

FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

August 2, 2026 – 11:00 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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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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

*Gymnopedie*

Erik Satie

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 63

Quanna McAlister

O God, you are our God; earnestly we seek you.

***Our souls thirst for you; our whole being longs for you.***

Because your steadfast love is better than life, our lips will praise you.

***We will bless you as long as we live and lift up our hands in your name.***

Our souls cling to you; your right hand upholds us.

***With joyful lips, we will praise the Lord.***

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Called to Gather as God's People*

CCLI Song # 5002373

***Called to gather as God's people,***

***We assemble in this place,***

***To unite our hearts and voices***

***In thanksgiving for God's grace:***

***For the birthing of creation,***

***For Christ's rising from death's hold,***

***For the coming of the Spirit,***

***Week by week claimed and retold.***

***Taught and formed by proclamation,***

***We await God's promised word:***

***Song and story, psalm and precept,***

***All the range of scripture heard.***

***By this ancient, living witness,***

***We are summoned to confess***

***How we fall short, yet can trust that***

***God will hear, forgive, and bless.***

***Fed at Christ's abundant table,  
We partake of holy food,  
Wake the gifts of hope and memory,  
Taste and see that God is good.  
So our mingled lives are taken,  
Blessed and broken for Christ's sake,  
Given out to feed and comfort  
Bodies, minds, and hearts that ache.***

***Sent to share the Spirit's blessing,  
We go forth renewed, restored,  
Humbled by the task before us,  
Strengthened by the Love outpoured.  
Finding faith confirmed in action,  
Led by hope through each new day,  
We are called to be God's people,  
Living what we sing and pray.***

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***Most merciful God, you know us more fully than we know ourselves.  
You see the fears we conceal, the desires that govern us, and the restless  
striving of our hearts.  
We confess that we have trusted in our own strength, sought security in what  
cannot save, and resisted the grace by which you would make us new.  
Forgive us, we pray.  
Turn us again toward you, that, upheld by your mercy and renewed by your Spirit,  
we may walk faithfully in the way of 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 32:22–31

Ed Hanigan

**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

*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

arr. Craig Courtney

Sally Bashant, Catherine Ragsdale duet

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

\*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!***

\*TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Hymnal 17-18)

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

\*BREAKING THE BREAD

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

***Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself  
to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give  
ourselves for others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

## EXTENDING THE TABLE

This morning, lay communion servers come forward to receive consecrated bread and juice from worship to share with homebound members who cannot be present today. We pray for them, remembering God's grace unites us as one within Christ's holy church. If you are aware of someone who would like to receive but cannot be present, speak with Pastor George after service.

## GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

\*BENEDICTION

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN No. 623      *Here, O My Lord, I See Thee*

POSTLUDE      *Partita in B minor*      J.S. Bach

*\* Those who are able please stand.*

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## WELCOME

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**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](http://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.

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## OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

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### **Ways to Give at FUMC Belmont:**

Online – visit [www.fumcbelmont.org/online-giving](http://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!*

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## GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

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**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!

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## GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

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**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**— All parents of youth are invited to meet with Quanna at 10am on August 9 in Carpenter Hall. 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!*

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## GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

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### **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.

## 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 & 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

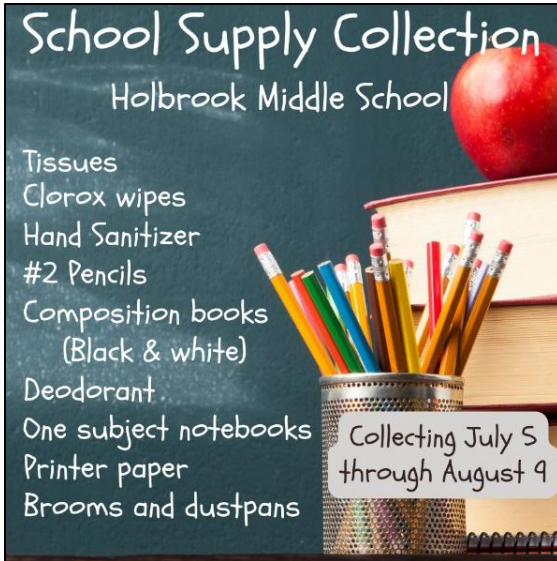
siblings Josiane (13), Francine (11), Françoise

(12), and Innocent (4)

***Submit prayer requests to:  
[prayers@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:prayers@fumcbelmont.org).***

# 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!**

# 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](http://www.fumcbelmont.org/signup)

# FIRST FRIDAY

LIGHT BREAKFAST  
SHORT STUDY  
FELLOWSHIP

# MEN'S MEETING

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FRIDAY AUGUST 7 - 6:30 AM

YOUTH HOUSE  
LED BY RYAN DAYTON

RSVP TO TONY WILSON  
OR FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[KINGSMTNTONY@YAHOO.COM](mailto:KINGSMTNTONY@YAHOO.COM)



## OUR STAFF

Doreen Collins | Director of Adult Discipleship | [doreen@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:doreen@fumcbelmont.org)  
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