

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

April 27, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

The Second Sunday of Easter



The Angel Appearing to Elijah by Ferdinand Bol

.....
***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
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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

Prelude on *"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"*

G. P. Telemann

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jennifer Martin

We often feel as if we are wandering through our lives, searching for something we cannot name.

We come today to listen for hope, to pray for strength, and to experience God's love.

As the deer longs for flowing water in the wilderness, we long to drink deeply of God's promise for us.

Knowing God is here, we join together on our journey

Imprisoned by rules of our own making, we come to remember and claim our faith.

Assured by the vision of Christ, we come in fellowship with one another.

With shouts of praise and songs of thanksgiving,

we come to celebrate the God of hope, the Spirit of peace, and the Christ of redeeming love.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 304 *"Easter People, Raise Your Voices"*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord of the ages, in our busy lives, we do not always make time to love, to pray, or to sing your praises. We want to be strong, yet we often feel out of control: buffeted by the winds of change, rocked by the earthquakes in our relationships, burned by the fires of doubt. Help us trust your presence, even when we feel utterly alone. With the promise of Christ as our hope, lead us from our own wilderness wanderings into the well-tended garden of your love. 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

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Larry Kimel

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 880

The Nicene Creed

INVITATION TO PRAYER

***We behold, we believe,
You are the Lion and the Lamb, the Prince of Peace.
We adore, we confess,
You are the one who died and rose again, the Great I Am.
You're the great I Am. You're the great I am.***

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

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

Molly Ijames

When morning gilds the skies my heart awaking cries,
May Jesus Christ be praised.

Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair:
The night becomes as day when from the heart we say:
The powers of darkness fear when this sweet chant they hear:
Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound:
In heaven's eternal bliss the loveliest strain is this:
Be this, while life is mine, My canticle divine,
Be this th' eternal song
Through all the ages long,

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)

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN NO. 452 *"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"*

*POSTLUDE Chorale and Variation on *"Salzburg"*

**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 features *The Angel Appearing to Elijah* by Ferdinand Bol, an apprentice of the artist, Rembrandt. The painting likely dates from around 1642. Bol gained his fascination with Old Testament scenes that stressed God's spiritual guidance in the interactions of a young, golden haired angel in a white, flowing robe with an aged bearded patriarch from his mentor, Rembrandt. Elijah is often seen as a prefiguration of Christ. The theme of Elijah, owing to his prophecies and his role as a harbinger of the Messiah, was of particular importance in the Jewish faith. Elijah was considered the protector of the oppressed and persecuted people of Israel

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.

May 4 – Third Sunday of Easter (Graduation Sunday) *Scripture: Revelation 1:4–8*

Revelation doesn't open with dread—it begins with a deep breath of hope! This week, we'll hear how Jesus, the faithful witness, has freed us and called us into something beautiful: a kingdom of priests, serving God together. As we celebrate our graduates, we'll consider what it means to live faithfully and courageously into our own God-given callings.

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.

First Friday Men's Meeting - May 2nd at 6:30 a.m. in the Youth House. Join us for a devotional, growing in community and friendship.

Join the Ladies of Square Two for a hike and lunch on Thursday, May 8th at 10:30 a.m.. They will meet at Rocky Branch Trail, 103 Sacco St., Belmont, and have lunch afterwards at the Community Cafe. Even if you cannot make the hike, join them at the church at noon for lunch. RSVP to Pam Stowe: wstowe5612@yahoo.com

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

May 4-5:30-7:30 - All youth are welcome to join us for our last regular Connect of the school year. 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

Crossroads (4th-5th grade) will meet on May 4 for our Capture the Flag event and end-of-year celebration. Join us 5:30-7:30 in the Old Fellowship Hall.

Vacation Bible School is July 13-17, and we invite all 4-year-olds through completed 5th grade to join us for our *True North adventure*! VBS is 5:30-8:00 and includes supper each night. Visit www.fumcbelmont.org/vbs for more details and to register.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

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.

Our next **Stock the BCO Sunday** will be May 4th. Drop off your donation of non-perishable food items to the bin in the narthex.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

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
- 12:00 p.m. Middle School Outing
- 4:00 p.m. The Walking Club

Monday, April 28

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. CDC Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 29

Wednesday, April 30

- 5:30 p.m. Alleluia Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 1

- 11:45 a.m. Community Cafe'

Friday, May 2

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Meeting

Saturday, May 3

Sunday, May 4

- 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
- 5:50 p.m. Crossroads
- 6:00 p.m. Stories to Live By

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Luna and Mike McCormick upon the death of
Luna's daughter (Matthew Henry)

Gage Brown (Leigh Nance)

Marshall Stowe

Ginger Feimster

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

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.*



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.



Sign up to drop off sandwiches in
increments of 20 servings to help meet
our quota of 400. Use the QR code or go to
www.fumcbelmont.org/signup

SANDWICH DROP May 12th | 5-7pm

Prepare sandwiches at home &
drop off in
Carpenter Hall for
A Roof Above



Weekly Sunday Sermon Devotional Guide

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

OUR STAFF

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