

**An Order for the Christian Worship of God**  
**December 10, 2017**  
**Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Liturgical Color: Blue**

Welcome and Announcements

The Prelude

\*Call to Worship

Leader: These are the days of preparation for Christmas.

**People: Open our hearts, O Lord, and make us ready to receive you.**

Leader: Repentance, changing our attitudes, our lives, is the beginning of our preparation.

**People: Lord, give us courage and confidence as we wait.**

Leader: God will fill us with joy and peace as we become witnesses to You and Your Love shown in Christ our Lord.

**People: Lord, help us to be faithful servants all of our days.  
Come, O Come Emmanuel! AMEN.**

\*Processional Hymn

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

UMH# 213

\*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 second candle of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning.

This first candle is PEACE.

Let us pray together:

**O God of grace and comfort, in you we find rest for our hearts and peace for our souls.  
In these times of uncertainty grant us peace in our lives, peace in this community, and  
peace in the world. Through Jesus Christ, who is the prince of peace. Amen.**

Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Chancel Choir, Youth and Children’s Christmas Program Announcement

The Anthem

“Celtic French Noel”  
*Flute ~ Jason King*

*The Chancel Choir*

\*Hymn of Preparation

“Soon and Very Soon”

UMH# 706

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40: 1-11

#619

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

2 Peter 3: 8-15a

#1063

Sermon

“Killin Time at Christmas?”

Rev. Tommy Wilkes

\*Hymn of Commitment

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

UMH# 211

\*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](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.**

### **Wonderful Wednesday Meal, December 13**

Menu: Beef Stew, Cornbread & Dessert  
Sponsored by: Youth, cooked by Johnny Adams

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:** 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, Barb Millay, Jim Heckle, Josie Skinnell, Dolly Killian, Larry Beamguard, Tammy Bailes, Tom Dann, Rhett Hurst, Margaret Pendleton, Eloise Mallen, Rolfe Sukkert, Dave Jones.

**Note of Sympathy:** Christian sympathy is extended to Dick Gibson and family in the death of his sister, Mrs. Ann Miles of Shelby, NC.

**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.

**Esther Circle** will meet on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 in the Jr. High classroom, upstairs by the elevator. Please bring coats and food for the pantry. We will take up a love offering for Christmas. After the program we will eat at Clover Grill. I hope you can come and enjoy the fellowship. Call Windy with any questions. 803-222-7533 Merry Christmas to all!

**Rebekah Circle** will meet on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm with Kim Killian. Please bring a finger food to share.

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

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

**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.

**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.

### Youth, Children and Tweens

**Youth: Jr & Sr High Combined Youth ~ 7:00pm**

**Christmas Program dress rehearsal tonight at 4:30pm. Pizza will be served. Will end at 7:00pm.**

**Christmas Program presented by the Chancel Choir, Youth 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)

### **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.

**Thank You:** I would like to thank everyone who came to my birthday party. I really enjoyed it.

*Ethel Pendleton*

**The Food Project Ministry:** Next week's 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday donations are dried beans. Thank you for your continued support.

**The Newsletter deadline** is December 25<sup>th</sup>. Please put your item in the church newsletter mailbox or you can email it to [Ann.Shearer@clover.k12.sc.us](mailto:Ann.Shearer@clover.k12.sc.us).

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