

Tri-Angles

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



***United in the Spirit, First United Methodist
Church of Belmont exists to be more like
Jesus Christ for our community and beyond***

Dear FUMC Family,

Not long ago, in the middle of a difficult decision, a dear friend spoke a single word to me. When I heard it, something inside me knew it was the right word for the moment. It resonated deep in my soul, and it still does. I wonder if it might be a word for you, too—a word for our whole church family and our community in these months together.

The word? *Beloved*.

Beloved is the word God's Holy Spirit speaks over Jesus as he is baptized in the Jordan River. As the spiritual writer Henri Nouwen reminds us, "What is said of Jesus is also said of you: you are the Beloved child of God. This is the one truth worth claiming, the truth that makes all the difference." The deepest truth of our lives is not what we achieve, what we possess, or what others say about us, but this: we are God's beloved sons and daughters.

It is a word for us to hold close in these months ahead. On November 2, we celebrated All Saints Sunday, remembering the beloved among us who have gone before us to be with God. Beginning November 9, we'll turn to a three-week series in worship called *BELOVED: God's First and Final Word on Who You Are*, asking together how we live into this deep and profound truth as disciples of Jesus. Then on November 30, we enter the Season of Advent. This year's theme is A SEASON OF PROMISE. Truly, Advent opens our hearts to the coming of Christ, the Beloved child in the manger, God's promise of love made visible.

The promise at the heart of Christmas is that God comes to us in Christ so that He might make us God's beloved, too. Jesus' whole life was spent revealing God's love to others, especially those who had never imagined such love to be possible. As I remind us often, the most common complaint made of Jesus was that he ate with and welcomed the wrong people: tax collectors, foreigners, and sinners.

The Gospels tell us Jesus' mealtimes followed a familiar pattern. Again and again, they say, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it. It is a pattern about more than food—it was about his life. And it is about ours, too. If we are serious about living our mission to be more like Jesus Christ for our community, then we will see our lives following the same pattern: chosen by God, blessed to be a blessing, even in our brokenness, and given in love for the world.

The holidays are filled with joy, but they can also sharpen the ache of our brokenness—grief, loneliness, strained relationships, or longings that remain unmet. Henri Nouwen reminds us that being Beloved does not mean escaping suffering, but discovering God's presence even in it. Our brokenness, held under God's blessing, can become a place where love takes root and grows.

The good news of Advent is that Christ comes not to the strong or the perfect, but to the weary, the searching, the brokenhearted. And the miracle of it all is that God not only calls us Beloved in our own brokenness, but also sends us to be love for others who desperately need to hear and see that word in tangible ways.

In the pages that follow, you'll find ways our church family is living into this high calling—opportunities to worship, celebrate, give, serve, and share God's love in our community. I hope you'll read on, and more than that, find ways to join us. Because in Christ, the Beloved who came to us, we discover that no matter what, we are God's beloved too—with gifts and love to share in blessing the whole world.

Thank you for allowing me to be your pastor.

In Christ,



beloved

God's First and Final Word on Who You Are

Join us beginning November 9 for a worship series inspired by the profound work of spiritual writer Henri Nouwen, who explores the deepest truth about our lives: we are God's beloved sons and daughters. In a world that tells us our worth is in what we do, what we have, or what others say about us, God speaks a different word — a first and final word on who we are— Beloved. Together we will listen for that voice, learn how even our brokenness can be held in God's blessing, and discover the practices of prayer, community, and ministry that help us live from God's love and share it with the world.

November 9 – Hearing Our Name

1 John 3:1–3; Mark 1:9–13

November 16 – Jesus' Belovedness and Ours

Psalm 147:1–11; Luke 24:13–32

November 23 – Sharing Our Belovedness

Revelation 21:1–7; Luke 6:12–19

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER



Men's Meeting December 5th

6:30 a.m. - Youth House

All men are welcome. Come for a light breakfast, short study, and fellowship.

Led by Ryan Dayton
Contact Tony Wilson for more
information: kingsmntntony@yahoo.com

Join the Ladies of Square 2

MONDAY DECEMBER 8TH- 5 PM

BRING A MEAL TO THE WOMEN AT
CATHERINE'S HOUSE.

THEN GO OUT TO DINNER.

COME AND ENJOY FUN, FELLOWSHIP,
AND SERVING TOGETHER. CONTACT

CINDY MEILIKE TO SIGN UP:

CINDYMEILIKE@HOTMAIL.COM



The next WNCC Equip & Connect Webinar is coming up on Sunday, November 9 at 3:00 p.m.

Reclaiming Our Prophetic and Evangelistic Identity as United Methodists – The webinar will explore our faith legacy and new strategies that will empower us to GO into our communities, build relationships, and share the love of Jesus Christ, so that lives are transformed.

The Zoom link will be posted at
www.wnccumc.org/equip-connect-2025 the day of the webinar.

All previous webinars are also available on that page.



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.



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 will host their annual Magic of Love Gala on Friday, November 21 at the Myers Park Country Club in Charlotte. It will be an evening of celebration, storytelling and impact benefiting Dahlia Grove's two-year residential program for women who are survivors of human trafficking, domestic violence and sexual exploitation. For ticket information, visit www.dahliagrove.org/events.

GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH



Nov. 23 - Regular Connect with a focus on Giving Thanks!

Nov. 30 - Youth Christmas party from 12:00-4:00pm. We will go out to lunch at Culver's and then go out to the WWC for ice skating. Sign up online for this exciting day together!



Crossroads

Our 4th and 5th graders have enjoyed a wonderful fall getting to know each other, learning about PRIORITIES, and completed several service projects. These kids have assembled mesh bags for the Society of St. Andrew, created cat toys for the Gaston County Animal Shelter, and completed random acts of kindness. Join us for the Christmas party on Nov 30!



Alleluia Choir

Rehearsals Nov 5-Dec 10
(not meeting Nov 26)
Choir Room
5:30-6:00
ellen@fumcbelmont.org




Last month 40 people gathered for our Prayer Pet Adoption. Kids adopted a pet, completed paperwork, did a doctor's checkup, decorated a house and prayed with their pet. It was a wonderful night of food, fun, fellowship and prayer.



Thank you volunteers:
Teri Wilson,
Amanda Currier, Greta and Fletcher Martin, and Mac and Graham Loper.





Trunk or Treat

REFLECTIONS

On October 26, our church family provided a wonderful event for the community. We offered 17 trunks full of candy and excitement, the youth provided fun games with cool prizes, our food team kept everyone fed with a free hot dog supper, and the fire department brought goodies for the kids. It was a great evening. Thank you to all who made it happen!



October 12 was a tremendous time in the life of FUMC Belmont! The Primetimers joined the youth group at Connect for a night of fun and fellowship. We played bingo, enjoyed chicken and dumplings, studied scripture, and split up into small groups for a time of devotion. A special thanks to Liz Gray, Angela Bradmon, Brandi Apple, Cassie Fann, and Rhonda Meadows for volunteering with our youth volunteers for the evening. Thank you to everyone who attended!



PRIMETIMERS *join Connect*



THOUGHTS, PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

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 Zierner (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
 Our ZOE communities in Rwanda

You can submit prayer requests to prayers@fumcbelmont.org

THANK YOU

Dear First United Methodist Church,

Thank you for sharing 60 years of blessings, encouragement and the love of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior with the Widenhouse family. May God continue to bless the work of His church at FUMC of Belmont, for His glory.

With love and appreciation from the Widenhouse family

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November 1	Larry Hartley Denise Martin Brooke Riske	November 9	Heather Taylor Lowe Taylor	November 21	Greg Andrews Calvin Harris
November 2	Beth Cohen Charles Gray Cullen Kelly Ryan Kelly Kari Langley Stefanie Pruden Steven Rich David Surratt Erin Harrill	November 10	Grayer Andrews Shanda Fangman Sophia Krouse Lindsay McGraw	November 22	Houston Burnette Judy Harris Emma Latchana Harald Vaheer
November 3	Maggie Moore	November 11	Liz Gray Debra Pettus	November 23	Tina Leong Brenda Swing
November 4	Aedan Corcoran Julie Jenkins Aaron Tyson	November 12	Matt Gillespie Natalie Stewart	November 24	Chris Atkins Ryan Cunningham Kirk Setzer
November 5	Kelvin Reagan	November 13	Matthew Henry Madelyn Lowrance	November 26	Marsha Brown Carrie Jones
November 6	Beau Bryant	November 14	Brad Falls	November 27	Cathy Beam Vanessa Shrauder
November 7	Lori Giang	November 16	Lewis O'Tuel Ann Marie Rogers	November 28	Sierra Hanafin Brian Herre
November 8	Haley Lowrance Sandy Russell	November 17	Palmer Love Kellen Smith Pam Stowe	November 30	Brandi Apple
		November 18	O'Brien Brooks Bryan Cohen Meriwether Maynard Rudd Wilson		

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 1	Mary Beth Tipton	December 13	Davis Phillips	December 23	Sal Fragapane
December 2	Justin Smith		Richard Randolph	December 24	Sarah Giang
December 3	Jake Beaty		Pete Rutledge		Brooklyn Schwark
December 4	Claire Cook Katelin Vaheer	December 14	Hannah Thagard Joe Armeen	December 25	Kristen Surratt Jeff Swing
December 5	Daniel Durham Owen Harris		Katherine Barnette	December 26	Penny Ham
December 6	Margaret Allen Evelyn Clark Will Durham Adalyn Latchana Catherine Ragsdale	December 15	Jeff Paulsen		Gail Hanigan
		December 18	Susannah Pennington Kaitlyn Setzer Karson Setzer	December 27	Katie Grier Falls Julia Medford Miki Salamon Morgan Weatherford
December 7	Joseph Krouse Rachel Patterson	December 19	Amanda Currier	December 28	Jane Biddix Elizabeth Boney Matthew Gaskill
December 9	Donelle Scinto-Toner Linda Smith	December 20	Trevis Lunsford Nancy Smith Joan Widenhouse		Audrey Beaty Tresca McSwain
December 10	Paige Dunigan Melissa Matulis Emery Reynolds	December 21	Jane Herstine Kristi Smith	December 29	Joseph O'Tuel Jack Beaty
December 11	James Griffin Angie Wheeler	December 22	Paul Beam Dan Deitz August Eble Levi Kincaid	December 30	
				December 31	



Advent is the season when the church dares to hope again. Week after week, we recall God's promises—of peace, justice, joy, and presence—and learn to wait, not with fear, but with trust. The God who made promises has not forgotten us. In Christ, the promises are fulfilled.

November 30—The Promise of Peace

Isaiah 2:1–5, Matthew 24:36–44

December 7—The Promise of a New World

Isaiah 11:1–10, Matthew 3:1–12

December 14—The Promise of Joy

Isaiah 35:1–10, Matthew 11:2–11

December 21—The Promise of Presence

Isaiah 7:10–16, Matthew 1:18–25



Service of Hope and Consolation

When the holidays arrive, joy and sorrow often travel together. Our annual Hope and Consolation Service creates sacred space for anyone carrying grief, walking through a season of loss, or simply finding December heavy. Together we acknowledge our pain, remember those we love, and open ourselves to Christ's gentle promise of light in the darkness.

This year's service will be an interactive, pre-recorded live-streamed meditative service on Sunday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. You can participate on our website, Facebook page, or YouTube channel. To help you engage from wherever you are, packets with simple interactive elements and helps for the holidays with loss and grief will be available in the narthex beginning November 30.



Christmas Eve December 24 | 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.

Come celebrate Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m. with carol singing, a children's Nativity during the reading of the Christmas story, candle lighting and Holy Communion.

Join us for a traditional service at 6:00 p.m. with music from our Chancel Choir and string quartet, a homily, candle lighting and Holy Communion.

GROW

Anticipate Advent Event

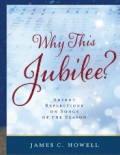
Sunday, Nov 16 4:00-6:00

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



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 Collins:
doreen@fumcbelmont.org

"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



SERVE



We partner with Christ UMC in Charlotte to provide emergency shelter for neighbors in need. On six Saturdays between December and March, we will transport 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 Dec. 6/7 and 27/28. Learn more & sign up at fumcbelmont.org/signup

Youth Missions Night

Help prep 100 lunches for our unhoused neighbors in Charlotte

Sunday, December 7
during Connect
5:30-7:30



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

Sign up at www.fumcbelmont.org/signup



GIVE

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

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





Our Chancel Choir, Worship Team and Bellissimo Handbell Choir
will be performing in the Grand Hall
at Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden.
Come enjoy a night of holiday music and tour the beautiful
gardens decorated for Christmas



Nativity

December 24 ★ 4:00 p.m.

All children are invited to help tell the story of Jesus' birth during our 4:00 Christmas Eve service.



Email jennifer@fumcbelmont.org to participate.

COMING IN 2026

2026 Scripture Focus

REJOICE IN THE LORD, ALWAYS

THE LETTER TO THE

Philippians

AGAIN I WILL SAY, REJOICE



In 2026, our Scripture Focus will be Paul's Letter to the Philippians. This brief but powerful letter, written from prison, overflows with encouragement to live faithfully in Christ, becoming more like him in humility, unity, and hope. Again and again—over a dozen times—Paul speaks of joy, culminating in the call to "Rejoice in the Lord always," a reminder of our core value of living with joy in the awareness of God's presence with us. The whole church is invited to read and pray through Philippians slowly and prayerfully, again and again throughout the year!

Let's celebrate the New Year

January 4th
1-2:30

LET'S
GO
HIKING

MEET AT 103
SACCO
STREET,
BELMONT

Youth Hike at Rocky Branch Trail



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun, Nov. 16	Anticipate Advent Event	4:00 pm
Sun, Nov. 30	Pick up Advent Devotionals	
	1st Sunday of Advent Worship	8:30 am
	Fellowship Breakfast	9:30 am
	Sunday School	10:00 am
	1st Sunday of Advent Worship	11:00 am
	Youth Christmas Outing	12:00 pm
	Crossroads Christmas Party	5:30 pm
Thur, Dec. 4	Advent Small Group Study	11:00 am
Fri, Dec. 5	Men's Meeting	6:30 am
Sat, Dec. 6	Room in the Inn	5:00 - 7:30 pm
Sun, Dec. 7	2nd Sunday of Advent Worship	8:30 am
	Fellowship Breakfast	9:30 am
	Sunday School	10:00 am
	2nd Sunday of Advent Worship	11:00 am
	Connect Missions Night	5:30 pm
	Service of Hope & Consolation (online)	7:00 pm
Thur, Dec. 11	Advent Small Group Study	11:00 am
Fri, Dec. 12	Charlotte Bronze Handbell Ensemble	6:30 pm
Sun, Dec. 14	3rd Sunday of Advent Worship	8:30 am
	Fellowship Breakfast	9:30 am
	Sunday School	10:00 am
	3rd Sunday of Advent Worship	11:00 am
	Christmas Concert & Reception	3:00 pm
Thur, Dec. 18	Advent Small Group Study	11:00 am
	Primetimers Drive Through McAdenville	5:00 pm
Fri, Dec. 19	Family Movie Night	6:30 pm
Sun, Dec. 21	4th Sunday of Advent Worship	8:30 am
	Fellowship Breakfast	9:30 am
	Sunday School	10:00 am
	3rd Sunday of Advent Worship	11:00 am
Mon, Dec. 22	Feeding the Children	8:00 - 11:30 am
Tues, Dec. 23	Feeding the Children	8:00 - 11:30 am
	Advent Small Group Study	11:00 am
Wed, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Worship & Communion	4:00 pm
	Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion	6:00 pm
Sat, Dec. 27	Room in the Inn	5:00 - 7:30 pm
Sun, Dec. 28	Worship	8:30 am
	Worship	11:00 am
Mon, Dec. 29	Feeding the Children	8:00 - 11:30 am
Thur, Dec. 30	Feeding the Children	8:00 - 11:30 am

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



December 12 at FUMC Belmont - 6:30 pm