

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

November 16, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

The Twenty-third Sunday After Pentecost



.....
*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



Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont! This morning we continue our worship series, BELOVED: God's First and Final Word on Who You Are. Inspired by the writings of Henri Nouwen, we reflect on a familiar pattern from the Gospels: bread taken, blessed, broken, and given. At his last meal with the disciples, Jesus revealed that this pattern was not only about bread but about his own life. As we grow to be more like him, we begin to see the same pattern in our own lives as well—especially in our brokenness. To be called Beloved does not mean escaping suffering, but discovering God's presence within it. Today we listen for how God meets us in our pain and sorrow, blesses us there, and transforms even our wounds into gifts for the world.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

arr. Albert Peace

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 34

Doreen Collins

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted.

God saves those who are crushed in spirit.

Our help comes from the Lord, who hears our cries.

We bring our whole selves—wounded and hopeful—to worship.

Let us bless the Lord at all times.

God's praise shall always be on our lips.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 185

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you know the sorrow, weakness, and fear of our lives. Too often we deny our pain, pretend our wounds are not there, or believe they make us less worthy of your love. Forgive us when we forget that even in our brokenness we are still your chosen children, blessed by your goodness. Take what is fractured within us, and by your grace make it whole enough to bear your light to the world. 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

Psalm 147:1-11

Larry Bradmon

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 24:13-32

Angela Bradmon

SERMON

The Rev. George Ragsdale

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 881

The Apostles' Creed

INVITATION TO PRAYER

"Spirit of the Living God"

***Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.***

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

"My Jesus, I Love Thee"

arr. Dan Forrest

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
for thee all the follies of sin I resign;
my gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
I love thee because thou hast first loved me
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death,
and praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath,
and say when the death dew lies cold on my brow:
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow:
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

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. 480

"Oh Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

*POSTLUDE

"A Day for Rejoicing"

Lani Smith

**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 a photograph of bread, broken open. Its jagged edges and open center remind us of our own fragility, yet also of the mystery that what is broken can still nourish, still be shared, and still reveal grace.

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.

Ways to Give at FUMC Belmont

Online – Visit fumcbelmont.org/online-giving to give securely anytime.

By Mail – Send your gift to the church address listed on the front of this bulletin.

In Person – Drop your gift in the secure Drop Box outside the church office, available 7 days a week.

Christmas Poinsettias
\$12 each
due by Nov. 23rd.

We will be decorating our worship space with poinsettias during the Christmas season. Use the QR code below or order forms are available at the information desk.



★ "A SEASON OF PROMISE"
FUMC BELMONT
★ 2025 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Deepen your faith and focus on the birth of our Savior as you read these faith filled stories.

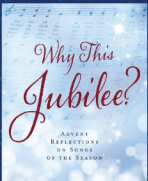
Pickup your copy at the information desk or in the office beginning November 30th



Advent Small Group
Begins Thursday Dec. 4 11 a.m. - Route 66 Classroom

Jame's Howell's daily reflections on well-known Christmas songs and the birth of Jesus. How can these songs relate to our daily lives?

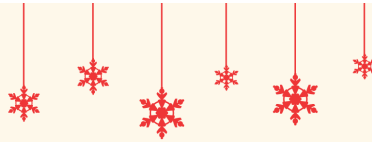
Interested? RSVP to Doreen Collins: doreen@fumcbelmont.org



"The Very Best Time of Year" Christmas Concert

December 14 - 3 pm

Join us for a wonderful afternoon of Christmas music offered by our Chancel Choir, Small Ensemble, Worship Team, Alleluia Children's Choir and Bellissimo Handbell Choir in the Sanctuary.



Taking the place of the Christmas dinner will be a reception in the Narthex after the concert.

If you would like to bring an appetizer or dessert, please sign up at:
fumcbelmont.org/signup

GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

Sunday School

Disciple: If you are wondering what we teach the youth in confirmation classes visit the Disciple class. They will talk about essential lessons of the Christian faith and Methodism.

Route 66: *"Faithful and Inclusive"* by Robert Fuquay

Salt & Light Fellowship: A place to have real conversations and build relationships.

Wanderers: *"The Bible Jesus Read"* by Phillip Yancy

GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Anticipate Advent, our reimagined Advent Workshop, is today, November 16. Join us 4:00-6:00 for this event designed to prepare your family for an intentional Advent Season. Soup supper provided!

Crossroads Christmas Party will be Sunday, November 30 from 5:30-7:30. All 4th-5th graders are invited!

GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

All youth are invited to a Thanksgiving inspired Connect on November 23. We will play games, read scripture, and reflect on the blessings in our lives.

Nov. 30 - Our annual Christmas party is in two weeks. We will go out to lunch at Culver's and then ice skate at the Whitewater Center. Parents, please find Quanna to complete the WWC waiver.

December 7 is Missions Night for our youth. We will assemble 200 sandwiches for 100 lunches for Roof Above in Charlotte. Let's help our unhoused neighbors in need.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

Are you available to help those in our community who may need a ride to a doctor's appointment or pickup groceries?

There are those who cannot drive any more or after treatment at the doctor's office. If this is a ministry you are interested in, please contact Doreen Collins for more information:

doreen@fumcbelmont.org

Share the Warmth

Beginning November 30, decorate our Missions Tree in the narthex with mittens, hats and socks. All items will be donated to S.O.C.K.S Crisis Ministry in the Springwood community



WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, November 16

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
- 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 4:00 p.m. Anticipate Advent Event

Monday, November 17

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Mtg.

Tuesday, November 18

Wednesday, November 19

- 5:30 p.m. Alleluia Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 20

- 11:45 a.m. Community Cafe'

Friday, November 21

Saturday, November 22

Sunday, November 23

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 5:30 p.m. Connect

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Chris Atkins

Paige Hollaway (John Butler)

Deborah Cornwell (Teri Wilson)

Teri Wilson

Cathy Ward

Luis Tairo, missing since October 31

Maggie Moore's cousin, Pennie Edens

The families of all those we remembered on All

Saints Sunday: The Bunce, Karr, Tria and

Widenhouse families.

Barbie Rollins, Cindy Griffin's friend

Linda Winebarger. Mary Butler's sister

The Underhill family (Cindy Griffin)

Owen Harris

Josh & Courtney Poynter's family & friends, after
her sudden passing (Nichole Stanforth's friend)

The family of Margaret "Peggy" Robinson, David

Surratt's grandmother, who passed away

Cindy Jenkins on the passing of her father, Claude
Ward

Chip Stansell's sister, Regina

The Slayton family in the loss of their sister

Sima Ellis

Clay Jones, a friend of Mary and Pete Rutledge

Judy Fann (Cassie Fann's mother)

Patty and Taylor Hayward

Jeff Byrum, Jacob Somers, and Lisa Brooks
(Barbara Byrum)

Ginger Feimster

Marshall Stowe, brother of Sally Bashant and Wes
Stowe

Murphy Clark and family

For our ZOE communities in Rwanda, especially:

Bosco 18 head of household, and siblings,

Delphine 15, Claudine 10 and Gaspard 4

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.*

Anticipate Advent Event

Sunday, Nov 16 4:00-6:00



All ages are invited to join us for this reimagined Advent Workshop. Participants will receive an Anticipate Advent Devotion book and will create a Jesse Tree. Soup supper provided. Please register by Nov 9. www.fumcbelmont.org/signup

A Service of *Hope and Consolation*



Online | December 7 | 7:00 p.m.



CAN YOU HELP?

Our church is again partnering with Christ UMC in Charlotte to provide winter emergency shelter for neighbors in need. On six Saturdays between December and March, we will transport 11 guests from Charlotte's Day Services Center to Christ UMC, where they will receive a meal, shower, and a safe place to sleep, then return them Sunday morning. Our role is to provide transportation, help with setup and dinner, while Christ UMC hosts overnight and offers breakfast.

Our December dates are December 6/7 and December 27/28.
Learn more and sign up at fumcbelmont.org/roomintheinn.



OUR STAFF

Carole Bertino | Administrative Assistant | carole@fumcbelmont.org
Doreen Collins | Director of Adult Discipleship | doreen@fumcbelmont.org
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