

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

August 9, 2026 – 11:00 a.m.
The Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost



Joseph Telling His Dreams, by Rembrandt, 1633

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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 that you are here! Today we continue our journey through the Book of Genesis, the first book of the Bible, with the story of Joseph, a young man blessed with his father's favor, a special coat, and dreams of future greatness. But Joseph treats these gifts as his possessions, stirring the envy and anger of his brothers. His story invites us to trust the slow work of grace as we learn to receive God's gifts with humility and use them faithfully.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

Andante

T. Frederick Candlyn

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 138

Doreen Collins

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;

before all creation, I sing your praise.

When I called, you answered me;

you strengthened my soul with courage.

The Lord will fulfill his purpose for us;

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Come, let us worship the Lord.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 73

O Worship the King

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, giver of every good gift, we confess that we have not always received your gifts with humility. We have treated what you entrusted to us as though it belonged to us alone. We have envied the blessings of others and struggled to rejoice in their joy.

Forgive us, we pray. Though we are not yet all you would have us be, remind us that your call does not depend upon our readiness. Give us humble and generous hearts, that all we receive may become a blessing to others; 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 37:1-4, 12-28

The Rev. Dr. Larry Kimel

SERMON

The Rev. George Ragsdale

SILENT REFLECTION

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

Close Every Door to Me

Andrew Lloyd Webber

Close every door to me,
hide all the world from me.

Close every door to me,
keep those I love from me.

Bar all the windows and shut out the light.

Children of Israel are never alone.

Do what you want with me,
hate me and laugh at me.

For I know I shall find my own peace of mind.

For I have been promised a land of my own.

Darken my daytime and torture my night.

Just give me a number instead of my name.

If my life were important

Forget all about me and let me decay.

I would ask, "will I live or die?"

I do not matter, I'm only one person.

But I know the answers lie far from this world.

Destroy me completely, then throw me away.

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!

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

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

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

O God of Vision

***O God of vision,
far greater than all human scheming,
gather us now in Your presence,
refreshing, redeeming.***

***Show us a-new
life in Your breathtaking view,
lovely beyond all our dreaming.***

***Pour out Your Spirit on all
now assembled before You.***

***Make our diversity here
be a means to adore You.***

***Women and men,
young, old, and youthful again,
make us as one we implore You.***

***Grant to us insight, O God,
for this time of decision.
May we dream challenging dreams
of both depth and precision.
Speak through the dark.
Dispel by lightning's bright spark
whatever clouds dim our vision.***

***Break the sun's rays into color,
a rainbow around us.
Storm clouds, though real and near,
are not enough to confound us.
Arched in the sky,
beauty and promise are high,
giving us hope to astound us.***

POSTLUDE

My Heart Rejoices

Edward Broughton

** 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 Telling His Dreams*, painted by the Dutch artist Rembrandt van Rijn in 1633. Created as a study for a larger print that was never completed, the work has the loose, unfinished quality of an idea still taking shape. In the verses just before today's reading, Joseph tells his family of dreams in which they appear to bow before him, dreams he seems to understand as promises of his future power. When his brothers later see him approaching, they sneer, "Here comes this dreamer," and begin plotting against him. Rembrandt captures a tense family encounter and a young life whose meaning has not yet fully come into view.

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.

*Check out the
August Newsletter
for many more ways
to give & serve!*

GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Crossroads, our 4th and 5th grade group, resumes on August 16 from 5:30-7:30 in the Old Fellowship Hall. Join us for food, fun, fellowship, and faith talks!

Children's Sabbath is August 23, and *we are looking for First Kids to serve* during both worship services (greeters, ushers, Scripture readers, communion servers, etc.). Please email jennifer@fumcbelmont.org to participate.

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. Get excited about **August 16**, when we split into two classes. Our high school youth will meet in the Carpenter Hall classroom; middle school youth will meet in the Youth House.

Youth Kickoff Party—All youth are invited on **Aug 9** from 5:30 to 7:30 for the kickoff celebration for FUMCB youth ministry. Meet on the back playground from 5:30-7:30. We will enjoy a 20-foot Wave Dual Lane Waterslide, a hotdog cookout, and ice cream for dessert. *Sign up today!*

Sunday Night Youth— Our regular Sunday Night Youth will kick back in gear on Sunday, August 16. 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.

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: Is studying Matt Rawle's book "Jesus Revealed," and discussing the I AM statements in the book of John. 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: Is discussing Douglas Wingeier's book "Troublesome Bible Passages." Come and join in on the interesting conversations around difficult Bible passages, like why do we have to suffer and forgiving those who have hurt us. Meets in room 503, off of the Old Fellowship Hall.

SENIOR CONFERENCE AT LAKE JUNALUSKA

FESTIVAL OF WISDOM AND GRACE

EXPLORE HOW TO FLOURISH AS YOU AGE AND HOW TO NAVIGATE TRANSITIONS, LIVE INTO YOUR TALENTS AND PASSIONS.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER IS JAMES A. HARNISH
WORSHIP LEADER IS BISHOP JANE MIDDLETON

August 17-20, 2026

Go to lakejunaluska.com and upcoming programs or scan QR code




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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, August 9/Blessing of the Backpacks

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:15 a.m. Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Youth Parents Meeting

11:00 a.m. Worship

5:30 p.m. Youth Kickoff

Monday, August 10

6:30 p.m. Service & Missions Meeting

Tuesday, August 11

12:00 p.m. Congregational Care Min. Meeting

Wednesday, August 12

7 - 10 a.m. Resurrection Cup Coffee Truck

6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, August 13

Friday, August 14

Saturday, August 15

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

Patty and Taylor Hayward

Teri and Claude Wilson's friend

Everett Prunty and his family

Darlene Smith's husband, Earl

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

Ginger Feimster

Murphy Clark and family

For the Zoe communities in Rwanda, especially

Maritha (20) head of household, and siblings

Jean De Dieu (14) and Vianney (5)

*Submit prayer requests to:
prayers@fumcbelmont.org. Prayers remain
on this list for 4 weeks. For continued
prayers, please submit a new request.*

Rally Day!

Join us in Carpenter
Hall on Sunday
August 16 at 9:30 as
we kick off a new
Sunday School year!

CHURCH BOWLING PARTY

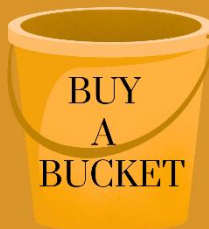
TEXTILE LANES

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

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



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

OUR STAFF

Doreen Collins | Director of Adult Discipleship | doreen@fumcbelmont.org
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