

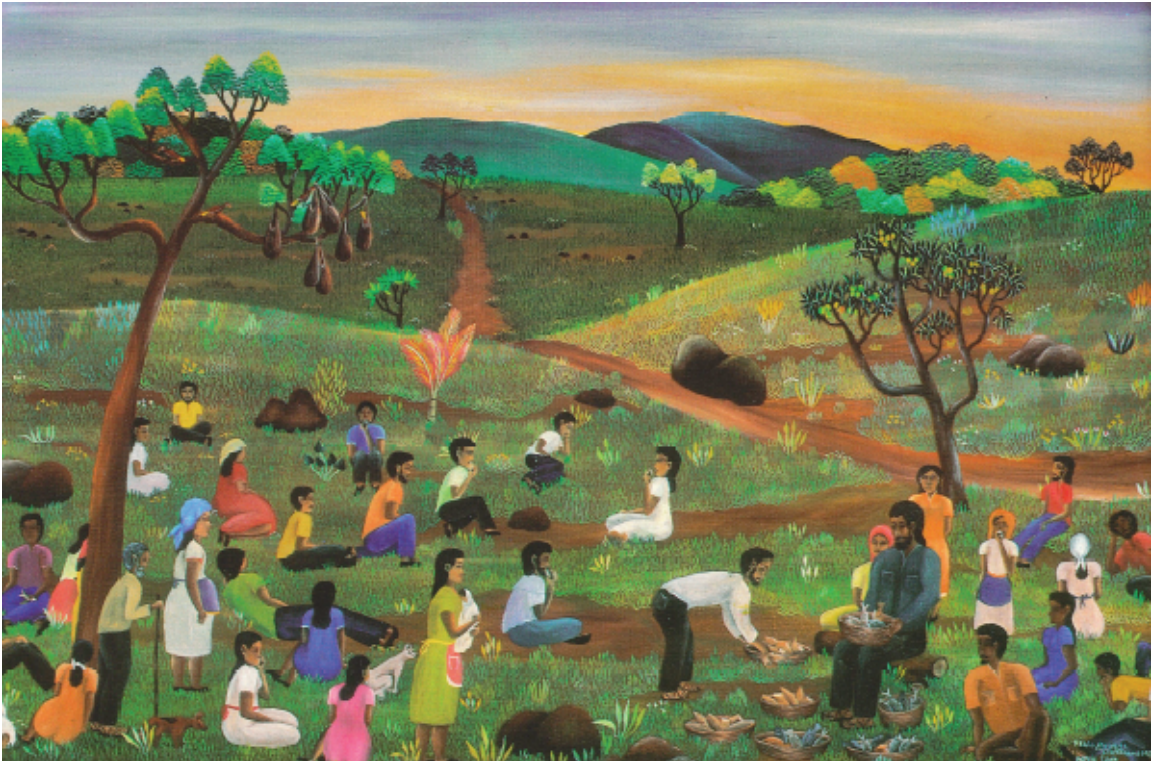
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

March 16, 2025 – 8:30 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.*

PRAISE AND PRAYER

*OPENING SONG

"Rejoice"

CCLI Song # 7232227

*PRAYER

Jennifer Martin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*GOSPEL LESSON

John 6:24-35

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

"Abide"

CCLI Song # 7168160

For my waking breath
For my daily bread
I depend on You
For the sun to rise
For my sleep at night
I depend on You
You're the way the truth and the life
You're the well that never runs dry
I'm the branch and You are the vine
Draw me close and teach me to abide
Where the Spirit leads
As I'm following
I depend on You
For the victories Still in front of me
I depend on You
You're the way the truth and the life

You're the well that never runs dry
I'm the branch and You are the vine
Draw me close and teach me to abide
Be my strength my song in the night
Be my all my treasure my prize
I am Yours forever You're mine
Draw me close and teach me to abide
When I pass through death
As I enter rest
I depend on You
For eternal life To be raised with Christ
I depend on You
Oh would you teach me
Would You teach me to abide
I depend on You

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG

"You Said I Am"

CCLI Song # 7239702

**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.

A graphic featuring a calendar with "TUE" and "WED" visible, and a yellow pencil pointing to the text "Meet in the Middle".

Meet in the Middle

Please sign up to help serve or clean up at
fumcbelmont.org/meetmiddle

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.

A graphic for Church Workday featuring illustrations of a man with a chainsaw, a woman painting a window, a bush, and a toolbox.

CHURCH WORKDAY
March 29th at 9:00 a.m.

Help prepare our church for Easter!
Bring tools for outside yard work.
Questions? Contact Doug Moody doug@fumcbelmont.org

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.

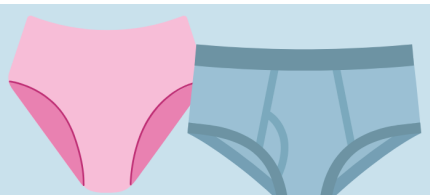
*You can submit prayer requests to
prayers@fumcbelmont.org*



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