

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

April 6, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

The Fifth Sunday in Lent



Vineyards with a View of Auvers by Vincent van Gogh, 1890

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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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Jesus in His Own Words

Lent 2025 | First UMC Belmont

Good morning and welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont! This morning we continue our series exploring the "I Am" sayings of Jesus in John's Gospel. With spring in full bloom, we turn to a powerful image of our life in Christ: Jesus as the vine, and we as the branches. What does it truly mean to abide in Christ in a world dominated by technology and distraction? How are we called to bear fruit for the glory of God? And what in our lives might need to be pruned so that new, good, and life-giving things can take root and grow?

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"Be Thou My Guardian and My Guide"

C. C. Palmer

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. George Ragsdale

Come and draw near to the true vine, the source of all life.

Christ invites us to abide, to remain in love and grace.

Apart from Christ, we wither; in Christ, we flourish.

God prunes and shapes us to bear the fruit of the Spirit.

Let us worship the One who sustains, nourishes, and calls us home.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 529

"How Firm a Foundation"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most merciful God, we confess that we have not remained close to Christ, the true vine. We have turned inward, trusting in ourselves and bearing little fruit. In Your mercy, tend to what is withered within us, and prune what does not give life. Restore us, that we may dwell in Your love and grow in the way of 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

*GOSPEL LESSON

John 15:1-8

Sally Bashant

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

SERMON

The Rev. Kristen Surratt

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 881

The Apostles' 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.*

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

"You Are Mine"

David Haas

I will come to you in the silence
I will lift you from all your fear
You will hear My voice
I claim you as My choice
Be still, and know I am near
I am hope for all who are hopeless
I am eyes for all who long to see
In the shadows of the night,
I will be your light
Come and rest in Me
Do not be afraid, I am with you
I have called you each by name

Come and follow Me
I will bring you home
I love you and you are mine
I am strength for all the despairing
Healing for the ones who dwell in shame
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free
And all will know My name
I am the Word that leads all to freedom
I am the peace the world cannot give
I will call your name, embracing all your pain
Stand up, now, walk, and live!

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

*ACT OF PRAISE

"Doxology"

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

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

"Be Still"

Stephen Curtis Chapman

J. Michael Beech, soloist

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

***Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given
yourself to us. 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.***

EXTENDING THE TABLE

This morning, lay communion servers come forward to receive consecrated bread and juice from worship to share with homebound members who cannot be present today. We pray for them, remembering God's grace unites us as one within Christ's holy church. If you are aware of someone who would like to receive but cannot be present, speak with Pastor George after service.

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Vine and Branches"

***You are the vine and we are your branches,
one with your life and rooted in your heart.***

***Flowing with grace, with life you fill us,
strengthened that nothing can break us apart.***

***You are the vine and we are your branches,
flowing with power greater than our own,
bearing your fruit to all Creation,
till all the seeds of your love have been sown***

***You are the vine and we are your branches.
One common blood flows through all of our veins.
We all are part of one another.
We all are branches of one living vine.***

***You are the vine and we are your branches.
Deep in our hearts your life is flowing through.
Rooted in you, we grow and flourish.
You live within us, and we live in you.***

*POSTLUDE

"When I Can Read My Title Clear"

arr. 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!

Today's Bulletin Cover features *Vineyards with a View of Auvers* (1890) by Vincent van Gogh, a vivid landscape painted just weeks before his death. With its swirling brushstrokes and golden hues, the vineyard pulses with life, capturing both the beauty and fragility of the cultivated earth. Though Van Gogh struggled with mental illness, his letters often reveal a profound spirituality shaped by Scripture and a longing to experience God through creation. In John 15:1-8, Jesus proclaims, "I am the true vine," and Van Gogh's vineyard becomes more than a landscape—it becomes a metaphor for abiding, dependence, and the possibility of fruitfulness even amid brokenness. The painting invites us to imagine what it means to remain rooted in Christ, the source of our life and growth.

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.

 Meet in the Middle 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. 9: Cookout night - cheeseburgers, hot dogs, baked beans and dessert. Meals cost FUMC \$10 per adult, \$5 for children. We ask those who join us to contribute what they can.

 11:45-1:15	CELEBRATE SPRING with a special lunch and music from "THE KEY OF D" at the community cafe on APRIL 10TH <i>Dahlia Grove</i> At the cafe	
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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.

Ruth Circle will combine with the **Holy Walkamolies** group TODAY at 4 p.m. All women are welcome! Meet in the breezeway for a fun time of fellowship and walking! RSVP to Paige Dunigan
paige1210@gmail.com

Square 2 April Showers Join the women of Square Two in the Route 66 classroom on Thursday, April 10th at 7:00 p.m. Bring bath robes (all sizes), shower shoes (all sizes), and / or mesh bath caddies for the residents of Catherine's House. You can bring more than one item. All women are invited. RSVP to Cindy Jenkins: cwjenkins@carolina.rr.com

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

Attention Seniors and Parents: Graduation is right around the corner. We will recognize all high school and college graduates at the 8:30 service on May 4, 2025. If you would like for your youth to be recognized and/or participate in this service, please email Quanna McAlister at quanna@fumcbelmont.org by April 8th.

April 6 Connect - Please join us tonight for a special service opportunity, fun games, and small group Bible study.

April 13 Connect - Youth will travel to various church members' houses and nursing homes. All youth need to 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.

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Crossroads (4th and 5th grade) meets tonight in the Old Fellowship Hall from 5:30-7:30. Join us for games, pasta supper, talks on friendship and more! Please note tonight is our only meeting in April.

Children are invited to join our **Palm Sunday processional** next Sunday, April 13. Meet Jennifer in the Narthex five minutes before either worship service to participate.

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

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 a few more weeks for our Lenten collection to benefit the Rice & Beans ministry. Throughout Lent 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 having a special live performance this Thursday, April 10th. The "Key of D" will be joining us this week at the Cafe. Come enjoy the music and lunch as you support the women recovering from human trafficking, abuse or drug addiction.

Our sign up is almost full for our Feeding the Children program. Three days over the school spring break we will gather to deliver a hot meal and bags of non-perishable meals to the homes of children. If you would like to help pack the grocery bags, cook or deliver the meals go to www.fumcbelmont.org/signup.

Do you have a neighbor who needs some comfort care to help them during a difficult time? If so, we have chicken soup in our church freezer made for them. Pick up a quart of homemade chicken soup prepared by our **Soup for the Soul** cooking team to help you show compassion to others.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, April 6

- 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
- 4:00 p.m. Ruth Circle
- 5:30 p.m. Connect
- 5:30 p.m. Crossroads

Monday, April 7

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Tuesday, April 8

Wednesday, April 9

- 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 10

- Newsletter Deadline
- 11:45 a.m. Community Cafe'
- 7:00 p.m. Square Two Gathering

Friday, April 11

Saturday, April 12

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 will Visit Shut-Ins
- 6:00 p.m. Anxious Generation Book Club

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

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

Bruce & Robin McCarter, friends of Mark & Dottie
Moore

Jill Atkins, Chris & Connie Atkins' sister/sister
in-law

Emma Bowen, Chris & Connie Atkins' grand
daughter

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 13 - Palm Sunday
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

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

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

April 20 - Community Easter Sunrise Service
Greenwood Cemetery

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

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

Weekly
Sunday Sermon
Devotional
Guide

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

OUR STAFF

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