

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

April 20, 2025 - 11:00 a.m.

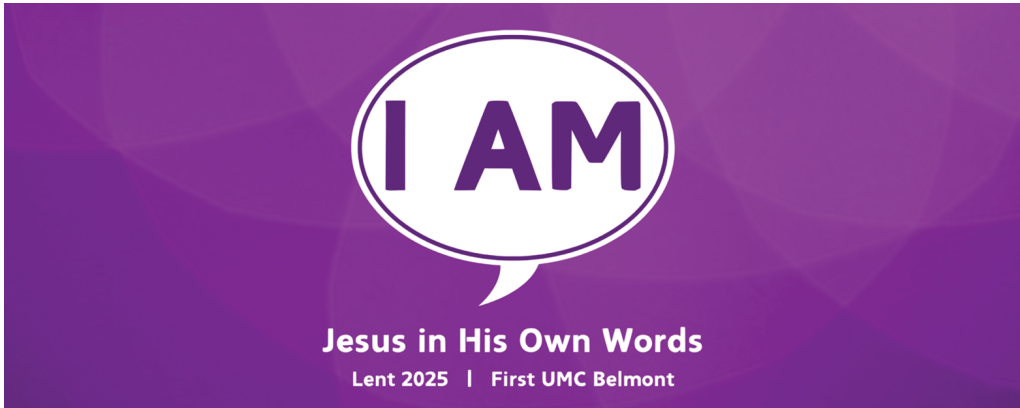
Easter Day - The Resurrection of the Lord



*The Disciples Peter and John Running to the Tomb on the Morning of the Resurrection
by Eugène Burnand, 1898*

.....
***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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Happy Easter! And welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont! Today we celebrate the good news of Jesus' resurrection and the hope he brings as he rises from the tomb. We recall Jesus' promise in John 11, standing at the grave of his friend Lazarus. Indeed, Jesus reminds us how often our hopes are too small. Lazarus is brought back to life, but he will one day face death again. Jesus, however, is resurrected—never to die again. Easter is not just about returning to life as it was; it is the beginning of something entirely new. In Christ, death is defeated, and all things are being made new. Let us rejoice in the victory of resurrection and the promise of new life in Christ together!

MUSIC

*"Easter Morn"
"Easter Rejoicing"*
Brass Quartet

John Ebenezer West
arr. Todd Marchand

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

INTROIT

"Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain"

John M. Neale

*GOSPEL LESSON

John 20:1-18

Margie Ligon

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary came to the tomb while it was still dark.

She came expecting death, but found the risen Christ.

We, too, come with small hopes and heavy hearts.

But Christ meets us with life that will never end.

Rising from the tomb, Christ brings more than life restored.

With resurrection power, he makes all things new!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 302 *"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Risen Lord, we confess how often our hopes are too small. We ask for comfort when you offer transformation. We cling to the familiar, even when you call us into new life. Forgive us for living as if death still holds the final word. Forgive us when we forget that you are making all things new, even us. Break open the tombs we've built: in our hearts, in our lives, in our world. Call us by name, just as you called Mary. Help us to run toward you, like the disciples at the tomb—with questions, with hope, with hearts ready to be surprised by your new creation. In the power of your resurrection 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

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*GOSPEL LESSON

John 11:17-26

SERMON

The Rev. George Ragsdale

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 880

The Nicene Creed

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

After each petition we enter into the prayer together with these words:

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

"I Will Sing With All My Soul"

Tom Trenney

O God, my heart adores You;
I will sing and make music with all my soul!
For great is Your love, higher than the heavens;
Your faithfulness reaches to the skies.
Be exalted, O God, high above the heavens;
Let Your glory over all the earth arise!
Sing to the Lord! Declare God's glory among the nations.
Declare God's marvelous deeds among all people.
For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise.
Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
Let the sea resound; let the trees clap their hands!

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

*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!***

TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Hymnal No. 17-18)

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

*BREAKING THE BREAD

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

"Hallelujah from The Mount of Olives"

Ludwig van Beethoven

Hallelujah unto God's almighty Son.
Praise the Lord, ye bright angelic choirs, in holy songs of joy.
Man, proclaim his grace and glory. Hallelujah!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Let us truly be your resurrection people. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

"He is Risen"

1. He is ris - en! He is ris - en! Tell it out with
2. Come with high and ho - ly hymn - ing; Chant our Lord's tri -
3. He is ris - en! He is ris - en! He hath o - pened

joy - ful voice. He has burst his three days' pris - on;
um - phant lay. Not one dark - some cloud is dim - ming
heav - en's gate. We are free from sin's dark pris - on,

Let the whole wide earth re - joice. Death is con - quered;
Yon - der glo - rious morn - ing ray, Break - ing o'er the
Ris - en to a ho - lier state. And a bright - er

man is free. Christ has won the vic - to - ry.
pur - ple east, Sym - bol of our Eas - ter feast.
East - er beam On our long - ing eyes shall stream.

*POSTLUDE

"Thine is the Glory"

arr. Brandon Dicks

**Those who are able please stand.*

A special welcome to our Brass Quartet today: Moriah Kerstetter, Michael Murphy, Larry Bradmon and Ben Ranzinger. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us.

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.

Today's bulletin cover features Eugène Burnand's *The Disciples Peter and John Running to the Tomb on the Morning of the Resurrection*. Bathed in the soft light of dawn, the painting captures the breathless urgency of two disciples running toward the mystery of the empty tomb—toward the first signs of a world made new. Their faces reflect awe, fear, and the fragile beginnings of belief, as if the light itself is awakening something in them. Burnand offers no vision of the risen Christ, only the human response to resurrection: longing, movement, and hope. In this, we glimpse the very heart of new creation—not a finished picture, but a race toward a promise breaking into the world.

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

Drop in on an Adult Sunday School Class!

Disciple

They use Bible Project videos and class questions to start conversations about what we believe as Methodists and how we respond to people who think differently. No topic is off the table and each Sunday may look and feel quite different. That's part of the fun.

Route 66

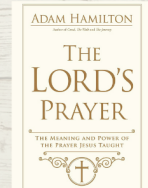


Peter was just an ordinary guy who heard and followed God's extraordinary call. Discover how you, too, have special gifts, talents, and abilities that God can use to make a difference today.

New Class! Salt & Light Fellowship

Meeting in the Narthex Meeting Rm. 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



It is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. But do we really understand and appreciate the meaning and power of its words, and what we ask of God each time we pray it?

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

First Friday Men's Meeting will meet May 2nd at 6:30 a.m. in the Youth House. This is a time for devotional, growing in community and friendship. All men are welcome.

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

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.

May 4 - 5:30-7:30 - All youth are welcome to join us for our last regular Connect of the school year. Plan to join us for games, fellowship, and small group devotion.

May 18-1:30-3:30 - All youth are invited for our End of School Year Pool Party at the Boney residence. Let's "jump" into summer together!

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN



OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

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.

Join our Disaster Relief Team heading to Asheville June 15th-18th to help with recovery efforts from hurricane Helene. No special skills are needed to help with the recovery efforts. If you are interested, go to our sign up page www.fumcbelmont.org/signup.

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

Easter Lilies and Ferns

2025

***The lilies and ferns decorating our worship space have been given
to honor and remember loved ones.***

Sue Teeter
David and Gretchen Bashant
Michael Bashant
Catherine and George Ragsdale
Given by Sally Bashant

William and Shirley Lange
Glenn and Louise Shaffer Sr.
Given by Dave and Barbara Lange

Deborah Cole
Peter Herdman
Given by Judy Kelty

Sam Pennington Sr.
Given by Betty Pennington

Martha Taylor
Given by Preston Taylor

Our children, Greta, Fletcher and Piper
Our parents, Kent and Georgia Metz
Bill and Linda Martin
Given by Brandon and Jennifer Martin

Lilly Satou
Hanako Ikezawa
Given by Aaron Marsh

Carolyn Mundy
Elaine Magennis
Given by
Jim and Laura Magennis and Family

Bill and Kitty Bradmon
Bob and Betty Kendrick
Marilyn Howerton
Given by Larry and Angela Bradmon



Easter Lilies and Ferns

2025

***The lilies and ferns decorating our worship space have been given
to honor and remember loved ones.***

Our children: Jennifer and Brian Kelso

Ben and Amy Randolph

Our Grandchildren: Summer, Emmy,
Savannah, Grayson, and Ellis

Given by Richard and Wanda Randolph

Kristen Surratt

Joan McCulley

Vinny Lopez

Given by Daryl McCulley

Debbie Aldridge

Betty Boney

Given by Jon and Elizabeth Boney

Jon and Elizabeth Boney

Given by Ben and Betty Boney

Additional Ferns

Given by Teri Wilson

Rebecca Nance

Suzanne Lawing

Given by Michael and Leigh Nance

Evelyn and Price Hand

Given by Ginger Feimster and Family

Our Parents

Given by Eddy and Meredith Bowen

David, Blonnie, and Darrell Moody

Given by Doug Moody

Jill Atkins

Given by Chris and Connie Atkins

Additional Ferns

Given by Cynthia Jenkins



WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, April 20 **Easter**

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
10:00 a.m. Interactive Stations
11:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, April 21

Church Office Closed

Feeding the Children

Tuesday, April 22

Wednesday, April 23

Thursday, April 24

Feeding the Children

Friday, April 25

Saturday, April 26

9:30 a.m. Youth Hike to Crowder's Mountain

Sunday, April 27

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. Holy Walkamolies Walking Club

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Lynda Jenkins (Cindy Griffin)

Sandy Mags (Cindy Griffin)

Jimmy Turner (Cindy Griffin)

Chris & Connie Atkins and the family of Jill
Atkins, upon her death

John Butler's cousin, Joann Leathres

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

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

Erin Carver, Renee and Tim Painter's daughter

Murphy Clark and family

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

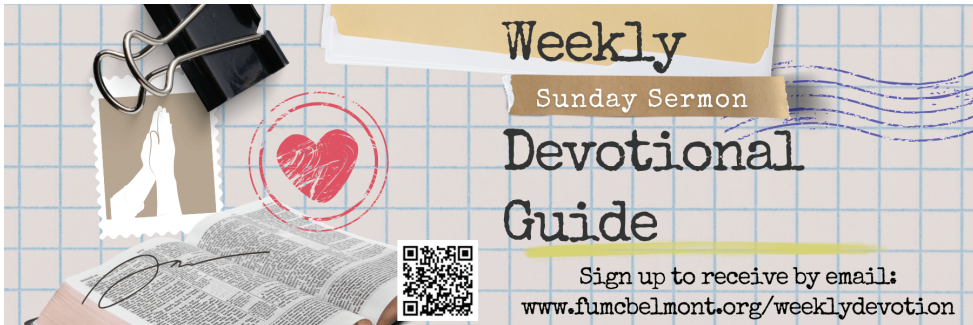
*Prayers remain on this list for 4 weeks. If your
loved one needs continued prayers, please
resubmit a new request.*



REVELATION

LIVING WITH THE END IN MIND

New Worship Series Begins May 4



Weekly

Sunday Sermon

Devotional Guide

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



Forms are in the narthex
or scan the QR code

Mother's Day May 11th

Honor your mother or special person by
donating to the Backpack Food Program.

Honorariums and Memorials will be
included in a special insert in the
May 11th bulletin.



OUR STAFF

Carole Bertino | Administrative Assistant | carole@fumcbelmont.org

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