

FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

The First Sunday of Advent – November 27, 2016 – 8:30 a.m.



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

**REV. GEORGE RAGSDALE, PASTOR**  
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[www.fumcbelmont.org](http://www.fumcbelmont.org)

## PRAISE AND PRAYER

\*SONG

*"King of Heaven"*

1. *Jesus, let Your kingdom come here;  
Let Your will be done here in us;  
Jesus, there is no one greater;  
You alone are Savior; Show the world Your love.*

CHORUS

*King of heaven, come down; King of heaven, come now;  
Let Your glory reign, shining like the day, King of heaven, come.  
King of heaven, rise up; Who can stand against us;  
You are strong to save, in Your mighty name,  
King of heaven, come.*

2. *We are children of Your mercy, rescued for Your glory;  
We cry Jesus, set our hearts towards You,  
That every eye would see You lifted high.*

CHORUS

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\*WELCOME

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Sandy and Melinda Russell

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

***As we begin our Advent pilgrimage, grant us the courage to hope.***

Hope for God's presence,

***Hope for God's peace,***

Hope for God's promise.

***Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.***

RESPONSE

tune of "Away in a Manger"

***A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright;  
A candle of Hope in December's dark night.  
While angels sing blessings from heav'n's starry sky  
Our hearts we prepare now, for Jesus is nigh.***

\*SONG

"Days of Elijah"

1. *These are the days of Elijah  
Declaring the Word of the Lord  
And these are the days  
Of Your servant Moses  
Righteousness being restored  
And though these are days  
Of great trials  
Of famine and darkness and sword  
Still we are the voice  
In the desert crying  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord*

CHORUS

*Behold He comes  
Riding on the clouds  
Shining like the sun  
At the trumpet call  
So lift your voice  
It's the year of Jubilee  
And out of Zion's hill  
Salvation comes*

2. *And these are the days of Ezekiel  
The dry bones becoming as flesh  
And these are the days  
Of Your servant David  
Rebuilding a temple of praise  
And these are the days of the harvest  
The fields are as white in the world  
And we are the labourers  
In Your vineyard  
Declaring the Word of the Lord*

CHORUS

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\*PRAYER

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

\*GOSPEL LESSON (NT Pg. 27)

Matthew 24: 36-44

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. George Ragsdale

## RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

*After each petition we enter into the prayer together with these words:*

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***O God, we confess that our sense of expectation has been dulled. We have become reluctant to anticipate any wonders from your hand. We have become so content with the past that we make it the master of our lives. We have been lulled to sleep by our own limited view of your presence among us. O God, before sleep becomes our death, pardon and redeem us that we may avoid the judgment we are bringing on ourselves. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear you as we rise from our stupor; stretch our souls that we may worship you in spirit and in truth. In Jesus' name we pray. 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.***

*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.*

## THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

... now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily  
bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass  
against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

## BREAKING THE BREAD

## SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

Music During Communion

*"An Irish Blessing"*

Getty

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this Holy Mystery in which you have  
given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the  
strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others in the name of  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

## \*BENEDICTION

\*SONG

*"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"*

1. *O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.*

CHORUS

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

2. *O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go.*
3. *O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times once gave the laws in cloud and majesty and awe.*
4. *O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be;  
Before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call.*
5. *O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home.  
The captives from their prison free, and conquer death's deep misery.*
6. *O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.*
7. *O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind.  
From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife.*

\*POSTLUDE

*\*Those who are able please stand*


**WELCOME!** We're glad you chose to worship with us this morning. We invite you to check out the opportunities we have for children, youth and adults of all ages and stages of life. We offer ministries and a community of faith that will help challenge and encourage you as together we seek to grow as faithful followers of Jesus Christ, serving God and our neighbor in all that we do.

**VISITORS:** Stop by our welcome table in the narthex as you leave today to receive a small gift and more information about our church. We would love to know more about you, so please sign the attendance pad as it is passed down your pew and share your contact information so that we can be in touch with you.

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING THE FUMC FAMILY?** If you'd like to know more about joining our church, please contact Pastor George at 704-825-2106 or [george@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:george@fumcbelmont.org) to talk with him further. We'd be honored to welcome you officially as part of our family!

**ADVENT WORKSHOP:** Join us for our annual Advent Workshop today from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in Carpenter Hall. We will spend the first Sunday in Advent making Chrismsons, Advent wreaths, nativities and more as we make time in the busy season to be reminded of all that awaits us- celebrating the birth of our Savior. There will be activities available for folks of all ages along with a resource for you to take home and continue to use what you make throughout the season of Advent. Soup and salad will be served as well. Please come and join us!

**WE'RE HIRING!** With the announcement that Sara Clark is leaving us in January, we're searching for a new Director of Youth Ministries. You can check out the job description on our website, [www.fumcbelmont.org/youthdirector](http://www.fumcbelmont.org/youthdirector).

 **INVESTING IN ORPHANS:** Your church has chosen to make a different kind of investment - one where the return is no less than the transformation of the lives of vulnerable children. ZOE's three-year empowerment program helps children help themselves. Vulnerable children overcome extreme poverty in such a way that they improve not only their own lives, but the lives of others as well. Orphans emerge from ZOE able to secure their own food, send their siblings to school, run businesses, and be leaders in their community. They understand God's love for them and pass their blessings on to other children in need.

**2017 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!!** We are currently seeking anyone interested in serving as an usher during the 2017 calendar year. The organization of ushers will again be scheduled for two months during the year (rather than three). We are planning to have five ushers assigned for each month (one for the 8:30 a.m. service and four for 11:00 a.m.) to allow for flexibility when serving during the assigned month. There will be an information/training meeting on Sunday, December 18th at 9:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary to review usher duties and compile the schedule for 2017. We hope that you will prayerfully consider volunteering for this important part of our weekly worship services. If you are interested or have questions about volunteering as an usher, please contact Jeff Kalmbach at [troutnc@gmail.com](mailto:troutnc@gmail.com) or 704-524-6709 or Joe Maynard at [joebmaynard@gmail.com](mailto:joebmaynard@gmail.com).



**Like FUMC?** Like Facebook? Then "like" FUMC on Facebook! It's a great way to get updates on events, receive inspirational messages, and share our mission with the community. To like our page, just go to [facebook.com/fumcbelmont](https://facebook.com/fumcbelmont) or search for "First United Methodist Church Belmont" on the site/app.

**PASTOR GEORGE'S WEEKLY EMAIL:** Pastor George sends a weekly email, delivered to your inbox on Friday that will include brief devotional thought to prepare for Sunday's worship, congregational news, and other items of interest. If you'd like to receive this email, send your email address to [george@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:george@fumcbelmont.org). Or, text PASTORMAIL to 22828.

## **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

Sunday, November 27

8:30 a.m. Worship  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School Breakfast  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
4:00 p.m. Advent Workshop  
4:00 p.m. Knitting Group  
5:00 p.m. Youth Bell Choir  
5:30 p.m. Youth Choir

Monday, November 28

2:30 p.m. Godsquad  
6:30 p.m. Christian Believer

Tuesday, November 29

2:30 p.m. Sonshine Club  
6:30 p.m. Disciple I

Wednesday, November 30

6:00 p.m. Adult Bell Practice  
6:30 p.m. Children's Council  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 1

7:00 p.m. Youth-Christmas Movie Bible Study

Saturday, December 3

9:00 a.m. Advent Decorating Party

Sunday, December 4

8:30 a.m. Worship  
8:30 a.m. United Methodist Men  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School Breakfast  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
4:00 p.m. Knitting Group  
5:00 p.m. Youth Bell Choir  
5:30 p.m. Youth Choir

### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

- Pam Martin
- Debbie Ballard (mother of Chelsea & Josh Elmore)
- Kaylan Cuthbertson (friend of Renee Painter)
- Mark & Deb Baxa
- Amy Shuffler (co-worker of Aimee Russell)
- Mary Kinard (step-sister of Dottie Moore)
- Tom & Amy Bingham
- Johnathon Demers
- Nolan Beaty (Amanda & Dale Beaty)
- Don Gagney
- Billy Stone (Teri Wilson)
- Steve Hartley (Fran Salamon)
- Jane Washam
- Diane Young (Stefanie Purden)
- Dr. Tom Haggai (Allan & Beth Haggai)
- Larisa Zhukova (Adrian Lunsford)
- Judy Laughlin (Andrew & Jacob Laughlin's grandmother)
- Jim Handsel (Cindy Groner's father)
- Western NC and those serving to stop the blaze
- Sharon Armeen (sister in-law of Joe & Valerie Armeen)

If you have an emergency or have a confidential prayer request, please contact George at the church office (704-825-2106) or his cell (704-249-0645). The names above will remain on the prayer list for one month unless otherwise notified.