

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



## SERVICE OF WORSHIP

August 17, 2025 – 8:30 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**  
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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!

## PRAISE AND PRAYER

\*OPENING SONG

*"Great Things"*

CCLI Song # 7111321

\*PRAYER

Jennifer Martin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

\*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 8:26-39

Ann Marie Rogers

SERMON

The Rev. George Ragsdale

SILENT REFLECTION

## RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

BIBLE PRESENTATION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

*As a forgiven and reconciled child of God, you are invited to give your offerings and gifts to God by placing them in the offering plate when you come forward to receive communion.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

\*THE PEACE

## THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

\*TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

\*THE LORD'S PRAYER

\*BREAKING THE BREAD (gluten free option available)

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

*"His Glory and My Good"*

CCLI Song # 7235691

I have seen my Father's glory  
Revealed in Jesus Christ  
And the more that I behold Him  
The more He satisfies  
When I gaze upon His beauty  
When I see Him as I should  
Then my eyes are lifted upward  
For His glory and my good  
There is hope in every trial  
For I can trust the Lord  
He will turn my heart towards Him  
And help me bear the thorn  
So in faith I follow Jesus  
On the road not understood  
For I know that He is working  
For His glory and my good

To our God be the glory  
To our God be praise  
He alone the name above all names  
I will boast ever only in the Lord my God  
For I know His glory is my good  
See the open arms of Jesus  
Upon the cross that day  
What they understood as weakness  
Deserves my every praise  
For the charge that was against me  
It was nailed into the wood  
Yes I know that He has saved me  
For His glory and my good  
Would I gladly be made nothing  
That Christ would be made more  
Would I seek the only kingdom

That far outweighs them all  
I will stand before my Father  
Where the faithful saints have stood  
And with joy my heart shall praise Him  
For His glory and my good

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

\*BENEDICTION

\*CLOSING SONG

*"This is Our God"*

CCLI Song # 7211413

*\*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](mailto:doreen@fumcbelmont.org)



k **Ways to Give at FUMC Belmont** k

Online – Visit [fumcbelmont.org/online-giving](https://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](mailto:ellen@fumcbelmont.org) for more information.

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## GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

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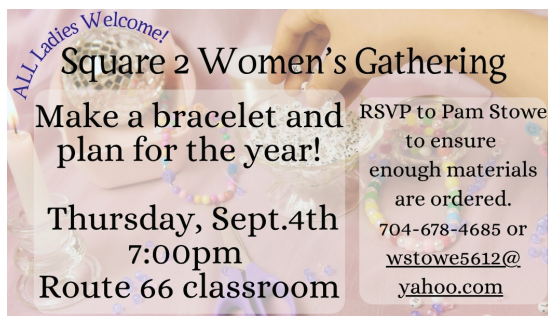
### **Sunday School**

**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](mailto: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](mailto:ellen@fumcbelmont.org)

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## OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

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**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](http://fumcbelmont.org/signup). Find more information on ministry at [fumcbelmont.org/care-compassion](http://fumcbelmont.org/care-compassion).

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ellen@fumcbelmont.org) for more information!



## 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.



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## GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

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**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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF BELMONT  
*TO BE MORE LIKE JESUS*



## 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](mailto:prayers@fumcbelmont.org)*

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

# HOLY HELPERS BASH IS TODAY!

Door prizes,  
trivia game,  
sweet treats,  
and more!

All **2nd-12th** graders from both worship services are invited to join us TODAY at 4:30. We will play games, eat pizza, and learn the roles of worship leaders.

RSVP to [jennifer@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:jennifer@fumcbelmont.org)



THIS MONTH'S BOOK

KATHLEEN NORRIS

The Cloister Walk

# STORIES TO LIVE

## EXPLORING SPIRITUAL MEMOIRS

Sunday, September 7 at 6:00

Sign up today by emailing [george@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:george@fumcbelmont.org)

SAVE THE DATE

# BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, September 14 | 10 - 2

SIGNUP @  
[ONEBLOOD.ORG/DONATE](https://oneblood.org/donate)  
 (USE CODE 77697)

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

oneblood

"The other publication in this recent century has regarded antiquated theological notions, removed political ideas, and actively commercialized racial identity. We dare not let this happen!" — Rev. Gene Stone III

JESUS  
and the  
DISINHERITED

HOWARD THURMAN

NEW FOREWORD BY KELLY BECKIN THOMAS  
FOREWORD BY VINCENT BRADING

## 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](https://fumcbelmont.org/signup)

## OUR STAFF

Carole Bertino | Administrative Assistant | [carole@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:carole@fumcbelmont.org)  
 Doreen Collins | Director of Adult Discipleship | [doreen@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:doreen@fumcbelmont.org)  
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 Jennifer Martin | Director of Children's Ministry | [jennifer@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:jennifer@fumcbelmont.org)  
 Quanna McAlister | Director of Youth Ministries | [quanna@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:quanna@fumcbelmont.org)  
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 Mark Sutton | Business Administrator | [mark@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:mark@fumcbelmont.org)