

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

August 10, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.
The Ninth Sunday After Pentecost



Zacchaeus in the Sycamore Awaiting the Passage of Jesus by James Tissot, 1886-1896

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***United in the Spirit, First United Methodist Church of Belmont exists
to be more like Jesus Christ for our community and beyond***
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THE REVEREND GEORGE RAGSDALE, SENIOR PASTOR
807 South Point Road // Belmont, NC 28012
P: 704-825-2106 // F: 704-825-2176
www.fumcbelmont.org



Good morning and welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont! Today we continue our #loveyourneighbor series, considering the power of relationship. In today's Gospel, long before Jesus speaks of repentance or salvation, he sits down at Zacchaeus's table. Before he calls for change, he offers connection. In this time of worship, may we hear Christ's invitation not just to speak the good news, but to live it—by building trust, sharing meals, and making space at the table for transformation. Whose table are you being called to sit at today?

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"Preludium"

Ludwig van Beethoven

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Kristen Surratt

How precious is your steadfast love, O God;

all people find refuge in the shadow of your wings.

We shall feast on the abundance of your house,

and drink from the river of your delights.

You called Zacchaeus down from the tree,

and made your home at his table.

Gather us now in your presence, O Lord,

and make your dwelling among us.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"O God of Vision"

***O God of vision far greater than all human scheming,
gather us now in your presence, refreshing, redeeming.***

***Show us a new life in your breathtaking view,
lovely beyond all our dreaming.***

Pour our your Spirit on all now assembled before you.

May our diversity here be a means to adore you.

***Women and men, young, old, and youthful again,
make us as one, we implore you.***

Grant to us insight, O God, for this time of decision.

May we dream challenging dreams of both depth and precision.

***Speak through the dark. Dispel by lightning's bright spark
what-ever clouds dim our vision.***

Break the sun's rays into color, a rainbow around us.

Storm clouds, though real and near, are not enough to confound us.

***Arched in the sky, beauty and promise are high,
giving us hope to astound us.***

Grateful, we come now by Christ's invitation clear spoken.

We seek the nourishment found in fruit crushed and bread broken.

***Christ for us all! Come, let us answer the call,
offering our lives as the token.***

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you draw near to us in mercy, even when we keep our distance.

You sit beside us in grace, even when we struggle to welcome others.

***Forgive us when we are quick to speak but slow to listen, when we try to
convince before we connect, when we critique before we care. Teach us
the patience of love—to build trust, to share life, to make space. May we
learn from Jesus, who came not to condemn but to dwell with us.***

***Transform us by your presence, and lead us to the table, where healing
begins. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.***

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI No. 70

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 19:1-10

Mary Ellis Loper

SERMON

The Rev. George Ragsdale

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 881

The Apostles' Creed

INVITATION TO PRAYER

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

Ken Medema

***Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.***

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

After each petition we enter into the prayer together with these words: Lord, in your mercy.
hear our prayer.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

"For Everyone Born"

Tom Trenney

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,
and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!
For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair.
For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,

for young and for old, the right to belong.
For just and unjust, a place at the table,
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live.

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

*ACT OF PRAISE

"Doxology"

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts!
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Hymnal No. 17-18)

*THE LORD'S PRAYER (Hymnal No. 895)

*BREAKING THE BREAD

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

***Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given
yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your
Spirit, to give ourselves for others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

EXTENDING THE TABLE

*This morning, lay communion servers come forward to receive consecrated bread and
juice from worship to share with homebound members who cannot be present today.
We pray for them, remembering God's grace unites us as one within Christ's holy church.
If you are aware of someone who would like to receive but cannot be present, speak with
Pastor George after service.*

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

"All Are Welcome"

***Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, Rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.***

***Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.***

***Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat:
A banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.***

***Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.***

***Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words with in the Word.
Build of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.***

*POSTLUDE

"Trumpet Volante"

George F. Handel

**Those who are able please stand.*

Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont! We're glad that you've chosen to worship with us this morning. We invite you to explore all the opportunities we have for children, youth and adults of all ages and stages of life. We seek to be a community of faith that welcomes all as we grow to be more like Jesus Christ for our community, loving and serving God and one another in all that we do.

If you are a guest, we are honored to have you with us. Please stop by the information center as you leave this morning to receive a small gift and more information about our church. We look forward to getting to know you in the days to come! Welcome!

Today's Bulletin Cover features Zacchaeus in the Sycamore Awaiting the Passage of Jesus by James Tissot, a French painter who, after a successful career in fashionable society portraiture, experienced a religious conversion and devoted the latter part of his life to illustrating biblical scenes with vivid narrative power and archaeological precision. This watercolor, painted in the late 19th century as part of his Life of Christ series, captures the moment of longing and anticipation as Zacchaeus climbs above the crowd to catch a glimpse of Jesus. Tissot's attention to historical detail—drawn from his travels to the Holy Land—lends the scene an earthy realism, while the composition lifts our eyes upward echoing Zacchaeus's desire to see and be seen.

Welcome, Kristen Surratt! We welcome the Reverend Kristen Surratt as our liturgist this morning. Kristen is an ordained Deacon in Full Connection in our Western North Carolina Annual Conference. A former member of our staff, she and her family are very active in the life of our congregation. We welcome her as she leads worship this morning and give thanks for her ministry and friendship.

August 13 7-10 AM

The Resurrection Cup coffee truck will be in the FUMC Belmont parking lot on August 13. Buy a treat, watch the South Point Senior Parade, and celebrate the first day of school.



Have you always wanted to learn how to sing? On Wednesday, August 20 from 7 -8:30 pm. **Professor Craig Allen** will be leading a **Vocal Workshop**. A singer, dancer, actor, director, and choreographer, Craig has been described as an exemplary soloist (Kansas City Star) with a brilliant nimble voice (KC Metropolis). He is on the music faculty at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC. When he is not teaching, he is an active performer, recently seen in Carmen with Opera Carolina and Next to Normal at Theatre Charlotte. Contact Ellen at ellen@fumcbelmont.org for more information.

GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

Sunday School

Disciple: Bible Project videos and class questions to start conversations about what we believe as Methodists and how we respond to people who think differently.

Route 66: *"What's God Up To: Bible Stories Through New Eyes."* by A.J. Levine

Salt & Light Fellowship: A place to have real conversations and build relationships.

Wanderers: *"Twelve Extraordinary Women"* by John MacArthur



A graphic for a women's gathering. It features a background image of hands making a bracelet. Text on the left says "All Ladies Welcome!". The main title is "Square 2 Women's Gathering". Below it, it says "Make a bracelet and plan for the year!". The date and time are "Thursday, Sept. 4th 7:00pm" and the location is "Route 66 classroom". On the right, it says "RSVP to Pam Stowe to ensure enough materials are ordered." followed by the phone number "704-678-4685 or" and the email "wstowe5612@yahoo.com".



Reading Women – a book group for women who like to read and discuss a wide variety of topics that make us think and enlarge our world! We begin the year on Monday, September 15 at 7 pm on Zoom with **Happy Land** by Dolen Perkins-Valdez. We will then meet

on Zoom the second Tuesday of each month in October through May. For more information, contact Ellen at ellen@fumcbelmont.org

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

Nominate Someone for the Congregational Care Ministry. If you know someone who is empathetic, a good listener, and is committed to serving our community, nominate them to be one of our Congregational Care Ministers. Forms are located at the information desk and online at fumcbelmont.org/signup. Find more information on ministry at fumcbelmont.org/care-compassion.

Like to engage with people? You would be a perfect fit for our Hospitality Ministry of Greeters and Information Center Hosts. What does it involve?

Greeters offer a friendly face and welcome to those arriving for worship.

- Help guests with questions and directions
- Commit to at least one Sunday a month

Information Center Hosts greet guests at the Information Center for 10 minutes prior to and 10 minutes after the worship service

- Make sure first-time visitors receive a welcome bag
- Help guests with questions and directions
- Commit to at least one Sunday a month

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

Looking for a place to serve? Come be a part of the Usher Team that provides welcome for all who enter our doors. What does it involve?

- Welcome and distribute bulletins
- Coordinate offering collection
- Provide assistance/guidance and answer questions
- Commit to at least one month each calendar year

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

Do you enjoy technology? Then you should join our A/V Team who ensures that our audio and visual content runs smoothly at each service. What does it involve?

- Full training on cameras/projectors, soundboard and livestreaming
- Monitoring PowerPoint presentation
- Commit to one Sunday each month

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

GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

August 24 - 10:00-10:45 Youth Parent Meeting-All parents are invited to gather in Carpenter Hall to meet with our Youth Director, Quanna McAlister. She will share important information about yearly plans, youth & parent expectations, and goals she has in place for our youth.

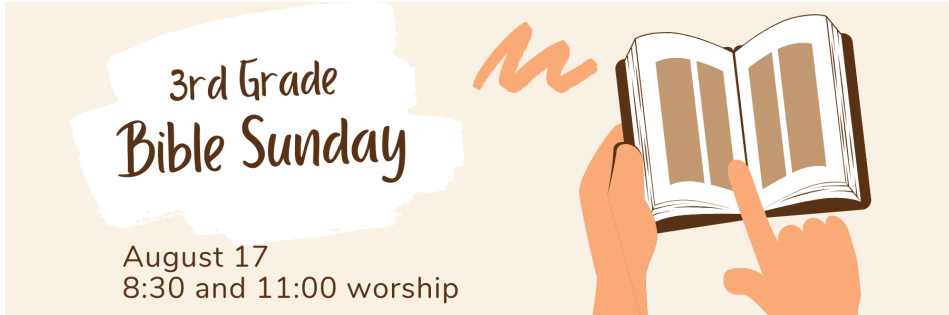
August 24 - 5:30-7:30 All rising 6th graders and up are invited to our Youth Kickoff Party on August 24 in our church's backyard playground. We will enjoy a GIANT waterslide, games, and a cookout dinner. Note: youth parents need to complete the new Emergency Contact Information form prior to the event. Find the link in Quanna's weekly emails or on our website.

September 7 - 10:00-10:45 Confirmation Parent Meeting-All parents involved in Confirmation are invited to Carpenter Hall.

September 19-21 Youth Fall Retreat at Mt. Shepherd-All rising sixth through twelfth graders are invited to gather with other United Methodist Churches in our district for a fun-filled weekend with lots of recreation, fellowship, worship, and small group sessions. You are welcome to sign up today online. Please sign up and pay today.



GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN



WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, August 10

Rally Day
8:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, August 11

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Tuesday, August 12

Wednesday, August 13

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, August 14

11:45 a.m. Community Cafe'

Friday, August 15

Saturday, August 16

Sunday, August 17

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
4:30 p.m. Holy Helpers Bash

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Brian Holland (Adrian and Trevis Lunsford)

Diane and Paul Kitchens, Dawn Finn's aunt and uncle

Janet Matijkiw (Judy Kelty)

George Bray (Teri and Claude Wilson)

The family of Doretha Cousart, Pastor Reginald

Coffey's grandmother, who passed away

Dawn Siebert & Scott McKenzie, friends of Elizabeth

Boney

The family of Mary Gillespie, Adam Tipton's grandmother, who passed away

Family and friends of Colby Smith, who passed away

Annette Biddle, Chip Stansell's mom

Kaleb Singleton (Cindy Griffin)

Alex Underhill, Cindy Griffin's nephew

Katy McCombs, Melinda Gibson's daughter

Ginger Feimster

Murphy Clark and family

For our ZOE communities in Rwanda, especially:

Olive 16, head of household, and siblings

Fanny 13, and Amose 8

*You can submit prayer requests to
prayers@fumcbelmont.org*

Prayers remain on this list for 4 weeks. If your loved one needs continued prayers, please resubmit a new request.

Dahlia Grove



Welcome
Back

Our COMMUNITY CAFE
supports women who are in recovery from human
trafficking, addiction and abuse.
Drop in for lunch every Thursday - 11:45am to 1:15pm



SIGN UP TO DONATE BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, September 14 | 10 - 2

**ALL DONORS WILL RECEIVE A \$20 EGIFT
CARD, FREE T-SHIRT AND WELLNESS CHECK**



Ways to Give at FUMC Belmont

Online – Visit fumcbelmont.org/online-giving to give securely anytime.

By Mail – Send your gift to the church address listed on the front of this bulletin.

In Person – Drop your gift in the secure Drop Box outside the church office, available 7 days a week.

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

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