

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

December 29, 2024 – 11:00 a.m.

The First Sunday after Christmas



.....
*United in the Spirit, First United Methodist Church of Belmont exists
to be more like Jesus Christ for our community and beyond*
.....

THE REVEREND GEORGE RAGSDALE, SENIOR PASTOR
807 South Point Road // Belmont, NC 28012
P: 704-825-2106 // F: 704-825-2176
www.fumcbelmont.org

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

arr. Mary McDonald

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Margie Ligon

We have welcomed the Christ child and declared the glory of God's salvation that comes to live among us. And yet, still, we wait.

We watch and work for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

We prepare to welcome a new year, thankful for how God has brought us through the past year and anxious to discover what the new year might bring.

We watch and work for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

We join generations of disciples who learned and taught us how to listen, notice, and discern divine love at work in the world.

***We watch and work for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.
Come let us worship!***

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 246

"Joy to the World"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***Holy God, we know that the blank slate of a new year seems so promising –
we haven't done anything too awful, not yet. And we know that the
blank slate of a new year is also an illusion; time continues, and our lives
flow from one day to the next, from one year to the next. In this time,
we know we are sometimes remarkable and generous, bearing light to the
shadows, and we know we are sometimes full of despair and
selfishness, hoarding light and goodness for ourselves. We invite you on
our journeys, O God. We seek your presence with us in the darkness
and the light, in our remarkable moments and our awful ones. We seek your
presence, and bask in your love, through Christ. Amen.***

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI No. 70

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

Jennifer Martin

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Ecclesiastes 1:1-7, 3:1-4

Ed Hanigan

This is the Word of God for the People of God. ***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Larry Kimel

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 881

The Apostles' Creed

INVITATION TO PRAYER

"Sing Hallelujah"

***Sing hallelujah Sing hallelujah
Sing hallelujah for the things He has done
Come and adore Him
Bow down before Him
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World***

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

*After each petition we enter into the prayer together with these words: Lord, in your mercy.
hear our prayer.*

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

"The Work of Christmas"

Dan Forrest

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music from the heart.
J. Michael Beech, soloist

THANKSGIVING

*ACT OF PRAISE

"Doxology"

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts!
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

*THE LORD'S PRAYER (Hymnal No. 895)

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN No. 707

"Hymn of Promise"

*POSTLUDE

"Fanfare in B-flat"

Douglas Wagner

**Those who are able please stand.*

Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont! We're glad that you've chosen to worship with us this morning. We invite you to explore all the opportunities we have for children, youth and adults of all ages and stages of life. We seek to be a community of faith that welcomes all as we grow to be more like Jesus Christ for our community, loving and serving God and one another in all that we do.

If you are a guest, we are honored to have you with us. Please stop by the information center as you leave this morning to receive a small gift and more information about our church. We look forward to getting to know you in the days to come! Welcome!

Prayer after each worship service is available in the prayer room off of the Narthex. Our Congregational Care Ministers and retired clergy are available to pray with you.

CHURCH GATHERINGS

First Kids and families are invited to Snowless Tubing at Crowder's Chutes on Saturday, January 4 from 6:00-7:00. The link to purchase tickets can be found at www.fumcbelmont.org/kids.

All Youth are invited to the New Year's Hike on January 5 from 1:00 to 2:30 at Rocky Branch Trail. Meet at 103 Sacco Street in Belmont.

January Men's Meetings Friday, January 10 at 6:30 a.m. and Saturday, January 18 at 8:30 a.m. at the Youth House. Start 2025 meeting new people and growing your faith. Attend one or both meetings. Whichever fits your schedule.

Connect begins again on January 12 from 5:30 to 7:30 in Carpenter Hall. Join us for a few rounds of Grog and other fun games!

Square Two January 16. Lunch at the community Cafe at 11:45 a.m. then visit "Bunny Blessings" in Belmont. Bunny Blessings travel to nursing homes to help those who need some love. Contact Pam Stowe for more information: wstowe5612@yahoo.com

Youth are invited on January 19 for a day of service where we will help our fellow church member with her yardwork. We will meet from 2 to 4 pm for a time of service and fellowship. All hands are needed. Contact Quanna today to sign up and for the address.

All eight through twelve graders are invited for a Valentine's inspired Lockout on Friday, February 7 beginning at 5 pm. We will adventure out for the evening and then spend the night in the narthex of the church. Please sign up online or email Quanna at Quanna@fumcbelmont.org.



OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

You still have 1 more Sunday to ***Share the Warmth*** by decorating our tree with hats, gloves and mittens. All donated items will be delivered to S.O.C.K.S Crisis ministry in the Springwood community.

The Dahlia Grove Community Cafe will be closed this week. They will reopen January 9th.

Feeding the Children ministry is actively serving over 240 children in our community. Sign up to serve on December 30th or January 2nd. Visit fumcbelmont.org/feedthechildren to sign up.

Our next ***Stock the BCO Sunday*** is coming up soon. Please bring your non-perishable food donation to the narthex by January 5th.

Our next Room in the Inn night is January 11th as we partner with Christ UMC in Charlotte. Learn more and sign up to help at fumcbelmont.org/roomintheinn.

Thanks to those who have faithfully provided a dinner for our families at ***Catherine's House*** throughout the year. Our January schedule is full but we need meals starting in February. To read more about this feeding opportunity or to sign up go to fumcbelmont.org/catherineshouse



WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 29

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, December 30

Feeding the Children

Tuesday, December 31

Wednesday, January 1

Church Office



Thursday, January 2

Feeding the Children

Friday, January 3

Saturday, January 4

Sunday, January 5

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

1:00 p.m. Connect Youth New Years Hike

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Mary, Linda England's sister

Linda England

Danielle Kelly's father

The family of Teresa who passed away (Beverly LaBoone)

Trevis Lunsford's sister, Shirley Hunt

Ronnie and Susan Clements (Barbara Byrum)

Chris, friend of Teri Wilson

Greg Stanforth

Barb Lange and family upon the passing of her brother, Bob Shaffer

Friends, Richard & Judy Treneer (Nicole Stanforth)

Jaxon Forbes

Erin Carver, Renee and Tim Painter's daughter

Murphy Clark and family

*You can submit prayer requests to
prayers@fumcbelmont.org*

A Light to the Nations

Experiencing and Sharing the Light of Christ

Begins January 5



2025 SCRIPTURE FOCUS

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



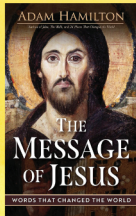
FIRST AND SECOND PETER

Start the New Year with Adult Sunday School

Disciple

Everyone who is aiming to learn more about our faith is welcome in this class. We start with the children's Bible intentionally - to ensure everyone starts with a basic understanding of the scripture.

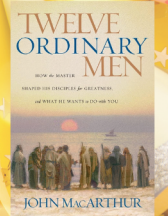
Route 66



New Class! Salt & Light Fellowship

Meeting in the Narthex Meeting room. A place to have real conversations and build relationships. They will begin with a Scripture devotional and then talk about how God is moving in their lives that week.

Wanderers



OUR STAFF

Carole Bertino | Administrative Assistant | carole@fumcbelmont.org

Doreen Collins | Director of Adult Discipleship | doreen@fumcbelmont.org

Heather Gaskins | Director of the Child Development Center | heather@fumcbelmont.org

Margie Ligon | Director of Missions | margie@fumcbelmont.org

Jennifer Martin | Director of Children's Ministry | jennifer@fumcbelmont.org

Quanna McAlister | Director of Youth Ministries | quanna@fumcbelmont.org

George Ragsdale | Senior Pastor | george@fumcbelmont.org

Ellen Robison | Minister of Worship and the Arts | ellen@fumcbelmont.org

Mark Sutton | Business Administrator | mark@fumcbelmont.org