

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

November 30, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

The First Sunday of Advent



Edward Hicks, *The Peaceable Kingdom* (c. 1826)

.....
*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

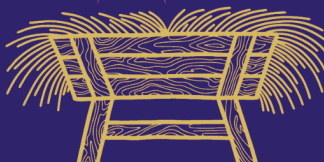
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www.fumcbelmont.org

a season of PROMISE

Advent 2025



Good morning, and welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont! Today is the First Sunday of Advent. Advent is the four-week season when Christians prepare for the coming of Christ—his coming at Christmas and his promised return to rule and reign over all things. Advent is a season of promise, when we look toward the future God has pledged and prepare our hearts to receive it. This morning's scriptures remind us that Christ's reign will bring the peace we long for in our lives and in our world. This peace is not something we manufacture, but something God is bringing. Advent invites us to live from that future—to wake up, to walk in the light, and to trust the One who holds history. If God's peace is already on its way, how might we begin to live as people who expect it?

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

arr. Henry Balcombe

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Tipton Family

We light the first candle of Advent, remembering God's promise of peace.

We long for God's peace to fill our hearts and our world.

Isaiah says, "They shall beat their swords into plowshares... Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord."

Christ is our Peace, and His kingdom will never end.

In a world troubled by fear and conflict, we trust the future God is bringing.

We choose to walk in God's light, even as we wait for His peace to come. Come, Lord Jesus. Make us instruments of Your peace. Amen.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 203

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most merciful God, in this holy season you promise a peace the world cannot give. Yet we cling to our own striving and fear to trust your future. You call us to live in hope, to see and act from the future you are surely bringing, yet we remain anxious, fearful, and slow to walk in your light. Forgive us, awaken us, and set our feet on the path of your coming kingdom; that, watching and waiting, we may be found on the side of your peace. 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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 2:1-5

The Rev. Mark Andrews

*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 24:36-44

SERMON

The Rev. George Ragsdale

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 881

The Apostles' Creed

INVITATION TO PRAYER

"I Will Wait for You"

Getty

***I will wait for you, I will wait for you
through the storm and through the night.
I will wait for you, surely wait for you,
for your promises are true.***

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

"I Will Be a Child of Peace"

Elaine Hagenberg

O Holy Father I will be
a child of peace and purity.
For well I know Thy hand will bless
the seeker after righteousness

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. 209

"Blessed Be the God of Israel"

*POSTLUDE

"Hark, a Thrilling Voice"

Melcome Archer

**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 *The Peaceable Kingdom* by Edward Hicks, a 19th-century American Quaker painter. In it, Hicks imagines Isaiah's vision of God's promised future: predators and prey resting together, a child at the center, and creation at peace. The scene is not a naïve dream, but a picture of the world as God intends it to be—a kingdom of deep reconciliation and trust. As we begin Advent, this image invites us to long for, and lean toward, God's peaceable kingdom.

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.

“A Season of Promise” FUMC Belmont 2025 Advent Devotional is available at the information desk. Pick up yours today.

Advent Small Group begins Thursday, December 4 at 11:00 a.m. in the Route 66 Classroom. We will study James Howell's daily reflections on well-known Christmas songs and the birth of Jesus. RSVP to Doreen at doreen@fumcbelmont.org.

FUMC Belmont First Kids and Child Development Center Families are teaming up for a **DONATION DRIVE** to benefit Least Of These Carolinas



Least of These Carolinas serves children in foster care in NC and SC. We are collecting the following items to help them pack their Bags of Hope for children entering foster care.

- children's body wash
- shampoo and conditioner
- children's hairbrushes
- children's toothpaste and toothbrush
- lego sets of any size or age

LEARN MORE AT [HTTPS://LOTCAROLINAS.COM/](https://lotcarolinas.com/) **RETURN ALL DONATIONS BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7**

GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

Sunday School

Disciple: Beginning today we will study Advent, the nativity story through the four Gospels, and will finish each week playing Christmas Candy Land.

Route 66: Will study how the Nicene Creed can deepen your spiritual journey and strengthen your understanding of Christian beliefs.

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

Wanderers: Learn about the miracle of Christ's birth from those who first told the story.

GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Crossroads Christmas Party TODAY from 5:30-7:30. All 4th-5th graders are invited!

GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

Our annual youth Christmas party is today! We will go out to lunch at Culver's and then ice skate at the Whitewater Center.

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 pick up 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 have turned 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.



Feeding the Children

Help feed hungry children during the school winter break, beginning December 22.

Sign up at www.fumcbelmont.org/signup



Share the Warmth

Beginning **TODAY**, 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

COMMUNITY CAFE
supporting

Dahlia Grove
11:45-1:15



EVERY THURSDAY

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

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 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

Monday, December 1

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Mtg.

Tuesday, December 2

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

Wednesday, December 3

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

Thursday, December 4

- 11:00 a.m. Advent Small Group
- 11:45 a.m. Community Cafe'

Friday, December 5

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Meeting

Saturday, December 6

- 5:00 p.m. Room in the Inn

Sunday, December 7

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 12:00 p.m. Reception for Carole Bertino
- 5:30 p.m. Connect

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Grandmother, Nancy Lange, (the Lange/Preisach Family)

Rita Wilson's nephew, Alex

The family of Marshall Stowe, Sally Bashant & Wes
Stowe's brother, who passed away

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)

Ginger Feimster

Murphy Clark and family

For our ZOE communities in Rwanda, especially:

Claude 19 head of household, and siblings,

Belise 15, Egide 13, and Fabrice 5

*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.*

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

Charlotte Bronze Handbell Ensemble
Presents
Joy to the World
A HOLIDAY CONCERT
DECEMBER 12
AT FUMC BELMONT - 6:30 PM



FUMC Music Ministry at
HOLIDAY IN THE GARDEN
DANIEL STOWE BOTANICAL GARDEN
DECEMBER 17, 6:30 PM
Come enjoy a night of holiday music and tour the beautiful gardens decorated for Christmas

OUR STAFF

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