

**An Order for the Christian Worship of God
November 19, 2017
Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve**

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Liturgical Color: Green

Welcome and Announcements

The Prelude "O Divine Redeemer" -Ch.Gounod, arr.R. Thygerson

*Call to Worship

Leader: Come to the house of the Lord. Come with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your witness and your service.

People: What gift can we bring, what present, what token? What words can convey it, the joy of this day? When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing, what song can we offer in honor and praise?

Leader: We bring the gift of prayer to this house. We raise to God our hopes and our fears, our wounds and our triumphs.

People: We bring the gift of our presence, being together in worship and fellowship, work and witness.

Leader: We bring the gift of our tokens, given freely from our hearts to be used in service to God. We bring the gift of service, commitment of our time and talents to serve God by working in God's world.

ALL: This gift we now bring, this present, this token, these words can convey it, the joy of this day! When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing, this song we now offer in honor and praise!

*Processional Hymn "We Gather Together" UMH# 131

*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

The Anthem "Take My Life" *The Chancel Choir*

*Hymn of Preparation "Now Thank We All Our God" UMH# 102

*Affirmation of Faith "The Apostles' Creed" UMH # 881

*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."**

Scripture Reading Proverbs 3: 1-10 #548

Offertory Prayer The Giving of Tithes & Offerings
Offertory "Consolation" -F. Mendelssohn
*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 Matthew 25: 14-30 #860

Sermon "Perceptions of God Effects Our Giving" Rev. Tommy Wilkes

*Hymn of Commitment "Be Thou My Vision" UMH# 451

*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 "The Lord Has His Hand on Me" -A.Gillian, arr.A.Burger

*indicates worshippers are invited to stand, if able

Each member/friend of FUMC will receive an Estimate of Giving card this week in the mail. We will be receiving those cards through the offering plate, on the altar rail or by mail to our Financial Secretary, Shirley Davis. Thank you in advance for your generosity in providing for the Mission and Ministry of this church for Christ.

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.

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The flowers are placed on the altar today to the Glory to God  
and in memory of Tom and Helen Stanton  
and Odis and Helen Deaton, given by Anne. S. Adams. .  
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2017 Financial Update

Needed to meet General Fund Budget as of 10/31/17 \$ 547,386
Actual General Fund Spending as of 10/31/17 \$ 479,207
Received for General Fund as of 10/31/17 \$ 480,452

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.

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 – [kitefracie@hotmail.com](mailto:kitefracie@hotmail.com)

Hope Long, Nursery

Windy Barte, Lay Leader

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

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No Meal this week ~ Happy Thanksgiving!

Wonderful Wednesday Meal, November 29

Menu: Hearty Beef and Vegetable Soup, Cornbread & Desserts

Sponsored by: Missions Committee

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: Fred Byers, Josh & Sarah Valentine (trip to Pakistan), Sandy Chapman, Barb Millay, Jim Heckle, Josie Skinnell, Dolly Killian, Larry Beamguard, Tammy Bailes, Tom Dann, Rhett Hurst, Domingo Jesus Roges, Margaret Pendleton, Eloise Mallen, Rolfe Sukkert.

Note of Sympathy: Christian sympathy is extended to Faye Brown in the death of her father.

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.

Our Community Thanksgiving Service will be at **Green Pond UMC** (note change) on Tuesday, November 21st, at 6:30pm. Please come and enjoy special music, singing, prayer and a message from the Reverend Sharon Gamble. Members are asked to bring a "pick up" to share in a celebration following the service.

Coat Give Away at the Food Project: Please donate gently used or new coats, heavy sweatshirts/sweaters, hats and gloves to be given away at the Food Project in November and December. A tub will be located at the Food Project table starting November 5th. Thank you for your support, Esther Circle and Forever Young & Friends.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Since 1993 Operation Christmas Child has delivered 146 million shoeboxes to children in 104 countries. Each box represents a simple gift delivered with the Good News of Jesus Christ into the hands of a boy or girl living in the midst of poverty and despair. Pick up a box in the lobby and fill it with gifts you know a child will enjoy. We will be receiving filled boxes until November 19th.

Marriage Date Night – McAdenville "Christmas Town USA" on Saturday, December 2nd at 4:30pm. Come out with your sweetie and get into the Christmas Spirit! We will meet at the church and carpool over to McAdenville, park and walk through to enjoy the Christmas lights at a leisurely pace. After that we will warm up and enjoy some delicious dinner at Brix in Gastonia. Childcare will be available at the church. Please RSVP to the Dubiskis at smileanddial@earthlink.net or 518-281-2274 by November 29th.

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 9th, 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*

Youth, Children and Tweens

Youth: TODAY Jr. High ~ 6:00pm Sr, High ~ 7:00pm

NO WEDNESDAY EVENING PROGRAMS THIS WEEK. HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

Our Wednesday night programs:

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

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

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

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

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 10th, December 17th and Christmas Eve, December 24th. 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 17th. Orders will be taken through Monday, December 4th. After the service on Christmas Eve, plants can be taken home. Thank you for your support.

NAME: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

Let's Celebrate

Ms. Ethel's 90th Birthday

Sunday, November 26 at 2:30pm

Brenda Davis (704) 824-1871

First United Methodist Church

Thoreau on the Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30

The American writer - Henry David Thoreau, spoke about the responsibility that comes with our having received talents and abilities from God. He retold today's parable to get at this point:

Once there was a king who had three sons, each with a special talent. The first had a talent for growing fruit. The second for raising sheep. And the third for playing the violin. Once, the king had to go overseas on important business. Before departing he called his three sons together and told them he was depending on them to keep the people contented in his absence. Now for a while things went well. But then came the winter, a bitter and cruel winter it was. There was an acute shortage of firewood. Thus the first son was faced with a very difficult decision. Should he allow the people to cut down some of his beloved fruit trees for firewood? When he saw the people shivering with cold, he finally allowed them to do so. The second son was also faced with a difficult decision. Food became very scarce. Should he allow the people to kill some of his beloved sheep for food? When he saw the children crying for hunger, his heart went out to them and he allowed them to kill some of the sheep.. Thus the people had firewood for their fires, and food for their tables. Nevertheless the harsh winter continued to oppress them. Their spirits began to sag, and there was no one to cheer them up. They turned to the fiddler, but he refused to play for them. In the end things got so bad that in desperation many of them emigrated. Then one day the king arrived back home. He was terribly sad to find that many of his people had left his kingdom. He called in his three sons to give an account of what had gone wrong. The first said, "Father, I hope you won't be mad at me, but the winter was very cold and so I allowed the people to cut down some of the fruit trees for firewood." And the second son said, "Father, I hope you won't be mad with me because when food got scarce I allowed the people to kill some of my sheep." On hearing this, far from being angry, the father embraced his two sons, and told them that he was proud of them. Then the third son came forward carrying his fiddle with him. "Father", he said, "I refused to play because you weren't here to enjoy the music." "Well then", said the king, "play me a tune now because my heart is full of sorrow." The son raised the violin and bow, but found that his fingers had gone stiff from lack of exercise. No matter how hard he tried, he could not get them to move. Then the father said, "You could have cheered up the people with your music, but you refused. If the kingdom is half-empty, the fault is yours. But now you can no longer play. That will be your punishment."

