

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

August 3, 2025 – 8:30 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

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*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.*

PRAISE AND PRAYER

*OPENING SONG

"God is For Us"

CCLI Song # 7121853

*PRAYER

Quanna McAlister

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

Jennifer Martin

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 7:36-50

Dave Lange

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

"The Jesus Way"

CCLI Song # 7217888

If you curse me then I will bless you

If you hurt me I will forgive

And if you hate me then I will love you

I choose the Jesus way

If you're helpless I will defend you

And if you're burdened I'll share the weight

And if you're hopeless then let me show you

There's hope in the Jesus way

I follow Jesus I follow Jesus

He wore my sin I'll gladly wear His name

He is the treasure He is the answer

Oh I choose the Jesus way

If you strike me I will embrace you

And if you chain me I'll sing His praise

And if you kill me my home is heaven

For I choose the Jesus way

I choose surrender I choose to love

Oh God my Savior You'll always be enough

I choose forgiveness I choose grace

I choose to worship no matter what I face

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG

"Good Grace"

CCLI Song # 7122177

**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**

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 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 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

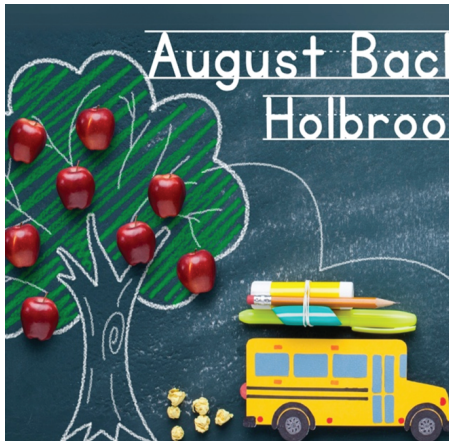
Door prizes,
trivia game,
sweet treats,
and more!

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



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

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