

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Christmas Eve – December 24, 2024 – 4:00 p.m.



God is With Us by Hanna Varghese, 2006

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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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THE REV. GEORGE RAGSDALE, PASTOR
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www.fumcbelmont.org

MUSIC

"Selected Carols"

Robert and James McSwain, Doug Moody, saxophone

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Gigue on "In Dulci Jubilo"

arr. David Laso

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Doreen Collins

*OPENING HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

*OPENING PRAYER

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-4

HOMILY

The Rev. George Ragsdale

THE NATIVITY WITH HYMNS AND SONGS

Matthew 1 and 2, Luke 2 (selected verses)

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

Jennifer Martin

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

arr. Mary McDonald

"Once in Royal David's City"

arr. Lani Smith

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Henry Family

*HYMN

"Silent Night"

*BENEDICTION

*HYMN

"Joy to the World"

*POSTLUDE

"Go Tell it on the Mountain"

arr. Robert Lau

***Please stand as you are able**

Merry Christmas

Please join us in the Narthex after the service for hot cider and fellowship!

Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont! We're glad that you've chosen to worship with us tonight. 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 tonight 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!

Tonight's Bulletin Cover features the work of Malaysian artist Hanna-Cheriyen Varghese. *God is With Us* reflects her deep Christian faith and Malaysian heritage, celebrating the incarnation with vibrant color and cultural richness. Drawing from her background as a Malaysian artist, she incorporates batik-inspired patterns and textures, creating a layered, flowing composition that symbolizes the interconnectedness of God's creation. Her spirituality shines through in the tender depiction of the nativity, expressing the mystery and universality of Emmanuel—God with us. As a committed Christian and artist in a predominantly Muslim country, Varghese dedicated her work to glorifying God, blending her faith and cultural identity to create art that speaks to hearts around the world.

Our Christmas Eve Offering The offering collected this evening will go to relieve suffering in the Alan Campos neighborhood mobile home park in Swannanoa, NC, a community that was decimated by Hurricane Helene. Skyland UMC has been doing all they can for this community where many children live. The funds we raise will be used to cover the plumbing and HVAC needs of approximately 20 mobile homes whose owners' personal insurance policies and government FEMA assistance have fallen short. Thank you for your generosity.



2025 SCRIPTURE FOCUS



FIRST AND SECOND PETER

A Light to the Nations

Experiencing and Sharing the Light of Christ

Begins January 5

OUR STAFF

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