

An Order for the Christian Worship of God
March 11, 2018
Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve

4th Sunday in Lent

Liturgical Color: Purple

Welcome and Announcements

The Prelude "Jesu, Meine Freude"
"Jesus, Priceless Treasure" -Walther

*Choral Call to Worship "The Old Rugged Cross" (verse 3) UMH # 504

*Processional Hymn "Lift High the Cross" UMH # 159

*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.)

Payer of Confession (Numbers 21)

Leader: God, we have sinned against you. We have spoken against you and your servant Jesus.

**People: We have uttered lies.
 We have cursed you and others.
 We have said vulgar things.
 We have been consumed by doubt.**

Leader: We have been bitten with the venom of hatred in our world.

**People: We have oppressed the helpless.
 We have been intolerant of others.
 We have delighted in violence.
 We have spent money foolishly.**

Leader: Please, Lord God, forgive us our transgressions, that we may be healed of our sin.

Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

The Anthem "For God So Loved the World" *The Chancel Choir*

*Hymn of Preparation "Grace Greater than Our Sin" UMH # 365

*Gospel Lesson John 3: 14-21 # 924

*Psalter Psalm 107 UMH # 830

*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."*

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

*Offertory Prayer

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.

Old Testament Reading Numbers 21: 4-9 # 134

Sermon "Taking Away the Poison" Rev. Tommy Wilkes

*Hymn of Commitment "O How He Loves You and Me" FWS # 2108

*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 "Agincourt Hymn" -Dunstable

*indicates worshippers are invited to stand, if able

Invitation to Newcomers: Those desiring to unite with our congregation through Baptism, Profession of Faith or Rededication 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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 Flowers are placed on the altar today to the Glory of God  
 and in honor of Addie Yarbrough's birthday. Love Clara and Mallory  
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The Food Project Ministry: Next week's 3rd Sunday donation is Dried Beans. Thank you for your continued support.

Remember Asbury Hills! Register now. Pick up your flyer to choose your camp date. Several have already contacted Rev. Meg. Maybe you are one of those who would also like to go. Contact Rev. Meg Wilkes 803-222-3496.

Stewardship ~ Ways to Give

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

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.

- 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
 Cathy Allen, BIG/Tweens Coordinator – cmallen217@gmail.com
 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 – kitefracie@hotmail.com
 Hope Long, Nursery
 Windy Bartee, Lay Leader
 Ray Reavis, Bob Grindle, Renee Gallien, Conference Lay Members

Wonderful Wednesday Dinner, March 14
Menu: Chicken Pot Pie, Green Beans, Slaw, Bread & Dessert,
Sponsored by: Forever Young & Friends

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: Caleigh Dover, Anne Adams, Brad Robinson, Tina Clark (Betty Robinson & Margie McCarter's niece), Dave Edwards, Betsy Durant (Windy Bartee's friend), Hugh Robinson, Fred Byers, Tommy Crawford, Marshall Caldwell, Carolyn Grigg, Sandy Chapman, Wayne Leroy, Rhett Hurst, Josie Skinnell, Dave Blanton, Rolfe Sukkert, Dave Jones.

Note of Sympathy: Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Jimmy Bodie.

Military: Captain Thad Wilson, Lt. Col. Nicholas S. Hare, Major Blair Preston, 2nd Lt. Rion Cartin, LCPL Chris Propst, M.Gy. Sgt. Terry Kenneth Lowman, Jr.

Circle will meet this week:

Esther Circle will meet at 10:00am on Monday, March 12th in the Steve Camp classroom. Suzanne Thompson will lead the circle as Windy is on a trip. Louise Jackson will give the program. We had planned a pounding for Mama Cat but since she has not yet moved we will postpone that party until she is in her apartment. We may do it in April. Windy Bartee

Martha Circle will meet on at 7:00pm on Monday, March 12th at the home of Delores Vanhook.

Rebekah Circle will meet at 7:00pm on Tuesday, March 13th in the kitchen area of the church.

SCRIPTURE READERS! As we begin all of our committee meetings for 2018 we are excited about this new year in ministry together. Recently the Worship Committee met and decided we would like to invite some of our younger and newer congregation members to join us in the rotations for Scripture reading during worship! If you enjoy reading aloud and would like to serve God and church in this way, give Rev. Meg a call. 803-622-1315. We are inviting all young adults and youth, as well as all other ages, to participate.

THE SPRING YARD SALE IS APRIL 8—14: Please bring your donations Sunday, April 6 through Thursday, April 12. WE WOULD LOVE YOUR HELP! Any amount of time you can help is greatly appreciated. We have all kinds of things and activity levels for people to do.

Times: Sunday 1:00—5:00, Monday—Tuesday 9:00—5:00, Wednesday at Men's Prayer Breakfast, Wednesday Night Supper & 9:00—5:00, Thursday 9:00—5:00, Friday 8:00 —6:00 (busiest day), Saturday 9:00—12:00. As always, our church family is able to shop any day during the week.

HAMRICK'S / GAFFNEY PREMIUM OUTLETS TRIP ON MARCH 20, 2018

Come join the fun when Forever Young & Friends go shopping, eating, and hanging out together in Gaffney, SC. We will leave the church at 8:15am on Tuesday, March 20 on our way to Hamrick's. Tuesday is Senior Discount Day. About 11:00 we will go to the Clocks Restaurant for lunch. After lunch it is on to the Premium Outlets. We hope to be back in Clover about 4:00. Look for the sign up sheet in our usual place (the "sign-up" table).

"AN AFTERNOON OF MUSIC"

Concert and Fundraiser
Featuring: John Austin King ~ Solo Piano
Sunday, March 18th at 3:00pm
First United Methodist Church, Clover, SC
Reception following

Youth, Children and Tweens

Youth: Jr. High ~ 6:00 Sr. High ~ 7:00

Our Wednesday night programs: BIG (children) and Tweens at 6:30pm / Youth Fellowship at 6:30.

Be on the lookout for emails, posters, and Instagram posts for full details.

If you haven't already, text [1clovermyf](tel:1clovermyf) to [95577](tel:95577) for text reminders!!

Contact Jon Valentine for information about youth ministries at FUMC, jvalentine@cloverfumc.org

Tweens Trip TODAY – meet at noon to grab a quick lunch provided at the church. We will leave church by 12:30 to go the Catawba Science Center in Hickory. The Planetarium show is at 2:30 and shark feeding at aquarium is at 3:15. Admissions is \$6 for kids and church will cover \$3. We plan to return to church by 5:00pm.

YOUTH: 30 hour famine begins Friday right after lunch! No food for 30 hours after you enjoy lunch. Meet at the church at 7:00pm for a lock-in. Bring clothes, tooth brush, and make sure you have a permission slip. Permission slips can be found outside the youth room. We will serve our community, participate in the St. Patrick's Day Festival, play games and travel to have a fun event at Revolutions in Rock Hill. Invite your friends! No money needed!

2018 Festival of Tables: United Methodist Women will host the fifth annual "Festival of Tables" ladies luncheon on Saturday, May 19th, 2018. You can reserve a table for \$ 5.00 and decorate in your chosen theme, using your tableware and decorations. Guest tickets are \$ 8.00 each. Last year over one hundred women attended to preview the decorated tables and enjoy a delicious lunch. To reserve a table or if you want further information contact Linda Abernathy (222-7591) or Grace White (222-7528). Please plan to join us!

Optimist International Oratorical Contest

This contest is open to any student under the age of 18 as of October 1st, 2018. Participants must write on the official topic "Where Are My Roots of Optimism." Applications can be picked up from the High School, Clover or Oakridge Middle School, Ninth Grade Academy or from Jon Valentine. Any questions, call Josie Skinnell at 803-684-2008 or email sknnll@aol.com. Please see flyer on the bulletin board for additional information.

First UMC is reinstating an old custom of placing Easter lilies in the church on Easter morning.

If you would like to provide a lily in memory of or in honor of someone, the cost is \$14.00 per lily. A list of the donated lilies will be in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 1st. Orders will be taken through Monday, March 26th. Please fill out the form below, attached your payment and place in the offering plate or you may bring it to the church office. You may take home your lily following the services on Easter Sunday.

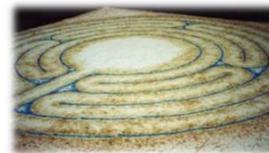
In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Name _____

For your contemplative life this Lenten season...

The Labyrinth



The Labyrinth ~ a walking path for prayer and spiritual meditation ~ will be available during the daytime, and also on Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings until 9:00pm in the Missions and Fellowship Center from March 4 – Easter Monday. We will have a comfortable waiting space set up for you, including reading materials and information about the Labyrinth as an ancient and contemporary spiritual practice. This year our path is smaller – 18 feet – so we may practice waiting (*how appropriate for Lent*) while others complete their time on the path. Please consider taking this opportunity that has been intentionally and carefully prepared for you by your pastoral and worship staff.

Contemplative Prayer and Worship

Sunday evenings March 4, 11 and 18 from **5:00 -6:00** in the Missions and Fellowship Center. (childcare provided) During this **time set apart** from our busy lives, we will participate in the sacred & ancient Christian practices of Lectio Divina, Centering Prayer, Intentional Silence, Guided Meditation, and others. **"Be Still and Know that I am God."** Psalm 46:10



NURTURE NEWS: Friends, would any OTHERS of you like to join our nurture team in caring for those 16 to 20 members among us who are home bound? We have a wonderful group of people already connecting with our nurture folks, but we have a need for a few more willing servants to occasionally make calls and visits. Every now and then we also have nurture folks who would like a ride to church. Please consider whether this is a way you could serve God and neighbor in your Christian life. Someone needs you! Contact Rev. Meg Wilkes mwilkes@cloverfumc.org, 803-622-1315

More WAYS to Serve



Join a **Prayer Vigil** group to *keep our community, prospective members, and particularly the young among us in your prayers regularly!!!* Rev. Meg will provide you with regular updates of immediate concerns and hopes and any particular situations that need special attention. For example, right now we are about to become neighbors with 40 families across the street. We can begin a holy example of Christian outreach simply through prayer for those "unknown" families. God knows them. We have also had several families visiting with our church lately, many with children - maybe you are one of them! - one way we can faithfully serve and love these new friends is simply by lifting them in prayer. Talk to Meg if you are interested in this intentional prayer ministry. I am thinking of other prayer ideas, too! Would love your input! Rev. Meg Wilkes 803-622-1315 mwilkes@cloverfumc.org



Become a **Safe Sanctuary Bus Person** to go out on Sunday mornings before Godly Play and Church to gather up children to bring them to Jesus on Sunday mornings!!! Some children may want to be here, but their parents /grandparents can't bring them. Talk with Rev. Meg if you are interested in participating in such a ministry. We will work together to see how to make this outreach happen. Rev. Meg Wilkes 803-622-1315 or mwilkes@cloverfumc.org