

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

November 9, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

The Twenty-second Sunday After Pentecost



The Baptism of Christ by David Zelenka

.....
*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



Good morning and welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont! We're so glad you are here! Today we begin a new worship series called BELOVED: God's First and Final Word on Who You Are, inspired by the writings of Henri Nouwen. At his baptism, Jesus heard the voice of the Father saying, "You are my Beloved." The deepest truth of who we are is that same word, spoken over us. In a world that measures worth by what we do, what we have, or what others say about us, God speaks a different word—one that does not change: You are mine. In the midst of so many competing voices, we gather to listen for God's voice above all others, and to let it be the truest word about who we are.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

arr. Gayden Sikes

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Isaiah 43:1-3

Jennifer Martin

Thus says the Lord, the One who created you and formed you:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name, you are mine.

We are named and held in God's care.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.

The rivers will not overwhelm us.

For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One, your Savior.

Glory and praise to the Lord our God!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 54 UPW

"Gather Us In"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, you call us by name and claim us as your own. Yet we confess that we often forget who we are. We listen to voices that tell us we are what we do, what we own, or what others say about us. These names do not last, and they leave us anxious and empty. Forgive us when we trade your truth for their empty promises. Turn our ears again to your word of love. Restore us to the joy of being your children, and set us free to live in the security of your grace. 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

1 John 3:1-3

The Rev. Dr. Larry Kimel

*GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:9-13

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

"You Are Mine"

David Haas

I will come to you in the silence
I will lift you from all your fear
You will hear My voice
I claim you as My choice
Be still, and know I am near
I am hope for all who are hopeless
I am eyes for all who long to see
In the shadows of the night,
I will be your light
Come and rest in Me
Do not be afraid, I am with you
I have called you each by name

Come and follow Me
I will bring you home
I love you and you are mine
I am strength for all the despairing
Healing for the ones who dwell in shame
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free
And all will know My name
I am the Word that leads all to freedom
I am the peace the world cannot give
I will call your name, embracing all your pain
Stand up, now, walk, and live

Jennifer Martin, flute

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. 356

"When We Are Living"

*POSTLUDE

"Chorus of Joy"

Ellen Jane Lorenz

**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!

Welcome, New Member This morning we are blessed to welcome a new member into our church family. Joining today at our 8:30 service by Profession of Faith is Laura Hasian. We rejoice to welcome Laura to our congregation! If you would like more information about joining our church family, please call or email Pastor George (704-249-0645 or george@fumcbelmont.org) or speak with him after the service today.

Today's Bulletin Cover features *Baptism of Christ* (2005) by David Zelenka, a naturalist, educator, and multimedia artist. Zelenka's vivid painting captures the moment when Jesus rises from the waters of the Jordan and hears the Father's voice: "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." The image reminds us that in our own baptism, God calls us by name and claims us as beloved children.

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.

Administrative Council Meeting Monday, November 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Route 66 Class Room. FUMC Belmont Annual Charge Conference immediately following at 6:30 p.m.

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

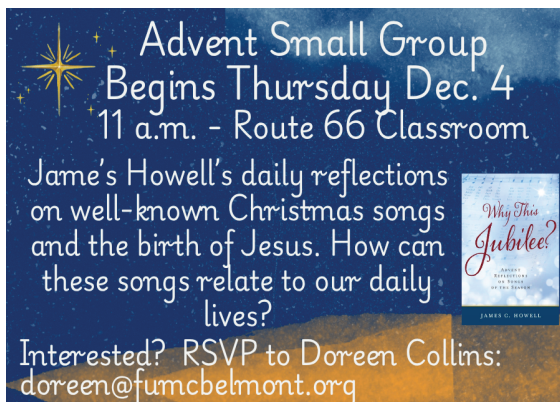
\$12 each

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.



Christmas Concert Reception
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



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?
Why This Jubilee?
JAME'S HOWELL
Interested? RSVP to Doreen Collins:
doreen@fumcbelmont.org

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 YOUTH

Connect - Youth from both Myers Memorial and Park Street United Methodist Church will join us here tonight for an awesome night of fellowship and Bible study. We will play games, enjoy pizza and dessert, and get to know other United Methodists in our community.



GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Anticipate Advent, our reimagined Advent Workshop, is on Sunday, November 16. All ages are invited to join us from 4:00-6:00 to create a Jesse Tree to use throughout the Advent season. Each family will receive a copy of the devotion book *Anticipate Advent*. Register at www.fumcbelmont.org/signup.

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

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



WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, November 9

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

Monday, November 10

- 6:00 p.m. Administrative Council Mtg.
- 6:30 p.m. Charge Conference
- 6:30 p.m. Service & Missions Mtg.

Tuesday, November 11

- 9:00 a.m. Staff Planning Mtg.

Wednesday, November 12

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

Thursday, November 13

- 11:45 a.m. Community Cafe'

Friday, November 14

Saturday, November 15

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

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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)

South Point teacher, Brian Ziemer (Leigh Nance)

The family & fiancée of their nephew, Justin Martin,
who died (Thomas & Heather Taylor)

Deborah Cornwell, friend of Teri and Claude Wilson
Ginger Feimster

Marshall Stowe, brother of Sally Bashant and Wes
Stowe

Murphy Clark and family

For our ZOE communities in Rwanda, especially:

Ange 19 head of household, and siblings,

Olivier 15, Fothine 13, Louise 10 and

Eric 3

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*

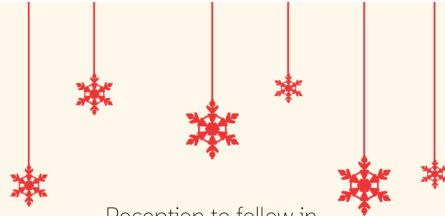


Online | December 7 | 7:00 p.m.

"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.



Reception to follow in
the Narthex

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
George Ragsdale | Senior Pastor | george@fumcbelmont.org
Ellen Robison | Minister of Worship and the Arts | ellen@fumcbelmont.org
Mark Sutton | Business Administrator | mark@fumcbelmont.org