

Tri-Angles

FEBRUARY 2025

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



*United in the Spirit, First United Methodist
Church of Belmont exists to be more like
Jesus Christ for our community and beyond*

2025 SCRIPTURE FOCUS

FIRST AND SECOND PETER



Dear FUMC Family,

If you haven't done so yet, I hope you will soon join me and others in our church family in reading First and Second Peter this year. Peter's letters are short – so we're reading slowly, prayerfully, and repeatedly... when you get to the end, start again and see how the words speak to you in a different way a second (or third, or fourth) time. God's Word is powerful in this way. Through the Holy Spirit the written word comes to life and God meets us with wisdom and life.

Peter wrote his letters to scattered Christian believers facing great trial and tribulation. At the core, the letters are a call to love – deeply, unselfishly, and sacrificially, echoing the love we have received in Christ. Consider these words in 1 Peter 4:8: "Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins." This verse challenges us to move beyond surface-level kindness and to embrace a love that perseveres through difficulties. Such love has the power to heal wounds, restore relationships, and reflect God's grace to the world. As followers of Christ, we are called to embody this love not just within the walls of the church but also in our families, workplaces, and communities.

In a recent meeting of our Strategic Planning Team, I shared a story from the great preacher Fred Craddock. He said too often we imagine our acts of love to be grand, glorious gestures that will attract notoriety and attention. "We think giving our all to the Lord is like taking a \$1,000 bill and laying it on the table—'Here's my life, Lord. I'm giving it all,'" Craddock writes. "But," he goes on, "the reality for most of us is that he sends us to the bank and has us cash in the \$1,000 for quarters. We go through life putting out 25 cents here and 50 cents there. Listen to the neighbor kid's troubles instead of saying, 'Get lost.' Go to a committee meeting. Give a cup of water to a shaky old man in a nursing home. Usually giving our life to Christ isn't glorious. It's done in all those little acts of love, 25 cents at a time."

I hope you will join me in celebrating and affirming all of the little acts of love that make First United Methodist Church of Belmont possible. We depend on so many in so many ways, offering what they can, to fulfill our mission faithfully. I am grateful to you for the part you play and give thanks for the privilege of serving as your pastor. Please know that I am always here if you ever need anything. May the Lord bless you and keep you, now and always.

In Christ,

A Light to the Nations

Experiencing and Sharing the Light of Christ

- February 2 – Luke 4:21-30
- February 9 – Luke 5:1-11
- February 16 – Luke 6:17-26
- February 23 – Luke 6:27-38
- March 2 – Transfiguration Sunday: Luke 9:28-43



All are invited to join Pastor George's book study exploring spiritual memoirs. Our next book will be *How Far to the Promised Land: One Black Family's Story of Hope and Survival in the American South* by Esau McCaulley. McCaulley is the Jonathan Blanchard Associate Professor of New Testament and Public Theology at Wheaton College. The group meets on February 23 at 6:00 in the Narthex Meeting Room. For more, contact Pastor George at george@fumcbelmont.org

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Our Strategic Planning Team continues to meet and work, crafting a vision for ministry at FUMC in 2025 and beyond. The vision aims to chart a framework for what it might look like to live out our mission together in the years ahead. In 2024 the team:

- Met with our Bishop, Ken Carter, other leaders and "First Churches" in Western North Carolina as part of the conference's second "First Church CoHort."
- Engaged the services of a ministry and vision consultant, the Reverend Rene Wilt, who met with us for prayer and discernment on several occasions. Funding for this work has been provided by the annual conference.
- Conducted surveys and listening sessions within the congregation and in the broader Belmont community, listening to better understand our current context.
- Began the work of discerning the broad themes of our listening work.

In January, we continued our discernment and made plans to hold targeted focus groups within the church and community. We look forward to sharing more with you as our work progresses. We continue to covet your prayers for our work and discernment.

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

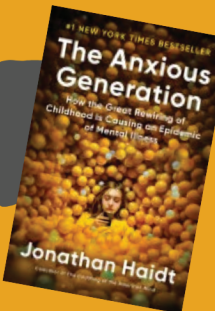
Are you looking to grow your faith and meet new people? Try a Sunday school class, they begin at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

- **Disciple** (taught by Brandon Martin) Located in the Old Fellowship classroom - they use Bible Project videos and class questions to start conversations about what we believe as Methodists and how we respond to people who think differently. No topic is off the table and each Sunday may look and feel quite different, that's part of the fun.
- **Salt and Light Fellowship** (taught by Stephanie Beaty) Located in the Narthex meeting room, behind the information desk. This is a brand new class and is different from a traditional study. They begin with a Scripture devotional and reflection, then move into talking about their week and how God has moved in their lives.
- **Route 66** (taught by many members of the class) Located in room 304 - this is a book/video based class. Their current study is called *"The Message of Jesus"* by Adam Hamilton.
- **Wanderers** (taught by Larry Kimel, John Tria, and Doreen Collins) Located in room 503 off of the Old Fellowship Hall. Their current study is called *"Twelve Ordinary Men"* by John MacArthur. It reviews the lives of the disciples and how we can learn from them how to walk in closer relationship with Jesus.

The Anxious Generation Book Club

February 2, March 2, April 13
6:00-7:30
Old Fellowship Hall

Meetings will be facilitated by Jennifer Martin. All ages and stages are invited to join the conversation.



FEBRUARY MEN'S MEETINGS



Attend one or both meetings.
Whichever fits your schedule.

TIME FOR
DEVOTIONAL,
GROWING IN
COMMUNITY AND
FRIENDSHIP

FRIDAY
Feb. 7 - 6:30 am
&
SATURDAY
Feb. 15 - 8:30 am
Youth House



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.

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



Ruth Circle's
GREAT STRAWBERRY BAKE OFF!
FEBRUARY 20TH - 7 PM
PAIGE DUNIGAN'S HOME
RSVP PAIGE1210@GMAIL.COM
BRING YOUR FAVORITE STRAWBERRY DESSERT
EVERYONE VOTES FOR THE BEST ONE!





The Western North Carolina Conference is hosting a **Creation Care Ministry Workshop** on March 1 at Pineville UMC. Learn more at www.wnccumc.org/wncc-creation-care-ministry.



Lenten Churchwide Adult Small Group Study

Join in on the discussion;
how do we become more like Jesus?
Join a small group discussion
on Wednesday evenings
March 12 - April 16
Sign up at fumcbelmont.org/smallgroups

Women's Retreat at Lake Junaluska

All Ladies are Welcome!

Join us for a relaxing weekend, making new friends and reconnecting with God.

May 16-18, 2025

Sign up at fumcbelmont.org/womensretreat or forms at the information desk

See Doreen for more information

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Wednesday Small Groups
6:30-7:30, Preschool-5th Grade

Feb 5 & 12

Feb 19 & 26

NACHO AVERAGE PARENT DATE NIGHT

FIRST KIDS ARE INVITED TO A FUN NIGHT OF FOOD, GAMES AND CRAFTS AT CHURCH WHILE PARENTS ENJOY DATE NIGHT!

FRIDAY, FEB 7
5:30-8:00 PM
\$15 PER CHILD

WWW.FUMCBELMONT.ORG/KIDS

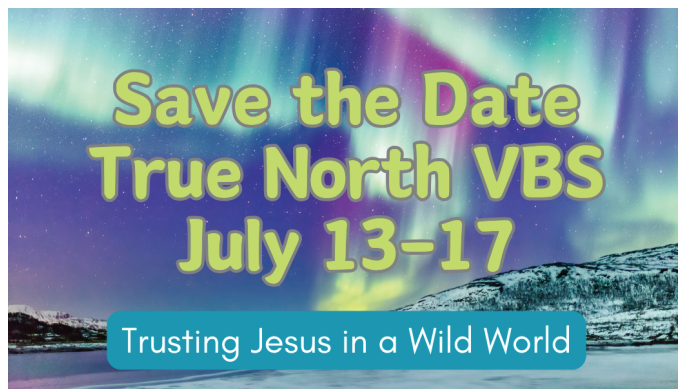
CROSSROADS (4TH-5TH GRADERS)



A special afternoon of team building and ropes course challenge from 2:00-4:00 at Anne Springs Close Greenway. \$15 payment and waiver required by Feb 2.



Regular Crossroads in the Old Fellowship Hall from 5:30-7:30 for supper, games, Bible talks and more!



CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH



*Happy New Year from the youth at our church!
We have various opportunities in February
to connect and grow.*

ENCOUNTER YOUTH STUDY

WEDNESDAYS IN THE YOUTH HOUSE
JANUARY 22-FEBRUARY 26
6:30-7:30

Join Quanna and Leigh
for this special six week study!

Engage Sunday School
Feb. 2, 9, 16 & 23
Youth House @ 10

Join Kim and Tresca
for a 4 week study on
the awe-inspiring
miracles of Jesus!

Sandwich Building Mission

February 2nd

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

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!

**YOUTH
Sunday**

Feb. 23

The youth will lead both the 8:30 and 11:00
worship services in the sanctuary

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

Meet in the Middle restarted January 29. Are you able to help serve or clean up from 5 to 6:30 p.m.? Your help is needed! To sign up go to fumcbelmont.org/meetmiddle



Drop off Dates
Feb 2nd

Collecting monthly non-perishable food to help those without adequate food resources

TOP 20

Rice	Crackers
Jelly	Mac & Cheese
Pop tarts	Pasta
Grits	Pasta Sauce
Oatmeal	Dried Beans
Soup	Corn Muffin
Peanut Butter	Mix
Instant	Cookies
Potatoes	
Canned: Meat	
Tomatoes	
Vegetables	
Pasta	
Fruit	



Join us as we partner with Christ UMC in providing emergency housing for neighbors without a home. Help us provide a hot meal, shelter from the elements and a warm bed to sleep in.



February
8th & 22nd



To learn more go to fumcbelmont.org/roomintheinn



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

At the
cafe

11:45-
1:15

Dahlia Grove

Celebrate Valentines with us on February 13th at the Community Cafe. Dahlia Grove will be serving a special lunch and live music offered by "The Key of D". This performance group is a professional musical trio (vocals, violin, guitar, light percussion) who perform folk, country, oldies and spiritual songs. Each one of them has experience in performance from unique backgrounds. They met in 2023 in their adult- style living community in Mount Holly and come from all over the U.S. Nelle Toner who performs with this trio is one of our 8:30 worship leaders. Come celebrate the season LOVE and enjoy the fellowship, delicious food and good music from 11:45-1:15.

FUMCB is committed to feeding the mothers and children at **Catherine's House** twice a month to relieve the moms from cooking on the nights they have required group meetings. Typically you are cooking for approximately 25 persons. If you or your small group can help with a meal in February or March please go to www.fumcbelmont.org/catherineshouse to sign up and read details.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

PINE NEEDLE SALE

MARCH 7 & 8TH

fumcbelmont.org/pineneedles





PREORDER
PINE BALES

Available
March
7th & 8th





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

We sold out in 2023 & 2024

Cold Weather Shelter at First United Methodist Church of Gastonia

190 E Franklin Blvd
Gastonia NC 28052

Your help is needed to make sure neighbors are not sleeping outside during freezing temperatures. Shifts are available to help keep the Warming Center open. More details are at www.fumcbelmont.org/warmingcenter



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)**

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 1	Vera Boney	February 19	Chelsea Elmore
February 2	Jackson Delany		Leslie Kalmbach
	Julia Griffin		Coleman Williams
	Hayley Lowe		Brian Wood
February 4	Andrew Davis	February 20	Wilson Andrews
	Jeremy Martin		McCauley Griffin
	Tiffany Paulsen	February 21	Kym Corcoran
February 5	Lila Apple		Catherine Mashburn
	Greg Stanforth	February 22	Micaela Smith
	Ben Washam	February 23	Tim Ellis
February 6	Emma Beaty		Bianca Hanafin
	Laura Magennis		Pam Smith
	Kurt Widenhouse		Miles Tyson
February 7	Ginger Feimster		Franklin Widenhouse
	James McSwain	February 24	Ashley Stansell
February 10	Denise Pruitt		Marshal Stowe
February 11	Ellen Gaskill		Finnigan Surratt
February 12	Lori Hanafin	February 25	Karen Easter Bayne
	Todd O'Tuel		Daniel Lewis
February 13	Austin Andrews		Brandon Martin
	Parker Brinkley	February 26	Jack Haggai
	Mary Lou Johnston		Carol Tomlinson
	Cheryl Sutton	February 27	Mathew Delany
February 14	Melanie Ellington		Will Haus
	Bill Jenkins		Chris Smith
	Mary Beth Moore	February 28	Bob Burnette
	Beth Woodliff		Anne Harrill
February 15	Charlie Wilhelm		Betsy McKee
February 16	Hope Weininger		Janice Pennington
February 17	Grace Bondurant	February 29	Hannah Phillips
	Sara Gray		Janet Rhodes
	Jeani Reagan		

THOUGHTS, PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

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)
Mary, Linda England's sister
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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT

807 South Point Rd. / Belmont, NC 28012
Office: 704-825-2106 / www.fumcbelmont.org

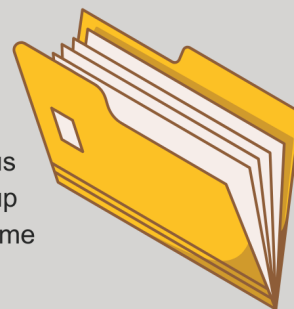


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OUR STAFF

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Mark Sutton | Business Administrator | mark@fumcbelmont.org

Year End Financial Update



General Giving

We ended 2024 with general receipts of \$714,592, up slightly over the previous year's total of \$711,431. General expenses for the year were \$739,248, also up over the previous year's total of \$680,484. Most of the increase in expense came from the areas of Church/Grounds and Salaries.

Narthex Construction Loan

Thanks to your generosity, along with input and decision-making from both the Finance and Endowment committees, we were able to reduce our construction loan by over \$200,000 in 2024!!! Our remaining debt is now \$526,236, down from our original loan amount of \$933,600. Thank you all for your contribution in helping to reduce this debt. It will free up funds for ministry and missions in the years to come.

Mark Sutton
Business Administrator
First United Methodist Church of Belmont
704-825-2106

