

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

March 16, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

The Second Sunday in Lent



The Multiplication of the Loaves by Pablo Mayorga, 1984

.....
*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



Jesus in His Own Words

Lent 2025 | First UMC Belmont

*Good morning and welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont! This morning we continue our Lenten journey, turning to Jesus' words in John 6:24-35, where He declares, "**I am the Bread of Life.**" In a world that leaves us hungry for meaning, purpose, and hope, Jesus offers us the only nourishment that truly satisfies. May we come with open hearts, ready to receive the provision of God's grace that sustains us now and forever.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

Hymn Prelude on "*Bread of Life*"

arr. Rick Parks

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 145 and John 6

Jennifer Martin

The Lord opens His hand and satisfies the desires of every living thing!

God provides for us with abundant grace.

Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life."

In Him, our hunger and thirst are satisfied.

Let us come with joy and thanksgiving!

We worship the God who gives us the bread of heaven!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 127

"*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Generous and merciful God, you offer us the true bread of heaven, yet we chase after things that do not satisfy. You provide more than enough, yet we hoard your gifts and fail to share with those in need. We confess that we seek fulfillment in what is temporary and turn away from the call to serve others as you have served us. Forgive our selfishness and our lack of trust in your abundance. Fill us once more with your grace, that we may hunger for justice, share freely in love, and be satisfied in you alone. 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

John 6:24-35

The Rev. Dr. Larry Kimel

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

***We behold, we believe,
You are the Lion and the Lamb, the Prince of Peace.
We adore, we confess,
You are the one who died and rose again, the Great I Am.
You're the great I Am. You're the great I am.***

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

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

Mack Wilberg

Jennifer Martin, flute

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
Jehovah is His Name;
In pastures fresh He makes me feed
Beside the living stream.
He brings my wand'ring spirit back
When I forsake His ways,
And leads me, for His mercy's sake,
In paths of truth and grace.
When I walk thru the shades of death,
Thy presence is my stay;
A word of Thy supporting breath
Drives all my fears away.

Thy hand, in sight of all my foes,
Doth still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows;
Thine oil anoints my head.
The sure provisions of my God
Attend me all my days;
O may Thy house be mine abode,
And all my work be praise!
There would I find a settled rest
While others go and come,
No more a stranger or a guest,
But like a child at home.

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

*ACT OF PRAISE

"Doxology"

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts!
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

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

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

arr. Craig Courtney

Angela and Larry Bradmon, duet

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

"You Feed Us, Gentle Savior"
**You feed us, gentle Savior,
the bread that makes us whole,
the wine of your compassion
poured out into our soul.
The food of your own presence,
your Spirit, strong, within,
the grace that heals us deeply
and overcomes our sin.**

**You bind us, gentle Savior,
and weave us into one,
one flesh and blood made holy,
the Body of your Son.
We gather here in hunger,
one hunger, all the same;
and with one grace you bless us
together in his name.**

**You call us, gentle Savior,
and send us in your name.
You teach and heal and show us
how we can do the same.
So, strengthened by your Spirit
and nourished by your grace,
we go to be your presence
in love, in every place.**

*POSTLUDE

"Holy Manna"

Charles Callahan

**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 Pablo Mayorga's *The Multiplication of the Loaves* from Solentiname, Nicaragua. Reflecting the liberation theology of Ernesto Cardenal's Solentiname community, the artwork embodies a simple yet powerful expression of faith, solidarity, and divine provision. Cardenal, a poet, priest, and revolutionary, fostered a community of peasants who created folk art that reimagined biblical stories through the lens of their lived experiences, blending faith with a call for social justice and communal care. As one member of the community said, "The miracle was to persuade the owners of the bread to share it, that it was absurd for them to keep it all while the people were going hungry."

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.

CALLED CHARGE CONFERENCE There will be a called meeting of the Charge Conference, our church's governing body, on Sunday, March 30, 2025 at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary. Our District Superintendent, the Reverend David Christy, has authorized this meeting in order to complete two items of business: 1) approving Tracee Pearson as a Candidate for Ministry, and 2) changing the Senior Pastor's housing compensation from parsonage to housing allowance. All voting members of the Administrative Council are asked to attend.



The Men's group and Youth would like to thank everyone who participated in their pine needle fundraiser. **Forty five volunteers** came out this past weekend to load and deliver over **4,000** bales to over 75 customers. Their efforts raised **over \$7,000** which will be used to help support our mission to be more like Jesus Christ for our community and beyond.



Midweek Fellowship Meals
Wednesday - 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**Mar. 19: Grilled chicken breast with rice pilaf, green beans and dessert.
Chicken nuggets for kids**

Meals cost FUMC \$10 per adult, \$5 for children. We ask those who join us to contribute what they can.



CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

Sunday School

Disciple: Be a part of the church wide study "Practicing the Way." No book needed, just come watch a video and discuss how to be with Jesus, become like Him, and do as Jesus did.

Route 66: Studying "Entering the Passion of Jesus" by A.J. Levine. Explore the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. Levine points out how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions.

Salt & Light Fellowship (new class): 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: Studying "24 Hours: That changed the world." by Adam Hamilton. Hamilton reviews the last 24 hours of Jesus' life and talks about the theological reasons behind his suffering and death.

Join **Ruth Circle** on Thursday, March 27 at 6:30 p.m. We will go out to eat (place to be determined). Please bring a monetary donation for a Catherine's House meal. RSVP Paige Dunigan
paige1210@gmail.com

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

All youth are invited to go out to lunch today after the 11:00 service. Meet in the main parking lot near the playground. Let's enjoy Qdoba, Sweet Frogs, and time together! Bring money for your meal.

Youth are invited on Saturday, March 22 to travel together to Christ Church in Charlotte to support our church's mission with Room in the Inn. We will prepare food, set up beds, serve dinner, and eat with our neighbors in need. We will leave FUMC on the minibus at 3:30 p.m. and return by 7:30. Sign up online today to reserve your spot.

Connect All youth are invited on March 30 for Game Night! We will play one of our favorites, GROG! Everyone is welcome.

Attention Seniors and Parents: Graduation is right around the corner. We will recognize all high school and college graduates at the 8:30 a.m. service on May 4, 2025. If you would like for your youth to be recognized and/or participate in this service, please email Quanna McAlister at quanna@fumcbelmont.org by April 8th.

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Families, **The Final Road Trip** (Family Lent Packets) are available for pick up from the children's shelf in the narthex. First come first serve.

Lent Car Talks Use the QR code to sign up for daily texts during Lent designed to engage your family in conversation.



OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

Thank you for donating 393 pounds of food on March 2nd for the BCO. Your donations of nonperishable food items is one of the ways we live into our mission statement to be more like Jesus for our community. Our next **Stock the BCO Sunday** is April 7th. Pick up your black FUMCB food bag today as you leave worship.

Our sign up is active and ready to receive your support for our **Feeding the Children program**. Three days over the school spring break we will gather to deliver a hot meal and bags of non-perishable meals to the homes of children. If you would like to help pack the grocery bags, cook or deliver the meals go to www.fumcbelmont.org/signup.

The Community Cafe will be open this Thursday for lunch from 11:45-1:15. You can drop in and dine here with us in Carpenter Hall or pick up a meal to go. All donations for the meal help pay the salaries for the cooks who are residents in a two year recovery program at Dahlia Grove. When you eat here at FUMCB you are supporting women recovering from human trafficking, abuse or drug addiction.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, March 16

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 12:00 p.m. Youth Lunch
- 4:00 p.m. The Walking Club

Monday, March 17

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Tuesday, March 18

Wednesday, March 19

- 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist/Narthex Prayer Rm
- 5:30 p.m. Meet in the Middle Meal
- 5:30 p.m. Alleluia Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m. Small Groups
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 20

- 11:45 a.m. Community Cafe'

Friday, March 21

Saturday, March 22

- 3:30 p.m. Connect Youth trip to Room in the Inn
- 4:30 p.m. Room in the Inn

Sunday, March 23

- 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. The Walking Club

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Doug Moody and family upon the passing of Doug's brother, Darrell

Butch Harris, Becky Fortenberry's brother

Jennifer Stiver, friend of Elizabeth Boney

Bruce & Robin McCarter, friends of Mark & Dottie Moore

Jill Atkins, Chris & Connie Atkins' sister/sister in-law

Emma Bowen, Chris & Connie Atkins' grand-daughter

The family of Shirley Hunt, Trevis Lunsford's sister, who passed away

Jessica Murray

Brenda Austin

Roger and Missy White's friend, Cherie Braun

Kendall Karr

Dee Walton, Maggie Moore's sister-in-law

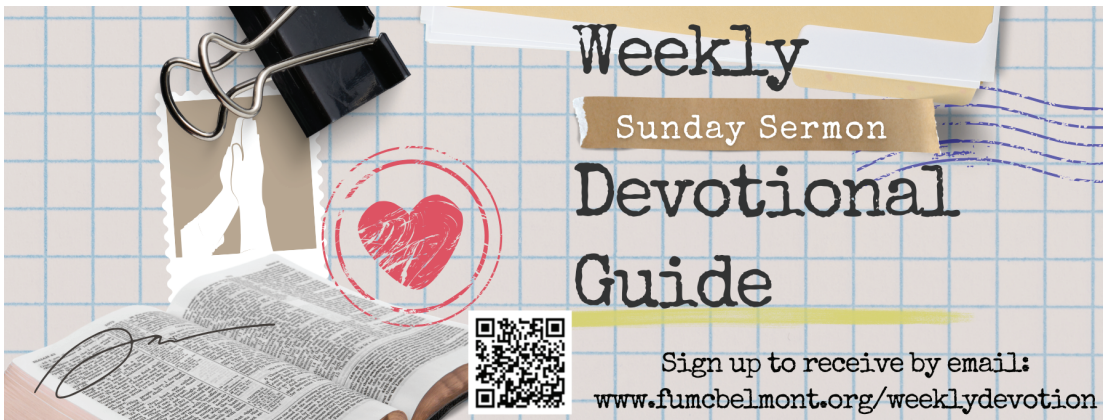
Carolyn Glenn (friend of Kathy Johnston)

Erin Carver, Renee and Tim Painter's daughter

Murphy Clark and family

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

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



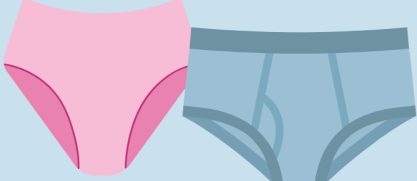
Weekly

Sunday Sermon

Devotional Guide

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

DROP YOUR DRAWERS



Underwear drive for Rice and Beans

We are collecting new briefs throughout Lent. Leave donations in our collection bin in the narthex. The need is for briefs from Hanes or Fruit of the Loom in sizes medium or large for men or women.

EASTER LILIES AND FERNS



Lilies are \$12 / Ferns are \$18 Deadline to order is April 2nd

Order forms are available at the information desk or place your order using this QR code.



Your ferns and/or lilies can be picked up after the 11 am Easter service.

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