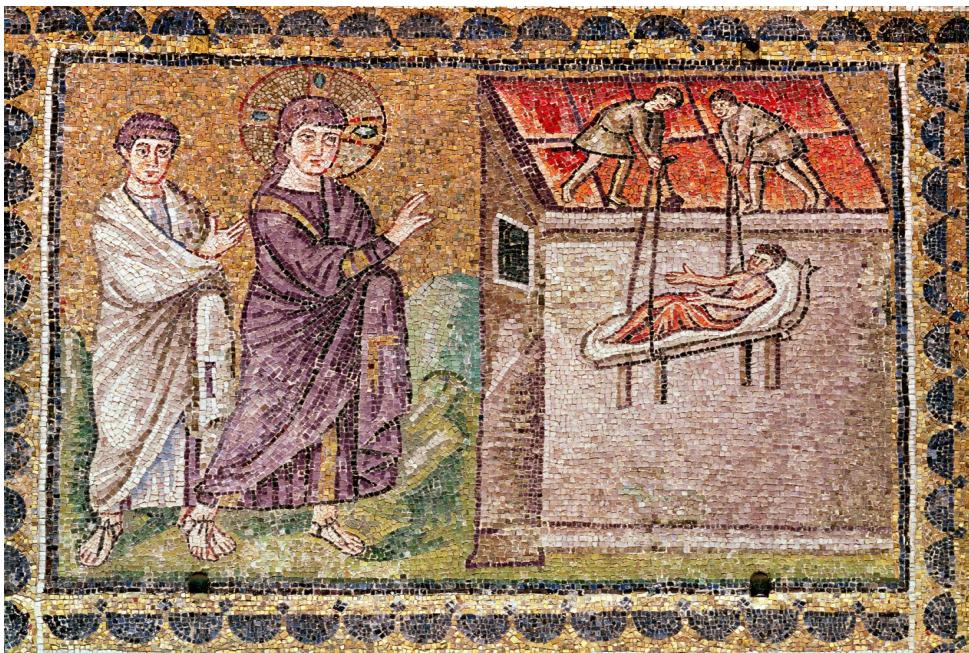




FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

February 1, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.
ONLINE



The Paralytic of Capernaum is Lowered from the Roof, 6th century Mosaic

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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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THE REVEREND GEORGE RAGSDALE, SENIOR PASTOR

807 South Point Road // Belmont, NC 28012

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www.fumcbelmont.org



Rediscovering the thoughtful, loving,
healing way of Jesus.

Welcome to worship at First United Methodist Church! Today we gather virtually due to inclement weather. However, we are united together wherever we are in the power of the Holy Spirit. This morning, we continue our Restoring Faith series, considering why many have turned their backs on faith—and asking whether the problem is not faith itself, but the way it has been practiced. By God's grace, can we reimagine faith and offer something hopeful and healing to others? Too often, faith has been portrayed as a tool for gaining strength and power; yet the prophets of Israel and the life of Jesus call us to a faith shaped by humility, mercy, and shared life together.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Verset in C"

Leon Boellmann

OPENING PRAYER

Jennifer Martin

ANTHEM

"Offertory"

John Ness Beck

With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,
Shall I come before Him with yearling calves?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give Him my firstborn for my transgressions,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

He has shown you, O man;
He has shown you what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you
but to do justly and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Micah 6:1-8 Quanna McAlister

*GOSPEL LESSON Mark 2:1-12

Quanna McAlister

SERMON The Rev. George Ragsdale

SILENT REFLECTION

The Rev. George Ragsdale

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

OFFERING

Ways to Give at FUMC Belmont

Online – Visit www.fumcbelmont.org/online-giving to give securely anytime.

By mail – Send your gift to the church address in the front of this bulletin.

In Person – Drop your gift in the secure Drop Box outside the church office, available 7 days a week.

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Verset in Am"

Leon Boellmann

Today's Bulletin Cover features a 6th-century mosaic from the Church of Sant'Apollinare Nuovo in Ravenna, Italy depicting *The Paralytic of Capharnaum Lowered from the Roof*. Created from thousands of shimmering pieces of glass, stone, marble and gold leaf. These mosaics functioned as visual theology, teaching the Gospel in light and form to the early church. The careful composition draws attention to Christ while highlighting the coordinated action of the friends, reminding us that healing in the Christian tradition is communal, patient, and rooted in humble trust.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

Are you available to help those in our community who may need a ride to a doctor's appointment or pick up groceries? There are those who cannot drive any more or after treatment at the doctor's office. If this is a ministry you are interested in, please contact Doreen Collins for more information: doreen@fumcbelmont.org

Please save **empty paper towel tubes and brown packing paper** that comes in Amazon boxes for our children's ministry.

The Youth will lead our entire congregation in a three-week **clothing drive** in support of Holbrook Middle School, home of the Lions! We are looking for these gently used or new items:

- * Neutral hoodies (no team brands)
- * Boys' sweatpants and jeans
- * Any gently used shirts/pants that you no longer wear
- * Girls' leggings and jeans
- * Long-sleeved T-shirts

Please begin bringing them to church and place them in the box in the narthex. Contact Ann Marie Rogers or Quanna for more information.

Attention all! The **annual pine needle sale** is March 6 and 7. Please support the youth of our church by purchasing your high-quality needles today. Order by February 27 to guarantee your quantity and delivery. Pay online with Vanco, by check, or cash. Please find Quanna or Jon Boney if you have any questions. We are also looking for volunteers to help us on the weekend of the sale. Please consider donating your time by driving or delivering. We need all available hands! Go online to www.fumcbelmont.org/signup and find a time that fits your schedule.

GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Our **Starry Night** kids' night of fun (and parent's date night) is Friday, February 6, from 5:30-8:00. Don't miss this fun opportunity for kids to stargaze, make crafts, eat supper, and learn about God's love! Sign up at www.fumcbelmont.org/kids.

First Kids small groups, **40 Day Challenge**, begin on Wednesday, February 25 from 6:30-7:30. All ages are invited to join us for this fantastic Lent study. Register today at www.fumcbelmont.org/signup.

GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

February 8 - Youth Sunday – Youth will lead both services on this Sunday. Please join us as the youth lead and celebrate the light of Christ. Our youth group will collect noisy change and dollars that fold in support of our Weekend Backpack Program.



February 8

SOUper BOWL OF CARING®

Our youth group will collect money in support of the Weekend Backpack Program for Catawba Heights Elementary. Please bring in noisy coins and dollars that fold.



Lovin' Lions Clothing Drive

Youth Clothing Drive to support Holbrook Middle

Donation Dates:

Jan. 18
Jan 25
Feb. 1



GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

Sunday School

Disciple: The Disciple class uses the Bible and The Bible Project videos as well as class questions to start conversations about what we believe as Methodists.

Route 66: Will study how the book "Knowing Who We Are" by Lacey C. Warner. This study invites you to a richer understanding of Wesleyan Christianity so you can have a clear sense of identity with the United Methodist Church.

Salt & Light Fellowship: A place to have real conversations and build relationships.

Wanderers: Study: "The Heart of the Psalms" by Rev. James C. Howell. Examine six psalms and why they connect with us so deeply and give us words to pray when words are hard to find.



Music from
Phantom of the Opera
Wicked
Little Mermaid and more!

"Hearts in Harmony"

Dinner and Entertainment
(Alleluia Choir, Chancel Choir
Handbell Choir, Solos, Duets)

All You Need is Love
(and a free dinner)!

Fun for the Whole Family!

Sign up to let us know you're coming!
www.fumcbelmont.org/signup



Civil Rights Learning Experience

February 28th
9am–4pm

\$65 per person

- Round-trip bus transportation
- Guided museum tour
- Lunch with facilitated reflection



Sign up by **February 11th**
www.fumcbelmont.org/civilrights

Contact Doreen with
any questions.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, February 1

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Breakfast
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
4:00 p.m. Lay Leadership Retreat
5:30 p.m. Connect
5:30 p.m. Crossroads

Monday, February 2

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Service and Missions
Committee

Tuesday, February 3

Wednesday, February 4

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

Thursday, February 5

11:45 a.m. Community Café
11:45 a.m. Square Two Luncheon

Friday, February 6

5:30 p.m. Kids' Starry Night

Saturday, February 7

Sunday, February 8

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

Rhonda Czerniawsky, Quanna McAlister's mom.
Alex Underhill (Cindy Griffin's nephew)
Catherine and Chad Mashburn upon the birth of
their son, Benjamin Ryker
Chris Ward (Cindy Jenkins' brother)
Connie Atkin's family upon the passing of her
brother Richard Rhyne
Brigid McCarthy (Dawn Finn's sister)
John Kelly (Shawn Kelly's father)
Patty and Taylor Hayward
Harold Byrum
Peg Pinkerton
Christi McKenzie (Doreen Collins friend)
Jim Booker (Dottie Moore's brother)
Keith Moore and family upon the passing of his
mother, Joann
Julie Shinsel (Teri Wilson's friend)
Ginger Feimster
Murphy Clark and family
For our Zoe communities in Rwanda, especially:
Francois 19 head of household, and siblings
Clarisse 15 and Emmanuel 6

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

**Prayers remain on this list for 4 weeks.
For continued prayers, please resubmit a
new request.**

Transfiguration Sunday

RETURN YOUR PALM BRANCHES
ON FEBRUARY 15 at 8:30 or 11:00



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 18

11:00 AM AND 6:30 PM

OUR STAFF

Doreen Eager | Director of Adult Discipleship | doreen@fumcbelmont.org

Jennifer Martin | Director of Children's Ministry | jennifer@fumcbelmont.org

Quanna McAlister | Director of Youth Ministry | quanna@fumcbelmont.org

Boyce O'Tuel | Director of the Child Development Center | boyce@fumcbelmont.org

George Ragsdale | Senior Pastor | george@fumcbelmont.org

Ellen Robison | Minister of Worship and the Arts | ellen@fumcbelmont.org

Vanessa Shrauder | Administrative Assistant | vanessa@fumcbelmont.org

Mark Sutton | Business Administrator | mark@fumcbelmont.org