

Tri-Angles

August 2026



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,

A famous comedian once said, "Eighty percent of success is showing up." If that's true, United Methodists might be on to something! After all, when we become members of the church, one of the things we promise to offer is our presence.

Of course, presence means more than simply occupying a pew on Sunday morning. It means showing up for one another, sharing life together, and allowing ourselves to be known, encouraged, and challenged.

That's why I'm so excited for us to launch a new churchwide challenge this fall called **ALL IN**. Our hope is simple but ambitious: that every member of FUMC Belmont will participate in some kind of small group this fall.

Building relationships is one of our core values at FUMC Belmont because we believe that faith is meant to be lived in community. We need people who know us, pray for us, listen to us, learn alongside us, and sometimes challenge us. We need places where we can ask honest questions, share our struggles, and discover together what it means to become more like Jesus Christ.

This has always been part of the genius of Methodism. The early Methodist movement did not grow primarily because John Wesley was a gifted preacher, although he certainly was. It grew because people gathered in small groups called classes and bands. In those groups, they prayed together, studied Scripture, cared for one another, and asked how their faith was shaping the way they actually lived.

Wesley had learned from his own experience how difficult it was to follow Christ alone. He famously wrote, "The gospel of Christ knows of no religion, but social; no holiness but social holiness." He did not mean simply that Christians should care about society. He meant that there is no solitary Christianity. We need one another if we are going to grow in holiness and take our faith seriously.

That may be more important now than ever. We live in a deeply fractured world. We are increasingly separated into groups of people who think like us, vote like us, and see the world like us. Genuine conversation has become difficult, and disagreement too easily becomes division. The church can offer another way. In Christian community, we learn to listen, speak with humility, remain in relationship, and love people whose experiences and opinions may differ from our own. Small groups give us a place to practice the patient, gracious life to which Christ calls us.

We will kick off the **ALL IN** challenge on Rally Day, Sunday, August 16. That morning, we will distribute information about the many groups available this fall. Some are already meeting, while others are brand new. Several of these new opportunities are highlighted later in this newsletter.

Between now and Rally Day, we invite you to think and pray about how you might be **ALL IN** this fall. You will receive a commitment card on August 16 where you can indicate the group in which you already participate or the group you plan to join. We ask everyone to return their commitment card by Sunday, August 30.

You might have an idea for a group that's not listed. If so, we'd love to talk with you about how to make it happen! We need groups with different schedules, formats, and areas of interest. The goal is not for everyone to join the same kind of group. The goal is for everyone to find a place where they can build relationships and grow to be more like Jesus alongside others.

We need each other. So this fall, let's show up, grow together, and be **ALL IN**.

With much peace,



COMING UP IN WORSHIP



August 2 – Genesis 32:22–31

Jacob wrestles with God — struggle, blessing, and change of name

August 9 – Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28

Joseph and his brothers — favoritism, betrayal, family fracture

August 16 – Genesis 45:1–15

Joseph reconciles with his brothers — forgiveness, providence, healing

August 23 – Children's Sabbath

Join us for Children's Sabbath with guest preacher, Rev. Camille Roddy, the chair of the Western North Carolina Conference Congregations 4 Children, an initiative of The United Methodist Church partnering with local public schools to combat childhood poverty. It focuses on improving K-3 literacy, meeting basic student needs, and increasing parental involvement.

August 30 – "ALL IN" Sunday, Romans 12:9-21 and Matthew 16:21-28

What does it look like to be ALL IN? Join us as we answer Jesus' call to follow and commit to a full of growing, connecting, and living out Paul's vision of genuine love together.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER

ADULT SMALL GROUPS THROUGH THE WEEK THIS FALL

GROUPS BEGIN THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14. THEIR LENGTH AND DURATION VARIES. VISIT FUMCBELMONT.ORG/SMALLGROUPS FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SIGN UP TODAY.

CHILDCARE MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR ANY OF THESE GROUPS BASED ON INTEREST AND ADVANCE REGISTRATION. PLEASE CONTACT JENNIFER MARTIN (JENNIFER@FUMCBELMONT.ORG) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU WILL NEED CHILDCARE.

Monday, 6:30 p.m. | The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work

Drawing on decades of research, internationally known psychologist John Gottman offers practical tools to help couples deepen friendship, manage conflict, and build a stronger, more lasting marriage. *Led by Leigh and Michael Nance*

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. | DISCIPLE Bible Study

Take a 30-week journey through the Old and New Testaments, discovering the Bible's sweeping story and how it shapes our lives as followers of Jesus. No previous Bible study experience is necessary. *Led by Pastor George and Catherine Ragsdale*

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. | Building Beloved Community

Using a timely new resource from the United Methodist Council of Bishops, this group will explore how Christians can practice courageous love, resist division, and help build communities in which every person is seen and valued. *Led by Kim Ingram and Janet Jones*

Thursday, 11:00 a.m. | The Shape of Living

How can we live faithfully when life feels hurried, demanding, and overwhelming? Drawing from David Ford's classic spiritual text, this group will explore wise, practical guidance for finding spiritual direction and shaping a life of deeper purpose. *Led by Pastor Ellen*

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER

FIRST FRIDAY MEN'S MEETING

LIGHT BREAKFAST
SHORT STUDY
FELLOWSHIP

Friday August 7 - 6:30 AM

Youth House
Led by Ryan Dayton

RSVP to Tony Wilson
or for more information:
kingsmtntony@yahoo.com



August 12 ☕ 7-10 AM

The Resurrection Cup coffee truck
will be in the FUMC Belmont
parking lot on August 12. Buy a
treat, watch the South Point
Senior Parade, and celebrate the
first day of school.



CHURCH BOWLING PARTY



TEXTILE LANES

AUGUST 30 | 4-6:30 PM

ALL AGES INVITED!

Join us for bowling, fellowship, and dinner. RSVP www.fumcbelmont.org/signup



RUTH CIRCLE

Monday, August 24

We'll deliver supper to Catherine's House and
then meet up for dinner together. Email
jennifer@fumcbelmont.org to sign up.

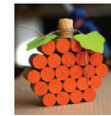
SQUARE TWO

All ladies are invited
September 10 - 7 pm
At FUMCB

Make this fun
cork pumpkin

For more info

Contact Pam Stowe 704-678-4685



Bring a
hot glue gun!

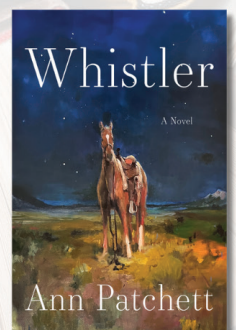
Reading Women -

a book group for women who like to read and discuss a wide
variety of books that make us think and enlarge our world!

We begin the year on Monday, September 14 at 7 pm with Whistler by Ann Patchett.

We will then meet the second Tuesday of each month, October through May.

For more information, contact Ellen at ellen@fumcbelmont.org.





Blessing of the Backpacks

Bring your school or work bag on August 9 to be blessed for this new year.
8:30 and 11:00

SUNDAY School



- Babies/Toddlers – room 405
- Preschool (ages 3-4) – room 400
- Godly Play (Kinder/1st Gr) – room 401
- Bible Explorers (2nd/3rd Gr) – room 408
- Mr. Sam's Class (4th-5th Gr) – room 139

Children will move up to their new classes on August 16.

3rd Grade Bible Sunday



August 16
8:30 and 11:00 worship

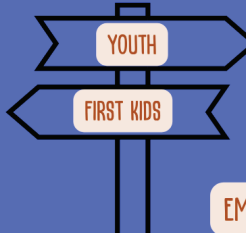


Alleluia Choir

Practice Wednesdays @ 5:30
Beginning August 19
Ages 4 - 5th grade
Email ellen@fumcbelmont.org to join

Crossroads

A GROUP FOR 4TH/5TH GRADERS



Kicks off Aug 16

GAMES, SUPPER, SERVICE PROJECTS
OLD FELLOWSHIP HALL
5:30-7:30

EMAIL JENNIFER@FUMCBELMONT.ORG TO JOIN

children's sabbath



We'll welcome Rev. Camille Roddy to the pulpit on August 23 to explore issues facing children in our community and around the world.

8:30 and 11:00

Fishes & Loaves

Family Service Project

First Kids and their families are invited to join us in Carpenter Hall on **September 20** as we prepare freezer meals for foster families. We will learn about Jesus' miracle feeding of the 5,000, learn kitchen skills, and then prepare meals.

Sign up coming soon.





FUMC FALL YOUTH PROGRAMS

GET EXCITED ABOUT ALL OF THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR YOUTH THIS FALL!

Sunday Night Youth:

- ✓ Kickoff Waterslide Party on 8/9
- ✓ Sunday Night Youth begins 8/16
- ✓ Beach Retreat 9/18-9/20
- ✓ Friendly Pickleball Tourney on 10/4
- ✓ PrimeTimers & Youth Night 10/11

Sunday School Offerings:

- ✓ Middle School S.S meets in the Youth House
- ✓ High School S.S meets in the Carpenter Hall classroom

Our Four Week Bible studies for the fall:

1. The Bible: How to Read and Love It - 8/16 through 9/6
2. Philippians: Rejoice - 9/13-10/11
3. Faithful Civic Engagement and the Bible - 10/18-11/8



Contact Quanna at
Quanna@fumcbelmont.org
for additional information

MISSION MANIA REFLECTIONS



Mission Mania was a true blessing for our youth group on June 2nd-4th



We had the opportunity to connect with the **day campers** of our church: we ran bumblebee relays, taught a session on how insects eat, and even helped make edible dirt in a cup.

At **Holy Angels**, our youth helped paint wooden crafts with the residents.



On Wednesday afternoon, our youth cooked a homemade meal for **With Friends**, a homeless shelter for teens in Gastonia. After dining with our new friends, we all went to **Altitude Trampoline Park** for some fun.

We worked at **Servant's Heart Ranch** on our last day of our mission trip. This outdoor facility serves children 8 to 18 with mental health needs. We spent the day providing needed physical labor on the farm.



Throughout the week, youth spent time in **prayer & Bible study**:

*What does it mean to serve God and His people?
Why does God need our help?
Why does mission work demand sacrifice?
...These are pretty good questions for all of us to ponder.*

FUMC BELMONT CHURCHWIDE PICNIC

Our annual picnic is always a fun time of sharing a meal, laughter, and fellowship. This year was no different. New relationships were formed and people slowed down to catch up with those they have not seen in a while.



VBS Reflections



In June, we welcomed 72 children and over 50 volunteers to our Rainforest Falls VBS. We learned that God is our Creator, God knows everything, and God is our safe place. WOW, GOD! Students learned about our Zoe Empowerments groups and raised over \$800 for Zoe! We finished with a family celebration on the last night reviewing all we had learned, watching a slideshow of our fun week, and enjoying Kona Ice on the playground. Thank you church for making this wonderful week possible!

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE



Collecting non-perishable food to help those without adequate food resources

August 2

TOP 20 REQUESTS

Rice	Crackers
Jelly	Mac & Cheese
Pop tarts	Pasta
Grits	Pasta Sauce
Oatmeal	Dried Beans
Peanut Butter	Corn Muffin Mix
Instant Potatoes	Cookies
Soup	
Canned: Meat, Fruit Tomatoes, Vegetables and Pasta	

School Supply Collection

Holbrook Middle School

- Tissues
- Clorox wipes
- Hand Sanitizer
- #2 Pencils
- Composition books (Black & white)
- Deodorant
- One subject notebooks
- Printer paper
- Brooms and dustpans



Collecting July 5 through August 4

Serve with the Breakfast Crew

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP THIS FUN AND IMPORTANT MINISTRY?

YOU CAN HELP:
COOK BREAKFAST AT 7 A.M.,
SERVE FOOD FROM 9:15 - 10 A.M. OR
CLEAN UP AFTER BREAKFAST 10 -10:30

EMAIL DOREEN OR SIGN UP AT
FUMCBELMONT.ORG/SIGNUPS




Feed the HOUSE

Help care for moms and their children at Catherine's House by dropping off a simple meal. Many dates are open.

www.fumcbelmont.org/catherineshouse




RICE & BEANS

FEEDING THE BODY, RESTORING THE SOUL

RICE&BEANS.ORG

Rice and Beans serves dinner to a vulnerable population each Tuesday evening in Gastonia. We invite you to volunteer your time or donate needed items.

To volunteer or learn more, go to fumcbelmont.org/events or reach out to Michael & Denise Martin or Quanna today.

What is the Rice and Beans Ministry?

Rice and Beans is a Non-Profit group feeding, clothing, healing, and supporting the homeless community in Gastonia. This group of volunteers has been serving dinner to the homeless in the parking lots of the Salvation Army and the United Way since 2022, and have never missed a Tuesday due to weather or holidays. From 2022 through 2025, over 15,000 meals have been served. Rice and Beans does not have corporate or large church sponsorship. The volunteers, their friends and churches support the ministry, which cost around \$1,000 per month to provide 400 meals, clothes, health care, hygiene kits, and blankets. The meals are cooked at home by volunteers. None of the leaders or volunteers receive nor ask for compensation.

A special thanks to First United Methodist Church and its members for making clothing, food, and monetary donations that help fulfill the needs of the homeless.

Want to help?? Join us serving a meal or helping someone select clothing on Tuesday evenings, donate non-perishable items or clothing that you no longer need, or make a monetary donation that will be used to purchase food and medicine.

Sincerely,

Michael and Denise Martin

WORSHIP SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Communion servers and Scripture readers needed!

If you would like to serve as one of the worship leaders at either service, please contact Ellen at ellen@fumcbelmont.org.

Do you have the gift of Hospitality?

Please consider serving as a Greeter, Information Center host, or Usher at either the 8:30 or 11 am service. Contact Ellen at ellen@fumcbelmont.org for more information.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

Do you love music? Come join us!

We have lots of ways to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord!"



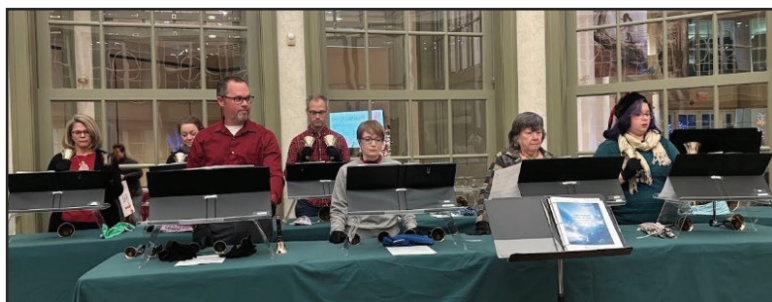
Alleluia Choir – ages K-5, meets on Wednesdays from 5:30 – 6 pm. We participate in worship services once a month, as well as the Christmas concert and other events. We learn to read rhythms and notes while having lots of fun!

Worship Team – leads our music at the 8:30 am service every Sunday, singing Contemporary Christian music with guitar, bass and drums. Let us know if you sing or play an instrument! We also lead music on Maundy Thursday, participate in the Christmas Concert and perform in the community. Open to all ages and no audition is necessary!

Bellissimo – is our intergenerational Handbell Choir who rehearses on Wednesday nights from 6-7 p.m. and participates in worship services once a month. We also enjoy attending festivals and workshops, as well as performing at the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden at Christmas. No audition necessary!



Chancel Choir – our non-audition choir is open to middle and high school students as well as adults of all ages. Our Chancel Choir meets on Wednesday nights from 7-8:30 p.m. to prepare to sing at the 11 am service each Sunday. We also sing for special services like Christmas Eve, Good Friday and other concerts in the community.



Contact Ellen at ellen@fumcbelmont.org for more information!

All adults 55+ are welcome!

Save the Date
Primetimers trip to
Bush and Vine Orchard - York SC

Thursday October 22
10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Transportation provided

Lunch in York
(your only cost is lunch)

See Doreen
for more information

IN THE GREATER UM CONNECTION

Check out the Western North Carolina Conference
Equip and Connect webinars in August:

Aug. 11 at Noon: Reimagining Local Missions Through Listening
with Rev. Luke Edwards

Aug. 18 at 7:00 pm: AI and the Church: Evangelism 8.0
with Rev. Dr. Stephanie Hand and Rev. Lory Beth Huffman

Descriptions of the webinars are available at
www.wnccumc.org/equipconnect2026.

A Zoom link will be posted 30 minutes before the webinar starts,
and you can watch the previous webinars at the same link.



SENIOR CONFERENCE AT LAKE JUNALUSKA

FESTIVAL OF WISDOM AND GRACE

EXPLORE HOW TO FLOURISH AS YOU AGE AND HOW TO NAVIGATE
TRANSITIONS, LIVE INTO YOUR TALENTS AND PASSIONS.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER IS JAMES A. HARNISH
WORSHIP LEADER IS BISHOP JANE MIDDLETON

August 17-20, 2026

Go to lakejunaluska.com and upcoming programs
or scan QR code



2026 Duke Caregiver Community Event

September 9 and 10
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sheraton Imperial Hotel,
Durham, NC

DukeCaregiverCommunityEvent.org



We are here to support you.

The same great conference, exhibitors, and
sessions—now available over two days!

Are you a caregiver supporting a loved one?
Join us for a day filled with resources and
expert insights for caregivers. Choose the
day that works best for you and register for
sessions that fit your schedule.

Event brought to you by:

ALZHEIMER'S
ASSOCIATION

CENTRAL PINES
REGIONAL HOSPITAL

DEMENTIA
ALLIANCE
of North Carolina
A STATE OF CARING

- This event is designed for family caregivers and professionals caring for individuals facing chronic or serious illness.
- This year's conference will be offered on two separate days with the same agenda.
- You will learn insights from experts and opportunities to connect with essential services and support organizations.

Scan the QR code for more information:



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 1	Travis Clark Laura Pennington Jackson Spivey	August 10, cont.	Sam Pruitt Olivia Tyson	August 23, cont.	Paul Meilike Steve Saunders Jane Washam
August 2	Kathryn Lewis Sam Pennington Tracy Smith	August 12	Diane Probus Pamela Ward	August 24	Elliott Davis Suzanne Washam
August 3	Steve Benedict Chloe Cheshire Richard Thames	August 13	Lynn Ellis Declan Kelly Jessica Latchana Chad McAlister	August 25	Paul Salata
August 5	David Gensch Bryan Jones Everett Love Robert McSwain Claire Ragsdale	August 16	Carole Bertino Robert Grant Austin Hansen Melinda Russell	August 26	Anne Louise Ragsdale Russell Tindall Beth Truesdale
August 6	Brenda Austin Alex Bondurant Wanda Randolph	August 18	Elena Benedict Connor Corcoran Lauren Schwark Barbara Tria	August 27	Reece Luttrell
August 8	Catherine Armstrong Susan Ray Dylan Thompson	August 19	Mel Johnston Quanna McAlister Erin Washam	August 28	Steven Fulcher Connor Jordan Elle Vangastle
August 9	Ellen Adams Jamey Cauble Mitch Wilson	August 20	Jennifer Martin Colin McAlister Joshua Millspaw	August 29	Elias Williams
August 10	Mark Andrews Callie Lawing Arlene McMurtry Betty Pennington Eric Pennington	August 21	Joan West	August 30	Emily Black Jordan Edgerton
		August 22	Lyn Harper	August 31	Gale Collins Theo Henry Linda Piltch Remy Young
		August 23	Brian Deal Claire Dunigan Colton Jones		



THOUGHTS, PRAYERS, AND SYMPATHY

Patty and Taylor Hayward
 Teri and Claude Wilson's friend
 Everett Prunty and his family
 Darlene Smith's husband, Earl
 Nicole Stanforth's grandmother, BB
 Ronnie and Judy Fann (Cassie Fann's parents)
 Bill Ritz (Patty Hayward's father)
 Deborah Brooks
 Carla Bradmon (Larry and Angela Bradmon's daughter)
 Jeff Farris (Alice Farris' brother-in-law)
 Anita Greene's family upon her passing (Pam Stowe's mother)
 Jason Austin (Mark and Dottie Moore's son-in-law)
 Keith Yarborough (Mark and Dottie's friend)
 Lee Allen (Director of S.O.C.K.S. and Preston Taylor's friend)
 Ginger Feimster
 Murphy Clark and family
 Zoe communities in Rwanda

Submit prayer requests to prayers@fumcbelmont.org



The July 5th bulletin featured *Poured Out*, by the Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman. In this image, Rebekah's hair swirls and overflows like the water from her jar, drawing our attention to her extravagant hospitality. Genesis 24 reflects a world in which Rebekah's choices are constrained, yet she sees a need, offers water to stranger and camels alike, and helps carry God's promise forward. May we also offer such an extravagant expression of God's welcome to those around us.

OUR STAFF

Doreen Collins | Director of Adult Discipleship | doreen@fumcbelmont.org
Jennifer Martin | Director of Children's Ministry | jennifer@fumcbelmont.org
Quanna McAlister | Director of Youth Ministry | quanna@fumcbelmont.org
Boyce O'Tuel | Director of the Child Development Center | boyce@fumcbelmont.org
Marsha Patton | Interim Administrative Assistant | marsha@fumcbelmont.org
George Ragsdale | Senior Pastor | george@fumcbelmont.org
Ellen Robison | Minister of Worship and the Arts | ellen@fumcbelmont.org
Vanessa Shrauder | Interim Business Administrator | vanessa@fumcbelmont.org

A festive background for a Rally Day poster featuring colorful balloons (blue, red, yellow, green), streamers, and confetti on a light blue surface.

Join us August 16 for
RALLY DAY

We will kick off our new
Sunday School year at 9:30
in Carpenter Hall with
breakfast and celebration.
Classes for all ages, birth–adult!

WE NEED YOUR STORY FOR
THE 2026 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

HOW HAS JESUS BEEN A
“WONDERFUL COUNSELOR”
OR “PRINCE OF PEACE”
IN YOUR LIFE?

An illustration of a nativity scene. Mary is shown in a brown robe holding the baby Jesus, who is wrapped in a white cloth. Joseph stands next to her, holding a long black staff. The background is purple with white stars.

CONTACT DOREEN COLLINS
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
DOREEN@FUMCBELMONT.ORG