

Tri-Angles

October 2026



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

As we've read Philippians together this year, and especially this fall, one phrase keeps jumping out at me: "*be of the same mind.*" We hear it in Philippians 2:2, when Paul urges the church to be "*of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.*" Just a few verses later, he writes, "*Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus*" (2:5). Then, near the end of the letter, Paul appeals to members Euodia and Syntyche, "*to be of the same mind in the Lord*" (4:2).

At first, it sounds as if Paul is telling Christians that we should all think alike. But the Greek word he uses, *phronein*, means something deeper than simply holding the same opinions. It has the sense of a *mindset*, an *orientation*, even "minding the same thing." Paul is not asking the Philippians to erase their differences. He is asking them to orient their lives toward the same center. And that center is Jesus Christ.

Paul describes Jesus' life as one marked by humility, self-giving, and concern for others. To share the mind of Christ is not to agree about everything. It is to learn to approach one another, and even our disagreements, with the character of Christ.

As another election approaches, we are living in a culture that seems increasingly skilled at dividing people into opposing camps. Political disagreement too easily becomes suspicion. Difference becomes hostility. And much of our political culture no longer seems content simply to persuade us to vote for one candidate rather than another. We are encouraged to fear the other side, despise it, and regard those who support it as enemies.

Nearly thirty years ago, former President Jimmy Carter lamented the enormous resources political campaigns were devoting to "destroying their opponents." The result, he observed, was that voters were increasingly motivated not to vote *for* someone, but to vote *against* someone they had been taught to dislike. "The public responds more actively to a negative campaign than to a positive campaign," Carter said. That may be a powerful strategy for winning elections. It is a terrible way to form a people. And it is precisely here that the church has another witness to offer.

Paul says, "*Be of the same mind.*" Not, "*Have the same opinions.*" Not, "*Vote the same way.*" Not even, "*Agree with one another about everything.*" Christian unity has never required Christian uniformity. A faithful congregation can include people who vote differently, understand issues differently, and reach different conclusions about difficult questions. Paul himself clearly knew that life together in the church involved disagreement. Euodia and Syntyche seem to have discovered that too. Yet Paul still believed they could "*mind the same thing.*"

For us at First United Methodist Church of Belmont, this means continually returning to the calling at the heart of our mission: to be more like Jesus Christ for our community and beyond. We may answer many other questions differently. We may disagree about politics, policies, priorities, and the best way forward. The world around us may continually teach us whom to distrust, whom to fear, and whom to despise. The gospel is trying to form something different in us, a deeper calling, to see one another through the mind of Christ.

Two years ago, the day after the last national election, we gathered as a congregation for a Service of Unity and Peace. It was a meaningful evening of worship and prayer, a reminder that Jesus Christ remains Lord and we remain brothers and sisters in Christ. We will gather again this year for a

Service of Unity and Peace on ***Wednesday, November 4, at 6:30 PM*** in the sanctuary. I hope you will join us as we pray for our nation, our community, our neighbors, and one another.

In a divided world, may our common life bear witness to another way.

With much peace,



OCTOBER 4
Phil 3:7-14
Desire & Direction

OCTOBER 11
Phil 4:4-9
Peace That Surpasses Understanding

REJOICE IN THE LORD, ALWAYS

THE LETTER TO THE

Philippians



AGAIN I WILL SAY, REJOICE

What does it mean for a church to thrive?

The Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church has been using five simple words to help congregations think about that question: **clarity, witness, abundance, kinship, and joy**. Rather than measuring the health of a church only by attendance, budgets, or programs, these "markers of thriving" invite us to pay attention to the kind of life God is growing among us.

Clarity is knowing who God is calling us to be. A church with clarity understands its purpose, pays attention to its community, and seeks to use its particular gifts faithfully. In our own lives, clarity means learning to listen for God's direction and asking, "What is God calling me to do, and who is God calling me to become?"

Witness is making the love of Christ visible. It is more than what we say about our faith. Our witness is revealed in the way we live, serve, speak, forgive, welcome, and care for our neighbors. A thriving church does not exist only for itself. Its life points beyond itself toward the good news of Jesus Christ.

Abundance is learning to see life through the generosity of God rather than through fear of scarcity. It does not mean pretending that needs or limitations do not exist. It means recognizing that everything we have is gift, and trusting that God has already given us something to share. An abundant life asks not simply, "Do we have enough?" but "What has God placed in our hands?"

Kinship is the deep work of belonging to one another. The church is more than a gathering of individuals who happen to worship in the same place. In Christ, strangers become neighbors, neighbors become friends, and we learn to bear one another's burdens and rejoice in one another's joys. Kinship grows as we live into our core value, focusing on relationships with others, especially across the boundaries that might otherwise divide us.

And **joy** (one of our core values) is the life that grows when we discover God at work among us. Christian joy is deeper than happiness and more durable than good circumstances. It comes from knowing that we belong to God, that our lives have purpose, and that we have been invited to participate in what God is doing in the world.

Clarity. Witness. Abundance. Kinship. Joy.

These are not five programs for a church to complete. They are signs of a people who are becoming more fully alive in Christ. Over the coming weeks, we will return to these words and ask what they might look like in our worship, our relationships, our service, and our generosity.

Above all, we will ask one simple question: ***Where is God inviting us to thrive?***



October 18 — Clarity: Giving That Grows Our Purpose (Psalm 25)

October 25 — Abundance: Giving That Grows Our Trust (Psalm 65)

November 1 — Kinship: Giving That Grows Our Life Together (Psalm 133)

November 8 — Witness: Giving That Grows Our Impact (Psalm 96)

November 15 — Joy: Giving That Grows Our Gratitude (Psalm 100)



BOWLING FUN NIGHT



LAST MONTH OVER 80 PEOPLE JOINED US AT THE BOWLING ALLEY FOR A FANTASTIC NIGHT OF BOWLING AND FELLOWSHIP. A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO TRISH AND JOHNNY WILLIAMSON FOR LETTING US RENT OUT TEXTILE LANES FOR SUCH A GREAT PRICE!



Alleluia Choir

Practice
Wednesdays
5:30-7:30



Sing at the 8:30
service on
October 11

Email ellen@fumcbelmont.org to join.

First Kids!

Join us October 25 for
Our Fall Festival

Trunk or Treat, Hot Dog Supper,
Trunks, Candy, Youth-led
Games, and more... all FREE!

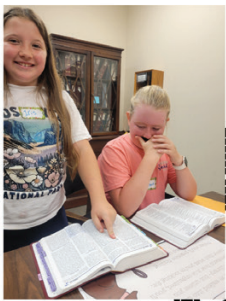


Get your costume ready and join us 4:00-6:30.

Crossroads

Our 4th- and 5th-graders continued their practice of becoming more like Jesus last month. They heard the story of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness, and how he responded to each claim with Scripture. Then our Crossroads kids became Bible Detectives, complete with mustaches, and worked through four stations to unlock the keys to reading their Bibles. The kids decorated journals where they will record thoughts, questions, and Bible verses they want to remember.

Join us on Sunday, October 11 from 5:30-7:30!



SEEKING HOLY HELPERS

First Kids and Youth are invited
to serve as Bible Bearer,
Acolyte, and Crucifer during
the 11:00 worship.

www.fumcbelmont.org/signup



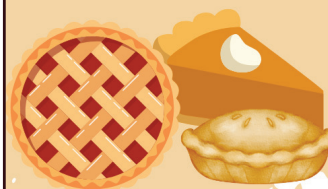
Pies & Praise

A Fall Family Event

Wed, Nov 18

6:00-7:30

Sign up coming soon!



A WONDERFUL START TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR AT THE CDC



August marked the beginning of an exciting new school year at the CDC!

We kicked things off with our "Blast Off to Preschool" celebration and welcomed our children back for another year of learning, growing, and making wonderful memories together. This summer, we were blessed to welcome **15** new children to our program, allowing us to serve even more families in our community with faith and love.

Our school year will run from August through May, ending with a special graduation celebration for our four-year-olds.

This fall, we are especially excited to introduce two wonderful additions to our program. Each Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m., our toddlers, twos, threes, and fours will attend **Chapel**, led by Pastor George, Pastor Ellen, and Ms. Jennifer. Chapel will include songs, Scripture, and a Bible story each week, giving our children a special opportunity to learn about God's love in a way that is meaningful and age-appropriate.

We have also added **dance** to our program for our three- and four-year-olds. Our girls will enjoy dancing each Monday with Ms. Stacey and will have the exciting opportunity to showcase what they have learned at a recital in April 2027.



Fall at the CDC is always a special time! We are embracing all things apples and looking forward to lots of seasonal fun, including our annual trick-or-treating celebration in October.

We are off to a fantastic start and are so thankful for the opportunity to nurture, teach, and love our children each day.





BEACH RETREAT REFLECTIONS



THE YOUTH RECENTLY TRAVELED TO MYRTLE BEACH, SC FOR A NEW TWIST ON OUR FALL RETREAT. OUR THEME FOR THE WEEKEND WAS, "IF YOU WANT TO WALK ON WATER, YOU HAVE TO GET OUT OF THE BOAT" BASED ON THE BOOK BY JOHN ORTBERG. WE SPENT THE WEEKEND TALKING ABOUT OUR STRUGGLE WITH FEAR AND FAITH. THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND, WE EXPLORED THE IDEA THAT GOD EQUIPS EACH OF US WITH SPECIAL GIFTS THAT WE CAN SHARE WITH OTHERS. WE NEED NOT BE AFRAID, FOR OUR HOPE LIES WITH JESUS.



Ruth Circle and Square Two Event

Take a tour of the new
Least of These Carolina's facility.
Out to dinner afterwards

October 8th
6:30 pm

RSVP to Doreen
doreen@fumcbelmont.org



Minute to Win it games

Youth - Ful Night

October 11

5:30 - 7:30

Carpenter Hall

All Primetimers (55+)
and Youth are invited
to Youth Group

Bingo and Dinner!



Men's Meeting

Friday, October 2
6:30 am - Youth House

CONTACT TONY WILSON
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
KINGSMTNTONY@YAHOO.COM

All adults 55+ are welcome!

Join the Primetimers for a
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)

RSVP to Doreen:
doreen@fumcbelmont.org

WELCOME, FRIENDS, OLD AND NEW!

PASTRIES WITH THE PASTOR

Newcomers & Guests! Join Pastor George
and members of our staff and congregation for
casual conversation and fellowship! All are welcome!

OCT 11 | 10:00 AM | CARPENTER HALL

MISSIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

Dahlia Grove is entering a new season of ministry under the leadership of its new Executive Director, Corrie Manis. Rather than focusing primarily on food service training, Dahlia Grove is developing a more individualized approach to helping women identify career paths, businesses, entrepreneurial opportunities, and community partners that align with their interests and abilities.

FUMC Belmont will continue to be an important partner in this work, particularly by helping women build meaningful relationships and connections within the wider community. Opportunities may include pairing participants with church members who can offer mentoring, professional expertise, practical skills, or shared activities. We are also exploring ways to support the women's entrepreneurial work, including commissioning handmade Christmas ornaments and featuring candles made by Dahlia Grove participants at the Zoe Auction in February.

Church members who own a business, have a skill or talent to share, or are interested in developing a relationship with women in the program are invited to contact Quanna McAlister at Quanna@fumcbelmont.org.

Dahlia Grove



BCO



**Drop off
by
Oct. 4**

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

TOP 20

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

Feed the HOUSE



Help the families in residence at Catherine's House by dropping off a simple meal on Sept 28, Oct. 26, or Nov. 9

www.fumcbelmont.org/signup

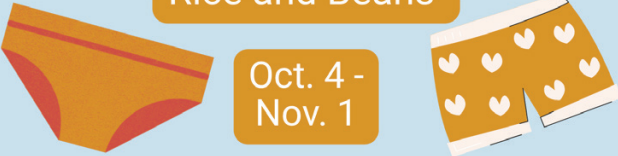
Candy and small toy donations are needed as prizes for the youth games at our Community Fall Festival

Please drop donations in the box in the Narthex

DROP YOUR DRAWERS

Underwear drive for Rice and Beans

Oct. 4 - Nov. 1



We are collecting new briefs for Rice and Beans Ministry. The need is for sizes 5, 6, or 7 women's briefs and all sizes of sports/wireless bras. Men prefer M, L, or XL boxers.



On August 29, members of our Handbell Choir participated in a "Back to Bells" workshop in Charlotte, sponsored by the Charlotte Bronze Handbell Ensemble. We learned some new techniques and enjoyed spending time together!



DID YOU KNOW?

What is The Caring Congregation Ministry?

It is where trained laity walk alongside you during difficult times. To listen, pray, and be the presence of Christ in your time of need.

Are you going through a difficult time, such as the death of someone, a divorce, a change of health, providing care for a loved one? If you would like to be contacted by a lay Congregational Care Minister please fill out the online prayer request at fumcbelmont.org/request and check the box that says "I would like to be contacted by a lay Congregational Care Minister."

For questions about the ministry contact Doreen - doreen@fumcbelmont.org

Paths of Welcome

Prayer, Compassion, Awareness: A Day of Solidarity with Immigrants



Sunday, October 18th
2pm



Central UMC
Charlotte

All are welcome to a bilingual day of prayer, learning, and compassionate solidarity with immigrant neighbors, led by immigrant faith communities. Watch for more details to come!



Western North Carolina Conference
The United Methodist Church

SAVE THE DATE

Save the Date for our next auction to support Zoe, Feeding the Children, Weekend Backpack, and other children ministries



zoe empowers



Weekend Backpacks
Hunger doesn't take the weekend off



Sunday, February 28
during breakfast & S.S.

Women's Retreat at Kanuga Retreat Center

All Ladies are Welcome!
Join us for a relaxing weekend of
making new friends and
reconnecting with God. April 23-25, 2027

See Doreen for more information- doreen@fumcbelmont.org

Save
The
Date

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October 1	Stephanie Beaty Madison Pruden Carsyn Redmond Allie Rice	October 11	Jake Jenkins Julie Martin John Earl McKee Chantz Redmond	Oct. 24, cont	Robert Joiner Melissa Williamson
October 2	Melanie Beam	October 13	Reid McGraw Micah Quispe	October 25	Carol Andrews Harrison Davis Price Feimster Miranda Hartsell
October 4	Kelly Setzer	October 14	Thomas Pennington	October 26	Jeff Kalmbach Nicholas Latchana Thomas Redmond Paloma Shrauder
October 5	Denise Andrews Nicholas Cochran David Cote	October 15	Mike Guzaski Meredith Ramsey	October 27	Parker Jones
October 6	William Hendricks Alex Lowrance Camilla Shook Kaylee Thagard Reagan Wilson	October 16	Crystal Blanton Autumn Deal Ivy Tyson	October 28	Drew Loper Mallory McCarn Peg Pinkerton
October 8	Wes Stowe	October 18	Kim Ingram	October 30	Shane Redmond Oliver Surratt
October 9	Stacey Featherston Shawn Kelly Mary Moore Nancy Stamps	October 19	Kendall Karr Juliana Marr Joshua Ruiz	October 31	Elizabeth Mobley
October 10	Betty Cauble Genora Cheshire Shelly Gray Jonathan Marr Derek Smith	October 20	Preston Taylor		
		October 23	Alexandra Joiner Kendyll Levr Amy Thagard		
		October 24	Rodney Brown Katie Fangman Katie Gillespie Taylor Henkel		



PRAYERS, SYMPATHIES, AND CELEBRATIONS

Carol Tomlinson's family upon her passing
 Steve Redmond's family upon his passing
 (Shane Redmond's father)
 Taylor Hayward
 Patty Gibson
 Jeff Farris (Alice Farris' brother-in-law)
 Harold Byrum
 Beulah Mullinax's family upon her passing
 David Lange
 Lee Allen (Director of S.O.C.K.S. and Preston Taylor's friend)
 Mary Deal's family upon her passing (Linda England's sister)
 Ginger Feimster
 Murphy Clark and family
 Zoe communities in Rwanda

*Submit prayer requests to
prayers@fumcbelmont.org*

As we enter Minister Appreciation month, we Praise God for FUMC Belmont's awesome ministers. Please take a moment to encourage our ministers if there is a special way they've touched your life this year.



*Join us in rejoicing with new members
 Marshall and Alexandra Joiner at the arrival of
 their son, Theodore Dean, on Friday, September 4.*

Help us welcome and support the Joiner family by
 signing up to provide meals in the coming weeks.

Email Jennifer for the [Meal Train](#) link,
jennifer@fumcbelmont.org

OUR STAFF

Doreen Collins | Director of Adult Discipleship | doreen@fumcbelmont.org
Rebekah Huffstetler | Business Administrator | rebekah@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 | Administrative Assistant | marsha@fumcbelmont.org
George Ragsdale | Senior Pastor | george@fumcbelmont.org
Ellen Robison | Minister of Worship and the Arts | ellen@fumcbelmont.org



Community FALL FESTIVAL



Two years ago we took a fun tradition (Trunk or Treat) and joined with our friends from Hood Memorial AME Zion Church to provide something new for the community. On **October 25** from **4:00-6:30**, we are joining hands again to provide a **Community Fall Festival** at **Reid Park**. We will have trunk or treat, games, hot dog supper, and more. This is an exciting way for us to live into our mission, and we have jobs for everyone. Please use the link below to sign up. We also need candy donations for our game stations.

www.fumcbelmont.org/fallfestival

