

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

November 23, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

Christ the King Sunday



Revelation 21 by Karen Goetzinger

.....
*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! Today is Christ the King Sunday, and we conclude our worship series, BELOVED: God's First and Final Word on Who You Are. Scripture gives us a vision of Christ who reigns in love and promises to make all things new. The church is called his bride, joined to him in faith and love, and sent to build the beloved community in the world. We are sustained in this calling through prayer, through life together, and through ministry that shares God's love. As we worship, we open ourselves again to Christ's reign and to our place in his kingdom.

MUSIC

"My Lord, What a Morning"
Bellissimo Handbell Choir

Karissa Dennis

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"Thanksgiving Fantasia"

Jason W. Krug

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Colossians 1:15-20

Jennifer Martin

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

In him all things in heaven and on earth hold together.

Christ is the head of the body, the church.

In him we are gathered in prayer and knit together in love.

Through Christ, God has reconciled all things, making peace by the blood of his cross.

In him we are sent forth in ministry to bear witness to his kingdom.

Come, let us worship Christ our King—

To him be glory, majesty, and dominion, now and forever. Amen.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 61

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Christ our King, you call us to live in your love and to share that love with the world. Yet we confess that we lose our way. We grow weary in prayer and forget to seek your presence. We resist the gift of community when it challenges or inconveniences us. We turn from the work of ministry when the world's need feels too great. Forgive us, Lord. Renew us in your Spirit. Strengthen us in prayer, bind us together in love, and send us out to serve with joy, until your kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven. 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 21:1-7

Ed Hannigan

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 6:12-19

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

"An Expression of Gratitude"

David Schwoebel

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you.

Always in joy in every prayer for you.

I thank my God for your fellowship in the gospel from the very first day 'til now.

And I am sure that he, who began a good work in you,

will bring it to completion at the day of Christ.

I pray, that your love may abound more and more.

Abound in knowledge, in judgment, that you may approve what is excellent
to the glory of God.

That you may be pure and blameless,

filled with the fruits of righteousness which comes through Christ Jesus.

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. 111

"How Can We Name a Love"

*POSTLUDE

"Jesus Shall Reign"

arr. Benton Price

**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 painting of *Revelation 21* by Canadian artist Karen Goetzinger, portraying St. John's vision of "a new heaven and a new earth." The city skyline is formed from layers of organdy, fabric often used in wedding gowns, recalling the New Jerusalem prepared "as a bride adorned for her husband." Red marks remind us of Christ's sacrifice, through which all things are made new, while touches of gold leaf illumine the city with the glory of God. The image points us to the hope of Christ's reign, when God will dwell among us and we, the church, will live as his people—building together the beloved community through prayer, life together, and ministry in Christ's name.

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.



Today is the last day to place your order for Christmas Poinsettias. They are \$12. each. We will decorate our worship space with them during the Christmas season and you can pick yours up after the last worship service on Christmas Eve. Please use this QR code 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:
doreen@fumcbelmont.org



GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

Sunday School

Wanderers: "The Bible Jesus Read" by Phillip Yancy

Advent Adult Sunday School Studies Beginning November 30th

Disciple

The Disciple class will study Advent, the nativity story through the four Gospels, and will finish each week playing Christmas Candy Land!



Route 66

How the Nicene Creed can deepen your spiritual journey and strengthen your understanding of Christian beliefs.



Contact Doreen for more information:
doreen@fumcbelmont.org

Wanderers

Learn about the miracle of Christ's birth from those who first told the story. The letters in the New Testament, these contain the first attempts by the church to understand and celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation.



GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

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 tonight. We will play games, complete a service project, and reflect on the blessings in our lives.

Our annual youth Christmas party is next Sunday! 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

Dahlia Grove Community Cafe Every Thursday from 11:45am - 1:15 pm
Dining at the cafe provides financial support and training for women recovering from human trafficking, domestic violence and drug addiction.

SOUP FOR THE SOUL

Know a neighbor who is sick or in need of comfort? Take them a quart of Chicken Noodle Soup made by our Soup for the Soul cooking team. The soup is in our freezer ready to bring comfort to someone in need of care. To learn more contact Debbie Thames at dhthames@gmail.com



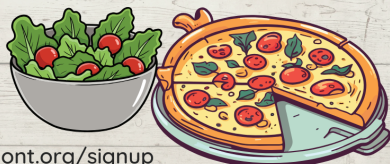
Share the Warmth

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



Feed the HOUSE

Provide an easy simple meal for our neighbors at Catherine's House on December 22



www.fumcbelmont.org/signup

In response to the greater need for food support in our community, we are turning our Little Free Library facing South Point Road into a free food pantry. For now, we will share both books and nonperishable food goods in our library. We are asking the congregation to help us keep this library stocked with food and help spread the word to the community. Donations can be placed directly into the library whenever you are at church.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

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

Monday, November 24

1:00 p.m. Staff Mtg.

Tuesday, November 25

Wednesday, November 26

Thursday, November 27

Thanksgiving - Church Ofc. Closed

Friday, November 28

Church Ofc. Closed

Saturday, November 29

Sunday, November 30

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Outing
5:30 p.m. Crossroads (4th/5th Grade)
Christmas Party

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Rick McGee, uncle to Tyler Murphy
Frances Carlson (friend of Jane Herstine)
Chad Mashburn, Catherine's husband, & his family
after the passing of his grandfather
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
Ginger Feimster
Marshall Stowe, brother of Sally Bashant and Wes
Stowe
Murphy Clark and family
For our ZOE communities in Rwanda, especially:
Cedric 19 head of household, and siblings,
Robert 13, Emeline 5 and Aliane 1
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.*



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.



A Service of *Hope and Consolation*



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

"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

OUR STAFF

Carole Bertino | Administrative Assistant | carole@fumcbelmont.org
Doreen Collins | Director of Adult Discipleship | doreen@fumcbelmont.org
Jennifer Martin | Director of Children's Ministry | jennifer@fumcbelmont.org
Quanna McAlister | Director of Youth Ministries | quanna@fumcbelmont.org
Boyce O'Tuel | Director of the Child Development Center | boyce@fumcbelmont.org
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Mark Sutton | Business Administrator | mark@fumcbelmont.org