

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

August 3, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

The Eighth Sunday After Pentecost



Feast in the House of Simon the Pharisee by Rubens, c. 1618–1620

.....
*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 FUMC! Today we begin a new series, **#loveyourneighbor**, exploring what it truly means to share our faith with others. Is faith merely a set of ideas to believe, or is it something deeper — a truth that shapes who we are and how we live? As Christians, we trust that we were created by God and for God, made for loving relationship. Sharing our faith means offering that hope to all who are struggling, hurting, or searching for meaning. In today's Gospel, Jesus confronts a religious leader for failing to see the pain — and the deep love — of a woman who boldly expresses her love and gratitude at his feet. May this time of worship open our eyes to see others as God sees them and inspire us to reflect Christ's love in all we do.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"Prelude"

Ellen Jane Lorenz

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Quanna McAlister

O Lord, you have searched us and known us.

You know our joys and our sorrows, our hopes and our fears.

Wherever we go, your hand guides us, your love holds us fast.

You see us truly and love us completely.

Gathered in your grace, we are renewed and called.

We go forth to reflect your love and welcome all in your name.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 384

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***Merciful God, we confess that too often we fail to see others as you see them.
We turn away from those who need welcome and love, choosing
judgment over grace and indifference over compassion. We close our eyes
to the pain and sacred worth of all your beloved children — including
ourselves. Forgive us, and draw us into deeper relationship with you and
one another, that we might reflect your image and love in all we do.
Through 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 7:36-50

James Harris

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

"The Gift of Love"

Hal Hopson

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire;
And have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass and hopeless gain.
Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess;
But not be giv'n by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.
Come, Spirit, come our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole;
Let inward love guide ev'ry deed: By this we worship and are freed.

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. 454

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

*POSTLUDE

"Postludio maestoso"

Ellen Jane Lorenz

**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 *The Feast in the House of Simon the Pharisee* by Peter Paul Rubens, painted around 1618–1620. Rubens, a master of the Baroque, was known for his dynamic compositions, rich color, and expressive movement — all of which draw the eye toward the woman at Jesus's feet. Amid the swirl of figures and lavish setting, she becomes the true focal point: her bold act of love and gratitude quietly upends the scene. Jesus' calm acceptance stands in contrast to the judging stares around her, inviting us to consider what it means to truly see and embrace another. As we begin our #loveyourneighbor series, this image reminds us that love, not status or approval, is at the heart of our faith.

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: *"God is Closer than You Think"* by John Ortberg.

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

Wanderers: *"Christianity and World Religions"* by Adam Hamilton.



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.



**Join us in the Youth House
August 10-Sept 14
as we explore how Jesus loves
Anime, movies, games, and TV**

**ENGAGE
SUNDAY
SCHOOL**

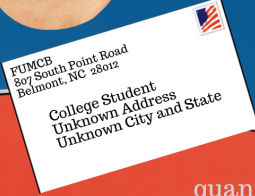
**JESUS LOVES NERDS: BIBLE
STUDIES FOR NERDY AND
GEEKY MEDIA WE LOVE**



*College Students
Want Snail Mail?*

We want to stay in touch with you at college.

Please send your college address to
quanna@fumcbelmont.org



FUMCB
807 South Point Road
Belmont, NC 28012
College Student
Unknown Address
Unknown City and State

GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN



Rally Day

Carpenter Hall on August 10 at 9:30

Sign our birthday poster, get a prayer craft, strut in our parade, enjoy a yummy breakfast, and celebrate a new Sunday School year!



Blessing of the Backpacks

Bring your school or work bag on August 10 to be blessed for this new year.
8:30 and 11:00



3rd Grade Bible Sunday

August 17
8:30 and 11:00 worship

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, August 3

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

Monday, August 4

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Tuesday, August 5

12:00 p.m. Congregational Care Minister Mtg

Wednesday, August 6

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, August 7

11:30 a.m. Community Cafe'

Friday, August 8

Saturday, August 9

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

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Brian Holland (Adrian and Trevis Lunsford)
Diane and Paul Kitchens, Dawn Finn's aunt and uncle
Janet Matijkiw (Judy Ketty)
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 grand-
mother, 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
The family of Erin Carver, Tim and Renee Painter's
daughter, who passed away
Ginger Feimster
Murphy Clark and family
For our ZOE communities in Rwanda, especially:
Marie Claire 16, head of household, and siblings
Florence 9, Alphonsine 9, and Honorine 3

*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.*

HOLY HELPERS BASH

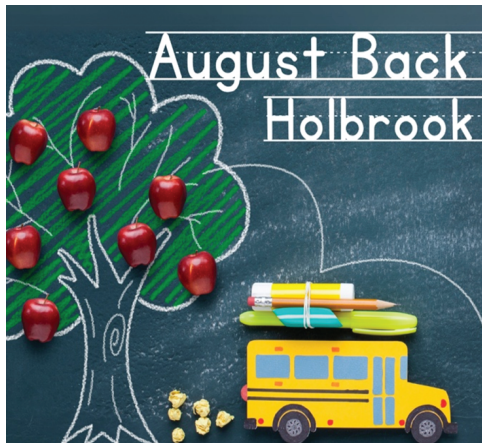
All **2nd-12th** graders are invited to
a party on August 17 at 4:30. We
will play games, eat pizza, and
learn the roles of worship leaders.

RSVP to Jennifer@fumcbelmont.org

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



August Back to School Drive Holbrook Middle School



NEEDED ITEMS
Wide ruled notebook paper, #2 pencils, tissues, hand sanitizer, clorox wipes, black/white 1 subject composition notebooks, deodorant

Bring donations through August 10




Welcome Back

Our COMMUNITY CAFE
supports women who are in recovery from human trafficking, addiction and abuse.
Drop in for lunch every Thursday beginning
August 7 - 11:45am - 1:15pm

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.

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