

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

February 2, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

The Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany

Boy Scout Sunday



The Jews Chase Christ Out of the City, 1190-1200, The Hague

.....
***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

A lighthouse beam shining against a blue sky.

A Light to the Nations

Experiencing and Sharing the Light of Christ

Good morning and welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont. Last week in worship, we heard Jesus preach his very first sermon in his hometown of Nazareth. Today we hear "the rest of the story." To everyone's delight, Jesus had spoken of the fulfillment of the prophet Isaiah's vision: good news to the poor, liberation, and jubilee. But he goes on, announcing this good news will not just be for Israel but also for outsiders and foreigners. Jesus seems to have gone too far as his own childhood community attempts to push him over a cliff to his death. The congregation in Nazareth heard Jesus' words as a threat. He intends them as an invitation. Will we join him in sharing the good news with all?

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"Prelude on UNSER HERRSCHER"

John Ferguson

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jennifer Martin

Today, the scripture is fulfilled in our hearing!

We gather to hear the good news proclaimed for all people.

God calls us to share the message of love and grace across all boundaries.

Following Christ, we are sent to bring hope to the poor and freedom to the oppressed.

Let us worship the God of love and God of power!

With open hearts and willing hands, we lift our voices in praise!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 578 *"God of Love and God of Power"*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace and truth, we confess that we often resist your call to share the good news with all people. Like those in Nazareth, we cling to comfort and familiarity, failing to see your Spirit at work beyond our boundaries. Forgive us for our narrow vision and unwillingness to embrace those who are different from us. Open our hearts to your expansive love, that we may proclaim your kingdom with courage and faith. 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

Luke 4:21-30

Benedict Owens

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

SERMON

The Rev. George Ragsdale

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 881

The Apostles' Creed

INVITATION TO PRAYER

***Light of the World Treasure of Heaven
Brilliant like the stars in the wintery sky
Joy of the Father reach through the darkness
Shine across the earth send the shadows to flight
Light of the World from the beginning
The tragedies of time were no match for Your love
From great heights of glory You saw my story
God You entered in and became one of us***

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

"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

arr. Moses Hogan

Sally Bashant, soprano

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

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 NO. 444 *"O Young and Fearless Prophet"*

*POSTLUDE Processional on *"Blairgowrie"* Jon Spong

**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 comes from a manuscript illumination from a picture Bible created in northwest France around 1190-1200, currently housed in the *Koninklijke Bibliotheek* in The Hague. The illustration depicts Jesus being physically expelled from a city, with green grass under his bare feet, symbolizing his removal from the community. Notably, Jesus is shown carrying a book, possibly representing the Word of God, highlighting the rejection of his teachings. The work's title's use of the phrase "the Jews" refers only to the religious authorities and townspeople of that era who did not accept Jesus' message, leading to his expulsion. Throughout history the phrase has been used to stereotype, generalize and demonize Jewish people, particularly in antisemitic rhetoric, just the kind of exclusive attitude Jesus challenges with his sermon in Nazareth.

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.

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

Adult Small Groups on Wednesdays:

Stitches & Scripture: Learn to knit and pause to read Scripture. Led by Mary Beth Tipton

Holy Yoga: Taught by Kelly Shelton, a YMCA yoga teacher. All abilities are welcome. There is a cost of \$60 or what you can afford.

Podcast based class: Listen to "The Bible Project Podcast" and then talk about it during class. Topic is on the Lord's Prayer. Led by Kristie Marr

"Undistracted: Capture Your Purpose Rediscover Your Joy" by Bob Goff. There are so many distractions, how do you know what direction to go? Led by Doreen Collins

Sign up at fumcbelont.org/smallgroups

Everyone is invited to a book club for ***The Anxious Generation*** by Jonathan Haidt. Read chapters 1-4 and meet us TODAY, from 6:00-7:30 in the Old Fellowship Hall. Email jennifer@fumcbelmont.org to sign up.

FEBRUARY MEN'S MEETINGS



TIME FOR DEVOTIONAL,
GROWING IN COMMUNITY
AND FRIENDSHIP

Attend one or both meetings.
Whichever fits your schedule.

FRIDAY

Feb. 7 - 6:30 am
&

SATURDAY

Feb. 15 - 8:30 am
Youth House

Join the Ladies of Square Two



February 13th - 11:45 am
For a Special Valentine's Lunch
Live music from "Key of D"
At the Community Cafe
In Carpenter Hall



CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH



February 2nd

Youth will prepare 100 lunches
for Roof Above in Charlotte
during Connect
5:30 to 7:30

**Sandwich
Building
Mission**



Please be in prayer for those experiencing
homelessness in our community.



Mystery Lockout for 8th-12th Graders

Join us for a fun mysterious night out in our community!

Friday, February 7th
5 pm to 8:00 am

Contact Quanna for more information or to register!

All youth are invited to **Connect** on February 16 to prepare for Youth Sunday. Please see Quanna if you would like to participate in the services on February 23 and are unable to attend on the 16th.

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Preschool-5th graders, are you ready to **Glow in the Dark?** We'll meet for Wednesday night small groups from 6:30-7:30. We'll learn that darkness may be scary, but it's nothing that the light of Jesus can't fix. Register at www.fumcbelmont.org/smallgroups

Register now for Nacho Average Date Night! Friday, February 7, kids will enjoy a nacho bar and themed crafts and games in the Old Fellowship Hall, while parents enjoy a date night out. 5:30-8:00, \$15 a child. Register at www.fumcbelmont.org/kids

Crossroads (4th-5th graders) restarts on February 9 with a team-building field trip to Anne Close Springs Greenway from 2:00-4:00. Cost is \$15 per child. Must sign up and pay by February 2. Find more details and link to sign up at www.fumcbelmont.org/tweens

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

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. The proceeds from the pine needle sale helps to fund our Youth and Men's groups.

February 8th 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.

Want to help with disaster relief? To work with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) you must be trained before a disaster strikes. The Early Response Team (ERT) training program supports preparedness and immediate response efforts to disasters. Key activities are supplying survivors with food, water, shelter and help with mucking out and cleaning up. The next training is Saturday, February 15th, from 9-4, at Matthews UMC. Please contact Margie at margie@fumcbelmont.org if you are interested in attending the training. Space is limited.

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 February 24th. To sign up to help go to fumcbelmont.org/catherineshouse

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.



Boy Scout Troop 56 Cub Scout Pack 56 Annual Super Bowl BBQ Fundraiser

14-hour hickory-smoked BBQ for the Super Bowl
Prepared by Troop/Pack 56 Scouts. All proceeds directly to the Troop/Pack for Scouting activities

Order Online:

<https://www.troop56bbq.com>

Text Your Order:

"BBQ" to (704) 931-8451



Smoked BBQ WholeButt:
\$45 per Butt
Smoked BBQ 1lb Chopped:
\$12 per lb
Troop 56 "Eagle Sauce":
\$5 per 12oz bottle

PICKUP: At Troop 56 Scout Lodge
OR
DELIVERY (New for 2025): \$20
Delivery fee for orders of \$50 or more within 5mi Radius of Troop 56 Scout Lodge
(Choose at Time of Order)

PICKUP/DELIVERY: Saturday February 8th or Sunday February 9th
11am-3pm at Scout Lodge, 807 South Point Road, Belmont, NC
(Choose Pickup/Delivery day when ordering)

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, February 2

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 12:30 p.m. Strategic Planning Focus Groups
- 5:30 p.m. Connect
- 6:00 p.m. The Anxious Generation Book Club

Monday, February 3

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

Tuesday, February 4

- 12:00 p.m. Congregational Care Minister Mtg.

Wednesday, February 5

- 5:30 p.m.. Holy Communion in the Narthex Prayer Room
- 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 6

- 11:45 a.m. Community Cafe'

Friday, February 7

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Meeting
- 5:30 p.m. Parent Date Night/Kids Event

Saturday, February 8

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

Sunday, February 9

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 2:00 p.m. Crossroads at Anne Springs Close Greenway

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

Janice Hollifield (Teri Wilson's friend)

Alex Bryant and family upon the loss of his father, Austin Bryant

Beverly Karr

Jill Atkins (Chris and Connie Atkins sister-in-law)

Trevis Lunsford's sister, Shirley Hunt

Erin Carver, Renee and Tim Painter's daughter

Murphy Clark and family

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



CELEBRATE VALENTINES
WITH A SPECIAL LUNCH AND LIVE MUSIC FROM
"THE KEY OF D" AT THE COMMUNITY CAFE ON
FEB 13TH

At the
cafe

Dahlia Grove

11:45-
1:15



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



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. 5 meal: Grilled chicken, potatoes,
vegetables and dessert**

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

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