

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

August 23, 2026 – 11:00 a.m.
The Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Children's Sabbath

For the Lord is GOOD; his mercy is
EVERLASTING; and his TRUTH endureth
TO ALL GENERATIONS.

Psalm 100:5



www.scripturemelodies.com

.....
***United in the Spirit, First United Methodist Church of Belmont exists
to be more like Jesus Christ for our community and beyond***
.....

THE REVEREND GEORGE RAGSDALE, SENIOR PASTOR
807 South Point Road // Belmont, NC 28012
P: 704-825-2106 // F: 704-825-2176 // www.fumcbelmont.org

Today we are participating in the multi-faith observance of Children's Sabbath.

What unites us is our belief that God calls us to protect children, especially the most economically disadvantaged and vulnerable, and the conviction that our faith calls us to live out God's justice and compassion. Jesus said, *"Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."* Matthew 19:14

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

Jesus Loves Me

John Ness Beck

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jennifer Martin

We gather this morning with listening hearts to hear the voices of the world's children through song, prayer, and God's Word.

We ask that you heal the hurts and nurture the hopes of children as we seek to protect them and provide a safe and healthy life for all of them.

We have come to worship God in confidence that you hear us and will strengthen us for our mission.

God has called us to be partners in caring for all children with a passion for justice and hearts full of love. Come let us worship God!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 147 *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we confess that often we fail to hear the voices of those who are young, impoverished, and hurting. Too many times we ignore the voices of those who speak in other languages, come from other communities, and have different life experiences than our own.

O God, when Jesus put a child among the disciples, he told us what is important. Remind us to listen and heed the voices of children and young people.

Open us to what they have to teach us, for ways they might lead us to more faithfully, to be your people who love and listen, heal and protect, and pursue your ways of peace and justice. 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

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalms 100

Camilla Shook

SERMON

The Rev. Camille Roddy

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 881

The Apostles' Creed

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Come, God, and Hear My Cry

Ruth Duck

***Come, God, and hear my cry; My spirit thirsts for you.
My body withers, weary, dry. Come Spirit God, renew!***

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

Lord of the Small

arr. Dan Forrest

Praise to the Lord of the small broken things

Who sees the poor sparrow

that cannot take wing

Who loves the lame child and

the wretch in the street

Who comforts their sorrows and

washes their feet

Praise to the Lord of the faint and afraid

Who girds them with courage

and lends them His aid

He pours out his spirit on vessels so weak

That the timid can serve

and the silent can speak

Praise to the Lord of the frail and the ill

Who heals their afflictions

or carries them till

They leave this tired frame and

to paradise fly

To never be sick and

never to die

Praise him, O praise Him all ye who live

Who've been given so much

and can so little give

Our frail lisping praise God will never despise

He sees His dear children

through mercy-filled eyes

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

O For a World

O for a world where everyone
respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done
with justice and with praise.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong,
the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn, outcasts belong,
who perishes will rise.

O for a world where goods are shared
and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared,
equality achieved.

O for a world preparing for
God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more,
and all but love will cease.

We welcome one world family
and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity
and gives our vision voice.

POSTLUDE

Raise the Sound of Praise

Edward Broughton

** Those who are able please stand.*

Serving in worship today:

Greeters: Thomas and John Boudreaux
Usher: Declan Kelly
Scripture Reader: Camilla Shook

Bible Bearer: Ryan Kelly
Acolyte: Cullen Kelly

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!

Today we welcome Rev. Camille Roddy a Deacon in the Western North Carolina Conference. She serves as the Coordinator of the WNCC Congregations 4 Children and Duke Summer Literacy Program. We are grateful for her ministry and for her time with us today.

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.

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.



Potluck Dinner & MISSIONS NIGHT

September 27 | 5:30–7:30



ALL AGES
ARE NEEDED
TO
ASSEMBLE

- *Dinner at 5:30 and stay to serve
 - *Help make 400 sandwiches for the day center at Roof Above
 - *72 flood buckets
 - * Write cards of thanks to those in the military
- Sign up to bring a dish @ fumcbelmont.org/events or find Quanna to sign up in person



GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

First Kids and their families are invited to sign up for a time slot on September 20 for our ***Fishes and Loaves Family Service Project***. We will be preparing freezer meals for families hosting foster children. Details and signup at www.fumcbelmont.org/kids.

Crossroads (4th-5th graders) will meet on September 13 from 5:30-7:30 for recreation, supper, and more faith conversations.

We have fantastic ***Sunday School*** classes available for all First Kids. Birth–2-year-olds meet in room 405, Preschool (3-4 year olds) meet in room 400, Kindergarten and 1st grade meet in room 401, 2nd and 3rd grade meet in room 408, and 4th and 5th grade meet in room 139.

Email jennifer@fumcbelmont.org for more information.

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 Sunday Night Youth meets tonight from 5:30-7:30. Each Sunday we gather 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. All 6th graders and up are invited to come!

GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Marriage Class (taking the place of Disciple): Utilizing the book, "The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work." Drawing on decades of research, internationally known psychologist John Gottman offers practical tools to help couples deepen friendship, manage conflict, and build a stronger, more lasting marriage. Meets in room 503, 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: are currently studying 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 502, off of the Old Fellowship Hall.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

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

Monday, August 24

6:00 p.m. Ruth Circle @ Jia's Asian Fusion

6:30 p.m. Justice & Equity Ministry Meeting

Tuesday, August 25

Wednesday, August 26

5:30 p.m. Alleluia Choir

Thursday, August 27

Friday, August 28

Saturday, August 29

Sunday, August 30

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:15 a.m. Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

4:00 p.m. Churchwide Bowling



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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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)

Betty Kupneski (Matt Gillespie's grandmother)

Amanda Owens and her family: Derek, Bentley, Haley, and Hunter

Sarah DesJardins (Teri and Claude Wilson's friend)

Teri and Claude Wilson's friend, R

Ginger Feimster

Murphy Clark and family

For the Zoe communities in Rwanda, especially Vincent (20) head of household, and siblings Solange (14), and Kevin (3)

***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

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](http://www.fumcbelmont.org/floodbuckets)



CHURCHWIDE FUN

**BOWLING AT
TEXTILE LANES
AUG 30
4:00-6:30**

**Pizza
Supper
Provided**



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