

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

January 5, 2025 – 8:30 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

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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! 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.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

*OPENING SONG

"Come and See"

CCLI Song # 7000700

*PRAYER

Jennifer Martin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

Jennifer Martin

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

Ann Marie Rogers

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

"Go Tell it" (Gloria)

CCLI Song # 7229082

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a Holy light
Over the hills and everywhere
(Go tell it on the mountain)
The heart of the Father has heard our prayer
(Go tell it on the mountain)
Joy to the world praise to the Lord
The Savior is born
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth
Gloria gloria in exelsis Deo
Hallelujah God is with us
Jesus Christ is born
Joy to the world praise to the Lord
The Savior is born
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG

"Every Day"

CCLI Song # 7199816

**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

Sunday, January 5

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
1:00 p.m. Connect Youth New Years Hike

Monday, January 6

Tuesday, January 7

12:00 p.m. Congregational Care Minister Mtg.

Wednesday, January 8

Thursday, January 9

11:45 a.m. Community Cafe'

Friday, January 10

6:30 a.m. Men's Meeting

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

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

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

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



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.

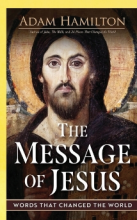
FUMCB lived into our mission to be more like Jesus Christ to our community by feeding children during the Christmas break.

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.

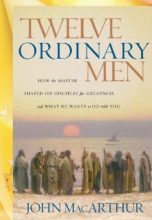
Route 66



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

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