

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

April 6, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.

The Fifth Sunday in Lent



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

.....
*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



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?

PRAISE AND PRAYER

*OPENING SONG

"His Glory and My Good"

CCLI Song # 7235691

*PRAYER

The Rev. George Ragsdale

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

Jennifer Martin

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*GOSPEL LESSON

John 15:1-8

Cheryl Sutton

SERMON

The Rev. Kristen Surratt

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

As a forgiven and reconciled child of God, you are invited to give your offerings and gifts to God by placing them in the offering plate when you come forward to receive communion.

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

*THE PEACE

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

*TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

*BREAKING THE BREAD (gluten free option available)

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

"More Like Jesus"

CCLI Song # 7105732

You came to the world You created
Trading Your crown for a cross
You willingly died
Your innocent life paid the cost
Counting Your status as nothing
The King of all kings came to serve
Washing my feet
Covering me with Your love
If more of You means less of me
Take ev'rything
Yes all of You is all I need
Take ev'rything

You are my life and my treasure
The One that I can't live without
Here at Your feet
My desires and dreams I lay down
Here at Your feet
My desires and dreams I lay down
Oh Lord change me like only You can
Here with my heart in Your hands
Father I pray make me more like Jesus
This world is dying to know who You are
You've shown us the way to Your heart
So Father I pray make me more like Jesus

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG

"You Said I Am"

CCLI Song # 7239702

**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.

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.

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.



CELEBRATE SPRING
with a special lunch and music from
"THE KEY OF D"
at the community cafe on
APRIL 10TH

11:45-1:15

Dahlia Grove
At the
cafe





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

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