

Tri-Angles

MAY 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***
.....

Charting the Future: New Strategic Plan Adopted

Since January 2024, a dedicated group of church members and leaders has been meeting as our Strategic Planning Team to discern a faithful path forward for the mission and ministry of First United Methodist Church. This team has engaged in a year-long journey of prayerful listening, learning, and planning with a deep commitment to helping our church become even more responsive to God's calling in this next, new season of ministry.

Early in the process, our team joined the *First Church Cohort*, connecting with other "First Churches" across Western North Carolina. These gatherings, led by conference staff and Bishop Ken Carter, offered valuable insight from leaders and experts across our connection and helped us think creatively about the opportunities before us.

Last summer, we held a series of listening sessions and distributed surveys to both our congregation and the wider community. The goal was simple: to hear deeply and honestly what people are experiencing, needing, and hoping for in the life of the church. To help us faithfully interpret that feedback, we invited the Rev. Rene Wilt to serve as a coach and facilitator. Her guidance helped the team shape conversations and conduct focused small-group gatherings to explore in detail how First UMC might live more fully into our mission.

Drawing from these many voices and moments of discernment, the team prayerfully drafted a strategic plan, which was presented and approved by the Administrative Council in March. This plan represents not just the work of a committee, but the shared hopes and vision of a church listening to God and to one another.

Our 2025 Strategic Plan for Ministry centers on three areas of focus: *Sharing Our Story with Others* by becoming more visible and confident in our witness; *Welcoming All* through building a church where every person is truly received and valued; and *Growing Personally in Faith* by deepening discipleship and streamlining ministries for greater impact.

The full plan, including key actions and guiding Scriptures, is included in this newsletter for your prayerful reading and engagement. We are excited for the months ahead as we begin to live into this vision together!

First United Methodist Church of Belmont 2025 Strategic Plan for Ministry

FOCUS ONE: SHARING OUR STORY WITH OTHERS

Developing a more visible presence in the community, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and the mission and ministry of First UMC Belmont.

"Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you." - 1 Peter 3:15

1. Update church communications with a focus on the website and digital communications.
2. Provide training opportunities for congregation in the area of faith sharing and witness.
3. Develop and distribute promotional items for outreach.
4. Improve external church signage and other visuals to make our mission as a church more apparent and obvious.

FOCUS TWO: WELCOMING ALL

Building a community in which all people, without exception, are accepted and welcomed.

"Be hospitable to one another... Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." – 1 Peter 4:9-10

1. Develop a comprehensive, intentional system for welcoming all people into the life of the church.
2. Explore and experiment with alternative ways of "being church."
3. Partner with existing groups in the community who represent those who are often excluded.

FOCUS THREE: GROWING PERSONALLY IN FAITH

Growing an atmosphere of accountability in which each of us is committed to deeper faithfulness in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18

1. Streamline and focus ministry activities through prioritizing and pruning.
2. Develop a comprehensive system to discover, develop, and deploy laity for mission and ministry.



Mention the Book of Revelation and you will usually get a quizzical look. The final book of the Bible, Revelation contains mysterious language and fantastic imagery that often confuses. *Revelation: Living with the End in Mind* invites us to hear Revelation not as a cryptic prediction of the future, but as a bold, hope-filled call to live faithfully in the present. Across five powerful visions, John reveals a God who reigns now, a Lamb who is worthy of worship, a church gathered in every language and land, a world being made new, and a future filled with healing, light, and life. Far from encouraging escape or fear, Revelation gives us courage for today—reminding us that God is with us, Christ reigns, and we are called to embody hope, justice, and love no matter what the world may bring. This Easter season, we live with the end in mind—not with fear, but with faithfulness, as we follow the Lamb and join in God's work of making all things new.

May 4 – Third Sunday of Easter (Graduation Sunday) *Scripture: Revelation 1:4–8*

Revelation doesn't open with dread—it begins with a deep breath of hope! This week, we'll hear how Jesus, the faithful witness, has freed us and called us into something beautiful: a kingdom of priests, serving God together. As we celebrate our graduates, we'll consider what it means to live faithfully and courageously into our own God-given callings.

May 11 – Fourth Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day) *Scripture: Revelation 5:11–14*

What if worship isn't just something we do, but the very heartbeat of heaven itself? This Sunday, we're drawn into a cosmic chorus around the throne of God. On a day when we honor those who've nurtured us and helped us to grow, we reflect on what it means to center our lives in praise, humility, and purpose.

May 18 – Fifth Sunday of Easter *Scripture: Revelation 7:9–17*

A multitude no one can count, from every nation, culture, and language, standing together in worship...this is the church as God envisions it! In this week's scripture, John's vision invites us to imagine and embody a community marked by healing, inclusion, and victory—not just someday, but today.

May 25 – Sixth Sunday of Easter *Scripture: Revelation 21:1–6*

"See, I am making all things new." These are not words of escape, but of presence and promise. This Sunday, we'll explore the power of God's faithful renewal—how God meets us in sorrow, dwells with us in love, and reshapes our hope. In a world that longs for peace, here is a vision of trust that holds us fast.

June 1 – Seventh Sunday of Easter / Ascension Sunday *Scripture: Revelation 21:10, 22–22:5, 12–14, 16–17, 20–21*

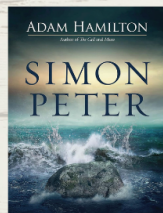
Revelation ends not with destruction, but with a garden—the tree of life blooming again, light without end, healing for the nations. This week, we step into a vision of ultimate hope: God's story brought to fullness, and our story caught up in it. "Come, Lord Jesus," we pray. And in the waiting, we live as people of the light.

Drop in on an Adult Sunday School Class!

Disciple

They use Bible Project videos and class questions to start conversations about what we believe as Methodists and how we respond to people who think differently. No topic is off the table and each Sunday may look and feel quite different. That's part of the fun.

Route 66

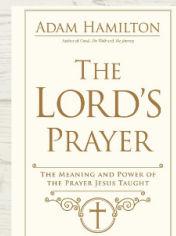


Peter was just an ordinary guy who heard and followed God's extraordinary call. Discover how you, too, have special gifts, talents, and abilities that God can use to make a difference today.

New Class! Salt & Light Fellowship

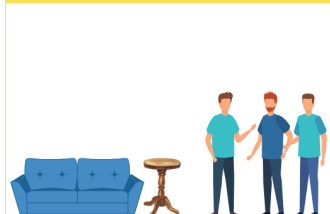
Meeting in the Narthex Meeting Rm. A place to have real conversations and build relationships. They will begin with a Scripture devotional and then talk about how God is moving in their lives that week.

Wanderers



It is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. But do we really understand and appreciate the meaning and power of its words, and what we ask of God each time we pray it?

MAY
FIRST FRIDAY
MEN'S MEETING



TIME FOR
DEVOTIONAL,
GROWING IN
COMMUNITY
AND FRIENDSHIP

FRIDAY
May 2 - 6:30 am
in the
Youth House

Join the Ladies of Square Two for a Hike and Lunch

Thursday May 8th at 10:30
Rocky Branch Trail:
meet at 103 Sacco St, Belmont
Afterwards go to lunch at the Community Cafe
If you cannot make the hike meet them at
church at Noon for lunch.
RSVP to Pam Stowe: stowe5612@yahoo.com



Vitality [vy-tal-uh-tee] **noun** Having remarkable energy and liveliness; necessary to the existence of life; of the utmost importance; indispensable and essential.

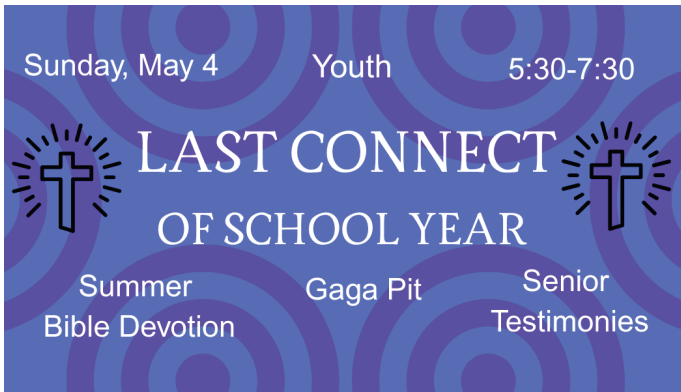
A vital congregation in our United Methodist context is (singularly) focused on the mission of the church. It has the resources to engage in this mission, and is consistently fruitful at making disciples, whom God continually uses to transform the world.

The Western North Carolina Conference shares that 8 characteristics of Vital and Sustainable Local Congregations include being outward focused, faithful leadership, and intentional discipling culture. See all 8: www.wnccumc.org/ChurchDevelopment.

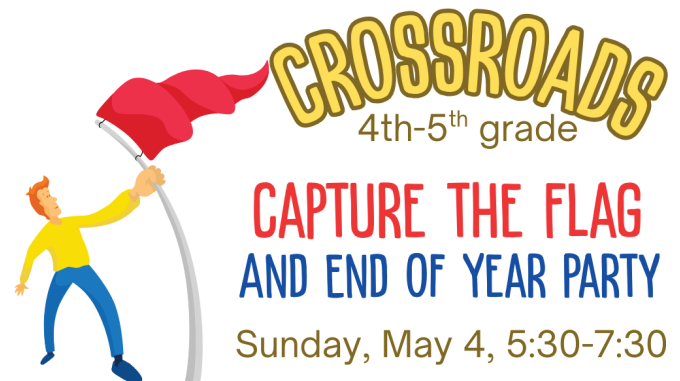
Webinars on each one: www.wnccumc.org/churchdev-lister/51474.

GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

May is a month filled with much celebration for the youth at FUMC! We will recognize our members who are graduating high school or college at the 8:30 service on May 4. All youth are also welcome to join us for our last "regular" Connect of the school year, on May 4. Plan to join us at the Boney residence for our End of Year Pool Party on Sunday, May 18.



FIRST KIDS



Alleluia Choir will have rehearsal and an end of year party on Wednesday, May 7 at 5:30. The kids will sing at the 11:00 worship on Mother's Day, May 11.





EASTER REFLECTIONS

APRIL 20, 2025



OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

Our next **Stock the BCO** Sunday is May 4th. Please drop off your donations of non-perishable foods by May 4th. Our next Sunday to collect will be June 8th.

The **Community Cafe'** supported by the women in rehabilitation at Dahlia Grove will be taking time off in June and July to pursue other marketing projects this summer. May 29th will be our last meal for the summer. The Cafe will reopen in August.



Forms are in the narthex or scan the QR code

Mother's Day May 11th

Honor your mother or special person by donating to the Backpack Food Program

SANDWICH DROP

May 12th | 5-7pm

Prepare 20 sandwiches at home & drop off in Carpenter Hall for A Roof Above

Sign up to drop off sandwiches to help us reach our quota of 400. Use the QR code or go to fumcbelmont.org/signup







Father's Day June 15th

Honor that special man or person in your life with a donation to support our global missionaries. Michelle Kunce is serving in Brazil in a ministry providing safe afterschool care for children. Eric Kalumba is a church planter in Madagascar.

Forms are in the narthex, or use the QR code provided.



Meals are needed for several Mondays in the months of June and July for the residents at **Catherine's House**. Providing a meal assures the parents are free to attend a required training event. If you can provide a gift card or drop off a homemade meal for the families please sign up at fumcbelmont.org/signup.



Join our FUMCB mission TEAM heading to Asheville June 15-18 to help with Hurricane Helene recovery efforts

For more details or to sign up, go to
fumcbelmont.org/signup

NEWS FROM OUR CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The CDC was HOPPIN in April!

April may bring showers but it also brings National Week of the Young Child! During the first full week of April, our nation celebrates young children each year. The week was filled with special activities like bike day, popsicles, picnics outside and making our own pizzas for a yummy lunch. We wore themed clothing each day for an added celebration. It was fun to have some friendly rivalries on Favorite Team Day!

This month we studied birds and made bird feeders that you may see in trees around the church. We used feathers for artwork and learned names of birds as well and compared egg sizes and colors.

Easter is always an enjoyable time at the CDC as we talk about Christ and the blessings he gives to us. After reading the Easter story, the children enjoyed a trip to the Narthex to see the life sized wooden cross. We had egg hunts and special Easter snacks with our families.

Spring is blooming and so are the bugs, so we ended the month with a study on insects. Did you know an ant can carry objects 10 to 50 times its own weight or that a bumble bee flaps it's wings 230 times in ONE second? Insects are amazing creatures and all have important jobs to do just like us!



HIGHLIGHTS

Our church wide Lenten study "Practicing the Way" was well attended and many walked away growing in their discipleship and walk with God. They learned how to be with Jesus, to become more like Him, and do as Jesus did. Which is our ultimate goal as followers of Christ. Thank you to Mary Beth Tipton, John Tria, and Brandon Martin for leading these sessions!

If you are interested in the program you can still go online to practictheway.org, register for a free account, and watch all of the videos and download a free workbook.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1	Jordyn Harrison Braxton Tindall Mark Wilson	May 15	Mike Harrison Larry Kimel Debbie Lorance Sharon Ruiz Hendrix Smith	May 24	Sally Bashant Leigh Nance Gearl Dean Page Kelly Robinson Adam Tipton Carolyn Tyson
May 3	Sharron Herre Carson Meyer				
May 4	Alex Boehlke Dennis Lorance Ben Millspaw	May 16	Pat Rice	May 25	Eleanor Delany Kathy McKinney
May 6	Amelia McKnight	May 17	Sean Corcoran Eddie Ingram John Karr	May 26	John Tria, Jr.
May 8	Abbey Gensch Karen Henry Dawn Thompson	May 18	Nikki Fulcher Lisa Millspaw	May 28	Declan Gaskill Jessica Gray Jack O'Tuel
May 9	Tom Muchler Heidi Schwark	May 19	Beulah Mullinax	May 29	Lindsay Bondurant Tricia Vangastle
May 11	William Falls, Jr. Hilary Hansen Laura Henkel	May 22	John Armstrong Sloane Taylor Megan Wilhelm	May 30	Kevin Krouse Avery Tipton
May 14	Fred Englerth Fletcher Martin Chip Stansell	May 23	Victoria Tindall Rita Wilson	May 31	Walker Featherston Cindy Jenkins

THOUGHTS, PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

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))

Ginger Feimster

Lynda Jenkins (Cindy Griffin)

Sandy Mags (Cindy Griffin)

Jimmy Turner (Cindy Griffin)

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

John Butler's cousin, Joann Leathres

Shawn Kelly's family upon the death of his mother, Linda

Jones family after the death of Bryan's father, Bob Jones

Diane and Paul Kitchens

Emelda Lawing, Leigh Nance's aunt

Western North Carolina

Erin Carver, Renee and Tim Painter's daughter

Murphy Clark and family

You can submit prayer requests to prayers@fumcbelmont.org

OUR STAFF

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