

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

June 1, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Ascension Sunday



The Tree of Life, Mosaic of the Basilica of San Clemente in Rome, c.1130

.....
***United in the Spirit, First United Methodist Church of Belmont exists
to be more like Jesus Christ for our community and beyond***
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THE REVEREND GEORGE RAGSDALE, SENIOR PASTOR

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Good morning and welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont. We're so grateful you've chosen to worship with us today. Today is Ascension Sunday, the day we remember that Christ, raised from dead, is now taken up into heaven and seated at the right hand of the Father, where he intercedes for us still. It's also the final week in our series on the Book of Revelation, as we hear John's closing vision: a promise of light, healing, and renewal for a weary world. As you prepare for worship ask yourself, "What do I need God to make new in me today?" May our hearts be open to Christ who reigns in love and will come again in glorious love.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

David H. Hegarty

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 147 and Revelation 22

Jennifer Martin

Lift up your eyes to the heavens—not in fear, but in hope.

For the Lord builds up the people, gathers the outcast, and heals the brokenhearted.

See, the tree of life stands in God's city, its leaves for the healing of the nations.

Christ is risen and ascended, and all things are being made new.

Let every heart be stirred, every voice be raised in gladness—

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 181

"Ye Servants of God"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have turned from your light and chosen the darkness of our own ways. We have turned from your gift of life in pursuit of things that cannot satisfy. We have neglected the healing you offer the world. And still, you bring goodness out of chaos, and hope out of despair. Forgive us, Good Lord. Renew us with your mercy, that we may walk in your truth and bear the fruit of your peace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Revelation 21 and 22 (selected verses)

James Harris

SERMON

The Rev. George Ragsdale

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 880

The Nicene Creed

INVITATION TO PRAYER

***Lord, hear us when we pray;
in every troubled day we seek your face.
Your name be glorified, your greatness magnified;
matchless your works abide, O Lord our God!***

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

"Soon and Very Soon"

arr. Jack Schrader

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King!
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,

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. 718 *"Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending"*

*POSTLUDE *"All Hail the Power"* arr. Robert Thygerson

**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 12th-century *Tree of Life* mosaic from the apse of the Basilica of San Clemente in Rome. Crafted by anonymous medieval artists, this Byzantine-Romanesque masterpiece portrays the cross of Christ as a flourishing tree, its vines curling outward to fill the world with life. Nestled among the branches are birds, animals, saints, and everyday people—signs that all creation is drawn into God's redemptive love. At the base, flowing water evokes the river of life from Revelation 22, and the surrounding leaves hint at the "healing of the nations." The vine imagery recalls Jesus' words in John 15: "I am the vine, you are the branches," reminding us that the church today is an extension of Christ's living body. This ancient image invites us to see ourselves within the story of God's ongoing, life-giving work in the 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.

Mission Mania Trip June 3 and 4 Please be in prayer for our youth group this week as they serve Gaston County on Tuesday and travel to Haywood Street Congregation Church in Asheville on Wednesday. Our youth will serve at these locations: Gaston County Animal Care and Enforcement, Least of These Carolinas, Preston Taylor's residence, Page Primary, and Holy Angels. Thanks to Stephanie Beaty, Liz Gray, and Genora Cheshire for leading these two days. A special thanks also to Mary Beth Tipton, Josh Beaty, Brandon Martin, and Margie Ligon for their presence and support.

FUMCDC Summer Camp is open! Sign up for the weeks that you need. Kindergarten-5th grade. Email Heather for more information heather@fumcbelmont.org

GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS



**All are welcome no matter
where you are
on your spiritual journey.**

This summer when there is more time to think; spend time with a small group of 3-4 people, who can support you in your spiritual growth.

Sign up for Engage and find more information at fumcbelmont.org/signup

SUMMER MEN'S MEETING June 6th - 6:30 a.m. at the Youth House. All men are welcome. Contact Tony Wilson for more information: kingsmtntony@yahoo.com

Sunday School

Disciple: Bible Project videos and class questions to start conversations about what we believe as Methodists and how we respond to people who think differently.

Route 66: Studying "*Simon Peter*" by Adam Hamilton.

Salt & Light Fellowship (new class): A place to have real conversations and build relationships.

Wanderers: Studying "*The Lord's Prayer*" by Adam Hamilton.

Summer Study on the Psalms Learn how to relate to God through your doubt, fears and anger. Coincides with George's sermon series. Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m., June 17 through July 29 (no class the week of July 1st). Possible evening study if enough interest. Sign up at: fumcbelmont.org/signup

GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

June 12 All youth are invited to a fun afternoon kayaking or paddleboarding at the Whitewater Center. We will leave church at noon and return by 4:30. Note: youth must sign up and pay by this week in order to attend (by June 5).

GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Summer Bible Bingo packets are ready for pick up on the children's shelf in the Narthex. Kids are encouraged to use the Bingo cards to spend time in the Bible every day over the summer. Bring your card back each week to earn a prize.

Vacation Bible School is July 13-17, and we invite all 4-year-olds through completed 5th grade to join us for our *True North adventure*! VBS is 5:30-8:00 and includes supper each night. Visit www.fumcbelmont.org/vbs for more details and to register.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

Our next **Stock the BCO** Sunday is next Sunday, June 8th. Please drop off your non perishable food donations in the narthex for our missions team to deliver them to the BCO.

Twice a month we are committed to feeding the families in residence at **Catherine's House**. We need meals dropped off on June 9th and June 23rd so the mother's are relieved from cooking and can eat before attending a required weekly training. If you can prepare a simple meal or donate a gift card to a restaurant please visit our sign up page, fumcbelmont.org/signup.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, June 1

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 2:00 p.m. Churchwide Picnic

Monday, June 2

- 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Tuesday, June 3

- Mission Mania Mission Trip
- 12:00 p.m. Congregational Care Minister Mtg

Wednesday, June 4

- Mission Mania Mission Trip

Thursday, June 5

Friday, June 6

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Meeting

Saturday, June 7

Sunday, June 8

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 4:00 p.m. Holy Walkamolies Walking Club

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

John and Susan, Jim Griffin's brother and sister in-law

Nicole Stanforth's family after the passing of her grandmother, Sue Ananda

Jennifer Stiver, Elizabeth Boney's friend

Anne Haxton, Dottie Moore's mother

Rita Wilson's brother

Jamie Washam

Judy Harris

Brayden (Becky Fortenberry's grandson)

Teresa (Dottie Moore's friend)

Ginger Feimster

The families of 4 co-workers that lost their lives and three others who are currently in the hospital (Jordan Miller)

Erin Carver, Renee and Tim Painter's daughter

Murphy Clark and family

*You can submit prayer requests to
prayers@fumcbelmont.org*

Prayers remain on this list for 4 weeks. If your loved one needs continued prayers, please resubmit a new request.

JOIN US TODAY FOR A PICNIC AT THE PARK

2-6 PM

Games, playground, boat rides, swimming and more!

Kids are encouraged to bring sand toys.

(Please note, there are no lifeguards.)

The church will provide sub sandwiches. Bring a side, drinks or dessert to share.

South Point Access Park 175 Boat Launch Road, Belmont

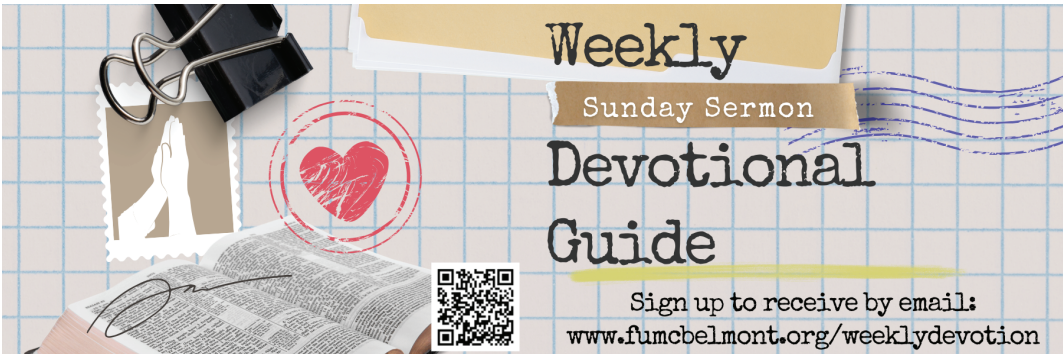


Father's Day June 15th



Honor that special man or person in your life with a donation to support our global missionaries. Michelle Kunce is serving in Brazil in a ministry providing safe afterschool care for children. Eric Kalumba is a church planter in Madagascar.

Forms are in the narthex, or use the QR code provided.



Weekly Sunday Sermon Devotional Guide

Sign up to receive by email:
www.fumcbelmont.org/weeklydevotion



OUR STAFF

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