

Tri-Angles

MARCH 2025

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



.....
*United in the Spirit, First United Methodist
Church of Belmont exists to be more like
Jesus Christ for our community and beyond*
.....

Dear FUMC Family,

Soon we will enter the sacred season of Lent. In many ways, the Lenten journey is at the heart of who we are as FUMC Belmont, because Lent is fundamentally a journey of becoming more like Jesus. Lent is often associated with fasting or giving something up, but never as ends unto themselves. They are, ultimately, about returning to the practices that shape us into Christ's likeness.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, understood this well. He often spoke of the "means of grace"—practices like prayer, fasting, Scripture reading, and acts of mercy—as ways that God's Spirit transforms us. Wesley believed that these disciplines were not empty rituals but powerful avenues for encountering Christ and growing in holiness.

This is why spiritual disciplines matter: they are not about earning God's love or proving our spiritual acumen but about positioning ourselves to receive God's grace more deeply. The early Church understood this, too.

The fourth century bishop of Caesarea, St. Basil the Great, once said, "He who is full of virtue and good works is like a tree laden with fruit; he who is full of iniquity is like a dry tree, ready for the fire. The soul must train itself with great care." Through "training," attending to the means of grace and disciplines of our faith, we grow and bear good fruit in Christ.

Many Christians today are rediscovering the power of spiritual disciplines. A movement called *Practicing the Way* reminds us that following Jesus isn't just about believing the right things—it's about embodying His way of life. Jesus Himself regularly withdrew to pray, fasted in the wilderness, engaged deeply with Scripture, and lived in close community with others. If we want to be transformed, we must walk as Christ walked.

This Lent, I invite you to commit to a spiritual discipline—whether it's fasting, daily Scripture meditation, silent prayer, or intentional acts of service. Ask the Holy Spirit to use this time to shape you into the image of Christ.

One important means of grace and disciplines at the heart of United Methodism is meeting together with other Christians. Our small groups this Lent will use a guide provided by *Practicing the Way* to explore spiritual disciplines and practices that make us, in their words, "apprentices" to Christ. Groups will spend time sharing, practicing and reflecting together. Truly, I cannot imagine a better way to get to know new people at FUMC AND grow in faith through the Lenten season. Read on to learn more about those groups and sign up today.

May this Lenten season be one of renewal, as we journey together in the way of Jesus. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your pastor.

In Christ,

George

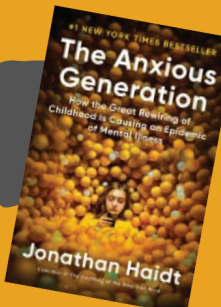


CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

The Anxious Generation Book Club

Meets March 2
6:00-7:30
Old Fellowship Hall

Read chapters 5-8. All ages and stages are invited to join the conversation.



Join the ladies of Square 2

March 6 at 7 pm
Narthex Meeting Room
Short time of devotion,
fellowship and fun games

NEW GAME

RSVP to Doreen:
doreen@fumcbelmont.org



March 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.

THIS MONTH'S BOOK

STATIONS of the HEART
Parting with a Son
RICHARD LISCHER

STORIES TO LIVE
EXPLORING SPIRITUAL MEMOIRS

Sunday, March 23 at 6:00
with Pastor George



Join Pastor George on a journey through powerful spiritual memoirs that challenge and inspire us. Our next book is *Stations of the Heart* by Richard Lischer, a deeply moving account of a father's final months with his son, exploring faith, love, and loss with raw honesty and grace. This memoir invites us into profound reflection on life's deepest questions, offering a testament to the presence of God in our suffering. Come ready to read, reflect, and share as we engage this powerful story together.

JOIN

Ruth Circle

Thursday, March 24 - 6:30 pm
Out to dinner - place TBD
Bring a monetary donation for
Catherine's House meal.

RSVP Paige Dunigan - paige1210@gmail.com

Women's Retreat at Lake Junaluska

All Ladies are Welcome!

Join us for a relaxing weekend, making new
friends and reconnecting with God.

May 16-18, 2025

Sign up at fumcbelmont.org/signup
or paper forms are at the information desk
See Doreen for more information



Join us for a fun night
of fellowship

Youth
Capture the Flag & Small Group Bible Study

Sunday, March 9
5:30-7:30



YOUTH LUNCH PARTY

Qdoba
and
Sweet Frogs

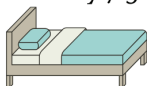
SUNDAY, MARCH 16
12:15-2:30

YOUTH ROOM IN THE INN EVENT



Let's help the unhoused by setting up their beds for the evening and enjoy a yummy meal together.

We will leave FUMC at 3:30 and return by 7:30



SATURDAY
March 22 @ 3:30

Sign up online to volunteer and bring a meal!





Youth Mission Experience
JUNE 3 AND 4
See Quanna to sign up today!

**Harvest of Hope
Youth
Mission Trip
July 23-27**

Join our mission to help our fellow neighbors by taking action and sharing good food gleaned from the farms of NC

Celebrate the mission on Saturday at Carowinds

Sign up today!

Crossroads

Crossroads, our special tween group for 4th and 5th graders, kicked off 2025 with an afternoon of team-building exercises at Anne Springs Close Greenway in Fort Mill. Kids and adults had to stretch out of our comfort zones and TRUST each other.



All 4th and 5th graders are invited to our March meetings in the Old Fellowship Hall from 5:30-7:30.
March 9 and 23.

First Kids February Highlights

Glow Wednesday Night Small Groups

Our Wednesday night small groups have been learning that darkness may be scary but it's nothing the light of Jesus can't fix! We read the Bible, made crafts, enjoyed snacks and had a glow party every Wednesday last month!



Nacho Average Fun Night/Parent Date Night

On Feb 7, First Kids had a fun night of nachos, cactus crafts, games and more while parents enjoyed a date night. We learned to be like a cactus and store up the promises of God for times when we need them most. Many thanks to our volunteers for making this awesome night possible!



OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

Community Cafe Join us for a delicious lunch, prepared by Dahlia Grove, in Carpenter Hall between 11:45-1:15 Specialty sandwiches, salads and child friendly meals will be on the menu. Donations will support the women in the Dahlia Grove residential community who are survivors of human trafficking, domestic violence or addiction.

Room in the Inn We only have two 2 Saturdays left this winter to prepare a meal and make beds for our neighbors who are without houses and need emergency shelter. Thanks to the Youth Group, taking care of the people's needs on March 22nd is covered. If you would like to help March 8th go to www.fumcbelmont.org/signup.



Drop off Dates
Mar 3
April 7

Collecting monthly non-perishable food to help those without adequate food resources

TOP 20 REQUESTS

Rice	Crackers
Jelly	Mac & Cheese
Pop tarts	Pasta
Grits	Pasta Sauce
Oatmeal	Dried Beans
Peanut Butter	Corn Muffin
Instant	Mix
Potatoes	Cookies
Soup	
Canned: Meat, Fruit	
Tomatoes, Vegetables and Pasta	



PINE BALES

Available March 7th & 8th | \$5.75 a bale

Proceeds support the Youth and Men's Group.

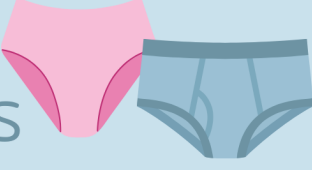
If you would like to reserve bales for pick up or sign up to volunteer you can do either action on our link:
www.fumcbelmont.org/signup



Help feed hungry children during the school spring break

Sign up at www.fumcbelmont.org/signup

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.

Soup for the Soul Do you know a neighbor who is sick or in need of comfort? Take them a quart of Chicken Noodle Soup made by our Soup for the Soul cooking team. The soup is in our freezer ready to bring comfort to someone in need of care. To learn more, contact Debbie Thames at dhthames@gmail.com



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



NEWS FROM OUR CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER



February was an exciting month at the CDC! Our loving families provided a Super Bowl chili luncheon for our Super Staff. The children made Valentines to share with customers at Dahlia Grove Café. All of our students received Valentine cards in the mail from their family and friends. Sharing Love and Receiving Love! Our month ended with discussions about Presidents and preparing for Dr. Seuss's upcoming birthday.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 1	Kathleen Allison Tom Haus Kaleb Setzer	March 10	George Ragsdale Leighton Stamps	March 18	Benjamin Biddix Zachary Cochran
March 2	Stacey Redmond Reid Washam	March 11	Reid Apple Jim Groner	March 19	Harvey Elmore Ellen Robison
March 3	Sarah Gray Dean Rice Abbey Smith Cindy Washam	March 12	Joe Maynard David Lange Tim Painter Emma Tipton	March 20	Mary Haines Bill Fangman Jeff Rogers
March 4	Katie Ingram Jennifer Kelso	March 13	Jack Krouse Case Russell III	March 21	James Harris
March 5	Freda Howie	March 14	Aiden Farmer Cindy Groner	March 22	Bailey Hanafin Jayce Marr
March 6	Hugh Henkel		Brody Kincaid	March 23	Sophie Hanafin Emmily Mobley
March 7	Tom Fortenberry Graham Loper		Chris Lowrance Piper Martin Mary Nance	March 24	Abier Thornton
March 8	Wade Apple Elizabeth Maynard Debbie Saunders Lena Ware	March 15	Alex Bryant	March 25	D. J. Ham
March 9	Angela Bradmon Gil Fickle Darren Leong Mark Moore Savannah Shaney	March 16	William Overcash Annie Joe Ragsdale	March 26	Sharon Gensch
		March 17	Gracie Durham Kathy Johnston Danielle Kelly Kaitlin Kinney Keith Moore	March 27	Dale Beaty Sara Clark David Deal
				March 28	Matthew Agee John Kalmbach
				March 29	David Brinkley Connor Cromer Sharon Lochaby
				March 31	Beth Haggai Olivia Thornton

THOUGHTS, PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

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

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

Website update

**Opportunities to Serve
and other Events**

With all that we have going on as a church, we've heard feedback from the congregation that it can be challenging to keep track of the best way to get involved. In an effort to simplify, we created the page fumcbelmont.org/signup to be a single resource for all of the active service opportunities and upcoming events that we have. We encourage you to visit this new page, sign-up to serve, and check back periodically to see what other opportunities come up!

**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.



The Western North Carolina Conference of the UMC invites laity of all ages to fellowship, dialogue and learn with renowned peacebuilders. Through three days of worship, interactive plenaries, workshops, hands-on shalom experiences, film screenings, and informal conversation, participants will share strategies and hopes of how we, as people of faith, can build bridges of peace across political, theological, and social divides.
www.wnccumc.org/peace-conference-2025