

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

August 2, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
The Tenth Sunday After Pentecost



Vision of the Sermon (Jacob Wrestling with the Angel), by Paul Gauguin, 1888

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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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www.fumcbelmont.org



Welcome to worship at First United Methodist Church! We are so glad that you are here! Today we continue our journey through Genesis, the Bible's opening book and its stories of creation, promise, family, and faith. This morning we again meet Jacob, a man returning home after years away, burdened by his past and fearful of the future. During a mysterious night beside a river, he wrestles with God and emerges wounded, blessed, and changed. Jacob's story invites us to consider what it means to encounter God in our own struggles and to hold on to God and one another through it all.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

*OPENING SONG

Rest On Us

CCLI Song # 7126736

*PRAYER

Quanna McAlister

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

Jennifer Martin

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 32:22–31

Dave Lange

SERMON

The Rev. George Ragsdale

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

Blessings

CCLI Song # 5897818

We pray for blessings
We pray for peace comfort for family
Protection while we sleep

We pray for healing for prosperity
We pray for Your mighty hand
To ease our suffering

And all the while You hear each spoken need
Yet love is way too much to give us lesser things

'Cause what if Your blessings
come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears
And what if a thousand sleepless nights
Are what it takes to know You're near
And what if trials of this life
Are Your mercies in disguise

We pray for wisdom
Your voice to hear

We cry in anger when we cannot feel You near
We doubt Your goodness
We doubt Your love
As if ev'ry promise from Your Word is not enough
And all the while You hear each desp'rate plea
And long that we'd have faith to believe

When friends betray us
When darkness seems to win
We know that pain reminds this heart
That this is not our home

What if my greatest disappointments
Or the aching of this life
Is a revealing of a greater thirst
This world can't satisfy
And what if trials of this life
The rain the storms the hardest nights
Are Your mercies in disguise

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG

You Never Let Go

CCLI Song # 4674166

** 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 *Vision of the Sermon (Jacob Wrestling with the Angel)*, painted in 1888 by Paul Gauguin, a French Post-Impressionist known for using vivid colors and simplified forms to express ideas and emotions rather than reproduce the world exactly as it appears. Gauguin painted this work in Brittany, a region of northwestern France with its own distinctive Celtic culture. In the foreground, Breton women, recognizable by their traditional white bonnets, have just heard a sermon about Jacob wrestling with a mysterious divine figure. The dramatic scene above them is not happening before their eyes; it is their shared vision of the biblical story. One woman leans forward and refuses to look away. Like Jacob holding fast until he receives a blessing, she invites us to enter the struggle ourselves and to keep seeking the face of God.

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.



...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.

GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Blessing of the Backpacks is August 9 at both worship services. Bring your school or work bag and place it along the prayer rail before worship.

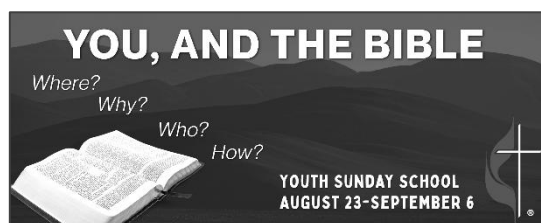
Bible Sunday, when our new 3rd graders receive their Bibles from the church, is August 16 during both worship services.

Rally Day, the kick off to our new Sunday School year, is on August 16 at 9:30 in Carpenter Hall. Join us as children move up to their new classes and we all celebrate and recommit to a new Sunday School year!

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!

GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

Join Youth Sunday School—All youth are invited to the Youth House each Sunday at 10:00 for Bible study and fellowship. 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 Parent Meeting

Sunday,
August 9
@ 10:00

We will gather in Carpenter Hall to meet with our Youth Director, Quanna McAlister. She will share important information about yearly plans, youth & parent expectations, and goals she has in place for our youth.

Youth Parent Meeting—All parents of youth are invited to meet with Quanna on August 9 in Carpenter Hall at 10:00. She will share important information about yearly plans, youth & parent expectations, and goals she has in place for our youth.



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 on our website or Quanna's weekly email.

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.

FIRST FRIDAY MEN'S MEETING

LIGHT BREAKFAST
SHORT STUDY
FELLOWSHIP



FRIDAY AUGUST 7 - 6:30 AM
YOUTH HOUSE | LED BY RYAN DAYTON

RSVP TO TONY WILSON OR FOR MORE INFO:
KINGSMTNTONY@YAHOO.COM

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



WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, August 2

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:15 a.m. Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, August 3

Tuesday, August 4

Wednesday, August 5

Thursday, August 6

Friday, August 7

6:30 a.m. First Friday Men's Meeting

Saturday, August 8

Sunday, August 9

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

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

Jean Claude (19) head of household, and siblings Josiane (13), Francine (11), Françoise (12), and Innocent (4)

Feed the HOUSE



Help the families
in residence at
Catherine's House
by dropping off a

simple meal on **August 10**

www.fumcbelmont.org/signup

Submit prayer requests to:

prayers@fumcbelmont.org

Prayers remain on this list for 4 weeks.

***For continued prayers, please
resubmit a new request.***

School Supply Collection

Holbrook Middle School

Tissues
Clorox wipes
Hand Sanitizer
#2 Pencils
Composition books
(Black & white)
Deodorant
One subject notebooks
Printer paper
Brooms and dustpans

Collecting July 5
through August 9



Join us August 16 for

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!**



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

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
Boyce O'Tuel | Director of the Child Development Center | boyce@fumcbelmont.org
Marsha Patton | Interim Administrative Assistant | marsha@fumcbelmont.org
George Ragsdale | Senior Pastor | george@fumcbelmont.org
Ellen Robison | Minister of Worship and the Arts | ellen@fumcbelmont.org
Vanessa Shrauder | Interim Business Administrator | vanessa@fumcbelmont.org