

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

May 4, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

The Third Sunday of Easter



*Christ Pantocrator, Alpha and Omega, surrounded by angels, the elect, and Mary, Mother of God,
Dome of Paradise by Giusto de' Menabuoi (1320–1391)*

.....
***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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Welcome to worship at First United Methodist Church of Belmont! Today we begin our Easter season series, Revelation: Living with the End in Mind, by challenging popular ideas about Revelation as a secret code about the end times. Instead, we hear its urgent call to live faithfully now—especially in times of fear, uncertainty, and injustice. At our 8:30 worship service, we celebrate our 2025 graduates, giving thanks for their journey and praying for God's courage and clarity in their lives for the road ahead. Whatever the future holds, we trust that God holds their future—and ours.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

Robert Lau

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Quanna McAlister

Christ is risen, and death does not have the final word.

Christ is risen, and love reigns over fear.

The Lamb is on the throne, and all things are being made new.

We are witnesses to hope.

We are called to resist evil, to embody grace,

Let us worship the Risen Christ, our beginning and our end.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 731

"Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lamb of God, you call us to faithfulness, but we are tempted by ease. You offer us courage, but we often choose comfort. We confess that we have been content to ignore injustice, avoid sacrifice, and trust power over love. Forgive us for the ways we have aligned with empire instead of your kingdom. Remind us that your victory comes not through force, but through faithfulness. Give us strength to follow you—to resist evil, to love boldly, and to live with the end in mind: your justice, peace, and joy. 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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Revelation 1:4-8

Ed Hanigan

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.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

"You Do Not Walk Alone"

Elaine Hagenberg

May you see God's light on the path ahead
when the road you walk is dark.
May you always hear even in your hour of sorrow,
the gentle singing of the lark.
When times are hard
may hardness never turn your heart to stone.
May you always remember when the shadows fall,
You do not walk alone.

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

*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!***

TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Hymnal No. 17-18)

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

*BREAKING THE BREAD

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

***Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given
yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of
your Spirit, to give ourselves for others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.***

EXTENDING THE TABLE

This morning, lay communion servers come forward to receive consecrated bread and juice from worship to share with homebound members who cannot be present today. We pray for them, remembering God's grace unites us as one within Christ's holy church. If you are aware of someone who would like to receive but cannot be present, speak with Pastor George after service.

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN NO. 578 *"God of Love and God of Power"*

*POSTLUDE *"To God Be the Glory"* arr. Garret Parker

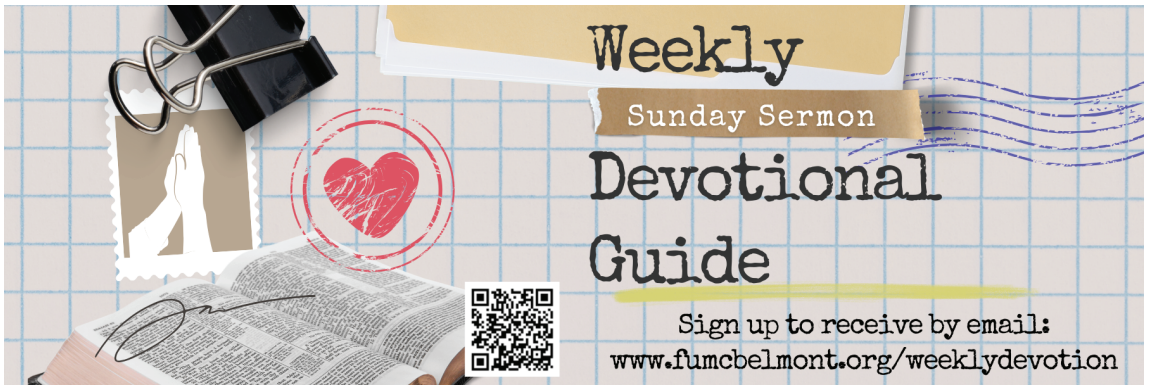
**Those who are able please stand.*

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 *Christ Pantocrator*, a depiction of the Almighty Christ enthroned in glory. Painted by Giusto de' Menabuoi around 1375 in the Baptistry of the Duomo in Padua, this image reflects the Byzantine tradition of portraying Christ in majesty and judgment. In his left hand, Christ holds a book inscribed with the words *Ego sum alpha et omega*—"I am the Alpha and the Omega" (Revelation 1:8). In Revelation, these are the words of God; here, they proclaim Christ's full divinity and cosmic authority.

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.

Join the Ladies of Square Two for a hike and lunch on Thursday, May 8th at 10:30 a.m.. They will meet at Rocky Branch Trail, 103 Sacco St., Belmont, and have lunch afterwards at the Community Cafe. Even if you cannot make the hike, join them at the church at noon for lunch. RSVP to Pam Stowe: wstowe5612@yahoo.com

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

May 4 - 5:30-7:30 All youth are welcome to join us tonight for our last regular Connect of the school year. Join us for games, fellowship, and small group devotion.

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 MeetUps:

- **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

Crossroads (4th-5th grade) will meet on TODAY for our Capture the Flag event and end-of-year celebration. Join us 5:30-7:30 in the Old Fellowship Hall.

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.



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.

Honorariums and Memorials will be
included in a special insert in the
May 11th bulletin.



Sign up to drop off sandwiches in
increments of 20 servings to help meet
our quota of 400. Use the QR code or go to
www.fumcbelmont.org/signup

SANDWICH DROP May 12th | 5-7pm

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



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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, May 4

- 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
- 5:30 p.m. Connect
- 5:50 p.m. Crossroads
- 6:00 p.m. Stories to Live By

Monday, May 5

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Tuesday, May 6

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

Wednesday, May 7

- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 8

- 10:30 a.m. Square Two Hike and Lunch
- 11:45 a.m. Community Cafe'

Friday, May 9

Saturday, May 10

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
- 4:00 p.m. The Walking Club

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Brayden (Becky Fortenberry's grandson)

Pam (Tony and Rita Wilson's neighbor)

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

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

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.)

Your Help Is Needed!

True North VBS is July 13-17 and we need our whole FUMC Belmont family! There are jobs for everyone-- greeting, leading groups, acting, decorating, cooking, and more! Find the perfect role for you by emailing Lauren Bryant.
lbrookins18@gmail.com



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

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Mark Sutton | Business Administrator | mark@fumcbelmont.org