

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

January 12, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

Baptism of the Lord Sunday



Baptism of Jesus by Lorenzo Scott, 1987

.....
***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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www.fumcbelmont.org



A Light to the Nations

Experiencing and Sharing the Light of Christ

Welcome to worship at First United Methodist Church of Belmont! We're glad you are here! This morning, we continue our series exploring and celebrating Christ, the Light of the World, for all people. In today's Gospel, Jesus comes to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. John is reluctant, believing it is Jesus who should baptize him, but Jesus insists. As he enters the water, a voice from heaven announces him to be God's beloved son. John offered baptism as a sign of repentance, but for Jesus it was a commissioning, the voice from above calling and claiming his life for God's mission and purpose. The same is true for us. Just as baptism initiated the mission of Jesus Christ, so baptism is the initiation of our participation in God's mission as servants and disciples of Christ.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"There is a Fountain"

arr. Dan Forrest

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Quanna McAlister

Come to the waters.

We gather at the river.

Come to the waters.

The waters of grace flow over us.

Come to the waters.

We are washed in God's love.

Come to the waters.

We are God's beloved children.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 400

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and gracious God, we confess that we are often hesitant to embrace the calling you place upon our lives. We allow fear, self-doubt, and comfort to silence our witness and hinder our service. Forgive us for the times we have resisted your refining Spirit, choosing ease over faithfulness. Renew us in the waters of our baptism and commission us anew to boldly proclaim your love and justice in word and deed. In Jesus' name, 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

Jennifer Martin

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

James McSwain

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

INVITATION TO PRAYER

***Light of the World Treasure of Heaven
Brilliant like the stars in the wintry 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.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 881

The Apostles' Creed

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISM

You are invited to come forward, touch the water, and remember your baptism.

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

"Down to the River to Pray"

arr. Lloyd Larson

As I went down to the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown?
Good Lord show me the way!
O sisters let's go down
Let's go down, come on down

O sisters let's go down
Down in the river to pray
O brothers let's go down
O fathers let's go down
O mothers let's go down
O sinners, let's go down

THANKSGIVING

*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!***

*THE LORD'S PRAYER (Hymnal No. 895)

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN NO. 582

"Whom Shall I Send?"

*POSTLUDE

"On Jordan's Stormy Banks"

arr. Dan Forrest

**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 Georgia artist Lorenzo Scott. Scott creates paintings based on old master canvases he has studied in reproduction and in museums, often with a religious theme. This piece illustrates today's Gospel Lesson. The beam of light symbolizes the Holy Spirit, which descended "like a dove" upon Christ. Scott painted Saint John and one of the angels as African Americans to specifically link the faith of his community to John's mission to "prepare the way for the Lord."

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

We are launching a book club for *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt in 2025. Intro meeting during Sunday School (10:00-10:45) TODAY to receive the reading schedule and group expectations. Then we'll meet on February 2, March 2 and April 13 from 6:00-7:30 in the Old Fellowship Hall to discuss the book. Email jennifer@fumcbelmont.org with questions and to sign up.

Square Two January 16. Lunch at the community Cafe at 11:45 a.m. then visit "Bunny Blessings" in Belmont. Bunny Blessings travel to nursing homes to help those who need some love. Contact Pam Stowe for more information: wstowe5612@yahoo.com

January Men's Meetings Saturday, January 18 at 8:30 a.m. at the Youth House. Start 2025 meeting new people and growing your faith.

Join us for NEW Wednesday Adult Small Groups beginning January 22nd

Learning to Knit-Stitches & Scripture

You will learn to knit and pause to read Scripture. Mary Beth Tipton is an excellent knitter and will lead this class.

Holy Yoga

All abilities are welcome. Taught by Kelly Shelton, a YMCA yoga teacher. The cost for this class is \$60 per person or what you can afford.

A podcast based class, *no book!*

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 fumcbelmont.org/smallgroups

Ruth Circle Puzzle Race Come for the fun and fellowship on January 23rd at 6:30 p.m. in Carpenter Hall. RSVP to Paige Dunigan: paige1210@gmail.com. All ladies are welcome!

Primetimers Trip to Matthew's Playhouse to see Bright Star, a tale of love and redemption in the Blue Ridge Mountains of N.C. February 1st at 2:00 p.m. Tickets at \$27. Transportation is provided. We will go out to dinner afterwards. The number of tickets are limited. Contact Doreen to sign up: doreen@fumcbelmont.org

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

Connect begins TONIGHT from 5:30 - 7:30 in Carpenter Hall. Join us for a few rounds of Grog and other fun games!

Youth are invited on January 19 for a day of service where we will help our fellow church member with her yardwork. We will meet from 2 to 4 pm for a time of service and fellowship. All hands are needed. Contact Quanna today to sign up and for the address.

New small group study. All youth are invited to join Quanna and Leigh on Wednesday nights in the youth house beginning January 22. This six-session study explores the major themes in the Gospel of Luke and how they are relevant to Christ's followers today. It draws lessons from Jesus's teachings and parables. We will examine Jesus's interactions with the wealthy and powerful and with the poor, sick, and vulnerable.

Valentine's inspired Lockout for all eight through twelve graders on Friday, February 7 at 5 pm. We will venture out for the evening and then spend the night in the narthex of the church. Please sign up online or email Quanna at Quanna@fumcbelmont.org

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Preschool-5th graders, are you ready to Glow in the Dark? We'll meet for Wednesday night small groups, 6:30-7:30, beginning on January 22. 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 5. Find more details and link to sign up at www.fumcbelmont.org/tweens

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

The Dahlia Grove Community Cafe will be serving lunch from 11:45-1:15 in Carpenter Hall on Thursday. Join us as we support these women who are recovering from human trafficking, domestic violence or drug addiction. The skills they learn and practice in cooking for us is a part of their two year restoration program.

January 18th will be our next opportunity to help ***Room in the Inn*** serve our neighbors without houses. Serve with us January 18th as we partner with Christ UMC in Charlotte. Learn more and sign up to help at fumcbelmont.org/roomintheinn

Thanks to those who have faithfully provided a dinner for our families at ***Catherine's House*** throughout the year. Our January schedule is full but we need meals starting in February. To read more about this feeding opportunity or to sign up go to fumcbelmont.org/catherineshouse

If you missed our January ***Stock the BCO*** Sunday, no worries. Bring your non-perishable food donation to the narthex for our next delivery on February 2nd.

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 keep the
Warming Center open.
More details at
[www.fumcbelmont.org/
warmingcenter](http://www.fumcbelmont.org/warmingcenter)



There is plenty of soup in our freezer ready to be gifted to others. If you know of a neighbor who needs some comfort care to help them during a difficult time, this soup is prepared 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.



Come & Celebrate “Unity Day”

Let’s honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his Vision, in our local community on the national holiday marking his birthday!

Come hear keynote speaker, SMSgt. Kimberly Evans, of the Medical Support Squadron at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana. Local clergy and faith leaders will lead worship.

Monday, January 20, 2025, 6:30pm
Belmont Four Square Church
8 Elizabeth Street, Belmont, NC



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, January 12

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
5:30 p.m. Connect

Monday, January 13

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:00 p.m. Racial Healing Planning Meeting
6:30 p.m. Service & Missions Meeting
6:30 p.m. Children's Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 14

Wednesday, January 15

6:30 p.m. Leadership Retreat

Thursday, January 16

11:45 a.m. Community Cafe'
6:30 p.m. Family Life Committee Meeting

Friday, January 17

Saturday, January 18

8:30 a.m. Men's Meeting
4:30 p.m. Room in the Inn

Sunday, January 19

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

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

Linda England

Danielle Kelly's father

The family of Teresa who passed away (Beverly
LaBoone)

Trevis Lunsford's sister, Shirley Hunt

Ronnie and Susan Clements (Barbara Byrum)

Erin Carver, Renee and Tim Painter's daughter

Murphy Clark and family

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

2025 SCRIPTURE FOCUS

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



FIRST AND SECOND PETER



Thank You

To over 100 volunteers who filled 175 volunteer slots to pack, cook and deliver 4560 meals to 244 children in our community. Nine hundred and ninety of those meals were prepared hot from our kitchen. All other meals were non-perishable foods delivered to the home for the child to eat later.

FUMCB lived into our mission to be more like Jesus Christ to our community by feeding children during the Christmas break.

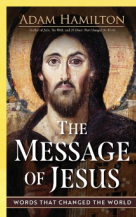
Adult Sunday School Classes

Disciple

Everyone who is aiming to learn more about our faith is welcome in this class. We start with the children's

Bible intentionally - to ensure everyone starts with a basic understanding of the scripture.

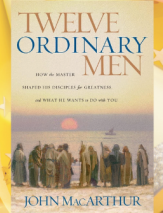
Route 66



New Class! Salt & Light Fellowship

Meeting in the Narthex Meeting room. A place to have real conversations and build relationships. They will begin with a Scripture devotional and then talk about how God is moving in their lives that week.

Wanderers



OUR STAFF

Carole Bertino | Administrative Assistant | carole@fumcbelmont.org

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

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