

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

January 26, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

The Third Sunday After the Epiphany



Jesus Unrolls the Book in the Synagogue by James Tissot, 1886-1894

.....
***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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A Light to the Nations

Experiencing and Sharing the Light of Christ

Good morning and welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont! This morning we continue our worship series A Light to the Nations: Experiencing and Sharing the Light of Christ. Jesus called himself the light of the world but he also called us the same. How do we, as followers of Christ, share his light faithfully? Today's Gospel Lesson provides a clue as Jesus preaches his inaugural sermon, outlining the vision for his ministry. He takes the Isaiah as his text, proclaiming the prophet's dream of justice, joy and peace is being fulfilled in Him. Jesus' sermon is guide for us today: a beacon or flashlight, showing us how to be more like him for our community and beyond.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"St. Flavian"

June Nixon

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Margie Ligon

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us!

God has anointed us to bring good news to the poor.

Christ proclaims release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind.

He calls us to set the oppressed free and declare the year of the Lord's favor.

Let us gather in the power of God's Word, alive and active among us.

Together, we are the church, called to fulfill Christ's mission in the world!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 568

"Christ for the World We Sing"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***Gracious God, you have called us to follow the light of Christ, yet we confess
that we often turn away from his mission of justice and compassion.
You have entrusted your church with the power of your Word, but we have
been slow to proclaim good news to the poor and to seek freedom for
the oppressed. Forgive us for our apathy, our fear, and our failure to reflect
the love and hope of Jesus in the world. Renew us by your Spirit, that
we may boldly live as instruments of your grace and truth. Teach us to walk
in your light, empowered by your Word, to fulfill the mission of Christ
in our time. In Jesus' name we pray, 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 4:14-21

Mark Andrews

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 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.

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

"The Gift of Love"

by Hal Hopson

Tho' I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire;
And have not love,
my words are vain,
as sounding brass and hopeless gain.
Tho' I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess;
But not be giv'n by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.
Come, Spirit, come our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole;
Let inward love guide ev'ry deed:
By this we worship and are freed.

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

"God of Day and God of Darkness"

***God of day and God of darkness, now we stand before the night;
as the shadows stretch and deepen, come and make our darkness bright.
All creation still is groaning for the dawning of your might,
when the Sun of peace and justice fills the earth with radiant light.***

***Still the nations curse the darkness, still the rich oppress the poor;
still the earth is bruised and broken by the ones who still want more.
Come and wake us from our sleeping, so our hearts cannot ignore
all your people lost and broken, all your children at our door.***

***Show us Christ in one another, make us servants strong and true;
give us all your love of justice so we do what you would do.
Let us call all people holy, let us pledge our hearts anew,
make us one with all the lowly, let us all be one in you.***

***You shall be the path that guides us, you a light that in us burns;
shining deep within all people, yours the love that we must learn,
for our hearts shall wander restless 'til they safe to you return;
finding you in one another, we shall all your face discern.***

***Praise to you in day and darkness, you our source and you our end;
praise to you who love and nurture us as a father, mother, friend.
Grant us all a peaceful resting, let each mind and body mend,
so we rise refreshed tomorrow, hearts renewed to Kingdom tend.***

*POSTLUDE

"St. Helen"

Christopher Tambling

**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 James Tissot's painting *Jesus Unrolls the Book in the Synagogue*. His meticulous attention to detail is evident in the worshippers' attire, notably the prayer shawls, and the synagogue's setting, including the elaborate silver ornaments of the Torah scroll. Born in France in 1836, Tissot was a successful painter of Paris society before moving to London in 1871. After a profound religious experience he shifted his focus to biblical scenes, undertaking extensive travels to the Middle East to ensure historical accuracy in his work. Spiritually, this painting invites us to reflect on Jesus' proclamation of bringing good news to the poor and freedom to the oppressed. As we observe the reactions of those in the synagogue—ranging from wonder to skepticism—we are prompted to consider our own responses to Christ's message and our role in embodying his mission in today's world.

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

Adult Small Groups on Wednesdays:

Stitches & Scripture: Learn to knit and pause to read Scripture. Led by Mary Beth Tipton

Holy Yoga: Taught by Kelly Shelton, a YMCA yoga teacher. All abilities are welcome. There is a cost of \$60 or what you can afford.

Podcast based class: 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

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

All youth are invited to **Connect** on February 2 from 5:30 to 7:30 for Mission's Night. We will prepare 100 lunches for our unhoused friends at Roof Above in Charlotte.

All eighth through twelfth graders are invited for a **Valentine's inspired Lockout** on Friday, February 7 beginning 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.

All youth are invited to **Connect** on February 16 to prepare for Youth Sunday. Please see Quanna if you would like to participate in the services on February 23 and are unable to attend on the 16th.

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Preschool-5th graders, are you ready to **Glow in the Dark?** We'll meet for Wednesday night small groups from 6:30-7:30. 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 2. 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 on February 2nd for our next delivery.

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

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.

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

Do you have a neighbor who needs some comfort care to help them during a difficult time? If so, we have chicken soup in our church freezer made 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.

	
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	
<u>Smoked BBQ WholeButt:</u> \$45 per Butt <u>Smoked BBQ 1lb Chopped:</u> \$12 per lb <u>Troop 56 "Eagle Sauce":</u> \$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 8 th or Sunday February 9 th 11am-3pm at Scout Lodge, 807 South Point Road, Belmont, NC (Choose Pickup/Delivery day when ordering)	

WEEKLY CALENDAR

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

Monday, January 27

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Tuesday, January 28

Wednesday, January 29

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 30

11:45 a.m. Community Cafe'

Friday, January 31

Saturday, February 1

1:00 p.m. Primetimers

Sunday, February 2

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:30 p.m. Strategic Planning Focus Groups
5:30 p.m. Connect
6:00 p.m. The Anxious Generation Book Club

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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*

2025 SCRIPTURE FOCUS

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



FIRST AND SECOND PETER

STORIES TO LIVE

EXPLORING SPIRITUAL MEMOIRS

Sunday, January 26 at 6:00
with Pastor George



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

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

**January 29 meal: Pasta and meatballs, salad,
chicken nuggets, and dessert**

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

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