

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

August 31, 2025 – 8:30 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

807 South Point Road // Belmont, NC 28012

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

www.fumcbelmont.org

PRAISE AND PRAYER

*OPENING SONG

"House of the Lord"

CCLI Song # 7168995

*PRAYER

Jennifer Martin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

"Mercy is a Song"

Mercy is a song, singing to my heart
Telling me it's okay, come just as you are
I never heard a melody, like the one they're singing over me
And I just wanna sing along, 'cause mercy is a song
Freedom is a choir, swaying back and forth
Shining in the shadow of a stain-glassed Sunday morning
Shouting hallelujah, yesterday is gone
Oh, freedom is a choir and mercy is a song
Singing oh, there is a life for every soul
No matter where you've been just come on home
Let all God's children sing along
Hallelujah, chains are gone
Mercy is a song
Guilty is a lie, spoken by a thief
Saying after what you've done, you don't deserve to be free
But I can look him in the eye, and say this time you're wrong
'Cause guilty is a lie, oh, but mercy is a song
A song of the redeemed
I want to set free
A glimpse of what waits for you and me
Heaven is a mansion, a promise in the sky
That one day we will be singing with those angels up on high
That old familiar melody, like we've known it all along
Oh, heaven is a mansion and mercy is a song
Heaven is a mansion and mercy is a song
Oh, tell me, can you hear it?

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG

"Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly"

**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.



SAVE THE DATE

BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, September 14 | 10 - 2

SIGNUP @
ONEBLOOD.ORG/DONATE
(USE CODE 77697)

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



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.

GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

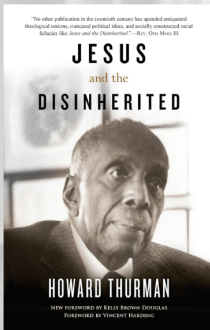


Join us This Sunday for a Combined Sunday School Class

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.



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

FALL

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

CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETING



September 7 at 10:00 in Carpenter Hall

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

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.



BCO

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	

September 7th



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.*



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