -Prichard

\*indicates worshippers are invited to stand if able

**The flowers are placed on the altar today to the Glory of God  
and in remembrance of Becky, given by Tim Lyda.**

## **OUR JOYS AND PRAYER CONCERNS April 23, 2026**

**Note:** please contact Shirley Davis in the church office to add to the joys and prayer concerns. 222-3496 or [sdavis@cloverfumc.com](mailto:sdavis@cloverfumc.com).

**Recent Concerns:** Jackie Brown, Josh Hastings, Crystal Lane, Tommy Crawford, Pat Bono, Melva Jones, Denise Bono, Judy Bailes, Sandy King, Judy Hench & family, Renee Gallien, Jane Turpin, Marie Millen, Our Homebound Angels

**Military:** Major Virginia Stanton, USMC; Petty Officer Second Class William Shearer; Petty Officer Andrew Beaty; Lt. Col. Leeann Hidle Chavers, Air Force; Lieutenant Colonel Thad Wilson; Lt. Col. Nicholas S. Hare; Lt. Col. Blair Preston.

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**The AEDs, with an alarm system,** are located downstairs near the nursery and outside the sanctuary. A list of those who are CPR trained is also included in the boxes.

Reverend Scott Gilmer, Senior Pastor – [ssgilmer@bellsouth.net](mailto:ssgilmer@bellsouth.net)

Reverend J. Richard Gibson, Pastor Emeritus

Cheri King, Director of Music Ministries – [cking@cloverfumc.com](mailto:cking@cloverfumc.com)

Jay Oden, Organist – [jay.oden@gmail.com](mailto:jay.oden@gmail.com)

Christine Payseur, Church Business / Technical Coordinator – [cpayseur@cloverfumc.com](mailto:cpayseur@cloverfumc.com)

Shirley M. Davis, Admin. Asst. / Financial Sec. – [sdavis@cloverfumc.com](mailto:sdavis@cloverfumc.com)

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

Hope Long, Nursery

Anna Livingston – Lay Leader

Renee Gallien, Jason King, Judy Falls

Lay Members to Annual Conference

**Reverend Scott Gilmer's telephone number is 864-554-8676. Feel free to call if you have need of him.**

**Invitation to New Worshipers:** 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 our Pastor. We are thankful to have new worshippers. Welcome to the First UMC family.

**Weekly Scripture Readings:** Acts 7: 55-60; Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2: 2-10; John 14: 1-14.

**Words of Wisdom:** “There are many voices calling for our attention each day—voices of fear, doubt, distraction, and even false promises. Yet, in the midst of that noise, the voice of Christ remains steady, faithful, and true. In John 10: 1-10, Jesus reminds us that He is both the Good Shepherd and the gate—calling us not only to recognize His voice, but to trust where it leads. Today, may we quiet our hearts enough to listen, courageous enough to follow, and faithful enough to believe that His voice will always lead us home—to life, to love and to abundant grace.”

**Vacation Bible School:** This year VBS will be held on June 14-17, theme: Rome...Paul and the Underground Church. The Children's Council members are requesting daily prayers, asking God to prepare the hearts of church members, workers, and children who will attend. Thank you.

**Tutoring Program:** Our tutoring program is in dire NEED of two mentors for the next 5 weeks on Wednesdays, 2:15 TO 4:00PM. Due to unseen circumstances some of our current mentors have had to step away. We would like to have one mentor per student (second and third grade). No special training is necessary, just love and patience. And since we meet as a group in the Missions & Fellowship Center, the safe sanctuary requirement is waived at this time. For more information, contact Sherry Gibbs 910-269-7729

**Graduation Sunday:** We will be honoring our graduates during the worship service on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Bags will be placed downstairs for each graduate. Please feel free to leave cards or other small tokens of congratulations in these bags. Thank you for helping us celebrate these special young people!

|                        |                              |                       |             |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| High School Graduates: | Jacob Allen<br>Carter Farris | AJ Dover<br>Wade Ward | Clara Dover |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|

|                    |                 |             |              |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| College Graduates: | Lawrence Bartee | Alexis Bono | Sarah Keller |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|

**Thank you:** Thank you so much for your prayers, phone calls and notes of encouragement during my recent surgery and recovery. It truly meant more to me than I can express. I'm deeply grateful for your encouragement and support. It has made a real difference in my healing. Teresa Glass

**Announcement:** Suzanne and Walter Thompson wish to announce the marriage of their daughter, Amelia Thompson to Rollin Stevens. The couple were married on April 16, 2026 in Greenville, South Carolina.

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**This Week**

|                          |             |                         |     |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-----|
| Budget Receipts .....    | \$ 5,046.00 | Week .....              | 17  |
| Other .....              | \$ 913.00   | % of Budget receive ... | 34  |
| Total Budget for 2026... | \$ 484,517  | Church School .....     | 33  |
| Amount needed weekly...  | \$ 9,318    | Morning Worship.....    | 100 |
|                          |             | Youth.....              |     |

|                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1/1/26 Bank Balance    | \$ 57,059.69         |
| Total giving to date   | \$ 174,397.49        |
| Total spending to date | <u>\$ 155,748.05</u> |
| Current Bank Balance   | \$ 75,709.13         |

4/24/26 Local Operating Balance \$ 37,424.29

**If you want your offering to go to the new Local Operating Fund, please be sure to mark your check clearly.**

**Stewardship ~ Ways to Give**

Regular Tithes and Offerings through the **Sunday Morning Offering.**

**Giving On-Line:** Giving to FUMC is available online through our website:

[www.firstumcclover.org](http://www.firstumcclover.org) **Thanks for your support of the mission and ministry of FUMC.**

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

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Wonderful Wednesday Meal, April 29 hosted by FUMC Choir  
 Menu: Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Veggies, Bread & Homemade Desserts

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**Spring Yard Sale Report:** Yard Sale Week, March 22-28, 2026, was a great time of missions, fellowship, and learning. There are always new things, people & experiences. Thank you so much to all of you that prayed, donated, shopped, picked up, delivered, arranged items, fixed food, put out signs, made all the people who came feel welcome, and any of the other many things that made the Yard Sale a success. As of April 20, the Yard Sale made \$ 6,386.37 after expenses. This does not count the things we gave to other worthy causes, church needs, and missions during the sale.

**Nothing But Nurture**

- **Homebound Angels and Friends** - Please keep our Homebound Angels and Friends in your prayers.
- **Let's Do Lunch** will resume on April 30<sup>th</sup> after the Forever Young and Friends meeting. We will eat at Courtney's. We meet at Courtney's at 12:00 noon. Grab your fork, and mark your calendar!

God calls all of us to offer each other Christian hospitality and to be there to nurture one another. You can do this in simple ways—with a phone call, a text, or a card to let someone know that you are thinking about them, and you are there for them! This will not only bless the person that you reach out to, but it will bless you as well! So, ask yourself—"Who can I be a blessing to today?"

**Notes on Missions**

Help us fill the grocery cart to show our love to those in need! This week's suggested donations: peanut butter, dried beans, crackers and juice. (These are just suggestions. All donations are appreciated!)

**Mother's Day Carnations:**

A special flower arrangement will be placed on the altar on Mother's Day. You may place a red carnation in honor of, or a white carnation in memory of, your loved ones for \$ 3.00 each. Any additional money collected beyond the cost of the carnations will go to our Food Project. To purchase a flower(s), place this form, with payment attached, in the offering plate or return to the church office not later than May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

## **John 10: 1-10**

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

<sup>2</sup> But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

<sup>3</sup> To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

<sup>4</sup> And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

<sup>5</sup> And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

<sup>6</sup> This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.

<sup>7</sup> Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

<sup>8</sup> All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

<sup>9</sup> I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

<sup>10</sup> The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.