

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

November 17, 2024 – 11:00 a.m.

The Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost



Christ in the House of Martha and Mary by Johannes Vermeer, 1654-55

.....
***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 series Alleluia: Uncommon Gratitude in All of Life. Today, as we gather to worship in this sanctuary, we also remember that our whole lives are a form of worship. In today's Gospel two sisters serve Jesus in different ways. Though hard working and busy, Martha grumbles and complains, a sign she has forgotten who she was seeking to serve along the way. The Psalmist sings a new song to God in gratitude for all that God has done. "I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation." How might your life speak and sing an Alleluia of praise and gratitude? What part of your life might God want you to make an offering of worship in the year ahead?

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

MUSIC

"Courage and Grace"
Bellissimo Handbell Choir

Michael W. Joy

PRELUDE

"Praise My Soul"

Alan Ridout

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Margie Ligon

We wait patiently for the Lord; He turns to us and hears our cry.

God lifts us from despair, giving us a new song of worship and trust.

As Mary sat at Jesus' feet, choosing what is better, may we also choose to be present with You, Lord.

Teach us to live each moment for You, to seek Your presence in all we do.

May our lives reflect Your love and mercy, proclaiming Your faithfulness and salvation.

We offer ourselves as worship, seeking Your presence with open hearts. Amen.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 66

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we often lose sight of You in the busyness of life, distracted like Martha by many things. We come seeking Your forgiveness for the times we have neglected to sit at Your feet, failing to make You our first love and focus. You have lifted us up and placed a song of praise in our hearts, yet we have not always let our lives sing

Alleluias of praise for You. Renew in us a desire to live every moment as an act of worship, that our words, actions, and thoughts may glorify You.

Guide us to choose what is better, resting in Your presence and seeking Your will above all. 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

PSALTER NO. 774

Psalm 40:1-10

Dottie Ison

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 10:38-42

This is the Word of God for the People of God. ***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON

The Rev. George Ragsdale

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 881

The Apostles' Creed

INVITATION TO PRAYER

***"Alleluia, Alleluia!
give thanks to the Risen Lord.
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Give praise to his name." (repeat)***

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

"With a Voice of Singing"

Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!

Utter it even unto the ends of the earth. The Lord hath delivered His people, Alleluia!

O be joyful in God, all ye lands

O sing praises to the honor of His name, make His praise to be glorious

With a voice of singing, declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!

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. 399

"Take My Life, and Let It Be"

*POSTLUDE

"Fugue from Voluntary III"

G.F. Handel

**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 we welcome Catherine Hicks as our guest organist.

Today's Bulletin Cover features the work of Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer, known as one of the great artists of the Golden Age. *Christ in the House of Martha and Mary* captures the intimate moment in today's Gospel Lesson where Jesus gently teaches Martha about the importance of spiritual focus as her sister Mary sits attentively by His side. Painted around 1655, it stands as one of Vermeer's largest works and displays his skill in creating depth, harmony, and warmth through subtle color and soft lighting. Vermeer's use of light highlights the expressions and gestures, deepening the emotional resonance between the figures, as Martha's concern and Mary's attentiveness reflect two spiritual paths: active service and contemplative listening. This piece invites us to ponder how, even in our busyness, we are called to do everything as if we were sitting at the feet of Jesus, worshipping.

Prayer after each worship service in the prayer room off of the Narthex. Our Congregational Care Ministers and retired clergy are available to pray with you.



**Meet
in the
Middle**

Please sign up to help serve
or clean up at
fumcbelmont.org/meetmiddle

Midweek Fellowship Meals
Wednesday - 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**Nov. 20: Sliced ham, potatoes, green salad,
chicken nuggets, and dessert.**

Meals cost FUMC \$10 per adult, \$5 for children. We ask those who join us to contribute what they can.

RICE N BEANS
FEEDING THE BODY, RESTORING THE SOUL
RICE N BEANS.ORG

To learn more, check out the website or
reach out to Denise or Michael Martin.

Rice and Beans serves dinner to a vulnerable population every week in Gastonia and need gently used cold weather clothing for men and women. They need hoodies, coats, sweatshirts, hats, gloves and socks. Donations will be collected in the narthex through November.

COMMUNITY
CAFE
supporting

Dahlia Grove
11:45-1:15



Dining at the cafe provides financial support and training for women recovering from human trafficking, domestic violence and drug addiction

EVERY
THURSDAY

Christmas Poinsettias

We will be decorating our worship space with poinsettias during the Christmas season. Each poinsettia is \$10. and the deadline to order is **Dec. 2nd.**

Use the QR code below or order forms are available at the information desk.



First Friday Men's Meeting

**DECEMBER 6 - 6:30 AM
AT THE YOUTH HOUSE**

Men of the church are invited to a time of fellowship, devotion, and discussion over breakfast.

All are welcome.

RSVP helps us plan for food.

<https://is.gd/MR5Raw>

Contact

**Brandon Martin
with questions.**



Join us as we partner with Christ UMC in providing emergency housing during the winter months for neighbors without a warm house to call home.

On scheduled Saturdays we will be transporting those without a warm bed to Christ UMC and providing them a hot meal and a place to sleep

**Program
begins
Dec. 7th**



To learn more go to www.fumcbelmont.org/roomintheinn

Christmas Concert & Dinner

*December 15 - 4 pm
dinner to follow*

*Deadline to sign up for dinner Dec. 8
Tickets - \$15 per adult, \$10 per child
or \$45 a family of 4 or more*

*Sign up using the QR code below
or forms are available at the
Information desk*



Your help is needed to make our Christmas dinner special

If you are able to help serve or clean up
on December 15th 5-7:30 pm
Sign up with the QR code or
contact Doreen:
doreen@fumcbelmont.com

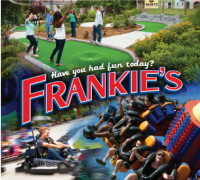


YOUTH

Connect meets tonight in Carpenter Hall from 5:30-7:30. Join us for dinner, games, and a discussion about zeal and joy for Jesus.

All youth are welcome to join us for the upcoming Christmas Party to Frankie's on December 8th. We will leave the church at 12:30 and return in time to pack lunches for Feeding the Children. See Quanna if you have questions or need help signing up.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A



*Christmas
Youth Party*

DECEMBER 8TH | 12:30-4:00

Reserve Your Spot and
pay by December 3rd



**Winter Retreat
for Youth**
at Lake
Junaluska

Jan
24-26

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to a
weekend filled with
community, fun and worship

Trip includes a trip to Tube World on
Saturday

FIRST KIDS

Crossroads (4th and 5th grades) meets TONIGHT, Nov 17 from 5:30-7:30. Join us in the Old Fellowship Hall for games, supper and Bible talks.

Candy Cane Family Night is Wednesday, December 4 from 6:00-7:30. The whole family is invited to join us in Carpenter Hall for supper, candy cane crafts, games and a hot cocoa bar. Please register at www.fumcbelmont.org/kids.



WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, November 17

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
5:30 p.m. Connect
5:30 p.m. Crossroads
6:00 p.m. Stories to Live By

5:30 p.m. Alleluia Choir
6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Adult Study
6:30 p.m. Kids & Youth Small Groups
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 21

11:45 a.m. Community Cafe'

Monday, November 18

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Racial Healing & Reconciliation Mtg

Friday, November 22

Saturday, November 23

Tuesday, November 19

Wednesday, November 20

5:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist in the Narthex
Prayer Room
5:30 p.m. Meet in the Middle

Sunday, November 24

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. Advent Workshop

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Richard Rumpfelt and his family (Becky and Tom Fortenberry)

Sister-in-law, Jill Atkins (Chris and Connie Atkins)

Lynda Jenkins, Nancy, Clyde, Adam & Alex Underhill, Patsy Deese, Bill Griffin, Linda & Gerald, along with other family members who are all facing health issues (Cindy and Jim Griffin)

Alice Goins Ratterree (Cindy Goins aunt)

Nicole Stanforth's grandfather

Graham Baakko (Teri Wilson)

Kenneth Harris' father, Larry

The family of David Durham, Daniel Durham's father, who passed away

Carolyn Beall

The family of Trudi Kinney, who has died

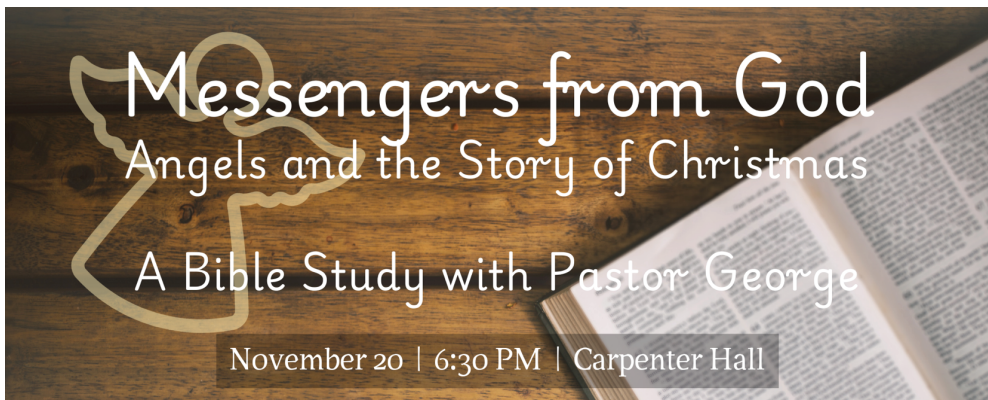
Anne Haxton, Dottie Moore's mother

Erin Carver, Renee and Tim Painter's daughter

Murphy Clark and family

*You can submit prayer requests to
prayers@fumcbelmont.org or
by clicking this QR code:*





ADVENT WORKSHOP
 SUNDAY, NOV 24 | 4:00-6:00
 REGISTER AT
WWW.FUMCBELMONT.ORG/KIDS



Advent Small Group

Tuesdays beginning
 November 26th
 1:30 -2:30 pm

4 week app based study (books are available too)
 Focuses on the experiences of four
 often overlooked characters
 in the Nativity story.

Contact Doreen to sign up:
doreen@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
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 Ellen Robison | Minister of Worship and the Arts | ellen@fumcbelmont.org
 Mark Sutton | Business Administrator | mark@fumcbelmont.org