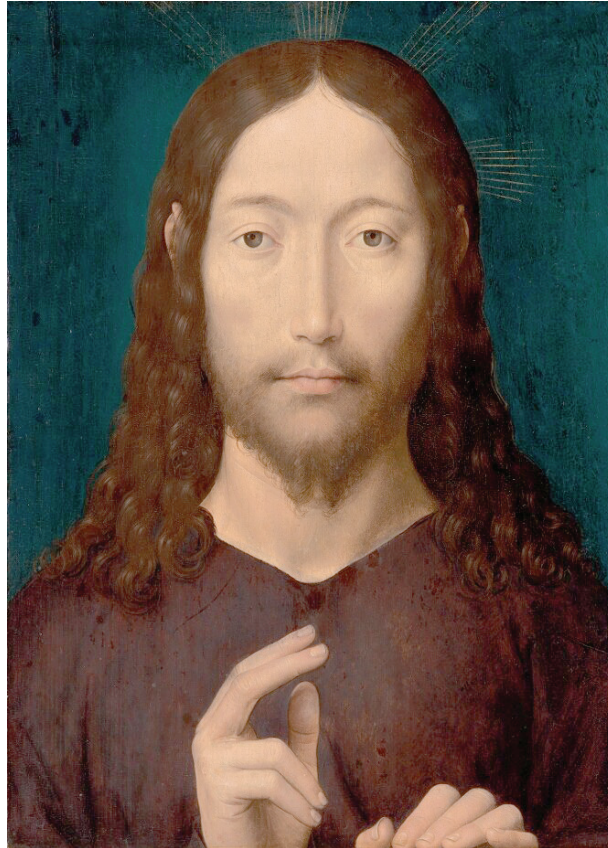


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

August 24, 2025 – 8:30 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

807 South Point Road // Belmont, NC 28012

P: 704-825-2106 // F: 704-825-2176

www.fumcbelmont.org



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.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

*OPENING SONG

"Rejoice"

CCLI Song # 7232227

*PRAYER

Doreen Collins

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

Jennifer Martin

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 10:1-12

Matthew Henry

SERMON

The Rev. George Ragsdale

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

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

"Common Ground"

CCLI Song # 7203628

Child of God be at peace
Open hands let go of everything
Christ in us all around
Calvary a hill with level ground
I hear a voice calling out
Tear down the walls between us
Make way for love to heal us
Show us the way of Jesus
Where He is found (in common ground)
Church of God now's the time

There's a mountain that we have to climb
Broken hearts all around
Suffering this is our common ground
My brothers' blood is crying out
Where do we stand if not together
No nowhere
Reach out your hand in there and out there
'Cause there are no strangers to God
There are no outcasts with us
There are no orphans to the Father of love

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG

"Send Me Out"

CCLI Song # 5621778

**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.

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

GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

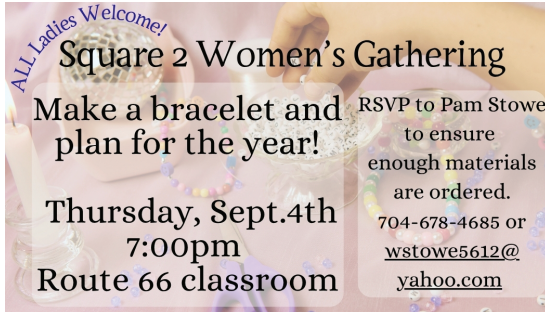
Sunday School

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



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
- Coordinate offering collection
- Provide assistance/guidance & 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!

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.

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 Butter	Dried Beans
Instant Potatoes	Corn
	Muffin Mix
	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

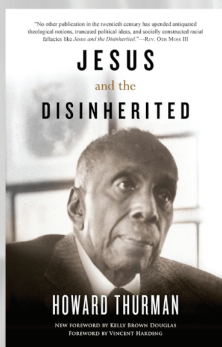
BLOOD DRIVE

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