

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

November 23, 2025 – 8:30 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.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

*OPENING SONG

"Good Grace"

CCLI Song # 7122177

*PRAYER

Jennifer Martin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Revelation 21:1-7

Cheryl and Marie Sutton

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 6:12-19

SERMON

The Rev. George Ragsdale

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

As a forgiven and reconciled child of God, you are invited to give your offerings and gifts to God by placing them in the offering plate when you come forward to receive communion.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*THE PEACE

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

*TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

*BREAKING THE BREAD (gluten free option available)

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

"Common Ground"

CCLI Song # 7203628

Child of God be at peace
Open hands let go of everything
Christ in us all around
Calvary a hill with level ground
I hear a voice calling out
Tear down the walls between us
Make way for love to heal us
Show us the way of Jesus
Where He is found (in common ground)
Church of God now's the time

There's a mountain that we have to climb
Broken hearts all around
Suffering this is our common ground
My brothers' blood is crying out
Where do we stand if not together
No nowhere
Reach out your hand in there and out there
'Cause there are no strangers to God
There are no outcasts with us
There are no orphans to the Father of love

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG

"Send Me Out"

CCLI Song # 5621778

**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.

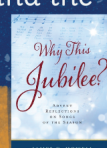
In Person – Drop your gift in the secure Drop Box outside the church office, available 7 days a week.



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

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

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.	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. 
Contact Doreen for more information: doreen@fumcbelmont.org		

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

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.

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

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



SOUP FOR THE SOUL



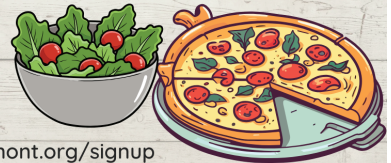
Know a neighbor who is sick or in need of comfort? Take them a quart of Chicken Noodle Soup made by our Soup for the Soul cooking team. The soup is in our freezer ready to bring comfort to someone in need of care.

To learn more contact
Debbie Thames at dhthames@gmail.com



Feed the HOUSE

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



www.fumcbelmont.org/signup

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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Ellen Robison | Minister of Worship and the Arts | ellen@fumcbelmont.org
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