

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

January 19, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

The Second Sunday After the Epiphany



The Wedding at Cana by Paolo Veronese, 1563

.....
*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 lighthouse beam shining against a blue sky.

A Light to the Nations

Experiencing and Sharing the Light of Christ

Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont! We're glad you are here! This morning, we're continuing our worship series, celebrating the revelation of Christ, the Light of the World. In today's Gospel, we find Jesus at a wedding feast that's on the verge of disaster: the hosts have run out of wine! Jesus acts to remedy the situation, turning jars of water into the finest wine the guests had ever tasted. John calls it the first of Jesus' signs, a revelation of his glory. As the first sign, it reveals the good news of Christ's light, bringing joy and abundance in the midst of a desperate situation. As his follower, how are you sharing that joy with those in need of hope and light?

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

J.S. Bach

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Doreen Collins

When our joy runs dry, Christ fills us with new life.

He turns water into wine, sorrow into celebration.

In the midst of despair, God's light shines brightly.

His love overflows, bringing hope and renewal.

Come, let us rejoice in the One who makes all things new.

We worship the God of joy, light, and unending grace!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 173

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we confess that we often dwell in despair, forgetting Your power to bring joy out of emptiness. When we face darkness, we doubt Your light and fail to trust in Your abundant grace. We cling to our own efforts, ignoring Your invitation to let You transform the ordinary into the extraordinary. Forgive us for our lack of faith and open our hearts to Your miracles of renewal and hope. Fill us with Your Spirit, that we may shine with Your joy and share Your light in a world longing for healing. 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

John 2:1-11

Adrian Lunsford

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.*

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

"Walk in the Light"

arr. Andre Thomas

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light,
come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the Light of the world.
Hark! The herald angels sing, Jesus, the Light of the world;
"Glory to the new-born King," Jesus, the Light of the world.
Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Jesus, the Light of the world; Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Jesus, the Light of the world.

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. 644

"Jesus, Joy of Our Desiring"

*POSTLUDE

"Celebration"

David Paxton

**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 Paolo Veronese's *The Wedding Feast at Cana*, a monumental depiction of today's Gospel lesson. Veronese imagines Jesus in the midst of a typically lavish Venetian banquet, known for their sumptuous food, music and size. Veronese's masterful use of vibrant colors, dynamic composition, and intricate details captures both the exuberance of the celebration and the divine presence of Christ at its center (in a bit of foreshadowing, directly underneath the butcher wielding his knife). It is the largest painting in the Louvre, measuring nearly 7 meters high by 10 meters wide, with over 130 characters filling the canvas. Rooted in Renaissance artistry, the painting portrays Jesus as both approachable and transformative, inviting viewers to see abundance and joy as signs of God's grace.

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

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
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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!

Everyone is invited to a book club for **The Anxious Generation** by Jonathan Haidt. Read chapters 1-4 and meet us on February 2, from 6:00-7:30 in the Old Fellowship Hall. Email jennifer@fumcbelmont.org to sign up.

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

Youth are invited TODAY 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 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

Harvest of Hope Youth Mission Trip: All current 6-12 graders are 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. Sign up by the end of January for this trip. Email Quanna at Quanna@fumcbelmont.org with any questions or to sign up.

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 is back serving lunch from 11:45-1:15 in Carpenter Hall on Thursdays. 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.

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.

February 8th will be 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

Thanks to those who have faithfully provided a 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

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 19

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

Monday, January 20

Church Office



Tuesday, January 21

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday, January 22

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, January 23

11:45 a.m. Community Cafe'
6:30 p.m. Ruth Circle Puzzle Race

Friday, January 24

Youth Retreat

Saturday, January 25

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

Sunday, January 26

Youth Retreat
8:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Stories to Live By: with Pastor
George

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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*

2025 SCRIPTURE FOCUS

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



FIRST AND SECOND PETER

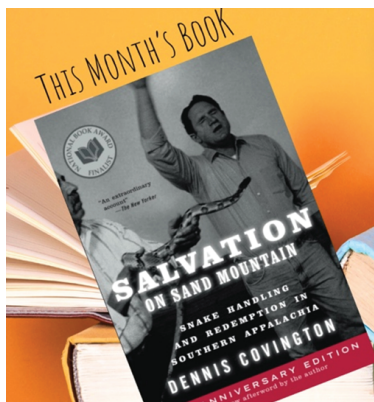
Meet in the Middle

Please sign up to help serve
or clean up at
fumcbelmont.org/meetmiddle

Midweek Fellowship Meals
Wednesday - 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**Jan. 22 meal: Pizza, fresh green salad,
and dessert**

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



STORIES TO LIVE EXPLORING SPIRITUAL MEMOIRS

Sunday, January 26 at 6:00
with Pastor George

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