

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

The Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 24, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.



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*United in the Spirit, First United Methodist Church of Belmont exists
to be more like Jesus Christ for our community and beyond*
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REV. GEORGE RAGSDALE, PASTOR
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P: 704-825-2106 // F: 704-825-2176
www.fumcbelmont.org

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"What Child is This"

arr. Russell

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Brenda and Sherrill Austin

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.

As our Advent pilgrimage draws to completion, grant us the courage to share your love.

Love for the unexpected challenge,

Love for the vulnerable one,

Love for all the children of God.

Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

RESPONSE

sung to the tune of *"Away in a Manger"*

***A candle is burning, a candle of LOVE,
A candle to point us to heaven above
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth
For Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.***

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 89:1-4

Margie Ligon

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David:

'I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 211

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*OPENING PRAYER

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*GOSPEL LESSON (NT Pg. 56)	Luke 1: 26-38	Ellen Adams
	This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.	
*RESPONSE No. 199		"Canticle of Mary"
SERMON		Rev. George Ragsdale

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

MUSICAL RESPONSE	"Breath of Heaven" Elizabeth Boney, soloist	Amy Grant
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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 Anthem	"Silent Night" Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace. Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.	Eric Nelson
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*Offertory Response	<i>At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!</i>	PICARDY tune
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*Prayer of Dedication	The Lord's Prayer (Hymnal Pg. 895)
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GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT No. 219

"What Child Is This"

*POSTLUDE

"He Is Born"

arr. Jordan

****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.



ZOE/ALTERNATE GIVING MARKET

Our Zoe Committee will be hosting our annual Alternative Giving market during Advent. As you shop for Christmas gifts, consider empowering a child from our Hope Companion community in Rwanda. "Gift cards" are available to share with recipients so they know a gift has been given in their honor. Checks may be made to FUMC Belmont, memo ZOE or online at fundraise.wearezoe.org/fundraiser/1059795

FEEDING THE CHILDREN

During the Christmas break our church and community provide children in need with a hot lunch each weekday of the break (except Christmas). Sign up to help deliver meals at www.fumcbelmont.org/advent.

Youth Happenings

NO Youth Group
December 24th and 31st.

We will resume our normal schedule for youth handbells, youth choir and youth group January 7th.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 24

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Breakfast
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
4:00 p.m. Knitting Group
5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Nativity Service
6:00 p.m. Youth Group
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight
 and Communion Service

Sunday, December 31

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Breakfast
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
4:00 p.m. Knitting Group

***The church offices will be closed
December 25th and 26th***

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 to talk with him further. We'd be honored to welcome you officially as part of our family!

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. Or, text PASTORMAIL to 22828.

USHERS: Boyce O'Tuel, Elizabeth Maynard, Melanie Andrews, Stacy Redmond

GREETERS: Calvin Harris Judy Harris, Stefanie Pruden, Jane Washam

ALTAR: Worship Committee

CRUCIFER: Summer VanGastle

BIBLE BEARER: Phoebe Smith

ACOLYTE: Henry Southard

TELLERS: Mike Harrison, Johnny Williamson, Richard Armstrong, Julia Armstrong

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

- Family and friends of Debbie Ballard upon her passing
- Cheryl Fleming
- Alan Austin and Family (Jessica Durham)
- Bette Armstrong
- Keith Lowe
- Young Missionary Cohort 2017-2019 (Lily Sloan)
- Steve and Susie Matulis
- Puerto Rico Hurricane Victims
- Lindsay Bondurant
- Sarah Gray and family upon the passing of her sister in-law Patsy Gray
- Debbie Lorange and family upon the passing of her cousin Carl Marshburn
- Paige Navy and family upon the passing of her daughter Elizabeth
- Carolyn Bailey (Kara Deal's mother)
- Lydia and Cruz Ferrer (The Shrauders)
- Dr. Scott Guelcher - tree fell on him (friend of Bill & Beth Coley)
- Beth Haxton (Dottie Moore)
- Max - awaiting new heart (friend of Murphy Clark)
- Mira - heart (friend of Murphy Clark)
- Reggie Medlin - awaiting heart surgery (Bill McLean's brother-in-law)
- Ken Latt (friend of Marjorie and Cindy Goins)
- Barbara Smith - thyroid cancer (friend of Cindy Jenkins)
- Jack Page and family upon the death of his step-brother, Glen Armstrong
- Joe Deese (Reid and Liz McGraw)
- Mark Pressley (Reid and Liz McGraw)
- Bill Shavley (Deboran Brooks' uncle)
- Phyllis Keever (Mother of Julie Boehlke)
- Neal Davis - heart attack (the Davis family)
- Linda Weatherford upon the death of her sister, Julia
- Layla - burn victim (Murphy)
- Sarah Gray - upper respiratory infection
- Becky Adams - heart transplant (friend of Nicole Stanforth)
- Joshua Huss - awaiting lung transplant (friend of Cat Bashant)
- Ken Nixon (The Shrauders)

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.