

First Presbyterian Church Belmont

# THE HARBINGER

Newsletter - January 2023



Hello 2023! We hope each of you had a blessed holiday season and are looking forward to all that God has in store in the New Year! A new year is a time to celebrate and start fresh. A time to reflect on what was, but an opportunity to focus on what will be. A new year also offers us a moment to set new goals and dream new dreams, but this year, we want to encourage you to make a resolution that richly counts for God. A resolution of eternal value and one that motivates us to pray more, seek Him more, and to spread the love of Christ more than ever before. Ask God to help us be spiritually prosperous and responsive to His guidance in our lives. We are excited to witness the great things that God has prepared for you and your family, for our church, and for our community! Let the words of English poet, Frances Ridley Havergal, serve as a reminder of God's presence with us in 2023 and "another year with Thee."

"ANOTHER YEAR IS DAWNING, DEAR FATHER LET IT BE,  
IN WORKING OR IN WAITING, ANOTHER YEAR WITH THEE.

ANOTHER YEAR OF PROGRESS, ANOTHER YEAR OF PRAISE,  
ANOTHER YEAR OF PROVING THY PRESENCE ALL THE DAYS.

ANOTHER YEAR OF MERCIES, OF FAITHFULNESS AND GRACE,  
ANOTHER YEAR OF GLADNESS, THE GLORY OF THY FACE."

-FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL





## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

In 2022, our church was blessed with 52 new members, who chose First Presbyterian Church Belmont as their home church. We give God thanks for each new member that became part of our congregation last year and we are excited to walk alongside you in faith. For new members, we strive to offer opportunities for you to learn more about our church and connect with other believers in Christ.

### *New Members Class:*

These classes are offered the first and second Sunday of each month and are a great way to ask questions, learn more about FPC Belmont, and more. Held in the Gathering Area at 9:45 am, the New Member Classes are informal, but a great way to learn more about us.

### *New Member Breakfast:*

We invite you to join one of our New Member Breakfast's, which are offered at various times throughout the year. Be sure to stay connected on Realm or sign up for our congregational emails for upcoming dates!

### *8th Grade Confirmation:*

All 8th Graders are invited to participate in a new format to become church members through Confirmation Class beginning January 22. This class will meet Sundays at 9:45am in Multipurpose Room C. Confirmands will join the church this year on Mother's Day, May 14. For questions, please contact Lee Wooden at [lwooden@fpc-belmont.org](mailto:lwooden@fpc-belmont.org).

## THIRD SUNDAY BREAKFAST

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 15 - 9:45 AM**

Join us as we kickoff the first "Third Sunday Breakfast" of 2023! Breakfast will take place in the Fellowship Hall and there will be no Sunday School classes held this day. Please scan the QR code to view the breakfast menu and to RSVP. Reservations are greatly appreciated.



## 20'S & 30'S BIBLE STUDY

The 20's & 30's Life Group is kicking off a Bible Study that will discuss topics that are applicable to this stage of life. The study will then be held every other Sunday and below are tentative study dates for January & February 2023. For more information, visit Realm or contact Bre Wilhelm at [breannahager91@gmail.com](mailto:breannahager91@gmail.com).

**Jan. 8 - 12:30 PM** (The Lodge, Belmont)

**Jan. 22 - 5:00 PM** (The Roselle's Residence)

**Feb. 5 - 12:30 PM** (Primal Brewery, Belmont)

**Feb. 19 - 5:00 PM** (The Wilhelm's Residence)

## COMMUNICANTS CLASS & ACOLYTE TRAINING

This program is for 3rd and 4th Graders and begins on **Wednesday, February 1** (during WOW) and continues each week through Ash Wednesday (Feb 22). Communicants will be recognized and new Acolytes commissioned during the **Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 pm**. Communicants will participate in The Lord's Supper for the first time during worship on **The First Sunday of Lent (Feb 26)**. For questions, please contact Robin Russell at [rrussell@fpc-belmont.org](mailto:rrussell@fpc-belmont.org)

## FEED THE CHILDREN

*A special "thank you" to those who volunteered and supported our most recent Feed the Children event. With your help, we were able to package and deliver approximately 1,916 warm meals to local children in need! This outreach is a blessing to many families in our community and we want to give God thanks for allowing us the opportunity to minister to each child and family.*



# MISSENS OUTREACH



## RISE AGAINST HUNGER

### *Meal Packing Event*

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

**12:00 - 2:00 pm**

(following the 11 am service)



Rise Against Hunger is growing a global movement to end hunger by empowering communities, nourishing lives and responding to emergencies. By partnering with "RAH", our church is able to help set this movement into motion with our Meal Packing Event, which is an intergenerational volunteer opportunity you don't want to miss! This year, our goal is to pack 15,120 meals in two hours or less and we are in need of a minimum of 100 volunteers. If you would like to help make this event possible, scan the QR code to register as a volunteer. Nursery care will be provided for those with young children. For questions, contact Lisa Neisler at [lneisler@aol.com](mailto:lneisler@aol.com).

## RICE N BEANS

### *Donations Needed*

**ESSENTIAL ITEMS SUCH AS ADULT SHOES, WARM CLOTHING, SOCKS, AND UNDERWEAR ARE REQUESTED THIS WINTER SEASON. ITEMS MAY BE PLACED IN THE GRAY BOX OUTSIDE THE CHURCH OFFICE.**



For questions, contact Hayes Bogen at [hayesbogen@hotmail.com](mailto:hayesbogen@hotmail.com)

"Rice N Beans provides hot food, clothing, and personal care items to the homeless. By meeting immediate needs and serving them with love and kindness, we desire to give them encouragement and hope, and affirm their dignity."



## MALAWI MISSION PROJECT

**THURSDAYS IN JANUARY AT 9:30 AM**

A women's project to help support and empower girls and women of Malawi, by supplying them with necessary hygienic products. For more information, log onto Realm events for details about how you can help!



## HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP to the North Carolina Coast

July 15 – 21

Through Praying Pelicans Missions, our mission team will assist local Ministries and non-profits serve a local community on the coast of North Carolina. The team will help with construction, including gutting water-damaged homes, building ramps, roofing, and more.

Adult leaders planning to attend are asked to be active volunteers in the Youth Ministry throughout the new year, leading up to the mission trip. Additionally, friends of members are welcome to join us, but are required to attend youth activities frequently.

The cost is \$375 per student.

\*A mandatory meeting for the mission team (students and adult leaders) will be on May 7, following the 11:00 am worship service. For questions, contact Lee Wooden at [lwooden@fpc-belmont.org](mailto:lwooden@fpc-belmont.org)

## 2023 MICROLOAN TRIP to Guatemala

We are excited to share that planning is underway for the next Guatemala Microloan Trip! This will be the third trip made for the Microloan Project and prior visitors have found the experience life changing. This trip allows you the opportunity to witness how the Microloan Project has positively impacted the Guatemalan women, their families, and their communities.

April 25 – May 3, 2023

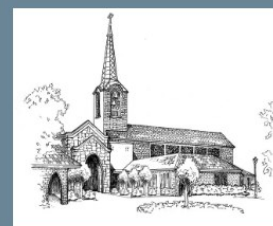
The cost is \$1,800 and includes:

- Accommodations
- Transportation
- Airfare
- Meals



If you are interested in attending, please notify Jean Wilson at [jeanwilsonstudio@gmail.com](mailto:jeanwilsonstudio@gmail.com) by January 31st. Additionally, a deposit of \$900 is due by February 1.

2022 Contribution Statements will be sent out no later than January 31st. Should you have any questions, please contact our Financial Administrator, Cathy Pennington at [cpennington@fpc-belmont.org](mailto:cpennington@fpc-belmont.org) or (704) 825-3357, ext. 102



First Presbyterian Church Belmont  
102 South Central Avenue, Belmont, NC 28012

## OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER

### Wednesday, Jan 11

WOW (K-5th Grade) Resumes:

- Children's Choir: 4:15 pm
- WOW: 5:00 pm

### Sunday, Jan 15

Evening Youth Resumes - 5:00 pm

### Monday, Jan 16

32nd Annual Unity Day Service in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

- 7:00 pm at Belmont Foursquare Church

### Wednesday, Jan 18

High School Fellowship Resumes - 7:30 pm

### Sunday, Jan 22

Congregational Meeting (both worship services) to elect Elders & Deacons to the Class of 2025  
8th Grade Confirmation Class Begins - 9:45 am

### Wednesday, Feb 1

Communicants Class & Acolyte Training begins and continues on Wednesdays, through Feb 22



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**Early Worship Service:** Sundays at 8:30 am

**Sunday School:** Sundays at 9:45 am

**8th Grade Confirmation:** Sundays at 9:45 am (through May)

**Worship Service:** Sundays at 11:00 am

**Evening Youth:** Sundays at 5:00 pm, Dinner at 6:00 pm

**Evening Prayer:** Mondays at 6:00 pm

**Joy Circle:** 2nd Tuesday of Each Month at 10:00 am

**Men's Midweek Fellowship:** Wednesdays at 7:15 am

**Women's Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 9:30 am

**Children's Choir:** Wednesdays at 4:15 pm

**WOW:** Wednesdays at 5:00 pm

**Fellowship Supper:** Wednesdays at 5:30 pm

**Adult Handbell Rehearsal:** Wednesdays at 6:15pm

**Women With Faith:** 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

**Adult Choir Rehearsal:** Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

**High School Fellowship:** Wednesdays at 7:30 pm

**Community Bible Study:** Thursdays at 5:00 pm (Leadership) & 6:30 pm (Class)

**Ala-Teen:** Thursdays at 7:00 pm

**Men's Breakfast:** Saturdays at 7:30 am