

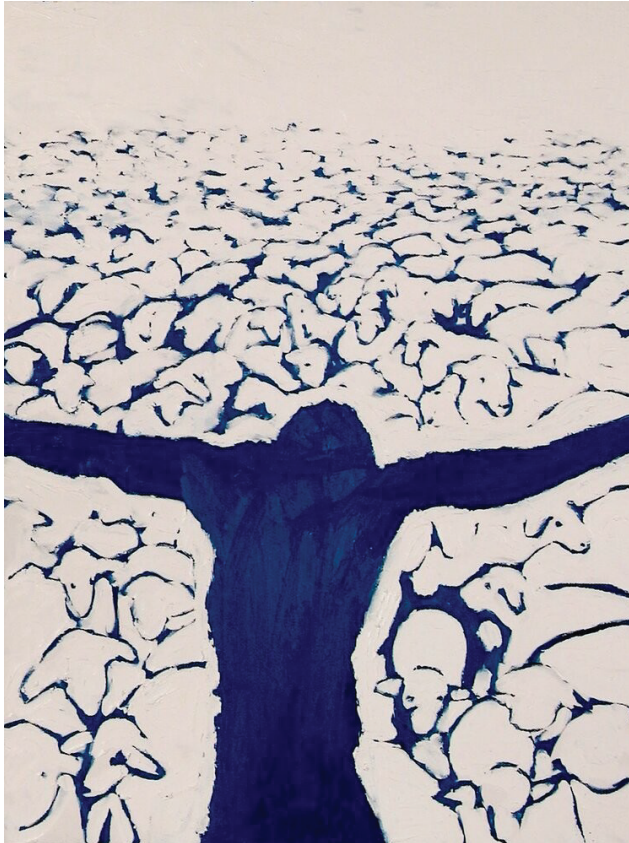
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

March 30, 2025 – 8:30 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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www.fumcbelmont.org



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.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

*OPENING SONG

"This is the Day"

CCLI Song # 7195146

*PRAYER

Doreen Collins

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

Jennifer Martin

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*GOSPEL LESSON

John 10:11-18

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

"Grand Plans"

CCLI Song # 7213006

The Lord is my shepherd
And He is everything I need
So I will not worry
I will not fear the enemy
He said that He loves me
He said that He's with me even though
I walk through the valley
Of shadow and death and still I know
He has good plans
He has good plans for me
So I will take heart
In deserts and gardens
He has good plans for me

The Lord is my Savior
So why should I doubt my victory
Why would I question
The rod and the staff that comforts me
He quiets the waters
He quiets the storm inside of me
So what could be better
Than walking with Him when I believe
Surely Your goodness and mercy
Will follow after me
So fear will not find me
'Cause I'll be dwelling in the house of God

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 *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.

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.

CALLED CHARGE CONFERENCE There will be a called meeting of the Charge Conference, our church's governing body, TODAY 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.



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.*



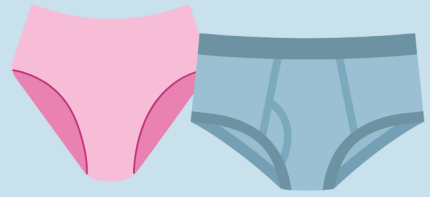
Weekly

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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