

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

August 17, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.
The Tenth Sunday After Pentecost



Christ Exorcising the Demoniacs by Luke of Cyprus, 1594-1596

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

THE REVEREND GEORGE RAGSDALE, SENIOR PASTOR
807 South Point Road // Belmont, NC 28012
P: 704-825-2106 // F: 704-825-2176
www.fumcbelmont.org



#loveyourneighbor

How to Share Your Faith with Others

Welcome to worship at First United Methodist Church of Belmont! Today we continue our **#LoveYourNeighbor** series, exploring what it means to share our faith with others. Often, faith sharing sounds scary, like being asked to have a debate or engage in an argument. In today's Gospel Lesson, a man set free by Jesus is sent home with a simple instruction: "Tell what God has done for you." That's really all it takes. Each of us has a story of grace worth sharing—a story that might be just what someone else needs to hear. How, and to whom, might God be leading you to share? Let us worship the God who heals, restores, and gives us good news to tell!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"Offertoire in e"

Leon Boellmann

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jennifer Martin

Come, all who have known mercy.

We gather to give thanks for what God has done.

Come, all who long to be made whole.

We come to Christ who heals and restores.

Come, you who carry stories of grace, pain, hope, and change.

We come to remember and to testify.

Let us worship the living God,

Whose goodness calls forth every voice in praise.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 57 *"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*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

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 8:26-39

Ed Hanigan

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.

BIBLE PRESENTATION

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

"Witness"

arr. Jack Halloran

Who'll be a witness for my Lord?

Oh I'll be a witness for my Lord.

There was a man of the Pharisees,
His name was Nicodemus and he didn't believe.
The same came to Christ by night,
wanted to be taught out of human sight.
Nicodemus was a man who desired to know
how a man can be born when he is old.
Christ told Nicodemus as a friend,
"Man, you must be born again"
He said, "Marvel not, If you want to be wise,
repent, believe and be baptized."
Then you'll be a witness for my Lord.
You read about Samson, from his birth
he was the strongest man that ever lived on earth.
Way back yonder in the ancient times
he killed ten thousand of the Philistines.
Then old Samson went a wandering about.
Samson's strength was never found out.
'Til his wife sat up on his knee.
She said, "Tell me where you strength lies, if you please"
Well old Samson's wife, she talked so fair
Samson said, "cut off a my hair" "Cut it off"
"Shave my head just as clean as your hand,
and my strength will come like a natural man."
Samson was a witness for my Lord.
There's another witness. My soul is a witness for my Lord!!

THANKSGIVING

*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!***

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

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN NO. 156

"I Love to Tell the Story"

*POSTLUDE

"Verset in a"

Leon Boellmann

**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 a detail from a 16th-century Gospel lectionary originally copied by Luke of Cyprus at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. The illuminated scene, added later in Moscow, reflects the rich tradition of Orthodox iconography—gilded, expressive, and meant for contemplation. Though we see only a portion of the full page, the image was meant to draw readers into the world of the Gospels, where Christ meets people in their need and speaks words of healing and truth. Created at the very site believed to be where Jesus died and rose again, the manuscript and its illuminations are a living witness to the Good News, inviting us, too, to remember and share the grace we have received.

The flowers in the chancel area today are given to the glory of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and in loving memory of Martha Taylor, on the anniversary of what would be her 85th birthday on August 20, by her loving husband Preston.

We Need Your Story for the 2025 Advent Devotional When in your life have you felt God's promise at work? Contact Doreen Collins for more information: doreen@fumcbelmont.org

k Ways to Give at FUMC Belmont k

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.

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

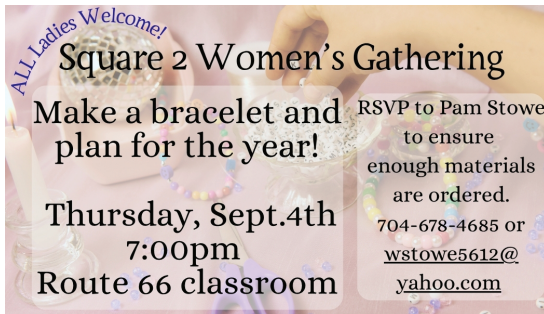
Sunday School

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



ALL Ladies Welcome!

Square 2 Women's Gathering

Make a bracelet and plan for the year!

Thursday, Sept. 4th
7:00pm
Route 66 classroom

RSVP to Pam Stowe to ensure enough materials are ordered.
704-678-4685 or
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.

Looking for a place to serve? Come be a part of the UsherTeam 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!

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!

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.

Sunday Night Connect Series
5:30-7:30
How can teens find hope in our everyday lives?

HOPE

9/7 Living Hope and Lasting Joy
9/14 Chosen, Called, and Courageous
9/28 Gracious Patience

Bible Sunday 2025

John Boudreaux
Thomas Boudreaux
Cullen John Kelly
Ryan Keith Kelly
Sophia Krouse
Emma Louise Latchana
Mary Ellis Loper
Avery Elizabeth Tipton

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.
Psalm 119:105



WEEKLY CALENDAR

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

Monday, August 18

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Service & Missions Committee Mtg

Tuesday, August 19

- 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Mtg

Wednesday, August 20

- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, August 21

- 11:45 a.m. Community Cafe'

Friday, August 22

Saturday, August 23

Sunday, August 24

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Youth Parent Meeting
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 5:30 p.m. Connect (Youth Kickoff Event)

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Deb Elmore

Adrian Lunsford

Ginger Feimster

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

Murphy Clark and family

For our ZOE communities in Rwanda, especially:

Pacifique 17, head of household, and siblings

Josiane 15, Dieudonné 11, and Fabrice 5

*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.

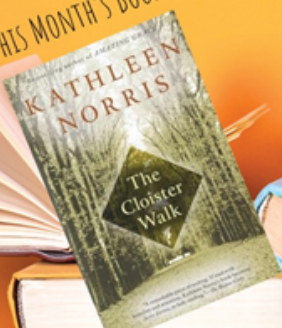


SOUP FOR THE SOUL

Know a neighbor who is sick or in need of comfort? Take them a quart of Chicken Noodle Soup made by our Soup for the Soul cooking team. The soup is in our freezer ready to bring comfort to someone in need of care.



THIS MONTH'S BOOK



STORIES TO LIVE

EXPLORING SPIRITUAL MEMOIRS

Sunday, September 7 at 6:00
Sign up today by emailing george@fumcbelmont.org



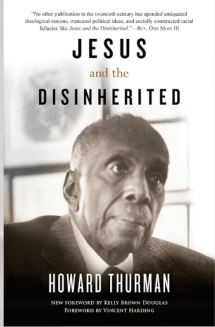
SAVE THE DATE

BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, September 14 | 10 - 2

SIGNUP @
ONEBLOOD.ORG/DONATE
(USE CODE 77697)

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

Fall Adult Small Group

Six week study
Beginning September 17 or 18
Two classes offered:
Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Thursday at 11 a.m.

Hatred does not empower--it decays. Only through self-love and love of one another can God's justice prevail.

Sign up at fumcbelmont.org/signup

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