

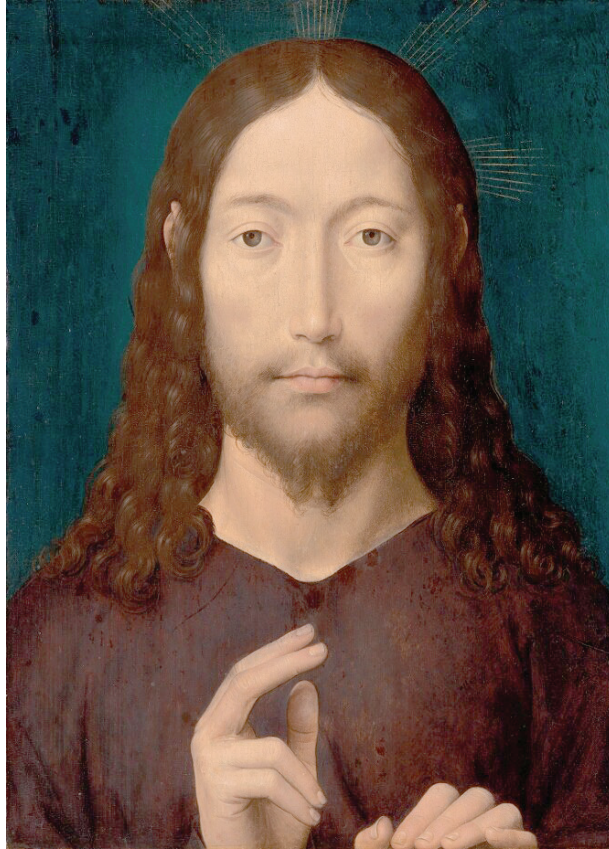
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

August 24, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

The Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost



Christ Gives His Blessing by Hans Memling, 1478

.....
*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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www.fumcbelmont.org

#loveyourneighbor

How to Share Your Faith with Others



Welcome to worship at First United Methodist Church of Belmont! Today we conclude our **#loveyourneighbor** series with Jesus sending his friends into the world in ministry. He sends them with nothing but a blessing to give: no script, no speech, no shield—just peace for those they meet. Imagine yourself among them: knocking on a door; stepping into a home, speaking words of hope. Who might be waiting to receive you? Who might say yes if you simply offered the invitation? Today, we gather to hear that call again, and to go out with joy to share our faith in Belmont and beyond.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"Magnificat primi toni"

Johann Pachelbel

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 67

Doreen Collins

May God be merciful to us and bless us;

May the light of God's face shine upon us.

Let your way be known upon earth,

Your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

Let all the peoples praise you.

We come, O Lord, to seek your peace and share your blessing.

Send us out in joy to love our neighbor.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 581

"Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you send us to bring peace, but we cling to fear. You call us to bless, yet we hold back our words, our hands, our hearts. Forgive us for doubting the power of your Spirit to work through our simple acts of love.

Renew in us the courage to go where you send, trusting that your grace goes before us and your joy will follow after. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

Jennifer Martin

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 10:1-12

The Rev. Dr. Larry Kimel

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.

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

"One Faith, One Hope, One Lord"

Craig Courtney

One faith, one hope, one Lord, one church for which he died,

One voice, one song we lift in praise to him who was and is and shall be evermore.

There is one body, one spirit, as you were called to one hope.

One Lord, baptism and faith, one God and Father of all, who is in you all.
Though we be many people, diverse with various gifts,
we are given to each other for the unity of faith,
that we grow in the knowledge of the Son of God, in the fullness of Christ.

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. 584

"Lord, You Give the Great Commission"

*POSTLUDE

"Magnificat secundi toni"

Johann Pachelbel

**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 *Christ Giving His Blessing* by Hans Memling, the leading painter in Bruges during the late 1400s. The raised right hand, with the index and middle fingers extended and the others curved toward the palm, is an ancient gesture of blessing. In the Byzantine tradition, this arrangement forms the Greek letters ICXC—an abbreviation of *Iēsous Christos*—and the two extended fingers signify Christ's divine and human natures, while the three curved fingers recall the Trinity. Memling fills the frame with the gentle, human face of the Redeemer, offering not severity but quiet grace. Christ's other hand appears to reach toward the viewer, echoing Teresa of Ávila's reminder that we are called now to be his hands in the world. Christ's blessing invites us, in turn, to be a blessing to others.

Prayer after each worship service is available in the prayer room off of the Narthex. Our Congregational Care Ministers and retired clergy are available to pray with you.

GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

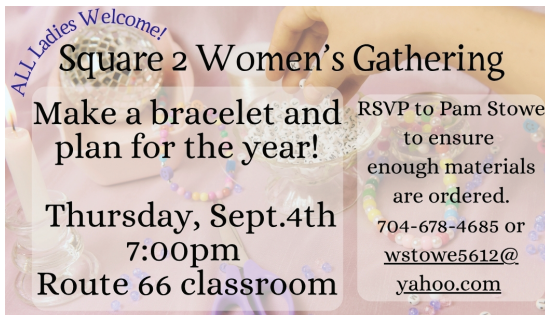
Sunday School

Disciple: If you are wondering what we teach the youth in confirmation classes visit the Disciple class. They will talk about essential lessons of the Christian faith and Methodism.

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 includes: "ALL Ladies Welcome!", "Square 2 Women's Gathering", "Make a bracelet and plan for the year!", "Thursday, Sept. 4th 7:00pm", "Route 66 classroom", and "RSVP to Pam Stowe to ensure enough materials are ordered. 704-678-4685 or wstowe5612@yahoo.com".

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 westowe5612@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

GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

Tonight - 5:30-7:30 - All rising 6th graders and up are invited to our Youth Kickoff Party 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 7-5:30-7:30 - All youth are invited to Connect tonight, where we will begin a small group Bible study centered around HOPE. Youth will also receive their new t-shirt and prayer bookmark.

GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

September 7, 5:30-7:30 Crossroads, a special group for 4th-5th graders, kicks off in the Old Fellowship Hall. We will play games, talk Bible, eat supper and complete a service project for the Society of Saint Andrew.

September 17, 5:30-6:00 First kids ages 4-5th grade are invited to join Alleluia Choir. Email ellen@fumcbelmont.org to join.

September 17, 6:00-7:30 First Kids are invited to our Piece of Cake Project. We'll eat supper together and assemble birthday cake kits for Catherine's House. Visit www.fumcbelmont.org/kids for more details.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE



For the entire month of September, the youth group is collecting the following items for donation: spray cheese, unsweetened apple sauce, canned pumpkin, low sodium chicken broth, and soft dog treats. We are collecting on September 7, 14, 21, 28, and at the Blessing of the Animals event on October 5 at 5 pm. We will have a bin in the narthex.

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 Usher Team that provides welcome for all who enter our doors. What does it involve?

- Welcome & distribute bulletins
- Provide assistance/guidance & answer questions
- Coordinate offering collection
- 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!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

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

Monday, August 25

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Racial Healing & Reconciliation Mtg

Tuesday, August 26

Wednesday, August 27

- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, August 28

Friday, August 29

Saturday, August 30

Sunday, August 31

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

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Anne Haxton, Dottie Moore's mother

Doug Moody

The Family of Paul Kitchens upon his death (Dawn Finn's uncle)

Marshall Stowe, brother of Sally Bashant and Wes Stowe)

Deb Elmore

Adrian Lunsford

Ginger Feimster

Brian Holland (Adrian and Trevis Lunsford)

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

Murphy Clark and family

For our ZOE communities in Rwanda, especially:

Jeannette 20, head of household, and sibling Consolée 12

*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.

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.

BCO



September 7th

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

TOP 20 REQUESTS
Rice Soup
Jelly Crackers
Pop tarts Mac & Cheese
Grits Pasta
Oatmeal Pasta Sauce
Peanut Dried Beans
Butter Corn
Instant Muffin Mix
Potatoes Cookies
Canned: Meat, Fruit
Tomatoes, Vegetables
and Pasta



Feed the HOUSE

Help the families
in residence at
Catherine's House
by dropping off a simple meal
on

September 8 or 22nd
October 13 or 27th

www.fumcbelmont.org/signup



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

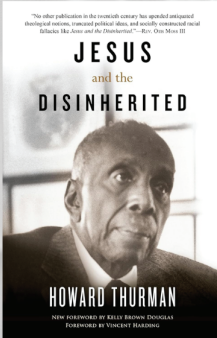
SAVE THE DATE

BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, September 14 | 10 - 2

SIGNUP @

**ONEBLOOD.ORG/DONATE
(USE CODE 77697)**



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