

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

January 26, 2025 – 8:30 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
807 South Point Road // Belmont, NC 28012
P: 704-825-2106 // F: 704-825-2176
www.fumcbelmont.org



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.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

*OPENING SONG

"A Thousand Hallelujahs"

*PRAYER

Margie Ligon

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

Jennifer Martin

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 4:14-21

Wanda Randolph

SERMON

The Rev. George Ragsdale

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

As a forgiven and reconciled child of God, you are invited to give your offerings and gifts to God by placing them in the offering plate when you come forward to receive communion.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*THE PEACE

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

*TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

*BREAKING THE BREAD (gluten free option available)

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

"More Like Jesus"

CCLI Song # 7105732

You came to the world You created
Trading Your crown for a cross
You willingly died
Your innocent life paid the cost
Counting Your status as nothing
The King of all kings came to serve
Washing my feet
Covering me with Your love
If more of You means less of me
Take ev'rything
Yes all of You is all I need
Take ev'rything
You are my life and my treasure
The One that I can't live without
Here at Your feet
My desires and dreams I lay down
Here at Your feet

My desires and dreams I lay down
If more of You means less of me
Take ev'rything
Yes all of You is all I need
Take ev'rything
Oh Lord change me like only You can
Here with my heart in Your hands
Father I pray make me more like Jesus
This world is dying to know who You are
You've shown us the way to Your heart

So Father I pray make me more like Jesus
(More like Jesus more like Jesus Lord)
Oh Lord oh Lord
Father I pray
Father I pray
Make me more like Jesus
If more of You means less of me
Take ev'rything
Yes all of You is all I need
Take ev'rything

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG

"Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly"

**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



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 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*

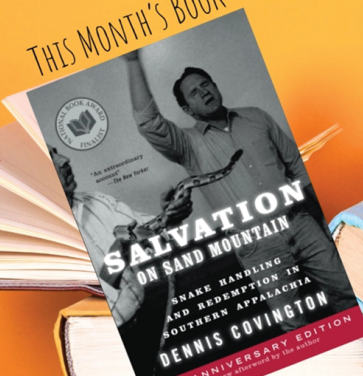
2025 SCRIPTURE FOCUS

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



FIRST AND SECOND PETER

THIS MONTH'S BOOK



STORIES TO LIVE

EXPLORING SPIRITUAL MEMOIRS

Sunday, January 26 at 6:00
with Pastor George



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.

**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
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