

Tri-Angles

JANUARY 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*

January is a time of new beginnings, a fresh start after the busyness of the holiday season. As 2025 dawns, I'm excited to share with you our 2025 Scripture Focus. Following an incredibly enriching journey through Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in 2023 and Paul's Letter to the Ephesians in 2024, our 2025 Scripture Focus will be First and Second Peter.

As your pastor, I am more and more mindful of the challenges we face in living holy and faithful lives. So much competes for and vies for our time, devotion and attention. And there are voices in our world who want to lay claim to our faith, molding it to advance agendas far from the call of Jesus Christ.

First and Second Peter are short but powerful letters written to Christians facing similar, though far more difficult challenges. Peters gives challenging encouragement and hope to remain steadfast in faith, living holy lives after the example of Christ. The best way to counter the challenges we face as Christians? According to Peter, it's to grow. As 2 Peter 3:18 urges, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever!"

So... as 2025 begins, how might we grow in grace this year?

First, we can grow in personal discipleship. Grace flourishes when we dedicate ourselves to prayer, Scripture, and worship. These practices root us in God's presence and shape our hearts to reflect God's love for others. A question to ponder: How will I create space in my daily life to nurture my relationship with God? Perhaps start with a commitment to read just a few verses from First and Second Peter each day? Or make plans to join a small group this winter, or simply setting aside quiet time for prayer. Whatever it is, let's take intentional steps to grow as disciples in 2025.

Second, we can grow by committing to the needs of others, especially the marginalized. Jesus' ministry consistently demonstrated care for the poor, the outcast, and the forgotten. As His followers, we are called to do the same. How might FUMC Belmont embody grace by advocating for justice and serving those in need? What specific action can you take this year to extend God's grace to someone on the margins?

Finally, we can grow by becoming hopeful people. Peter reminds us in the opening lines of his letter that we have been given a living hope in a resurrected and living savior, Jesus Christ. In a world often weighed down by negativity and uncertainty, we are called to be bearers of hope! Hope is an expression of grace that inspires and sustains not only ourselves but also those around us. How can you speak and live in ways that cultivate hope in your life and in our community?

As we journey through 2025, may we embrace these opportunities to grow in grace. Together, let us deepen our discipleship, serve others with compassion, and shine as hopeful witnesses to God's love. Growing in grace is not a solitary endeavor but a shared calling as the body of Christ. Let's encourage one another and celebrate the ways God is working in and through us this year.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your pastor. Happy New Year!

George



2025 SCRIPTURE FOCUS



FIRST AND SECOND PETER

A Light to the Nations

Experiencing and Sharing the Light of Christ

Begins January 5



"For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." Simeon sings these words in Luke 2 as Mary and Joseph bring the baby Jesus to be dedicated at the temple. Simeon knew the truth of Jesus: though a baby born in Bethlehem, he had within him a light that would shine far beyond Israel to enlighten the whole world. Join us this Epiphany season as we explore the light of Christ, reaching outsiders and outcasts, travelling to dark places in our world and in our lives, and calling us to do the same.

January 5 – Epiphany Sunday: Matthew 2:1-12

January 19 – John 2:1-11

February 2 – Luke 4:21-30

February 16 – Luke 6:17-26

March 2 – Transfiguration Sunday: Luke 9:28-43

January 12 – Baptism of the Lord Sunday: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 26 – Luke 4:14-21

February 9 – Luke 5:1-11

February 23 – Luke 6:27-38

Our Congregational Care Ministers and retired clergy are available to pray with you after each worship service in the prayer room off of the Narthex.

2024 PASTOR'S REPORT

The United Methodist Book of Discipline requires the pastor to submit an annual report to the District Superintendent at Charge Conference, reporting on the ministry of the church in the past year. Pastor George's 2024 report was shared in December and can be read online at www.fumcbelmont.org/pastorsreport2024.

CHURCH GATHERINGS

Start the New Year with Adult Sunday School

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: *The Message of Jesus* by Adam Hamilton

Salt and Light Fellowship New Class! 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: *Twelve Ordinary Men* by John MacArthur

JANUARY MEN'S MEETINGS



Start 2025 meeting new people and growing your faith!

Attend one or both meetings.
Whichever fits your schedule.

FRIDAY
Jan. 10 - 6:30 am
&
SATURDAY
Jan. 18 - 8:30 am
Youth House

Square Two

Lunch at the Community Cafe
Then visit "Bunny Blessings" - Belmont.
They travel to nursing homes to help those who need some love.

January 16th

Meet at the church at 11:45
Eat and then go to visit the bunnies.

All ladies welcome!



Contact Pam Stowe for more information: westowe5612@yahoo.com

Wednesday Evening Adult Small Groups January 22 to February 26

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.

Learning to Knit - Stitches and 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. There will be a cost for this class. Sign up at fumcbelmont.org/smallgroups



January 23rd - 6:30 pm
Carpenter Hall

Puzzle Race

Come for the fun and fellowship

RSVP to Paige Dunigan:
paige1210@gmail.com
All ladies welcome!



A tale of love and redemption in the Blue Ridge Mountains of N.C.

Primetimers Trip

Matthew's Playhouse

February 1st - 2 pm

Tickets \$27

Transportation provided

Out to dinner afterwards. Place TBD

Contact Doreen to sign up:
doreen@fumcbelmont.org
limited number of tickets

A One-Year Journey Through Luke and Acts with Bishop Carter

Join Bishop Carter and other United Methodists throughout the Western North Carolina Conference reading through Luke and Acts in 2025. You can join a study group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/lukeandacts.



Western North Carolina Conference
The United Methodist Church

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

COMMUNITY CAFE
supporting
Dahlia Grove
11:45-1:15

EVERY
THURSDAY



Dining at the cafe provides financial support and training for women recovering from human trafficking, domestic violence and drug addiction

**BCO**
Drop off
Dates
Jan 5th
&
Feb 2nd

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

TOP 20
Rice
Jelly
Pop tarts
Grits
Oatmeal
Soup
Peanut Butter
Instant Potatoes
Canned: Meat
Tomatoes
Vegetables
Pasta
Fruit
Crackers
Mac & Cheese
Pasta
Pasta Sauce
Dried Beans
Corn Muffin
Mix
Cookies

Room in the INN January 11th and 18th 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. To learn more go to fumcbelmont.org/roomintheinn

Feed the HOUSE Help care for moms and their children at Catherines House by dropping off a simple meal. We have open dates starting in February. www.fumcbelmont.org/catherineshouse

SERVICE AND MISSIONS

Come join this team! There is room for you to join this amazing Missions committee and participate in supporting ways to help our congregation be more like Jesus for our community and beyond. This group started three new ministries at FUMCB in 2024. They have researched and approved over \$15,000 to disburse to nine nonprofits to help support their work. They supported a pop-up flood bucket packing event to help with Disaster Relief. They have created new relationships with two Title 1 Schools and organized collections of material goods to support the needy throughout the year. It is impossible in this article to list everything they have done. If you would like to join this group please reach out to Margie Ligon, margie@fumcbelmont.org. We meet the second Monday of every month.



Please join us in saying thanks to: (pictured left to right) Ann Marie Rogers, Liz Gray, Keith Moore, Sharon Lochably, Missy White, Lisa Millspaw (Chair), and Roger White. Not pictured is Lynn Hansen and Cindy Meilike. We also extend thanks to those who lead specific ministries for our church. James Harris, BCO; Mary and Pete Rutledge, Room in the Inn (Chairs); Michael Nance, RITI (transportation); Debbie Thames, Soup for the Soul; Kari Langley, ZOE (Chair); ZOE committee- Betsy Burns, Chad McAllister, Jessica Durham, Cat Ragsdale, Stephanie Beaty and Kristen Surratt (ZOE auction lead).

THANK YOU FUMCB

Many thanks for your response to donating clothing for distribution through the RICE and BEANS street ministry. Rice and Beans does not operate in a building they are on the street sharing the love of Christ every Tuesday by feeding the hungry and providing warmth to those who are cold. Ninety-nine items were collected in November. If you missed the collection and have coats to donate, please bring them to Denise or Michael Martin who serve with Rice and Beans each week. They welcome anyone in the congregation to come join them and be a part of this amazing ministry to care for the needy in Gastonia. Contact Denise by email at, dcampolieto@hotmail.com.



Soup for the Soul has our freezer stocked and ready to assist you in caring for those who need some warmth and compassion. Please take a quart of chicken soup prepared by our team to your neighbor and friends who need a little soul care to brighten their day. If you would like to cook soup with us, email Debbie Thames at dhthames@gmail.com.



Family Snowless Tubing

Saturday, January 4
6:00-7:00 p.m.

Purchase tickets
directly from
Crowders Chutes.





First Kids Worship Leaders

If your 2nd-5th grader would like to serve as Bible Bearer or Acolyte during our 11:00 worship service, visit www.fumcbelmont.org/kids and click the top button to sign up.

HELLO 2025 SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:00 to 10:45

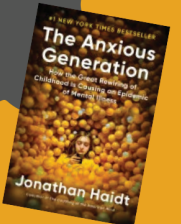
IT'S A NEW YEAR AND A NEW CHANCE TO COMMIT TO SUNDAY SCHOOL! WE HAVE CLASSES FOR CHILDREN BIRTH-5TH GRADE. EMAIL JENNIFER@FUMCBELMONT.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.

FIRST KIDS GLOW IN THE DARK WED. SMALL GROUPS 6:30-7:30 BEGINS JANUARY 22

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
Intro meeting during Sunday School on Jan 12



CROSSROADS RETURNS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

4-5th graders are invited to a special afternoon of team building and ropes course challenge at Anne Springs Close Greenway.

2:00-4:00
Registration required.
Email Jennifer for details.



Mark your calendars now
and watch for more information:

Friday, Feb 7 - Parents Date Night
July 13-17 - Vacation Bible School

SAVE
THE DATE

LET'S CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR

JANUARY 5TH
1-2:30

Meet at 103
Sacco Street,
Belmont

LET'S
GO
HIKING

Youth Hike at Rocky Branch Trail

LIFE HACKS

Engage
Sunday School
Jan. 5-Jan 26
@ 10 in the Youth House

We will discuss tools and tips from the Bible that will help us live a better life as we follow God.

★★★★★

SUNDAY NIGHT

5:30-7:30

GROG!

JAN. 12TH DURING CONNECT

GAME NIGHT

All Youth Are Welcome

Youth WORKDAY
January 19 from 2 to 4

Help our friend with her yard work.
Bring work gloves.
Meet at 1107 Rachel Anne Drive
Brownies will be served!

ADAM HAMILTON
JESUS AND THE OUTSIDERS, OUTCASTS, AND OUTLAWS

LUKE

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!

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!

It is time to plan our summer adventures together. The Youth have two special opportunities to serve our neighbors in North Carolina. Please feel free to reach out to Quanna if you have any questions or want more information.

♥
JUNE 17 & 18
♥

MISSION MANIA

Youth Mission Experience

Join us for two days of service and fellowship in Gaston, Mecklenburg, and Buncombe Counties.

Harvest of Hope
Youth Mission Trip

Celebrate the mission on Saturday at Carowinds

July 23-27

Join our mission to help our fellow neighbors by taking action and sharing good food gleaned from the farms of NC

NEWS FROM OUR CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

December was a festive month at the CDC! We enjoyed themed dress up days with headbands, cute socks, ugly sweaters and everyone's favorite, Christmas pajama day. Families joined us for our annual Christmas Cookie Party and Ms. Sharon taught us a few holiday songs at music class. The Delany and Bishop families treated our team to a yummy Taxco Taco Bar and all CDC staff were rewarded with monetary bonuses. We look forward to 2025!

**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CDC IS HIRING**

Looking for experienced, dedicated teachers for our infant and toddler class. Competitive salary, PTO and a fun preschool environment. Come join our team!

Email your resume to Heather Gaskins
at heather@fumcbelmont.org



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 1	Karen Bynum Northcott Georgia Smith	January 12	Anneke Armstrong Jackson Bradley	January 21	Dustin Spivey
January 2	Madison Cauble		Lynn Hansen	January 23	Collin Hill
January 3	Quinn Barnette William Henkel Will Stowe		Doug Herre James Magennis	January 24	Richard Bertino Rick Hanafin Claire Russell Lizzie Williams
January 4	Brian Kelso	January 13	Ashlee Stowe	January 25	Sophia Cochran Kim Pennington
January 5	Tom Pennington	January 14	Hank Gillespie		
January 6	Terri Harrison Alan Smith	January 15	Christine Forbes Ryan McKinney Arin Weatherford	January 26	Charles Russell, Jr.
January 7	Catie Kalmbach	January 16	Harper Forbes	January 27	Diane Kimel Isla Westendorf
January 8	Liz McGraw Sutton Ramsey Summer VanGastle Carol Weisenauer	January 17	Allan Haggai Matthew Hastings Eric Lowe Jake Riske	January 28	Ed Hanigan Teagan Preisach Kayla Karr Judith Kelty Jones Smith Teri Wilson
January 9	Audrey Andrews Hayes Andrews	January 19	Gretchen Bashant Meredith Bowen Jude Fann Dot Simpson	January 29	Harper Johnston Renee Painter
January 10	Jessica Bradley Janet Widenhouse			January 31	
January 11	Anna Katherine Overcash	January 20	Eleanor Bryant Jacob Painter		

THOUGHTS, PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

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)
Chris, friend of Teri Wilson

Greg Stanforth
Barb Lange and family upon the passing of her brother,
Bob Shaffer
Friends, Richard & Judy Treneer (Nicole Stanforth)
Jaxon Forbes
Erin Carver, Renee and Tim Painter's daughter
Murphy Clark and family

You can submit prayer requests to prayers@fumcbelmont.org

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CHURCH OF BELMONT

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OUR STAFF

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Mark Sutton | Business Administrator | mark@fumcbelmont.org

2025
PICTORIAL
DIRECTORY



New pictorial directories for 2025 will be printed in the coming weeks. If you have new contact information and would like it updated, please email Mark at mark@fumcbelmont.org.

If you were not able to have your picture taken last year, and would like it to be included this year, you can either:

- ~ Ask a staff member before/after Worship to take a photo of you/your family
- ~ Email a recent photo to mark@fumcbelmont.org

We want everyone to be represented, so let us know if there is a way we can help!

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