

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

August 16, 2026 – 8:30 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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THE REVEREND GEORGE RAGSDALE, SENIOR PASTOR
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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.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

*OPENING SONG

This is Amazing Grace

CCLI Song # 6333821

*PRAYER

The Rev. Kim Ingram

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

Jennifer Martin

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 45:1-15

Ann Marie Rogers

SERMON

The Rev. George Ragsdale

SILENT REFLECTION

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

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

Reconcile Us

CCLI Song # 7036337

In the wake of difference, In the face of change,
You ask us to be faithful
and boldly share Your grace.
When we battle failure and feelings of despair,
Shake us from our slumber, Rise us to declare:

You are faithful
You are here
So much greater than our fear

Jesus, reconcile us and bridge the great divide.
The cross will unify us:
One heart, one faith, one Christ.
Oh, reconcile, Jesus, reconcile us.

Help us when we're weary,
To lean upon the strong.
Confess when we are angry,
Turn when we are wrong.
Bow when we are prideful,
Forgive each other's sin.
Bear each other's burden,
Be quick to repent.
Son of Reconciliation,
Make us now a holy nation.
Son of Reconciliation,
Make us now a holy nation.
Set apart for You, set apart

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG

Make Us One

CCLI Song # 7091349

** 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!

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.

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.

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.

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 & BEANS
FEEDING THE BODY, RESTORING THE SOUL
RICE&BEANS.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!

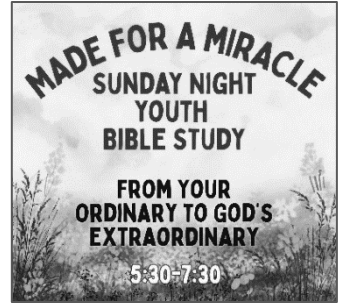
Children's Sabbath is next Sunday, August 23.
First Kids are invited to participate in this service!
Please email jennifer@fumcbelmont.org to sign up.

**Alleluia Choir**
Practice Wednesdays @ 5:30
Beginning August 19
4 years old - 5th grade
Email ellen@fumcbelmont.org to join

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 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

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



Today is
RALLY DAY

**We will kick off our new Sunday School
year at 9:30 in Carpenter Hall with
breakfast and celebration.
Classes for all ages, birth–adult!**



**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
Quanna McAlister | Director of Youth Ministry | quanna@fumcbelmont.org
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