

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

March 2, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.

Transfiguration Sunday



Transfiguration by Fra Angelico, 1400-1455

.....
*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! We're so glad that you have joined us for worship today. We're concluding our worship series celebrating the light of Christ for all the world, turning today to Luke 9:28-43. We join the disciples on the mountaintop, where the glory of Christ is revealed in dazzling light. In this sacred moment of Transfiguration, we are invited to open our hearts to the presence of God, who transforms and renews us. As we worship, may we be ready to listen, to behold Christ's glory, and to carry His light into the world.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

*OPENING SONG

"We Are Waiting"

CCLI Song # 7049336

*PRAYER

Doreen Collins

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

Jennifer Martin

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 9:28-43

Dave Lange

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

"Transfiguration"

CCLI Song # 7047252

From the cloud You speak
What was veiled now is seen
Jesus the image of the invisible God
Divinity confirmed
In the transfigured Word
A kingdom once concealed
On the earth now revealed
Holy is the Lord
Revealed before my eyes
And my burning heart
Can scarcely take it in
As I behold Your beauty
With unworthy eyes

The only song my soul can find to sing
Is hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hallelujah my King
Lead my longing heart
To the high ground to a clear view
And in awe I'll be there
Beholding You
Now I know I have seen
Your glory that cannot be unseen
I am changed and changing still
As I look upon You Lord and believe

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG

"His Glory and My Good"

CCLI Song # 7235691

**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 Fra Angelico's *Transfiguration*, a masterpiece that bridges the worlds of sacred iconography and Renaissance naturalism, inviting us into the mystery of Christ's divine revelation. Rooted in the Gospel account of Luke 9:28-43, the painting captures the radiant moment when Jesus, flanked by Moses and Elijah, is transfigured before the awestruck disciples. Like an icon, it is not merely a depiction but a window into the divine, guiding us into contemplation rather than mere observation. The golden light surrounding Christ symbolizes His divine nature, while the disciples' postures—ranging from wonder to fear—reflect our own responses to God's revelation. Through this work, Fra Angelico invites us to move beyond intellectual understanding into worship, beholding the mystery of God's presence that transforms both vision and heart.

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.

LENT BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY The Season of Lent, the forty-day season leading to Easter, begins this week on Ash Wednesday. Join us for worship at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. The service includes the imposition of ashes, which we will prepare at the conclusion of today's eleven o'clock service from the palm branches we waved on Palm Sunday last year. Their burning is a reminder of our brokenness and mortality – and of the transforming power of Christ, whose light shines always, even in the darkness, setting us free for a new future of hope.



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

March 5: Corn chowder and butternut squash soup, grilled cheese sandwiches and dessert.

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

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

The Anxious Generation Book Club meets tonight from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the Old Fellowship Hall. Please read chapters 5-8 prior to our meeting.

Square 2 ladies will meet March 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Narthex meeting room. We will have a time of devotion, fellowship and fun games. RSVP to Doreen: doreen@fumcbelmont.org

Men's Meetings: Friday March 7 at 6:30 a.m. and/or Saturday March 15 at 8:30 a.m. in the Youth House. We will meet for a time of devotion, growing in community and friendship. Attend one or both meetings, whichever fits your schedule.

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

Youth Engage Sunday School Lent Study-God's ultimate invitation to us is to get closer to Him in Christ and let the Holy Spirit work within us, transforming us to look more like Jesus. Christian spiritual disciplines and practices are all about making that happen. Join Kim and Tresca each Sunday in the Youth House in March and April for this exciting study during Lent.

All youth are invited to **Connect** tonight for games and small group devotions. Please join us!

Youth Luncheon All youth are invited to go out to lunch together on Sunday, March 16. We will leave campus around 12:15 and return by 2:30. Let's enjoy Qdoba, Sweet Frogs, and fellowship together! Please bring five nonperishable items and money for lunch. Sign up online to reserve your spot.

Youth Missions Night 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 prepare beds, serve dinner, and eat with our neighbors in need. We will leave FUMC on the minibus at 3:30 and return by 7:30. Signup online today to reserve your spot.

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.



Crossroads (4th-5th grade) meets Sunday, March 9 from 5:30-7:30 in the Old Fellowship Hall. We'll eat and play games together and continue our conversations about friendship.

Countdown to Easter (Lent Small Groups for Kids) begins March 12 from 6:30-7:30. Small groups are available for preschool-5th grade.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

Our annual Pine Needle Sale to benefit the work of the Men's Group and our Youth Group is next weekend. We ordered an extra truck this year so we are capable of taking your order! If you want your bales delivered you need to turn in your order TODAY otherwise you can buy them off the truck on Saturday, March 8th, on a first come basis starting at 9am.

Many hands, feet and trucks are needed to support the Pine Needle sale. If you are able to help please contact Quanna McAlister or go to www.fumcbelmont.org/signup to sign up to help.

Stock the BCO Sunday If you forgot to bring your BCO shopping bag to church today, that's OK. Bring your non-perishable donations any Sunday and leave them in the narthex to be ready for our next delivery.

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.

First United Methodist Church of Gastonia needs our support to open the ***Gaston County Warming Center*** nights when the temperature will drop below 32 degrees. Sign up to drop off a crock pot of soup, sandwiches or stay and be a hospitality host. Go to www.fumcbelmont.org/signup to offer your help.

Do you have a neighbor who needs some comfort care to help them during a difficult time? If so, we have chicken soup in our church freezer made for them. Pick up a quart of homemade chicken soup prepared by our ***Soup for the Soul*** cooking team to help you show compassion to others.

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***.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, March 2

- 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
- 6:00 p.m. Anxious Generation Book Club

Monday, March 3

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Administrative Council

Tuesday, March 4

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

Wednesday, March 5

- 11:00 a.m. Ash Wednesday Service
- 5:00 p.m. Staff Parish Relations Committee
- 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
- 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 6

- 11:45 a.m. Community Cafe'
- 6:30 p.m. Square Two Gathering

Friday, March 7

- 1:00-7 p.m. Pine Needle Sales
- 6:30 a.m. Men's Meeting

Saturday, March 8

- 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Pine Needle Sales
- 4:30 p.m. Room in the Inn

Sunday, March 9

- 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. Crossroads
- 5:30 p.m. Connect

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Jessica Murray

Brenda Austin

Shirley Hunt, Trevis Lunsford's sister

Roger and Missy White's friend, Cherie Braun

Kendall Karr

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

Darrell Moody, Doug Moody's brother

Carolyn Glenn (friend of Kathy Johnston)

Anne Tria

Gavin Hanigan, Gail & Ed Hanigan's grandson

Roger White

Cheryl Sutton's mother, Frances Soule

Beverly Karr's son, Kendall

Beverly Karr

Drucilla Harris, sister-in-law of Sam and Janice Pennington

Laura Abernathy, Leigh Nance's sister

Erin Carver, Renee and Tim Painter's daughter

Murphy Clark and family

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



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

MARCH 5 | 11:00 AM AND 6:30 PM

Practicing the Way

Be with Jesus
Become like him
Do as he did

**John Mark
Comer**

New York Times bestselling author of
The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry



Lenten Churchwide Adult Small Group Study



Join in on the discussion;
how do we become more like Jesus?

Join a small group discussion
on Wednesday evenings and Thursdays at 11:00 a.m.
March 12 - April 16

Sign up at fumcbelmont.org/smallgroups

OUR STAFF

Carole Bertino | Administrative Assistant | carole@fumcbelmont.org
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