

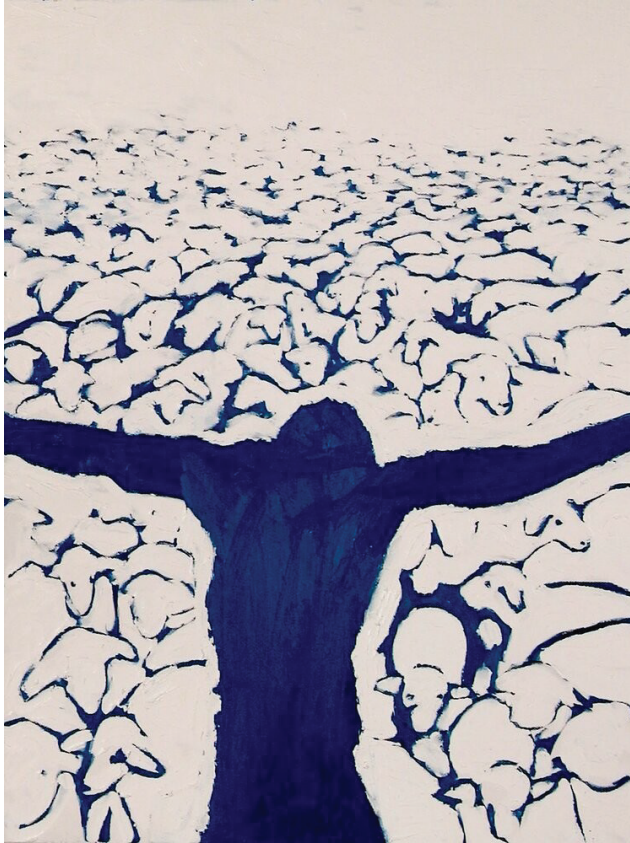
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

March 30, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

The Fourth Sunday in Lent



The Good Shepherd by Daniel Bonnell

.....
*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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Jesus in His Own Words

Lent 2025 | First UMC Belmont

Welcome to worship on this Fourth Sunday in Lent, a season of reflection and spiritual preparation as we journey toward the cross and resurrection of Christ. During these forty days, we are invited to turn our hearts toward God, deepening our faith through prayer, repentance, and renewal. Today, we continue our sermon series, *I AM: Jesus in His Own Words*, focusing on John 10:11-18, where Jesus declares, "I am the Good Shepherd." In a world where strength is often measured by power, Jesus redefines leadership through sacrificial love, laying down his life for the sheep. Even in the face of fear and death, Christ leads us toward the promise of resurrection, reminding us that God's love is stronger than any darkness we face.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"
Amy Dominov, organist

arr. Various

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus says, "I am the Good Shepherd."

The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Though fear and darkness surround us, we will not be afraid.

Christ leads us beyond the shadows into life abundant.

The Shepherd calls us by name—let us listen and follow.

With trust and joy, we worship the One who leads us home!

Doreen Collins

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 144

"This Is My Father's World"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Good Shepherd, you call us by name, yet too often we listen to voices of fear instead. You lead us in love, but we stray, seeking safety in our own strength rather than in your care. You lay down your life for us, yet we hesitate to trust, clinging to what is familiar instead of following where you lead. Forgive us when fear clouds our faith, when worry drowns out your voice, and when we fail to rest in your presence. Remind us that nothing—not even death—can separate us from your love. Restore our souls, that we may walk in courage and confidence, following you into life. 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

Jennifer Martin

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*GOSPEL LESSON

John 10:11-18

Sam Pennington

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.

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

"We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace"

W. Appling

Chancel Choir Men

We shall walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

We shall walk through the valley in peace!

And if Jesus himself shall be our leader,

We shall walk through the valley in peace.

There will be no sorrowing there.

And if Jesus himself shall be our leader,

We shall walk through the valley in peace!

THANKSGIVING

*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.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER (Hymnal No. 895)

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN NO. 138

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

*POSTLUDE

"Grand Chorus, in Gregorian Tonality"

Alexander Guilmant

**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!

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.

The flowers in the chancel area are given to the glory of God and in memory of The Reverend William (Bill) Robbins Ragsdale, Sr., on the occasion of his 85th birthday on March 26 by Annie Joe, George, Catherine, Claire and Anne Louise Ragsdale.

Today's Bulletin Cover features *The Good Shepherd* by Daniel Bonnell, a powerful and unconventional portrayal of Jesus as the Shepherd among his sheep. Using a stark contrast of blue and white, the painting creates an almost dreamlike effect, where the silhouetted figure of Christ blends into the landscape of the flock. The outstretched arms of the shepherd resemble the shape of the cross, subtly reminding us that the Good Shepherd not only leads and protects his sheep but also lays down his life for them. The sheep, depicted in abstract, swirling forms, seem to merge with Christ himself, emphasizing the deep connection between the Shepherd and his flock.



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

Apr. 2: Chicken alfredo, pasta, green beans, rolls 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

Sunday School

Disciple: Be a part of the church wide study "Practicing the Way." No book needed.

Route 66: Studying "Entering the Passion of Jesus" by A.J. Levine.

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

Wanderers: Studying "24 Hours: That changed the world." by Adam Hamilton.

March Men's Meetings at the Youth House: Friday April 4 at 6:30 a.m. This is a time for devotional, growing in community and friendship.

Ruth Circle will combine with the **Holy Walkamolies** group on Sunday April 6th at 4 p.m. All women are welcome! Meet at the church for a fun time of fellowship and walking! RSVP to Paige Dunigan paige1210@gmail.com

Square 2 April Showers Join the women of Square Two in the Route 66 classroom on Thursday, April 10th at 7:00 p.m. Bring bath robes (all sizes), shower shoes (all sizes), and / or mesh bath caddies for the residents of Catherine's House. You can bring more than one item. All women are invites. RSVP to Cindy Jenkins: cwjenkins@carolina.rr.com

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

Attention Seniors and Parents: Graduation is right around the corner. We will recognize all high school and college graduates at the 8:30 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.

Connect

- All youth are invited on March 30 for Game Night! We will play one of our favorites, GROG! Everyone needs to bring a plain white t-shirt that we will decorate and wear for the game.
- Please join us on Sunday night, April 6, for games, dinner, and Bible study.
- Youth will travel to various church members' houses and nursing homes on April 13.

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.



Countdown to Easter Lent small groups for kids - April 2 through 16. First Kids are invited to follow the steps of Jesus on Wednesday nights from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Crossroads (4th and 5th grade) - Sunday, April 6 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Join us for supper, games and talks about friendship.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

Our next **Stock the BCO** Sunday is April 6th. Pick up your black FUMCB food bag today as you leave worship and return it on or before April 6th with non-perishable food items.

The Community Cafe will be having a special live performance during lunch on April 10th from the "Key of D". Come enjoy the music and lunch as you support through your lunch donation women recovering from human trafficking, abuse or drug addiction.

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 30

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Charge Conference
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 12:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting
- 4:00 p.m. The Walking Club
- 5:30 p.m. Connect

Monday, March 31

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Women's Ministry Meeting

Tuesday, April 1

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

Wednesday, April 2

- 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, April 3

- 11:45 a.m. Community Cafe'
- 6:30 p.m. Family Life Committee Meeting

Friday, April 4

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

Saturday, April 5

Sunday, April 6

- 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
- 4:00 p.m. Ruth Circle
- 5:30 p.m. Connect
- 5:30 p.m. Crossroads

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Western North Carolina

Cindy Griffin's brother Jim

Beverly Karr's family upon the death of her mother Sarah Dixon

Tony and Rita Wilson and family

Nancy Smith, Carol Tomlinson's daughter

Ellie Delany

Scott Richards, on the death of his wife Diane (Nicole Stanforth)

Evan Hirschehsohn

Lenny Jansen (Linda Piltch)

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

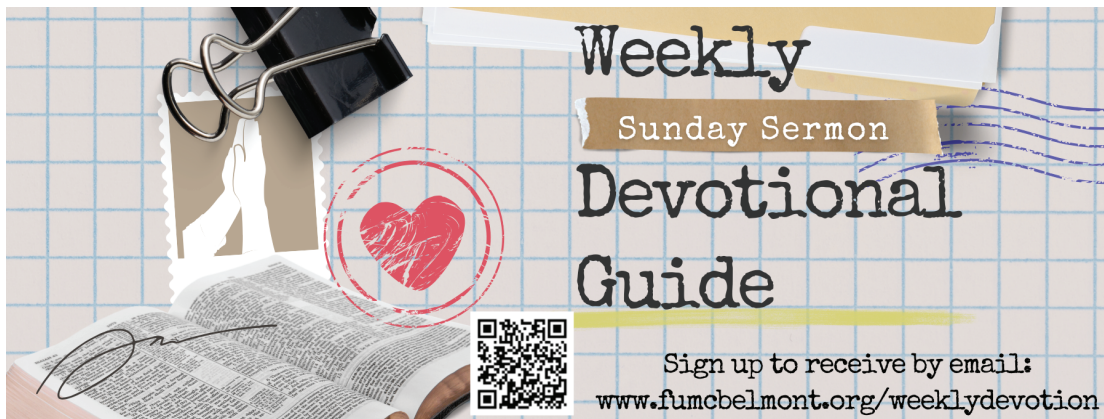
Jessica Murray

Erin Carver, Renee and Tim Painter's daughter

Murphy Clark and family

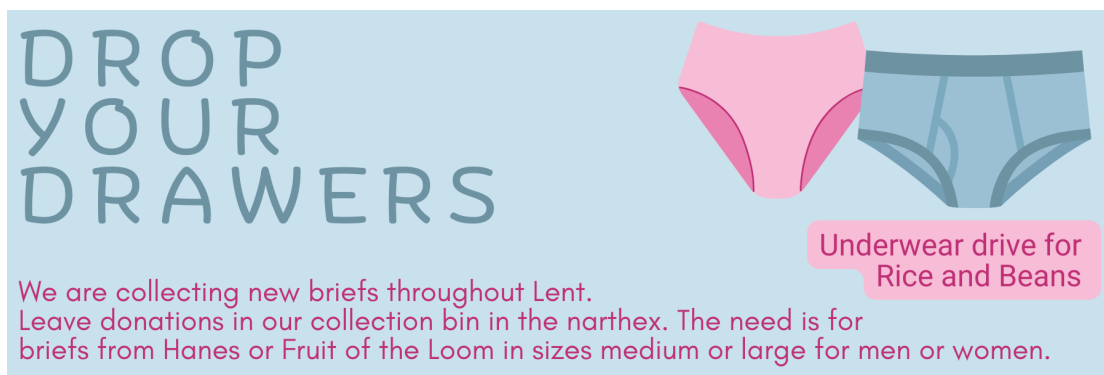
*You can submit prayer requests to
prayers@fumcbelmont.org*

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



Weekly
Sunday Sermon
Devotional
Guide

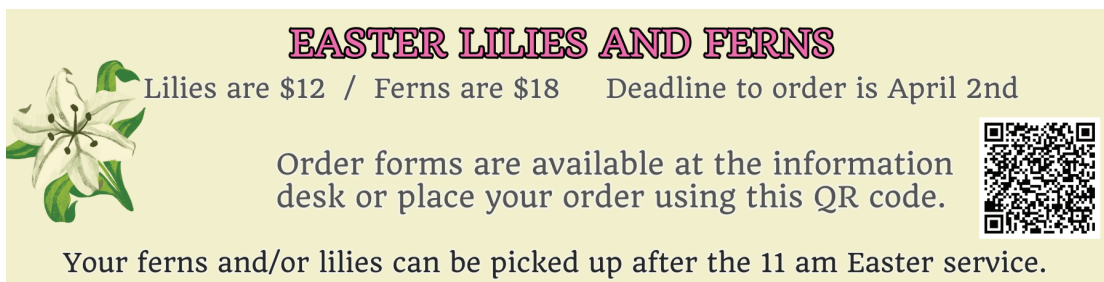
Sign up to receive by email:
www.fumcbelmont.org/weeklydevotion



**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
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Quanna McAlister | Director of Youth Ministries | quanna@fumcbelmont.org
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Mark Sutton | Business Administrator | mark@fumcbelmont.org