

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

August 31, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.
The Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost



Nazareth by Antal Ligeti (1823-1890)

.....
*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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P: 704-825-2106 // F: 704-825-2176
www.fumcbelmont.org

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"I Bind My Heart to Thee"

Franklin Ritter

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jennifer Martin

Children of God, welcome!

Welcome to this place of love and grace,

Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,

God invites all of us to share in the good news:

We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.

In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 158

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful. We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with condition. We judge and condemn. We cast the first stone, and keep the logs in our own eyes. We do not turn to you as the source of our healing. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin, and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. 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

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:44-46: 6:41-42

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Larry Kimel

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

"Lord Have Mercy"

Steve Merkel

J. Michael Beech, soloist

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

May the road rise to meet you.

May the wind blow at your back.

May the sun shine warmly on your face.

May the rain fall softly on your field,

And until we meet again, until we meet again

May God hold us in the palm of His hand.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN NO. 560

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

**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 Antal Ligeti (1823-1890), a Hungarian landscape painter who completed this painting, *Nazareth* in 1862. Antal was expected to follow in the family's footsteps and become a merchant, but he was so intent on being an artist that he abandoned the comforts of home and went to Italy. Upon returning home he moved to Pest, where he obtained the patronage of Count István Károlyi, who's financial support allowed him to travel extensively; visiting Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Cyprus and Malta and returning with a huge portfolio of sketches, which he used as the subjects for paintings. Eventually, he was appointed curator of the art gallery at the Hungarian National Museum.

Welcome, Dr. Larry Kimel! Our preacher and celebrant (8:30) this morning is the Reverend Dr. Larry Kimel. Larry is a retired Elder in our Annual Conference. Most recently he served for 10 years as the Senior Pastor at First United Methodist Church in Mount Holly. Larry attends FUMC Belmont with his wife, Diane and they are vital participants in our ministry and treasured friends to many. We are grateful for Dr. Kimel's leadership in worship this morning!

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.



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)**



GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS



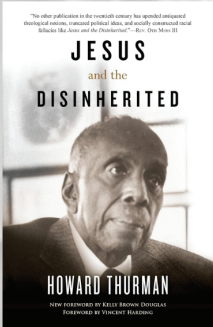
Join us This Sunday for a Combined Sunday School Class

10 a.m. in Carpenter Hall - Special Guest Speaker

Jennifer Grant - Executive Director of the Gaston Co. Backpack Program

Come and hear more about their mission and how you can help.





"The other publication in the twentieth century has specified untamed theological notions, unexamined political ideas, and socially unexamined racial attitudes like those and the Disinherited." - Rev. C. V. Davis III

JESUS
and the
DISINHERITED

HOWARD THURMAN
NEW FOREWORD BY KELLIE BRUNO JENNINGS
FOREWORD BY THOMAS HARRISON

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

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



Men's Meetings

Friday, Sept. 5
6:30 am - Youth House

CONTACT TONY WILSON
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
KINGSMTNTONY@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

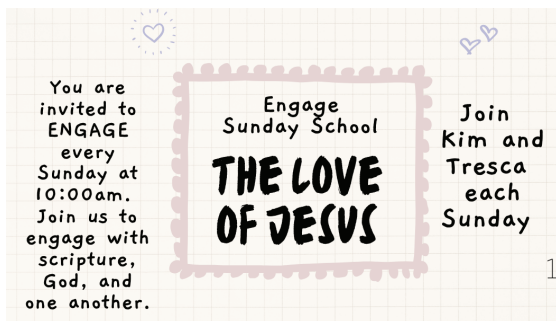
GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

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.

GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH



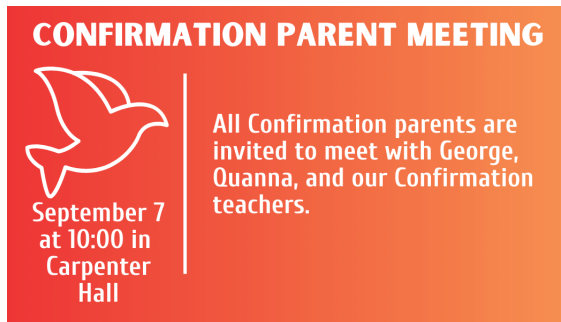
You are invited to **ENGAGE** every Sunday at 10:00am. Join us to engage with scripture, God, and one another.

Engage Sunday School

THE LOVE OF JESUS

Join Kim and Tresca each Sunday

1



CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETING

All Confirmation parents are invited to meet with George, Quanna, and our Confirmation teachers.

September 7 at 10:00 in 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.

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.

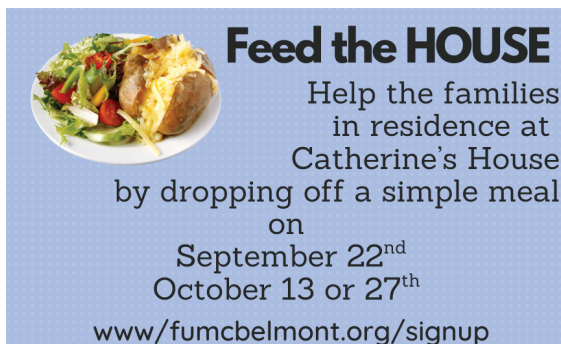


Collecting non-perishable food to help those without adequate food resources

September 7th

TOP 20 REQUESTS

Rice	Soup
Jelly	Crackers
Pop tarts	Mac & Cheese
Grits	Pasta
Oatmeal	Pasta Sauce
Peanut Butter	Dried Beans
Instant	Corn
Potatoes	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 22nd
October 13 or 27th

www.fumcbelmont.org/signup

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, August 31

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

Monday, September 1

- Labor Day
- Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 2

- 12:00 p.m. Congregational Care Minister Mtg

Wednesday, September 3

- 6:30 p.m. Children's Council Meeting

Thursday, September 4

- 11:45 a.m. Community Cafe'

Friday, September 5

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Meeting

Saturday, September 6

Sunday, September 7

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Parent Meeting
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 5:30 p.m. Connect
- 5:30 p.m. Crossroads
- 6:00 p.m. Stories to Live Small Group

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

The family of Paul Wallace, Judy Harris' brother,
who passed away

Halo Wilson

Adam Lowrance

Trevis and Adrian Lunsford

The family of Humpy Wheeler, Angie Wheeler's
brother, who passed away

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

Murphy Clark and family

For our ZOE communities in Rwanda, especially:
Pacifique 19, head of household, and siblings
Josiane 15, Dieudonne 11 and Bruno 6

*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.

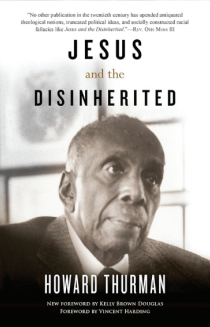
In Person – Drop your gift in the secure Drop Box outside the church office, available 7 days a week.



STORIES TO LIVE

EXPLORING SPIRITUAL MEMOIRS

Monthly on Sundays with Pastor George
Beginning September 7
Email Pastor George to sign up today!



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



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

OUR STAFF

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