

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

May 11, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter



The Adoration of the Lamb from the Codex Aureus of Saint Emmeram (870)

.....
***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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Good morning and welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont! This morning we continue our look at the Book of Revelation, turning to John's vision of worship in heaven. Angels, all living creatures, and "thousands of thousands" of people are present. The Lamb—Jesus Christ—at the center. John reminds us that we are not on the throne; God is. Whatever our personal agendas, pet projects or cherished opinions—or even our pain, sorrow and struggle, they do not get the final word. They are not ultimate, Jesus is. Our ultimate purpose in life is to glorify, worship, and honor God in all we do. On this Mother's Day, we give thanks for all women who have exemplified a God-centered life for us.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

arr. John Purifoy

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jennifer Martin

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth, wisdom and might!

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God forever!

Thousands upon thousands sing with one voice,

All creation joins in the song of praise!

Let us set aside every weight that draws us from the throne,

And with hearts and lives, glorify the One who reigns forever.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 73

"O Worship the King"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have often sought to take the place that belongs to you alone. We have trusted in our own strength and clung to our own pride. In our pain and weariness, we have struggled to trust your steadfast love. Forgive us, we pray; turn our hearts again to the Lamb who reigns with mercy and truth. Teach us to glorify you not only with our lips, but with our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Revelation 5:11-14

Claire Dunham

SERMON

The Rev. George Ragsdale

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 880

The Nicene Creed

INVITATION TO PRAYER

***Lord, hear us when we pray;
in every troubled day we seek your face.
Your name be glorified, your greatness magnified;
matchless your works abide, O Lord our God!***

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

"Behold the Throne of God Above"

Vikki Cook

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is love
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on His hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart
When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin

Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me
Behold Him there, the risen Lamb
My perfect, spotless Righteousness
The great unchangeable I Am
The King of glory and of grace
One with Himself, I cannot die
My soul is purchased by His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Savior and my God

THANKSGIVING

*ACT OF PRAISE

"Doxology"

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts!
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

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

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN NO. 327

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

*POSTLUDE

"All Hail the Power"

arr. Douglas Wagner

**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 Adoration of the Lamb* from the Codex Aureus of Saint Emmeram, an illuminated Gospel book created around 870 in the court of Charles the Bald—grandson of Charlemagne and a patron of the Carolingian Renaissance. This richly adorned manuscript, with its gold leaf and jeweled covers, reflects both imperial grandeur and deep devotion. At its center is the Lamb of God, enthroned and worshiped by angels and saints, drawn from the heavenly vision in Revelation. It is a visual confession that power and glory belong not to emperors or earthly rulers, but to the Lamb.

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.

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

Sunday School

Disciple: Bible Project videos and class questions to start conversations about what we believe as Methodists and how we respond to people who think differently.

Route 66: Studying "*Simon Peter*" by Adam Hamilton.

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

Wanderers: Studying "*The Lord's Prayer*" by Adam Hamilton.

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

May 18 - 1:30-3:30 All youth are invited for our End of School Year Pool Party at the Boney residence. Let's "jump" into summer together!

Summer Youth Meet Ups:

- **June 12** All youth are invited to a fun afternoon kayaking or paddleboarding at the Whitewater Center. This trip is for rising 7th through 12th graders. We will leave church at noon and return by 4:30.
- **July 1** Summer Night Youth Hangout - All youth are invited to a night of fellowship and fun at the Youth House. This event is for rising 7th through 12th graders. We will enjoy pizza, ice cream, Gaga Pit, and board games. Let's spend time together.

Email Quanna at quanna@fumcbelmont.org for more details or to sign up for our summer events.

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Vacation Bible School is July 13-17, and we invite all 4-year-olds through completed 5th grade to join us for our *True North adventure*! VBS is 5:30-8:00 and includes supper each night. Visit www.fumcbelmont.org/vbs for more details and to register.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

We are still in need of more sandwiches for our donation to **A Roof Above**. We have committed to providing 400 sandwiches for lunch at the day center serving the unhoused this week. Go to fumcbelmont.org/signup to sign up to bring 20 sandwiches to Carpenter Hall TOMORROW, Monday, May 12th, between 5-7pm.

We have only 3 more Thursdays to help support women recovering from human trafficking, domestic violence and drug abuse in the Dahlia Grove recovery program. Our **Community Cafe** will be serving from 11:30-1:15 on May 15th, 22nd and 29th. The women who serve us will take a break from food service during June and July to pursue other entrepreneurial projects.

How can you help those affected by Hurricane Helene? Join our **Disaster Relief Team**. We are heading to Asheville June 15-18 to do relief work. No special skills are needed to help with the recovery efforts. There will be jobs for everyone who wants to be present and serve. If you are interested, reach out to our Missions team on the FUMCB sign up page fumcbelmont.org/signup.

Mother's Day 2025 Backpack Food Program

***Donations have been made to the Backpack Food Program
to honor and remember these loved ones.***



Sara Stowe and Anita Greene
Given by Wes and Pam Stowe

Irene Kivett
Given by Betty Pennington

Wanda Randolph
Given by Richard Randolph

All Mothers Everywhere
Given by Christie Etling

Cici, Nana and Grandma Linda
Given by Ellie and Jackson Delany

Brook Rowland, Casey Clark, Karyn Fortenberry,
Willena Harris, and Betty Phillips
Given by Becky and Tom Fortenberry

Our Moms, Mary and Frances
Given by Margie and Arthur Ligon

**As she retires, join us as we celebrate Margie Ligon's Ministry
Sunday, May 18 following the 11 o'clock service**



If you'd like to contribute to a love offering being received to honor Margie's time with us, simply write "Margie Love Offering" on your contribution and place it in the offering plate. Contributions can also be made through the church office AND online at www.fumcbelmont.org/online-giving

Happy Retirement



David Christy Farewell Reception

Sunday, May 18 3 - 5 Drop-in
First UMC Gastonia - 190 East Franklin Blvd.

Gifts are optional, but your presence is priceless!

Note: If you'd like to contribute to the district gift or if you can't attend and would like to leave a gift or card, please email Jana Alexander (JAlexander@wnccumc.org).

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, May 11

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, May 12

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Children's Council Meeting
6:30 p.m. Service & Missions Meeting
6:30 p.m. Racial Healing & Reconciliation Mtg

Tuesday, May 13

11:00 a.m. Practicing the Way Small Group

Wednesday, May 14

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 15

11:45 a.m. June/July Newsletter Deadline
Community Cafe'

Friday, May 16

Women's Retreat

Saturday, May 17

Women's Retreat

Sunday, May 18

Women's Retreat
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. Farewell Reception for Margie
Ligon
1:30 p.m. Connect End of Year Pool Party
4:00 p.m. The Walking Club

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Halo, Rita and Tony Wilson's granddaughter

The family of Pam upon her death (Tony and Rita
Wilson's neighbor)

Brayden (Becky Fortenberry's grandson)

Teresa (Dottie Moore's friend)

Ginger Feimster

The families of 4 co-workers that lost their lives
and three others who are currently in the
hospital (Jordan Miller)

Luna and Mike McCormick upon the death of
Luna's daughter (Matthew Henry)

Gage Brown (Leigh Nance)

Marshall Stowe (Sally Bashant & Wes Stowe's
brother)

Lynda Jenkins (Cindy Griffin)

Sandy Mags (Cindy Griffin)

Jimmy Turner (Cindy Griffin)

Chris & Connie Atkins and the family of Jill Atkins,
upon her death

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.*

CHURCHWIDE PICNIC

At The Park

SUNDAY, JUNE 1ST 2 – 6 PM

South Point Access Park

175 Boat Launch Road, Belmont

RSVP: fumcbelmont.org/signup

The church will provide sub sandwiches. Bring a side, drinks, or dessert to share.

Join us for games, playground, boat rides, swimming and more! Kids are encouraged to bring sand toys. Join us and get to know your church family from different worship services. (Please note, there are no lifeguards.)



**You Moose-t
volunteer with VBS!
July 13-17**

Email lbrookins18@gmail.com today to volunteer.

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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