

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

April 13, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

Palm/Passion Sunday



The Entry Into Jerusalem, 1030-1040 Illuminated manuscript, artist unknown

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***United in the Spirit, First United Methodist Church of Belmont exists
to be more like Jesus Christ for our community and beyond***
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THE REVEREND GEORGE RAGSDALE, SENIOR PASTOR

807 South Point Road // Belmont, NC 28012

P: 704-825-2106 // F: 704-825-2176

www.fumcbelmont.org



Jesus in His Own Words

Lent 2025 | First UMC Belmont

On this Palm Sunday, we follow Jesus as he begins his final journey to the cross. As we take the first steps into Holy Week, we marvel at the journey Jesus takes for us—standing in the gap for truth before Pilate, freely offering his life on the cross so that we might have new life in him. His way is not always easy; it is a narrow path. Yet, as the "pioneer and perfecter of our faith," Jesus shows us that he IS the way, the truth and the life.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"Ride On"

Michael Ryan

Bellissimo Handbell Choir

*GREETING AND BLESSING OF THE PALMS

Children will gather in the narthex to participate in the procession.

*GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 11:1-10

Quanna McAlister

*RESPONSE

Hosanna to the Son of David!

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 278

NO. 280

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

all verses

verses 1, 3, 5

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious Lord, on this Palm Sunday we join the crowd in praise, yet we confess how quickly our hosannas fade when the road turns difficult. Though you have shown us the way in Jesus, we often choose paths of comfort over the narrow way that leads to life. Forgive us for our fear, our wavering trust, and our reluctance to follow you through the cross into resurrection. Set our hearts at peace, that we may walk in the way, the truth, and the life with steadfast love in this holiest of weeks and beyond. In the name of Christ, we pray. 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

*GOSPEL LESSON

John 14:1-7

Diane Kimel

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

SERMON

The Rev. George Ragsdale

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Hymnal No. 895)

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

"Yejoice, O Daughter of Zion "

David Lantz III

Rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for soon you will see your King.

Be ready with your cloaks and palms, Hosannas shout and sing!

Rejoice, O daughter of Zion, Messiah has entered the gates!

Go wave your palms, cry out with joy. The blessed One awaits!

Shout! Hosanna to the Son of David; sing praises to the King of kings.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

READING OF THE PASSION

J. Michael Beech

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN NO. 164 *"Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life"*

*POSTLUDE *"Marche Solennelle"*

Felix Borowski

**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!

Today's Bulletin Cover *The Entry into Jerusalem*, a 12th-century illumination created in the Holy Land, capturing the moment Jesus enters the city riding a donkey. The crowd honors Him with palm branches and garments, yet He comes not as the triumphant ruler they imagined, but as the humble Savior they truly need. The figures float against a field of gold, lending the scene an otherworldly quality that reminds us this is no ordinary procession—this is a sacred unveiling of God's way. Today, we recognize that Jesus is The Way: not always the way we expect, but the Way that leads us from death to life, from power to peace, and from fear to love.

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.



Please sign up to help serve
or clean up at
fumcbelmont.org/meetmiddle

Midweek Fellowship Meals
Wednesday - 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**Apr. 16: Breakfast for dinner:
pancakes, bacon, sausage, fruit, and dessert.**

Meals cost FUMC \$10 per adult, \$5 for children. We
ask those who join us to contribute what they can.

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

Sunday School

Disciple: Be a part of the church wide study "Practicing the Way." No book needed.

Route 66: Studying "Entering the Passion of Jesus" by A.J. Levine.

Salt & Light Fellowship (new class): A place to have real conversations and build relationships.

Wanderers: Studying "24 Hours: That changed the world." by Adam Hamilton.

The Anxious Generation Book Club meets for the final time tonight from 6:00-7:30 in the Old Fellowship Hall. Please read chapters 9-13.

Join the Primetimers at Kevin Loftin Riverfront Park for a picnic, games and fellowship on Tuesday April 29 at noon. Our Primetimers group is for everyone age 60 and older. Contact Doreen Collins to sign up doreen@fumcbelmont.org

Spiritual Memoirs Small Group Join Pastor George for the next gathering of our Spiritual Memoirs Small Group on May 4 in the Narthex Meeting Room, where we will explore The Cloister Walk by Kathleen Norris. All are welcome!

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

April 13 Connect - Tonight the youth will travel to various church members' houses and nursing homes. All youth must have an Emergency Parent Contact Form on file to leave campus. Contact Quanna at quanna@fumcbelmont.org if you have any questions.

April 18 Good Friday Community Crosswalk and Lunch - All youth are invited to meet around 11:50 at Lutheran Church of Holy Comforter to walk together on Good Friday. We will go out to lunch at Pita Wheel afterwards.

April 26 Crowders Mountain Hike - All 8th-12th graders are invited on a Spring Break Hike to Crowders Mountain on Saturday, April 26. We will meet at the church at 9:30 and ride together. We plan to hike, chat, and invigorate ourselves all the while enjoying the beautiful scenery. We will stop to eat afterwards at Taxco.

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Lent Car Talks Use the QR code to sign up for daily texts during Lent designed to engage your family in conversation.



Countdown to Easter Lent small groups for kids - April 2 through 16. First Kids are invited to follow the steps of Jesus on Wednesday nights from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

We are accepting honorariums and memorials for that special mom or person in your life. All donations will support the **Weekend Backpack food ministry for children**. All names will be listed in a special insert in the May 11th bulletin for Mother's Day. Please fill out a form in the narthex or go to www.fumcbelmont.org/signup to turn in your names.

It is time to make those **sandwiches for A Roof Above**. We have committed to providing 400 sandwiches for lunch at the day center serving the unhoused in May. Go to www.fumcbelmont.org/signup to sign up to bring 20 sandwiches to Carpenter Hall on Monday, May 12th, between 5-7pm.

How can you help those affected by Hurricane Helene? **Join our Disaster Relief Team**. No special skills are needed to help with the recovery efforts. There will be jobs for everyone who wants to be present and serve. If you are interested, reach out to our Missions team on the FUMCB sign up page. www.fumcbelmont.org/signup.

We have only ONE more week for our **Lenten collection to benefit the Rice & Beans ministry**. We are collecting new briefs for women or men in sizes medium or large. Please Drop Your Drawers from Hanes or Fruit of the Loom in our black collection bin in the narthex.

The **Community Cafe'** will be closed on April 24th.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, April 13 ***Palm Sunday***
8:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
4:00 p.m. The Walking Club
5:30 p.m. Connect Youth to Visit Shut-Ins
6:00 p.m. Anxious Generation Book Club

Monday, April 14
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Service & Missions Mtg

Tuesday, April 15
10:00 a.m. Feed the Children Packing

Wednesday, April 16
5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist/Narthex Prayer Rm
5:30 p.m. Meet in the Middle Meal
5:30 p.m. Alleluia Choir Rehearsal
6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Small Groups
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 17 ***Maundy Thursday***
11:45 a.m. Community Cafe'
7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 18 ***Good Friday***
Feeding the Children
12:00 p.m. Community Cross Walk
7:00 p.m. Service of Tenebrae

Saturday, April 19

Sunday, April 20 ***Easter***
7:00 a.m. Community Sunrise Service
8:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
10:00 a.m. Interactive Station
11:00 a.m. Worship

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Shawn Kelly's family upon the death of his mother, Linda
Jones family after the death of Bryan's father, Bob Jones
Diane and Paul Kitchens
Jill Atkins, Chris & Connie Atkins' sister-in-law
Emelda Lawing, Leigh Nance's aunt
Western North Carolina
Cindy Griffin's brother Jim
Beverly Karr's family upon the death of her mother Sarah Dixon
Tony and Rita Wilson and family
Nancy Smith, Carol Tomlinson's daughter Ellie Delany
Scott Richards, on the death of his wife Diane (Nicole Stanforth)
Evan Hirschehsohn
Lenny Jansen (Linda Piltch)
Doug Moody and family upon the passing of Doug's brother, Darrell
Butch Harris, Becky Fortenberry's brother
Jennifer Stiver, friend of Elizabeth Boney
Erin Carver, Renee and Tim Painter's daughter
Murphy Clark and family

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

Prayers remain on this list for 4 weeks. If your loved one needs continued prayers, please resubmit a new request.



Holy Week Schedule



April 17 - Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 p.m.

April 18 - Community Cross Walk 12:00 noon at
Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

April 18 - Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m.

April 20 - Community Easter Sunrise Service at Greenwood Cemetery

April 20 - Easter Sunday Service of Worship 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Easter Morning Interactive Stations

Join us in the Narthex during the Sunday School hour (10:00-10:45) on April 20 to experience interactive stations of prayer and reflection. All ages are welcome and encouraged to join!



Weekly
Sunday Sermon
Devotional
Guide

Sign up to receive by email:
www.fumcbelmont.org/weeklydevotion

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