

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

February 16, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.
The Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany



The Beatitudes by Marina Silva

.....
*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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Good morning and welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont! We continue our worship series exploring the light of Christ that shines for the whole world. Today we hear Jesus' "Sermon on the Plain" from Luke 6. Like Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount," in Matthew, Jesus summarizes the nature of God's kingdom. Unlike Matthew, which focuses on blessings to the poor, hungry and rejected, Luke also includes the woes Jesus speaks to those who are rich, full and well thought of in this world. Jesus' words instruct us on how to share Christ's light with others. Only as we empty ourselves will we be truly filled, shining with the good news of God's kingdom.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

*OPENING SONG

"This is the Day"

CCLI Song # 7195146

*PRAYER

Doreen Collins

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 6:17-26

Jane Herstine

SERMON

The Rev. George Ragsdale

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

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"

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
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

"Simple Kingdom"

**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 Nicaraguan artist Marina Silva's *The Beatitudes*. Her work embodies the vibrant, naïve-style art of Solentiname, a Nicaraguan island where faith and creativity merged under the influence of Catholic priest Ernesto Cardenal. Reflecting the island's tradition of using art for spiritual and social transformation, Silva once said, "Art has the power to open hearts to God's justice and love." In *The Beatitudes*, Jesus stands among the poor and humble, surrounded by lush landscapes and radiant colors, symbolizing the kingdom of God breaking into everyday life. The painting's simplicity and warmth invite viewers to see Christ's blessings as both comfort and a call to action, embodying a faith that uplifts the oppressed and seeks justice.

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.

**Feb. 19 meal: Chicken Alfredo,
zucchini & squash, Chicken nuggets
and dessert.**

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

Join us for a Mardi Gras pancake dinner on Wednesday, February 26 at 5:30 p.m. in Carpenter Hall.

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

Ruth Circle's Great Strawberry Bake Off! February 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Paige Dunigan. Bring your favorite strawberry dessert and everyone votes for the best one. RSVP to: paige1210@gmail.com

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

All youth are invited to **Connect** tonight to prepare for Youth Sunday next weekend. Please see Quanna if you would like to participate in either or both services.

Sunday Connect 5:30-7:30 - All youth are invited to join us on the following Sunday nights for games, dinner, and Bible study: February 16, March 2, March 9, March 30, April 6, April 13, and May 4.

New Date Alert! The Youth's Mission Mania trip will be Tuesday, June 3rd to Wednesday, June 4th. Please sign up to participate by the end of this month. All youth who participate in the pine needle sale will receive a reduced price.

Harvest of Hope Youth Mission Trip: All current 6-12 graders invited on July 23-27 for this opportunity to take action, get involved in hands-on activities, and rescue and share good food with people in need. We will glean and distribute produce remaining in fields after harvest each morning and learn about the realities of hunger each evening. Bible study and dynamic worship round out days of Christian community and service, providing a basis for ongoing commitment to ending hunger. We will end our trip with a day and night at Carowinds. Email Quanna at Quanna@fumcbelmont.org with any questions or to sign up.

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

All 4th-5th graders are invited to **Crossroads** on Sunday, February 23 from 5:30-7:30 in the Old Fellowship Hall. We'll enjoy games, supper, Bible talks and more!

First Kids are invited to join us 6:30-7:30 on Wednesday nights for our **Glow in the Dark** small groups. Together we are learning that darkness may be scary, but it's nothing that the light of Jesus can't fix.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

February 22nd is our next opportunity to help **Room in the Inn** serve our neighbors without houses. Serve with us as we partner with Christ UMC in Charlotte. Learn more and sign up to help at fumcbelmont.org/roomintheinn.

Don't forget to pick up your BCO shopping bag in the narthex. March 2nd is our next **Stock the BCO** Sunday. Bring your non-perishable donations any Sunday and leave them in the narthex for our missions team to deliver them to the BCO.

We have kicked off our annual **Pine Needle Sale** to benefit the work of the Men's Group and our Youth Group. The pine bales will be here March 7th and 8th. The cost of pine bales is the same as last year, \$5.75. Don't wait to place your order as we typically sell out before the month ends. Order forms are at the Welcome Center.

Thanks to those who have faithfully provided dinner for our families at **Catherine's House** throughout the year. We need help with a meal on March 10th. To sign up to help go to fumcbelmont.org/catherineshouse

Many hands, feet and trucks are needed to support the Pine Needle sale. If you are able to help please contact Quanna McAlister or go to www.fumcbelmont.org/pineneedles to sign up to help.

First United Methodist Church of Gastonia is the official safe space for the **Gaston County Warming Center**. Any night when it is projected the temperature will drop below 32 degrees FUMCG will open their family life center to take in anyone in need. Sign up to drop off food or stay and be a hospitality host. If you would like to help care for our neighbors go to www.fumcbelmont.org/warmingcenter for the link to sign up.

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, February 16

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, February 17

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Women's Ministry Meeting

Tuesday, February 18

Wednesday, February 19

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

Thursday, February 20

- 11:45 a.m. Community Cafe'
- 7:00 p.m. Ruth Circle Event

Friday, February 21

Saturday, February 22

- 4:30 p.m. Room in the Inn

Sunday, February 23

- Youth Sunday
- 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. Youth Celebration Lunch
- 5:30 p.m. Crossroads
- 6:00 p.m. Stories to Live By

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Darrell Moody, Doug Moody's brother

Carolyn Glenn (friend of Kathy Johnston)

Shirley Hunt, sister of Trevis Lunsford

Kristen Surratt

Carol Tomlinson

Anne Tria

Gavin Hanigan, Gail & Ed Hanigan's grandson

Roger White

Cheryl Sutton's mother, Frances Soule

Beverly Karr's son, Kendall

Beverly Karr

Drucilla Harris, sister-in-law of Sam and Janice Pennington

Laura Abernathy, Leigh Nance's sister

Liz Gray's father-in-law, Charlie Gray

Avery and Emma Tipton's cousin, Hannah

Susan Burnette

Cindy Griffin's nephew, Alex Underhill

Cindy Griffin's sister, Lynda Jenkins

Wyatt Henry Phillips, son of Davis & Erika Phillips and great grandson of Sue Teeter

Mary Grace, wife of Jacob (Mary Rutledge's nephew)

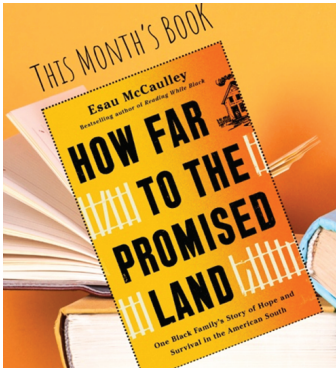
Cooper Ritchie

Charles Motsinger

Erin Carver, Renee and Tim Painter's daughter

Murphy Clark and family

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



STORIES TO LIVE

EXPLORING SPIRITUAL MEMOIRS

Sunday, February 23 at 6:00
with Pastor George



PREORDER PINE BALES

Available March
7th & 8th

Proceeds support the Youth and Men's Groups. Order with the QR code or a paper form at the information table




Feed the HOUSE

Help care for mom's and their children at Catherines House by dropping off a simple meal. March 10th is an upcoming date when we need an individual or group to help us care for the residents at Catherine's House. Sign up at fumcbelmont.org/catherineshouse

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