

Tri-Angles

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024

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,

Catherine, Claire, Anne Louise and I continue to be so very grateful for your prayers and support as we find our way after the parsonage fire on September 28. We have been overwhelmed at every turn by your love, kindness, patience and generosity. Thank you all.

In the days after the fire, Anne Louise looked at me one afternoon and said, "I just realized we won't have Christmas at home this year." Over my years in ministry, I have been amazed by how often, in the face of grief or divorce or other loss, our minds go immediately to this time of year. So much that brings us joy is tied to memories of people, places, sights and sounds from our past. Our sense of nostalgia longs to experience them again.

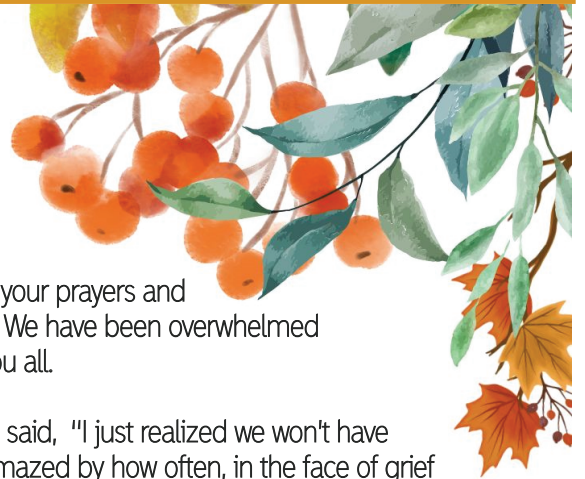
Of course, the first Christmas happened far away from Mary and Joseph's home in Nazareth, a trip mandated by the occupying force of Rome. Then, the Holy Family spent the first years of Jesus' life as illegal refugees to Egypt, on the run from King Herod. These tragic details of the Christmas story only deepen the reality of the good news: the baby born in Bethlehem is Emmanuel, God with us. And as Paul proclaims in Romans 8, because of Jesus nothing can separate us from God's love.

For many, the coming holiday season will be a difficult one. Please know that your church family is here for you. I hope you will consider joining us for our annual service of Hope and Consolation on Thursday, December 5 at 6:30 in the sanctuary. Through beautiful music, scripture, art and poetry we will gather to mark and remember the losses we have experienced and still feel so deeply, and to be reminded of the hope of Christ that shines in every darkness.

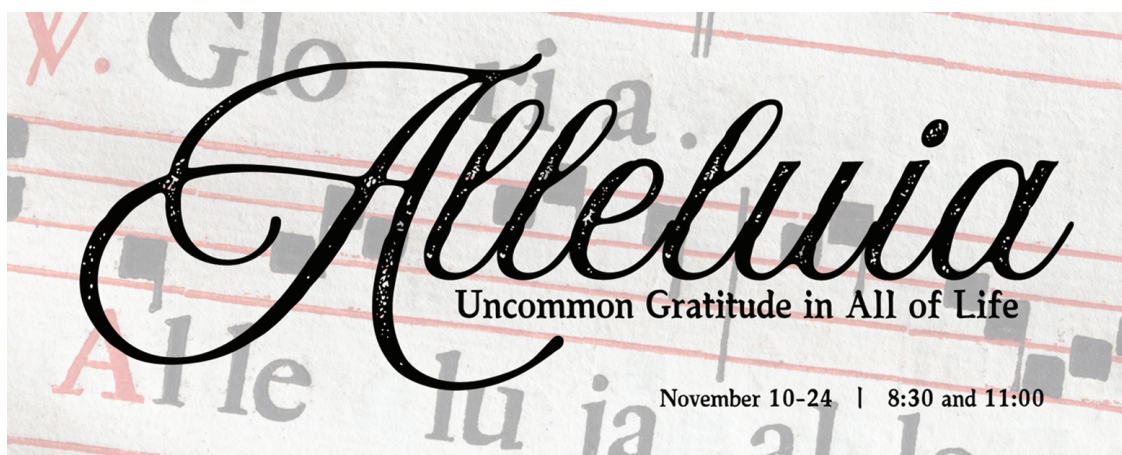
Of course, the Service of Hope and Consolation is one of many ways we will mark this sacred time of year together. Read on in the newsletter to find out more. I hope you will take part with us in whatever way you can. Through it all my deepest prayer, as your pastor, is that each of us will know and experience the peace of Christ and find our true home in Him, at the very heart of God.

In Christ,

George



COMING IN WORSHIP



Revelation 19 tells us that heaven will be filled with the unceasing song of "Alleluia!", an eternal celebration of praise around the throne of God. What might it look like to be able to sing alleluia all day long, every day of your life? What if life itself was meant to be one long alleluia? Join us this fall as we dive deep into the meaning, hope and life in the word "Alleluia," considering how it invites us to uncommon gratitude in all of life.

November 10: Psalm 103 and John 6:1-14

"Gratitude goes beyond the 'mine' and 'thine' and claims the truth that all of life is a pure gift." - Henri Nouwen

November 17: Psalm 40 and Luke 10:38-42

"Worship is the strategy by which we interrupt our preoccupation with ourselves and attend to the presence of God."
- Eugene Peterson

November 24: Psalm 146 and John 13:1-17

"Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit... Living for others is a rule of nature." - Pope Francis

COMING UP IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH



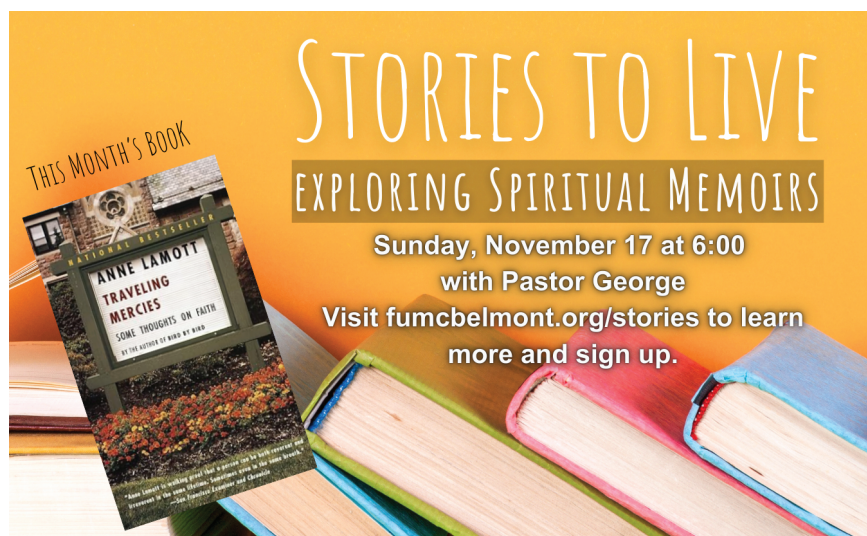
**Square 2
Get-together**

Mission for the month of November is sending our college students a little treat. Bring a Chick Fil-A or Starbucks \$10 gift card.

Thursday | November 14th | 11:45 am

Meet in Carpenter Hall for lunch at the Community Cafe. Support the Dahlia Grove Ministry.

Contact Pam Stowe for questions: wstowe5612@yahoo.com



STORIES TO LIVE
EXPLORING SPIRITUAL MEMOIRS

Sunday, November 17 at 6:00
with Pastor George

Visit fumbelmont.org/stories to learn more and sign up.

THIS MONTH'S BOOK
ANNE LAMOTT
TRAVELING MERCEDES
SOME THOUGHTS ON FAITH
BY THE AUTHOR OF HOOK BY HOOK

Messengers from God

Angels and the Story of Christmas

A Bible Study with Pastor George

November 20 | 6:30 PM | Carpenter Hall

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
MEMBERS AND CHURCH LEADERS!**

SAVE THE DATE

Administrative Council Meeting
Monday, November 25 at 6PM

**FUMC Belmont Annual Charge
Conference**

With District Superintendent David Christy
Tuesday, December 3 at 6PM

First Friday Men's Meeting

**DECEMBER 6 - 6:30 AM
AT THE YOUTH HOUSE**

Men of the church are
invited to a time of
fellowship, devotion, and
discussion over breakfast.
All are welcome.
RSVP helps us plan for food.
<https://is.gd/MR5Raw>
Contact
Brandon Martin
with questions.



BCO

Drop off
by

Dec 8th

Collecting
monthly
non-perishable
food to
help those without
adequate food
resources



TOP 20

- Rice
- Jelly
- Pop tarts
- Grits
- Oatmeal
- Soup
- Peanut Butter
- Instant Potatoes
- Crackers
- Mac & Cheese
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Dried Beans
- Corn Muffin
- Mix
- Cookies
- Canned: Meat
- Tomatoes
- Vegetables
- Pasta
- Fruit

*Your help is needed to make
our Christmas dinner special*

If you are able to help serve or clean up
on December 15th 5-7:30 pm
Sign up with the QR code or
contact Doreen:
doreen@fumcbelmont.com



Christmas Poinsettias

We will be
decorating
our worship
space with
poinsettias
during the
Christmas
season. Watch
for more
information in
the bulletin
about ordering.



Prayer after each
worship service will
be offered in the
prayer room off
of the Narthex.

Our Congregational
Care Ministers and
retired clergy are
available to pray
with you.



Global Ministries

The United Methodist Church

Learn more about how The United Methodist Church is involved in mission and discover ways you can connect.

Missionary Service – UMCOR – Care for Creation – Support Migrants and
Refugees – Minister within Racial Ethnic Communities <https://umcmmission.org/annual-conference-resources>

RACIAL HEALING AND RECONCILIATION

I recently spent the weekend in the Chapel Hill area with my daughter's family. As we visited our granddaughter's school, played in city parks, and went about town, I was struck by the different ethnicities, languages, accents I heard almost everywhere we went. I think the variety was so striking to me because it was such a contrast to the homogeneous community in and around Belmont. And while I love where I live, I couldn't help but feel that the many differences I noticed made for a richer, more interesting community. I also couldn't help but reflect on the fact that living with such variety of people is a better preparation for the kingdom of heaven. In Revelation 7:9 we see "a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb." God's ultimate vision for humanity is not so much a melting pot in which we all merge into one, but more of a stew where the different flavors enhance each ingredient, while retaining individual uniqueness. I wonder if we were to make room for greater ethnic and racial variety in our community and congregation we would actually be cooking up a foretaste of the kingdom of heaven.

- Mark Andrews

SERVICE AND MISSIONS

**MISSIONS
HIGHLIGHT!**

**FEEDING THE
CHILDREN**

It was during a school break in 2001 when Preston Taylor was at a stop light with his wife Martha and noticed many children playing outside their homes. Preston wondered, what could these children possibly be eating for lunch since they appeared to be home alone. Out of his concern for the children Preston and his wife Martha launched the Feed the Children program at our church. For over 20 years we have been delivering meals to the children in our community during Christmas and spring break. Teams cook several hot meals for delivery during the break, and other volunteers pack grocery bags with pre-packaged nonperishable foods. Included in the grocery bags will be heat and serve snacks, breakfast, and lunch/dinner items which the children can prepare at home with a microwave. We typically will serve meals to over 200 children. When we tally the number of meals prepacked in grocery bags we will deliver over 4,500 meals over 12 days to children in our community.

Over thirty volunteers a day are needed to deliver the meals and bags of food to every home that asks for food assistance. Volunteers are needed to help pack grocery bags of food, cook the hot meals or help deliver on selected days over the Christmas break. If you would like to help with this ministry you can find the sign up on our church website, www.fumcbelmont.org/feedthechildren.

RICE N BEANS
FEEDING THE BODY, RESTORING THE SOUL
RICE N BEANS.ORG

To learn more, check out the website or reach out to Denise or Michael Martin.

Rice and Beans serves dinner to a vulnerable population every week in Gastonia and need gently used cold weather clothing for men and women. They need hoodies, coats, sweatshirts, hats, gloves and socks. Donations will be collected in the narthex through November.

**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.

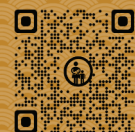
To learn more contact
Debbie Thames at dhthames@gmail.com



**Feed
the
HOUSE**

Help care for mother's and children at Catherine's House by dropping off a simple meal to them once a year. Help us fill up our calendar.

www.fumcbelmont.org/catherineshouse



Youth

The Youth at FUMC has been quite busy lately! Many youth participated in the church-wide flood bucket assembly on October 6. We've also thoroughly enjoyed Tresca McSwain leading us on October 13 on a study of the economic challenges for many folks in our community. In addition, each Sunday recently in Connect, the youth discussed joyful ways to connect closer to God. We've enjoyed playing games, fellowship, and small group time together. All youth in grades 6th through 12th are welcome to join us anytime!





Engage
Sunday
School
in
Youth
House

Nov. 3,
10, 17 &
24

ADAM HAMILTON
HALF TRUTHS
God Hides These Two Great Treasures
and Offers Them to Every Child's Soul

Inviting Teens into the
Disruptive Joy with Jesus

Grades 6-12
Sundays at Connect
5:30-7:30
Sept 15-Nov 17

Our Youth will focus on how a
deeper relationship with Jesus can
offer us greater joy in our lives.

★★★★★

SUNDAY NIGHT

NOV. 10TH
DURING
CONNECT

5:30-7:30

GROG!

GAME NIGHT

All Youth Are Welcome

FUMC RECEIVES WNC FOUNDATION HOPE FUND GRANT FOLLOWING PARSONAGE FIRE



FUMC Belmont received a grant of \$2,500 from the Hope Fund of the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina. The Hope Fund was established in 2021 as a way for the Foundation to respond with a "gift of hope" to churches in the WNC Conference of the United Methodist Church who suffer a loss to their physical property (including church parsonages) due to events such as fire, storm and flood. The gift was recommended by the Foundation staff and was sent along with prayers of support. FUMC has long partnered with the Foundation, who manages several church endowments and memorial funds and issued the loan for our 2021 narthex expansion and sanctuary renovation. Their mission is to "build the Church for generations to come," and this gift to us is but one more expression of that commitment. We are grateful for their generosity and the connection that is our United Methodist Church family!

THOUGHTS, PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

Graham Baakko (Teri Wilson)
Kenneth Harris' father, Larry
The family of David Durham, Daniel Durham's father, who passed away
Carolyn Beall
The family of Trudi Kinney, who has died
Anne Haxton, Dottie Moore's mother
Joann Leathers (John Butler)
Roy Norwood, Jane Herstine's friend
The Ragsdale Family
Maggie Moore
The Giang family after the passing of Sam Giang, Mike's father
Erin Carver, Renee and Tim Painter's daughter
Murphy Clark and family

You can submit prayer requests
to prayers@fumcbelmont.org
or by clicking this QR code:



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT

807 South Point Rd. / Belmont, NC 28012
Office: 704-825-2106 / www.fumcbelmont.org



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OUR STAFF

Carole Bertino | Administrative Assistant | carole@fumcbelmont.org
Doreen Collins | Director of Adult Discipleship | doreen@fumcbelmont.org
Heather Gaskins | Director of the Child Development Center | heather@fumcbelmont.org
Margie Ligon | Director of Missions | margie@fumcbelmont.org
Jennifer Martin | Director of Children's Ministry | jennifer@fumcbelmont.org
Quanna McAlister | Director of Youth Ministries | quanna@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

Thankful Prayers

What are you thankful for? During the month of November there will be a board in the Narthex. Write a thank you prayer to God for the specific ways He provides for you.



**MISSIONS
NIGHT**
Nov 13th
6:30

*500 SANDWICHES and
*200 LUNCHES for the unhoused
*72 FLOOD BUCKETS
* CARDS for active military personnel

HELP FROM
ALL
AGES ARE
NEEDED
TO
ASSEMBLE

