

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

January 5, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

Epiphany Sunday



Awake My Soul by Mike Moyers, 2011

.....
*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! Today we celebrate Epiphany Sunday, commemorating the appearance (or "epiphany") of Christ to the Magi, led by the light of a star to Bethlehem. Christ is the light of the world. Join us throughout the season of Epiphany as we celebrate 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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

Andrew Fletcher

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jennifer Martin

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

Darkness may cover the earth, and thick darkness the people, but the Lord rises upon us, and His glory appears over us.

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

We lift up our eyes and see: the world gathers together, drawn by the radiance of Christ's love.

Wise ones from the East followed the star, seeking the One born King of the Jews.

They knelt before Him, offering gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, proclaiming His light to all nations.

Lift up your hearts, for the light of Christ shines for all people!

We come to worship the Christ, the Light of the World, who guides us in truth and love.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 254

"We Three Kings"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of light and love, we confess that we often choose the shadows of division and fear over the brilliance of Your unifying grace. Forgive us for the ways we build walls that separate us from one another, failing to see Your image in every person. You sent Christ as the light for all people, yet we sometimes cling to darkness, ignoring the call to share His light in a broken world. Shine Your mercy upon us, O God, and guide us to walk in the way of Your justice, love, and peace. 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

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

James Harris

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.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

"We Three Kings"
Chancel Choir Men

arr. Russell Robinson

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

*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!***

TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Hymnal No. 17-18)

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

*BREAKING THE BREAD

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

***Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given
yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of
your Spirit, to give ourselves for others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.***

EXTENDING THE TABLE

*This morning, lay communion servers come forward to receive consecrated bread and
juice from worship to share with homebound members who cannot be present today.
We pray for them, remembering God's grace unites us as one within Christ's holy church.
If you are aware of someone who would like to receive but cannot be present, speak with
Pastor George after service.*

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN No. 188

"Christ Is the World's Light"

*POSTLUDE

"Christmas Joy"

arr. Hugh Livingston

**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 the work of Mike Moyers, a contemporary impressionist and illustrator living in Franklin, Tennessee. He describes this work as "an abstract depicting the Light of The World shattering the darkness." Known for his spiritual and religious artwork, Mike says, "art is a communion with the soul. Through my art, I strive to make known the beauty and wonder of life and faith."

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.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

The Dahlia Grove Community Cafe returns this week. Thursday, they will be serving lunch from 11:45-1:15 in Carpenter Hall. 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.

Room in the Inn is serving our neighbors without houses twice in January. Serve with us January 11th or 18th as we partner with Christ UMC in Charlotte. Learn more and sign up to help at fumcbelmont.org/roomintheinn.

If you missed today's **Stock the BCO Sunday**, no worries. Bring your non-perishable food donation to the narthex anytime over the next few weeks for our next Stock the BCO Sunday which is February 2nd.

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

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. Please pick up a quart of homemade chicken soup prepared by our **Soup for the Soul** cooking team to help you show compassion to others.

CHURCH GATHERINGS

New Year's Hike: All youth are invited to meet TODAY at Rocky Branch Park from 1 to 2:30 for a time of hiking and fellowship. Bring a water bottle and meet at 103 Sacco Street.

January Men's Meetings Friday, January 10 at 6:30 a.m. and Saturday, January 18 at 8:30 a.m. at the Youth House. Start 2025 meeting new people and growing your faith. Attend one or both meetings. Whichever fits your schedule.

Connect begins again on January 12 from 5:30 to 7:30 in Carpenter Hall. Join us for a few rounds of Grog and other fun games!

We are launching a book club for *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt in 2025. Intro meeting during Sunday School (10:00-10:45) on January 12 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

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.

Beginning January 22, **First Kids will resume Wednesday night small groups** with *Glow in the Dark: Trusting God When We're Scared*. We have groups available for all ages! Register at www.fumcbelmont.org/smallgroups.

All eight through twelve graders are invited for a Valentine's inspired Lockout on Friday, February 7 beginning at 5 pm. We will adventure 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.

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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR	REMEMBER IN PRAYER
Sunday, January 5	Alex Bryant and family upon the loss of his father, Austin Bryant
8:30 a.m. Worship	Beverly Karr
9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast	Jill Atkins (Chris and Connie Atkins sister-in-law)
10:00 a.m. Sunday School	Mary, Linda England's sister
11:00 a.m. Worship	Linda England
1:00 p.m. Connect Youth New Years Hike	Danielle Kelly's father
Monday, January 6	The family of Teresa who passed away (Beverly LaBoone)
Tuesday, January 7	Trevis Lunsford's sister, Shirley Hunt
12:00 p.m. Congregational Care Minister Mtg.	Ronnie and Susan Clements (Barbara Byrum)
Wednesday, January 8	Chris, friend of Teri Wilson
Thursday, January 9	Greg Stanforth
11:45 a.m. Community Cafe'	Barb Lange and family upon the passing of her brother, Bob Shaffer
Friday, January 10	Erin Carver, Renee and Tim Painter's daughter
6:30 a.m. Men's Meeting	Murphy Clark and family
Saturday, January 11	
4:30 p.m. Room in the Inn	
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	

You can submit prayer requests to
[**prayers@fumcbelmont.org**](mailto: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.

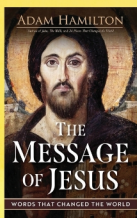
FUMCB lived into our mission to be more like Jesus Christ to our community by feeding children during the Christmas break.

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

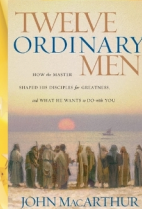


New Class!

Begins January 5th 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

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