

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

August 30, 2026 – 11:00 a.m.
The Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost



Sunday Morning in Virginia, by Winslow Homer, 1877

.....
***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



Good morning, and welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont! We're glad you are here. Today, we hear Jesus call us to deny ourselves, take up the cross, and follow—a summons that can feel almost overwhelming. But alongside those demanding words, Paul offers a vision of a community marked by genuine love, generosity, patience, hospitality, and peace. This is how we learn to follow Jesus faithfully: not halfway, and never alone. These truths are at the heart of our ALL IN Challenge, which invites every person to join a small group where we can grow in grace and become more like Christ together. This morning, we will place our completed commitment cards on the altar as a sign of our desire to be ALL IN. If you still need a card, you can find one in the narthex. We hope you will join us this fall as, together, we become more like Jesus for Belmont and beyond.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

arr. Roger C. Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 133

Quanna McAlister

How very good and pleasant it is

when God's people live together in unity!

Together, let us receive the blessing of the Lord.

Here we are gathered and sustained by grace;

here we learn the way of faithfulness and love.

Come, let us worship God together.

Together, let us walk in the way of Christ.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 540

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we want the comfort of Christ without the cost of following him. We hold back what you ask us to surrender and resist our need for one another.

Forgive our halfhearted devotion and our stubborn self-reliance.

Bind us together in genuine love, strengthen us by your grace, and lead us in the way of Jesus Christ, that we may take up the cross and follow faithfully. 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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 12:9-21

Vanessa Schrauder

*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 16:21-28

SERMON

The Rev. George Ragsdale

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

Soon and Very Soon

Andrae Crouch

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

No more crying there, we are going to see the King!
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

No more dying there, we are going to see the King!
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

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 No. 159

Lift High the Cross

POSTLUDE

Lift High the Cross

arr. Lani Smith

** 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!

Welcome, New Members! This morning we are blessed to welcome new members into our church family. Joining today at our 8:30 service by Profession of Faith are **Marshall and Alexandra Joiner**. If you would like more information about joining our church family, please call or email Pastor George (704-249-0645 or george@fumcbelmont.org) or speak with him after the service 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.

Today's Bulletin Cover features Winslow Homer's *Sunday Morning in Virginia*, painted in 1877. Homer first encountered Virginia as an illustrator during the Civil War and returned in the 1870s to portray the uncertain realities of African American life during Reconstruction. Set in a former slave cabin, the painting shows a young teacher helping three impoverished children read the Bible, while an elderly woman looks on. The older boy's intense concentration reflects the thirst for learning among formerly enslaved people, even as the older woman bears the sorrow of a lifetime shaped by slavery. In their gathering, faith, learning, suffering, and the uncertain promise of freedom are held together.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

Ways to Give at FUMC Belmont:

Online – visit 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
- * Assemble 72 flood buckets
- * Write cards to those in the military

Sign up online to bring a dish
@ fumcbelmont.org/events
or find Quanna to sign up in person





GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

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– Our next Bible study goes along with our sermon series on Philippians. Join us each Sunday at 10 for a reflection and application to our scripture. 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 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. All 6th graders and up are invited to come! *Tonight, we are bowling at Textile Lanes!*

Winter Retreat– Youth are invited to go on our annual retreat at Lake Junaluska on February 12-14. Our guest speaker that weekend is Michael Beck, pastor, professor, author, and thought leader. He leads three churches in Florida and is known to cultivate communities of love and grace. Sign Up online or through Quanna's weekly emails.

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 13th, 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 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 @Textile Lanes

Monday, August 31

6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees meeting

Tuesday, September 1

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

Wednesday, September 2

5:30 p.m. Alleluia Choir

Thursday, September 3

Friday, September 4

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

Saturday, September 5

Sunday, September 6

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:15 a.m. Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Bill Walton (Maggie Moore's brother)

Ginger Feimster

Murphy Clark and family

For the Zoe communities in Rwanda, especially

Elissa (18) head of household, and siblings

David (15) and Eric (9)

Submit prayer requests to:

prayers@fumcbelmont.org

Prayers remain on this list for 4 weeks.

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



Fall Men's Meeting
Friday, September 4
6:30 am - Youth House

**CONTACT TONY WILSON
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
KINGSMTNTONY@YAHOO.COM**

The graphic features a dark background with white text. It includes decorative elements like a cross icon, a pumpkin, and autumn leaves.



SQUARE TWO
All ladies are invited
September 10 - 7 pm
At FUMCB

*Make this fun
cork pumpkin*
*For more info
Contact Pam Stowe 704-678-4685*

*Bring a
hot glue gun!*

The graphic has a light background with a checkered pattern and autumn leaves. It includes a small image of a pumpkin and a glue gun.

REJOICE IN THE LORD, ALWAYS

THE LETTER TO THE

Philippians

New Series Begins September 13

AGAIN I WILL SAY, REJOICE

Pastries with the Pastor

• • • • •
Newcomers & Guests! Join Pastor George and members of our staff and congregation for casual conversation and fellowship! All are welcome!

Sept 13 | 10:00 am | Carpenter Hall

OUR STAFF

Doreen Collins | Director of Adult Discipleship | doreen@fumcbelmont.org
Rebekah Huffstetler | Business Administrator | rebekah@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 | Administrative Assistant | marsha@fumcbelmont.org
George Ragsdale | Senior Pastor | george@fumcbelmont.org
Ellen Robison | Minister of Worship and the Arts | ellen@fumcbelmont.org