

Tri-Angles

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



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



Dear FUMC Family,

Throughout 2024 we have been prayerfully reading Paul's Letter to the Ephesians together. If you haven't had the chance, I hope you will join us now. Start in chapter 1, selecting a few verses to read each day. As you read, note a word or phrases that stands out to you. Spend some time reflecting on what God might be saying to you through the word or phrase. Then, write a short prayer in response to what you hear God saying. Finally, consider one concrete way you can live out what you've heard in the days ahead. Try this each day until you get to the end of chapter 6. Then, return again to chapter 1 and begin again!

I'm really excited to begin a special worship/preaching series on Ephesians beginning September 8. Throughout the month, and into October, we'll look together at this incredible letter and all that it has to say to us. At the core, Ephesians presents a vision of what our life in Christ is all about: who we were created and saved to be in Him. As Paul puts it in Chapter 1, to "live for the praise of his glory."

As Paul celebrates all that Christ has done for us, the vision he casts for the Church is stunning. "[Christ] is our peace," Paul proclaims in Ephesians 2:14. In spite of all that might divide and separate us (and there was much to separate the church in Ephesus), there is unity and peace in Christ. Through his life, death and resurrection we become "fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God."

I can think of no better message to preach and proclaim in 2024. Wars rage on multiple fronts. Already we find ourselves in the midst of a bitter, divisive election season that only promises to get worse. As I shared in a recent sermon, Americans these days seem obsessed with playing the "blame game," finding others to be upset with at all times. Sadly, we have seen these dynamics play out in the life of the church, and in our neighborhoods and workplaces and families far too often. There is a deep need and hunger for peace all around us.

Ephesians reminds us that Christ is the source of our peace. We fix our lives on Jesus, striving to be more like him in all that we do. "Living for the praise of his glory" is but another way of saying to "be more like Jesus." And as we do, we preach and proclaim Christ and the peace He offers to all those we meet.

I hope you will join me in spreading the good news of Christ and his peace this fall. We have two incredible ways to do so:

- Brand new **FUMC Belmont T-Shirts**, available for purchase on Sundays for \$10, with proceeds benefitting our United Methodist missionary partners in Madagascar and Brazil.
- **"Christ Is Our Peace" yard signs**, which will be available on September 1. How amazing would it be, in a sea of signs for candidates running for election (often a reminder of all that divides us), to see these all over Belmont?!

We've designed these shirts and signs intentionally. They are purple, the color of royalty – a reminder that Christ gets our ultimate, final allegiance, over and above all the kingdoms and rulers of this world. Of course, purple is also a mixture of red and blue. We're not out to be a "red church" or "blue church" because we know that we're a better church because of our disagreements and differences! We can stay in community and relationship with one another because we are fixed on Christ, and Christ is our peace!

The shirts and signs also feature our church logo, a series of leaves which is inspired, in part, by Revelation 22's description of the tree of life: "the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations." We are called, First United Methodist Church of Belmont, to be more like Jesus together, bringing healing and peace to all those around us. The world needs us and the good news we offer now more than ever. Christ is our peace.

Fall is always an exciting time to be part of FUMC Belmont. Read on in this newsletter for all the ways to be in ministry with us. I look forward to it all, and thank you, as always, for giving me the privilege of serving as your pastor.

In Christ,



**First Friday
Men's Meeting**



**Friday Sept. 6
6:30 am-Carpenter Hall
Men's Connections**

Come and play a fun game
& learn more about the
men in our church.

Be part of the community!





All are welcome.
RSVP helps us plan for food.
Contact Brandon for more info
w.brandon.martin@gmail.com

**Join the Primetimers for a
fall trip to the mountains!**

Thursday October 10th -
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Blowing Rock for lunch
(only cost is lunch)

Transportation provided

RSVP to Doreen:
doreen@fumcbelmont.org



Interested in Creation Care and Justice?
Learn more about the work of the
Western North Carolina Conference of
the UMC and how you can participate.

Join four 30-minute lunch and learns
by Zoom on September 4, 11, 18, and
25 at noon.

Find information and registration at
www.wnccumc.org or contact Brian
Mateer at bmateer@wnccumc.org.

**Western North Carolina Conference**
The United Methodist Church



The Catawba Valley District has some upcoming **Lay Servant training opportunities** available!

BASIC Lay Servant Ministries course (this course is a prerequisite for all additional Lay Servant courses) -- Sept 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2:00 - 4:30pm. Location: First UMC Lincolnton. Instructor: Dana Pate.

ADVANCED -- The Color of Compromise -- October 13, 20, 27, and Nov. 3, 2:00 - 4:30pm
Instructors: Dick Strachan and Jesse Caldwell. Location: this course is offered on Zoom.

ADVANCED -- Mission Possible 3+ -- September 27, October 4, 11, 18, 25, November 1.
Friday evenings (there are 6 sessions, but one can be missed and still qualify for LSM credit). 6:00 - 8:00pm.
Location: Messiah UMC, Vale. Instructor: Janet Reep Morgan.

Each course is \$20 per person. For more information, and to register: <https://wnc-reg.brtaapp.com/CatawbaValleyLSMFall2024>

Not-So-Silent-Auction benefitting Our ZOE Family Umenezero “Happiness” Bweramana

September 22, 2024 - 5 - 7 p.m.

Join us for an evening of fellowship and fun as we put our bidding to work. Zoe Empowers is a global non-profit organization that helps children to move from poverty into a life of empowerment and self-sufficiency.



Our auction isn't successful without generous donors like you. Donations of new items, services, handmade creations, vacation rentals, entertainment tickets, sports tickets, completed baskets, gift cards and more are welcome. No gift is too small.

NEW THIS YEAR, we are offering an Amazon wish list of items you can purchase to be added to one of the pre-determined theme baskets. Items will ship to us. It's easy! Use this QR Code to contribute to a basket.



Once guests have had a chance to view our silent auction items and start their bidding, we offer a salad, dinner and dessert meal. Reservations and payment for dinner can be made using this QR Code.



While dining, auction attendees will have a chance to participate in our **live bidding** on “big ticket” items such as a weekend in Hilton Head (October 11-14, 2024). Opening bid will be \$300.

We will also have a one-of-a-kind Santa painting made just for our auction, hand-made cutting boards, knit loveys, and so much more.

DONATE AND MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW!



At First United Methodist Church of Belmont, we have a wonderful group of trained **Congregational Care Ministers** who are available for you anytime you are going through a difficult season and need someone to talk and pray with you. Please fill out the prayer request form at fumcbelmont.org/request or you can call the office 704-825-2106 and ask for the Congregational Care Minister Coordinator, Diane Kimel.

Coming soon we will begin to offer prayer after service in the prayer room off of the Narthex. Stop in and bring your concerns to one of the Congregational Care Ministers or one of our retired Pastors and they will pray with you.



YOUTH

The fall youth program is gearing up to be an exciting, rewarding experience for those in sixth through twelve grade. In the fall the youth will begin meeting again on Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 7:30 for a program called Encounter. The main purpose of this program is to offer a deeper dive into the Bible and offer the youth a way to form a strong relationship with God. The program begins on September 11. Elizabeth Boney and Paige Dunigan will be teaching a study on Ephesians that will follow our sermon series. We will also have two mission nights woven into this program.

Our Sunday morning youth program is called Engage. We meet in the Youth House at 10 am for games and a Bible study. During Engage in September, we will identify ways students can make a difference this year, plus develop a strategy to help them hold steady when life's waters get stormy. Our Sunday leaders are Kim Ingram and Tresca McSwain.

The Sunday evening Youth program, Connect, will begin on September 8. We meet from 5:30 to 7:30 in Carpenter Hall. Each evening includes recreation, supper, and devotion. Our devotional study for the fall is called "Inviting Teens Into the Disruptive Joy with Jesus." We also have some "special event nights" planned like our Holy Yoga and Beach Volleyball event on September 29 at Gastonia's Warlick YMCA outdoor chapel. On October 20 we will hold a mission's night and help create meals for Roof Above in Charlotte.

First United Methodist Church of Belmont has so many ways in which our youth can engage with the world. Please reach out to our new Youth Director, Quanna McAlister, if you are interested in more details.

PARENT MEETING

For Parents of Teens in grades 6-12
September 8th 10-10:45am

We will gather in Carpenter Hall to meet our new Director Quanna McAlister. She will be sharing important information about the plans she has in place for our youth.

EPHESIANS
your identity in Christ
TONY MERIDA

TEEN BIBLE STUDY

Starting
September 11th
6:30-7:30

**Holy Yoga Youth Night
Sept 29**

Youth will meet at
**Warlick YMCA at the
outdoor chapel for Holy
Yoga with a trained
instructor, followed by
dinner and a game of
beach volleyball
5:30 to 7:30**

Sign up by September 23

**WHICH WOULD
YOU CHOOSE?**

Join us at Connect for
a series on poverty
Oct 13 & 20
5:30-7:30



Worship Leaders

We welcome First Kids and youth who wish to serve as Bible Bearer, Acolyte and Crucifer at our 11:00 worship on Sunday mornings. Sign up at fumcbelmont.org/kids



In October our First Kids will make collages in Bible Art. Please donate magazines and scraps of interesting paper for us to use. Thank you!

PRIMETIMERS REFLECTION

The Primetimers had an afternoon of creativity at "A Little Bit of Art." They picked out their pieces to paint and then the right colors to highlight each work of art. Alice painted on canvas and it looked amazing! While the paint flowed, so did the laughter and conversations! Join us next time for our fall trip to the mountains.





HAPPY *Rally Day!*



On August 11 over 150 people joined us for our Sunday School kick off breakfast and celebration.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 1	Ashley McGraw Nicole Stanforth David Washam	September 10	Jamie Campbell Caleb Campbell Elijah Simpson Tyler Thornton Thomas Young	September 17	David Pennington
September 2	Kendrick Boehlke Hayden Currier Austin Ramsey	September 11	Barbara Lange Rick Pettus Charles Whitley	September 18	Bradley Bondurant
September 4	Eddy Bowen Adrian Lunsford Chip Thompson	September 12	Aaron Blanton Elizabeth Bunce Susan Burnette	September 19	Dottie Moore
September 5	John Rhodes Christie Etling Cassie Fann	September 13	Barbara Byrum Ludi McGinnis Blaira Reagan Chris Thornton	September 21	Jonathan Kalmbach Tina Moore
September 7	Doreen Collins Derek Widenhouse	September 14	Erin Tindall Marie Widenhouse	September 22	Casey Bork Hollan Delany Kathy Rhyne
September 8	Chuck Allen Carrie Kunder Faith McElyea	September 15	Derek Featherston Aimee Russell	September 23	Matt Gaskill Marsha Harris Carol Hudson
September 9	Margie Ligon Traci Pate Lydia Widenhouse	September 16	Stephanie McCurry	September 24	Coralyn Davis Joshua Elmore Keith Wilson
				September 26	Caroline Beaty Andrew Langley Jonathan McKee Vanessa Rice Bruce Boney Jr. Lauren Bryant

THOUGHTS, PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

Sister-in-law, Lauren, and her children (Betsy Burns)
Alice Farris' sister, Janet Miles, on the death of her husband, Stephen
Kent Tilley
Erin Carver, Renee and Tim Painter's daughter
Murphy Clark and family

You can submit prayer requests to prayers@fumcbelmont.org or by clicking this QR code:



THANK YOU

Dear FUMC Belmont Church Family,

Greetings from your resident pastoral counselor! First, let me thank you for hosting the only non-profit pastoral counseling practice in Gaston County on your campus for the last 14 years. This kind of hospitality is truly offering the comfort of the Lord to the people of God. For those of you I have not had the pleasure of meeting, I am Rev. Shelton Davis and my office is in the youth house. My ministry is offering professional counseling to adults and couples, allowing them to bring their own faith into the process as much as they would like. Pastoral counseling requires a lot of training, but it has been so worthwhile to fulfill my calling to ministry in this way.

I would also like to thank you for your generous donation to our Client Assistance Fund. As a non-profit practice, we do not turn anyone away for financial reasons and FUMC Belmont has a long history of supporting our clients as they search for healing and hope. Through a grant funded by the missions committee, you have helped so many people get through difficult times. We appreciate your donation and hope you will continue to help us help our community through pastoral counseling.

Blessings,
Rev. Shelton D. Davis, M.Div., M.A., LCHMHC, NCC

OUR STAFF

Carole Bertino | Administrative Assistant | carole@fumcbelmont.org
Doreen Collins | Director of Adult Discipleship | doreen@fumcbelmont.org
Heather Gaskins | Director of the Child Development Center | heather@fumcbelmont.org
Margie Ligon | Director of Missions | margie@fumcbelmont.org
Jennifer Martin | Director of Children's Ministry | jennifer@fumcbelmont.org
Quanna McAlister | Director of Youth Ministries | quanna@fumcbelmont.org
George Ragsdale | Senior Pastor | george@fumcbelmont.org
Ellen Robison | Minister of Worship and the Arts | ellen@fumcbelmont.org
Mark Sutton | Business Administrator | mark@fumcbelmont.org



**RETIRED BISHOP
KENNETH CARDER**

— will speak at FUMCB —

**September 11, 2024
6:30 pm**

COME HEAR BISHOP CARDER
SHARE HIS WISDOM ON
CAREGIVING FOR OLDER ADULTS
AND THOSE WITH DEMENTIA

For more information contact
Doreen: doreen@fumcbelmont.org



FAITH & BLUE
Weekend - 2024

OCTOBER 11TH-14TH

Friday October 11th
Event Kick Off Breakfast - First Baptist Church (8:30am-10:00am)
Facebook Live Interview with Chief Falls

Saturday October 12th
Community Improvement Project - Reid Park (8am-noon)
Fall Festival / Pumpkin Patch - Park St. UMC (4pm-7pm)

Sunday October 13th
Unity March - BPD to Stowe Park (4pm-4:30pm)
Faith Fest - Stowe Park (4:30pm-8pm)

Monday October 14th
Closing Ceremony - Queen of the Apostles (6pm-8pm)

FREE Ticket / T Shirt
Sponsor
Donate

