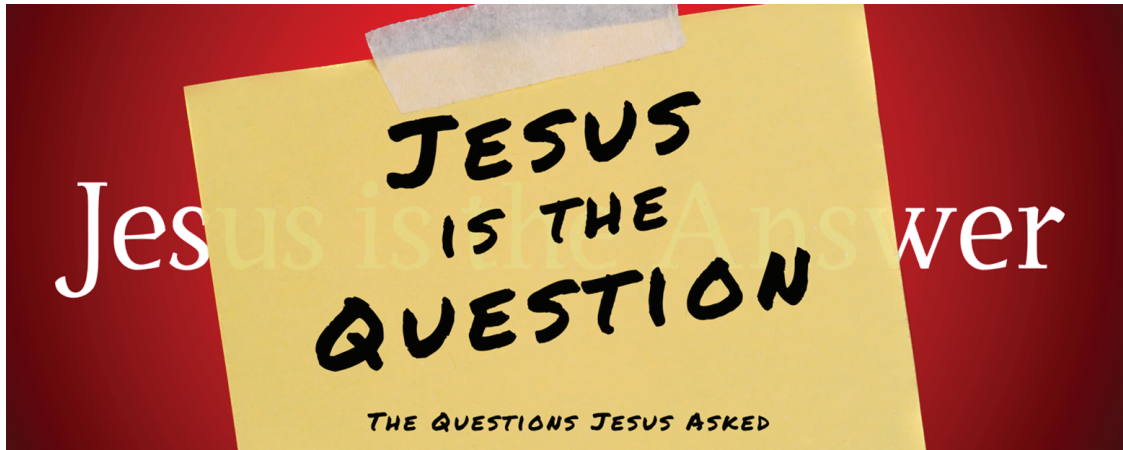


Lent and Easter 2024



How often do we hear or see the phrase "Jesus is the answer." While that might be the case, before he is the answer, Jesus is the question. Reading the Gospels, we find that Jesus asks over 300 questions. He answers only 8 of the 180+ he is asked. Join us this Lenten season as we explore the questions Jesus asks to move beyond a faith of quick fixes and easy answers and into a deeper, more profound relationship with Christ.

February 11 (Transfiguration Sunday) – Mark 8:27-9:9

Who do you say that I am?

February 18 (First Sunday in Lent) – Mark 1:9-15 & Mark 5:1-20

What is your name?

February 25 – Mark 4:35-41

Why are you afraid?

March 3 – Luke 6:27-38

If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?

March 10 – Matthew 15:29-38

How much bread do you have?

March 17 – Luke 7:36-50

Do you see this woman?

March 24 (Palm/Passion Sunday) – Mark 15:34

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

March 31 – Luke 24:36b-48

Do you have anything to eat?

LENT BEGINS

Ash Wednesday Services of Worship *Wednesday February 14 / 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.*

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. This moving service includes the Imposition of Ashes, a reminder of our penitence and mourning, and a time of recommitment to our relationship with God. The 6:30 p.m. service will be live-streamed.

GROW IN YOUR FAITH



The Sanctuary for Lent 2024 our annual Lenten Devotional begins Wednesday February 14th. In addition we will also offer copies of **Sacred Space for Lent** produced by the Jesuits. You can pick these up at the information desk and in the church office beginning on Sunday February 11th. We hope these offerings will enrich your relationship with God and draw you deeper into the Lenten journey.

for Lent 2024



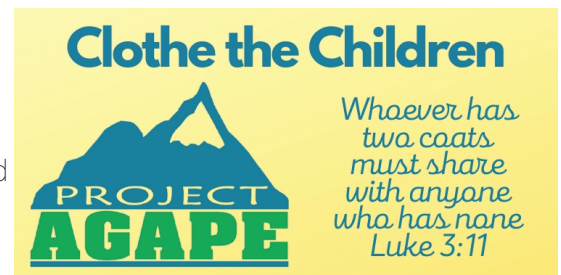
Prayer Labyrinth Throughout Lent | Daylight hours

Our outdoor pavilion includes a prayer labyrinth, installed in March of 2021. A labyrinth is a geometrically designed walking path leading to and from a central point. It is not a maze; you cannot get lost. There are no dead ends. The point is not disorientation, but orientation. Labyrinths have been used by Christians for prayer and meditation for centuries. The most famous labyrinth is in Chartres Cathedral in France. Our labyrinth is modeled after the Chartres labyrinth. For medieval Christians, walking the labyrinth was imagined to be a spiritual journey to the Holy Land. For others, it provides a metaphor for the Christian journey itself, offering time to listen, discern and respond to God as you walk its sacred path. You're invited to walk the labyrinth this Lenten season.

SERVING AND GIVING

Clothe the Children Sundays | Month of March

The service and missions committee will be collecting new and gently used clothing for the children and youth of Armenia through project AGAPE. Our conference and the NC conference have had a long standing relationship with the Christians of Armenia who have been victims of long-standing, multi-layered conflicts and terrorist attacks. There are no other humanitarian groups other than our conferences, providing aid to these oppressed people. We are their only hope. During the month of March we will be collecting clothing from newborn to size 16-18. If you don't have clothes to donate, consider shopping at your local Goodwill store. Learn more at www.fumcbelmont.org/agape



Stock the BCO Sundays February 4 | March 3

We will be collecting non-perishable foods and staples for the Belmont Community Organization (our local food pantry) as we do the first Sunday of every month.

Feed the House- Catherine's House Mondays March 11, 25

Twice a month we provide the community meal for the residents at Catherine's House. Volunteering can be as simple as dropping off a gift card to cover the meal cost, having door dash deliver the meal or for a special treat, or providing them with a home cooked meal. Find out more about this amazing ministry to women and children who face homelessness and how to provide a meal at www.fumcbelmont.org/catherineshouse.

Feeding the Children March 25, 29 / April 1 & 4

We are coordinating with Gaston County Schools to make sure all the children in our community who lack food resources receive a hot meal each day of their April spring break. Volunteers are needed to cook, pack and deliver the food. If you would like to volunteer to serve please go to our website, www.fumbelmont.org/feedingthechildren



Room in the Inn February 10, 24 and March 9, 23

Two Saturdays a month we prepare a meal and make beds for our neighbors who are without houses and need emergency shelter. Contact Quanna or Chad McAlister if you want to learn more or participate at quannaville@gmail.com

Soup for the Soul Starts February 6th

Persons are invited to join our team who will prepare homemade chicken noodle soup. This soup will be available for those in our community in need of a warm bowl of soup for comfort. If you know a person in need of comfort you are invited to pick up a quart of soup from our freezer and deliver it to whoever needs it. Please fill out the paper on the freezer door so we can track how many quarts are in our stock. If you want more information contact Debbie Thames, the coordinator for this ministry at dhthames@gmail.com

Community Cafe' Every Thursday beginning February 8th

Come for a delicious lunch in Carpenter Hall which is prepared by Dahlia Grove in our kitchen every Thursday from 11:45-1:15. Specialty sandwiches, salad and child friendly meals will be on the menu. Donations will support the women in the Dahlia Grove Community who are survivors of human trafficking, domestic violence, or addiction. Bring a neighbor and dine with us!

WEDNESDAYS

Midweek Eucharist Service Wednesdays | February 7 - March 27 | 5:15 p.m.

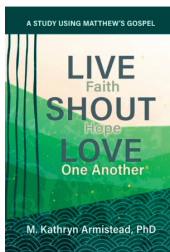
The Risen Christ comes to be with us whenever we share in Holy Communion. What better way to remain focused and centered during this holy season than to feast with Christ? The service each week is brief, concluding by 5:40 p.m. Join us!

Meet in the Middle Meals Wednesdays | February 7 - March 27 | 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Join us in Carpenter Hall to enjoy food and fellowship with our church family. Meals cost FUMC \$10 per adult and \$5 for children. We are asking those who join us to contribute what they can. No reservations needed. The menus are available at www.fumcbelmont.org/meetmiddle

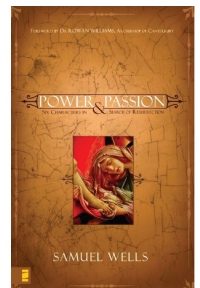
Adult Lent Studies Wednesdays | February 21 - March 27 | 6:30 p.m.

To register: www.fumcbelmont.org/smallgroups or www.fumcbelmont.org/lent



Do you want to put your faith into action? Reach the next level in living out your faith so that when others see you, perhaps they will also get a glimpse of Jesus. Based on the Gospel of Matthew. Led by Ashley Falls.

Explore the stories surrounding Jesus' cross and resurrection from the perspective of six significant characters in the story. We will read closely to discover the significance of each character for faith and life today. Led by Pastor George.



LENT AND EASTER WITH CHILDREN

To register of any of the following activities: www.fumcbelmont.org/kids or www.fumcbelmont.org/lent

Lent Car Talk Are you looking for meaningful moments and conversation with your children but struggle to find the right time or consistency? Sign up to receive texts that will prompt you with a Bible verse, thought provoking question, and prayer each day during Lent. These are designed to be used while you are in the car with your kids on the way to school, practice or even church! Scan the QR code to sign up.



Cereal: Bible Lessons Based on Kids' Favorite Cereals Wednesdays Feb. 21-Mar. 27 6:30-7:30 Preschool-5th grade.

Commercials always tell us that cereal is "part of a complete breakfast." In this small group kids will learn that, unlike cereal, Jesus is all we need to have a complete and joy-filled life. (Nursery childcare is also available.)

Journey with Jesus Sunday, March 24 10:00-10:45

Children are invited to walk in the footsteps of Jesus through stations representing Holy Week. Children will rotate with their Sunday School classes and explore storytelling, crafts, and snacks. No registration required.

LENT AND EASTER WITH YOUTH

Pine Needle Sale *March 1st -2nd*

The Youth and United Methodist Men are having their annual Pine Needle sale March 1st and 2nd. We guarantee bales for all orders placed by February 25th. All profits benefit projects and missions supported by the Youth and UMM. Go to www.fumcbelmont.org/pineneedles to place your order OR volunteer to help with this effort.

Connect *Sundays | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.*

Come join Youth in grades 6-12 in connecting to God and each other through fun, food, and Bible study!

Encounter *Wednesdays | grades 6-12 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.*

Through the season of Lent, Encounter will continue to study the "What Makes A Hero?" series. This study offers us an image of what it looks like to be victorious over trials and temptations by looking at pop culture heroes through the lens of faith.

HOLY WEEK



Palm/Passion Sunday *March 24 | 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.*

Join us for worship as we remember Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem, marking the beginning of his final week leading to the cross.

Prayer Stations *Wednesday, March 27 through Sunday the 31st*

Prayer stations will be set up in the Sanctuary and in the Narthex. This will give you an opportunity to reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross and ultimate sacrifice for us, and what God is calling you to let go of this season?

Maundy Thursday Service of Worship *Thursday, March 28 | 7:00 p.m.*

Maundy Thursday is named for the mandatum (Latin for "commandment") Jesus gave on this night to love one another as he shared his Last Supper with the disciples. This year, we gather on this night to feast with him again in the celebration of Holy Communion. The service includes beautiful music and a "stripping" of the altar, removing ornamentation and color from the chancel to mark the solemnity of the occasion. The service will be live-streamed.

Community Cross Walk *Friday, March 29 | 12:00 noon | Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter*

Join our brothers and sisters in Christ from around Belmont for a moving, walk through downtown Belmont, remembering Christ's journey to the cross. The walk concludes at First Presbyterian Church.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service *Friday, March 29 | 7:00 p.m.*

Our Tenebrae Service, or "Service of Shadows" retells the story of Good Friday through Scripture, music and a gradual dimming of the sanctuary to total darkness. The service will be live-streamed. We remember on this night what makes Good Friday good, for on this day God's deepest love for us was revealed in the death of Jesus Christ.

Community Easter Sunrise Service *Sunday, March 31 | Greenwood Cemetery*

We'll gather as a community with our brothers and sisters from around Belmont to celebrate the resurrection.

Easter Sunday Service of Worship *Sunday, March 31 | 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.*

Join us for Easter Sunday Worship with Holy Communion and special music. It will be a grand day as we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death and claim our place as God's "Easter People!"