

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

August 16, 2026 – 11:00 a.m.
The Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost



Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers, by Peter von Cornelius, 1816–17

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***United in the Spirit, First United Methodist Church of Belmont exists
to be more like Jesus Christ for our community and beyond***
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Good morning, and welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont! We're so glad you've joined us for worship today. This morning, we conclude our journey through Genesis and the story of Joseph. After years of betrayal, separation, and suffering, Joseph finally stands before the brothers who harmed him. But instead of getting even, Joseph chooses reconciliation, confessing that God has been at work even in the brokenness. Joseph's story reminds us that God is always drawing us toward healing, peace, and restored relationships with one another.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

Amazing Grace

arr. Robert Hughes

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 85

The Rev. Kim Ingram

Let us hear what God will speak;

For God will speak peace to the people.

Surely God's salvation is at hand;

And God's glory will dwell among us.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

Righteousness and peace will embrace.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground;

And righteousness will look down from the sky.

The Lord will give what is good;

And lead us in the way of peace.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 139 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***God of peace, you desire to heal what is broken and restore us to one another.
Yet we cling to old grievances, harden our hearts, and seek vindication rather
than reconciliation.
Forgive us, we pray. Give us courage to speak the truth, grace to offer mercy, and
wisdom to seek the peace that comes from you;
through Jesus 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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 45:1-15

John Tria

SERMON

The Rev. George Ragsdale

SILENT REFLECTION

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 881

The Apostles' Creed

INVITATION TO PRAYER

For the Troubles and the Sufferings

***For the troubles and the sufferings of the world,
God, we call upon your mercy; the whole creations' laboring in pain!
We pray for peace, the blessed peace that comes from making justice,
to cover and embrace us. Have mercy, Lord!***

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

After each petition, we enter into prayer together with these words:

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

How Great Thou Art

arr. Dan Forrest

Larry Bradmon, Nicholas Southwick, Jon Jones, J. Michael Beech

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!***

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER (Hymnal No. 895)

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN No. 560

Help Us Accept Each Other

POSTLUDE

Voice of Praise

Ellen Jane Lorenz

** Those who are able please stand.*

WELCOME

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. 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!

The flowers in the church today are given to the glory of God and in memory of Martha Taylor, by her husband Preston. Martha had a deep love for the children of our church.

Weekly Devotional Guides offer daily Scripture readings, reflections, and questions for contemplation and discussion. Each guide follows the theme and content of Sunday's sermon and includes a prayer for the week. Copies of the guides, along with transcripts of today's sermon, are available at the Information Center. You may also sign up to receive the guides by email, along with other church updates, at www.fumcbelmont.org/emails.

Today's Bulletin Cover features *Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers* by German artist Peter von Cornelius. Originally painted as part of a fresco cycle for the Casa Bartholdy in Rome, the work reflects the Nazarene movement's desire to recover the spiritual clarity and beauty of early Renaissance art. Notice the movement within the scene: Joseph reaches toward his brothers, while they draw near with gestures of astonishment, fear, and humility. Cornelius captures reconciliation not as a quiet or sentimental moment, but as the dramatic crossing of a distance created by betrayal and suffering. The painting is now held by the *Alte Nationalgalerie* in Berlin.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

Ways to Give at FUMC Belmont:

Online – visit www.fumcbelmont.org/online-giving.

By mail – Send your gift to the church address
on the front of this bulletin.

In-person – drop your gift in the offering plate
or the church office drop box.

HELP FLOOD VICTIMS



Consider donating \$75
to help us achieve our
goal to make 72
buckets this year on

MISSIONS NIGHT |
Sept 27th @ 5:30



Donations can be
made by check or
www.fumcbelmont.org/floodbuckets

RICE N BEANS

FEEDING THE BODY, RESTORING THE SOUL

RICEANDBEANS.ORG

...serving a vulnerable population
each Tuesday evening in Gastonia.
To volunteer or learn more, go to
fumcbelmont.org/events or
reach out to Michael and Denise
Martin or Quanna today.

RUTH CIRCLE

Monday, August 24

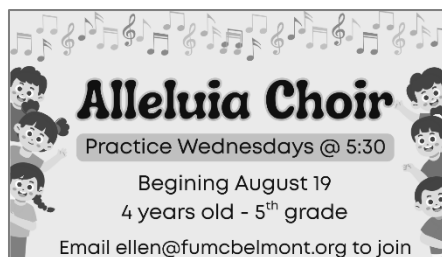
We'll deliver supper to
Catherine's House
and then meet up for dinner
at Jia's Asian Fusion.

Sign up at fumcbelmont.org/signup
or email jennifer@fumcbelmont.org
for more info.

GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Crossroads, 4th and 5th graders, meets TODAY from 5:30-7:30 in the Old Fellowship Hall. Supper is walking tacos, fruit and cookies. Join us for games, supper, faith talks and more!

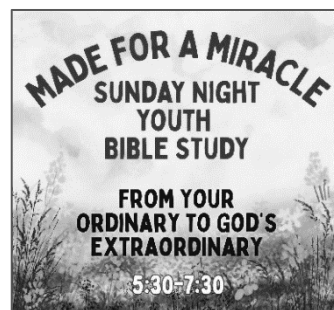
Children's Sabbath is next Sunday, August 23. First Kids are invited to participate in this service! Please email jennifer@fumcbelmont.org to sign up.



GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

Youth Sunday School— *How do you read the Bible, and why are there so many different versions?* That's what we're discussing for the next few weeks. Our high school youth will meet in the Carpenter Hall classroom; middle school youth will meet in the Youth House. All youth are welcome.

Sunday Night Youth— Our regular Sunday Night Youth kicks back in gear tonight. We meet every Sunday evening from 5:30-7:30 for games, dinner, fellowship, and Bible study. Throughout the fall season, we will engage in a Bible study and small group devotion called, "Made for a Miracle: From Your Ordinary to God's Extraordinary." Youth will talk about God's miracles AND our call to be part of the miraculous work of God's kingdom. Tonight, we're also playing a new game called Secret Agent Tag. All 6th graders and up are invited to come!



GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Disciple: Will examine the red-letter words of Jesus in the Bible. There will be facilitated questions to start conversations about what we believe as Methodists and how we respond to people who think differently. No topic is off of the table, and each Sunday may look and feel different, that is part of the fun! Meets in room 502, off of the Old Fellowship Hall.

Route 66: On September 6th will begin a new study *Perfectly Flawed: How God Transforms Our Weakness Into Strengths* by Lisa Toney. Focusing on the apostle Peter's passions and imperfections and how this flawed disciple lives out his calling to lead people to Christ. Meets in room 304.

Salt & Light Fellowship: Begins with reviewing the Scripture for the week and looks at how God has moved in each person's life, the joys and sorrows. Meets in the Narthex meeting room, in back of the information desk.

Wanderers: In mid to late September, they will be utilizing the book *Yes, Lord, I Have Sinned; but I Have Several Excellent Excuses*, by James Moore. It challenges readers to recognize when we make excuses and to grow beyond them. Meets in room 503, off of the Old Fellowship Hall.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, August 16/Bible Sunday

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:15 a.m. Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Rally Day!

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

5:30 p.m. Crossroads Kickoff

5:30 p.m. Youth Group

Monday, August 17

7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 18

Wednesday, August 19

5:30 p.m. Alleluia Choir

6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, August 20

Friday, August 21

Saturday, August 22

Sunday, August 23/Children's Sabbath

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:15 a.m. Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

5:30 p.m. Youth Group

We will be celebrating Children's Sabbath at both services on Sunday, August 23. Our guest preacher will be Rev. Camille Roddy, an ordained deacon in The United Methodist Church who serves as the coordinator of the Western North Carolina Congregations 4 Children and Duke Summer Literacy Program. Children's Sabbath helps us focus on bearing witness, celebrating, and acting on behalf of all children's wellbeing and futures.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Nicole Stanforth's grandmother, BB

Ronnie and Judy Fann (Cassie Fann's parents)

Bill Ritz (Patty Hayward's father)

Deborah Brooks

Carla Bradmon (Larry and Angela Bradmon's daughter)

Jeff Farris (Alice Farris' brother-in-law)

Anita Greene's family upon her passing (Pam Stowe's mother)

Jason Austin (Mark and Dottie Moore's son-in-law)

Keith Yarborough (Mark and Dottie's friend)

Lee Allen (Director of S.O.C.K.S. and Preston Taylor's friend)

Alice Farris' sister Janet

Jack Acheson (Chris' brother)

Mary Rutledge's mother, Alberta

Jim Griffin

Jimmy Turner's family upon his passing (Cindy Griffin's brother)

Alex Underhill (Cindy and Jim's nephew)

Ginger Feimster

Murphy Clark and family

For the Zoe communities in Rwanda, especially Sandrine (20) head of household, and siblings Eric (16) and Gilbert (14)

Submit prayer requests to:

prayers@fumcbelmont.org

Prayers remain on this list for 4 weeks.

For continued prayers, please submit a new request.

REJOICE IN THE LORD, ALWAYS

THE LETTER TO THE

Philippians

New Series Begins September 13

AGAIN I WILL SAY, REJOICE



CHURCH BOWLING PARTY

TEXTILE LANES

AUGUST 30 | 4-6:30 PM
ALL AGES INVITED!

Join us for bowling, fellowship, and dinner.
RSVP www.fumcbelmont.org/signup



All In

FUMC Belmont | Fall 2026

Join the Community
August 16!

OUR STAFF

Doreen Collins | Director of Adult Discipleship | doreen@fumcbelmont.org
Jennifer Martin | Director of Children's Ministry | jennifer@fumcbelmont.org
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