

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

June 1, 2025 – 8:30 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***
.....

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.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

*OPENING SONG

"We Believe"

CCLI Song # 6367165

*PRAYER

Jennifer Martin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Revelation 21 and 22 (selected verses)

Brandon Martin

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

"Even So Come"

CCLI Song # 7036288

All of creation all of the earth
Make straight a highway a path for the Lord
Jesus is coming soon
Call back the sinner wake up the saint
Let ev'ry nation shout of Your fame
There will be justice all will be new
Your name forever faithful and true
Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
God we wait we wait for You
God we wait You're coming soon

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG

"Build Your Kingdom Here"

CCLI Song # 7036288

**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



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

12:00 p.m. Mission Mania Mission Trip
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



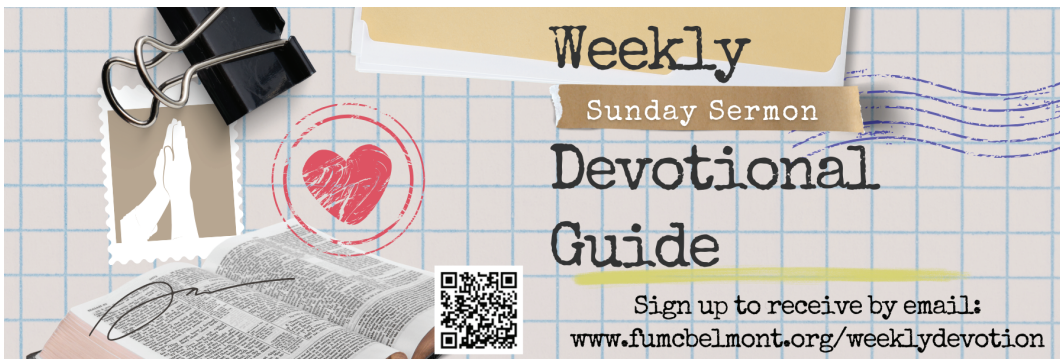
Father's Day

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

Carole Bertino | Administrative Assistant | carole@fumcbelmont.org
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