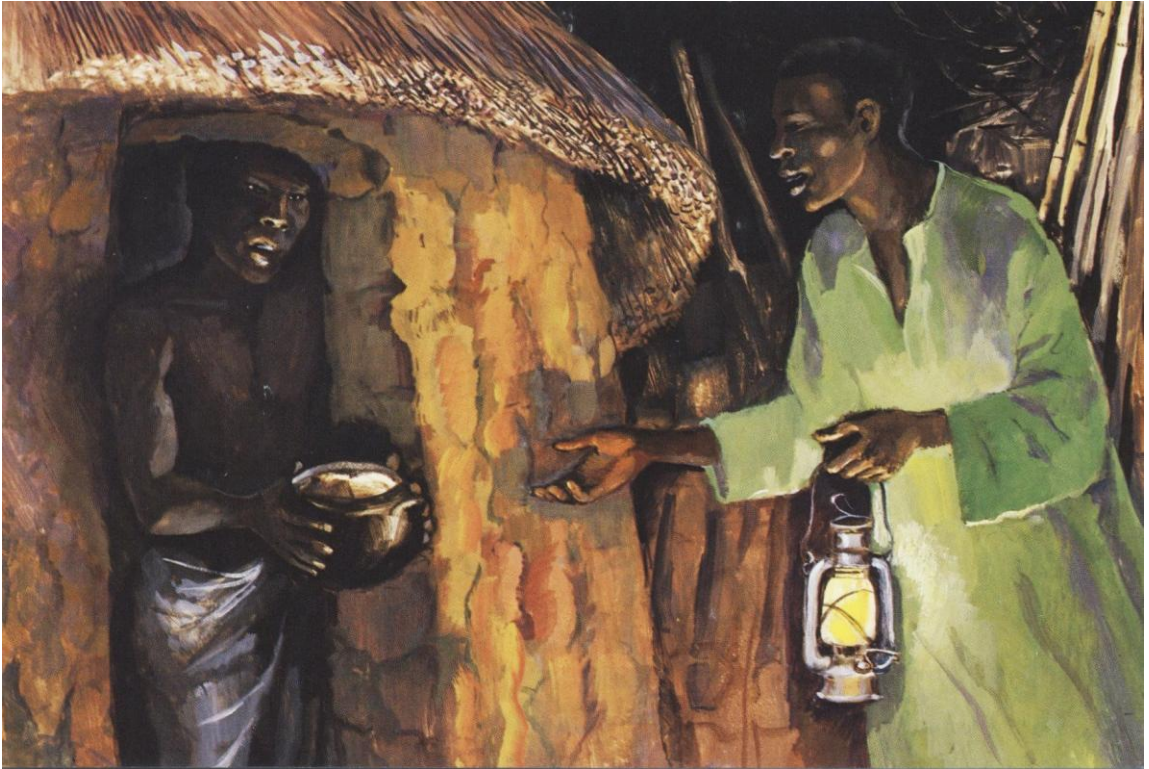


FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

September 6, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost



The Insistent Friend, by JESUS MAFA (Cameroon), 1973

.....
***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
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www.fumcbelmont.org

**THE
FIFTEENTH
SUNDAY
AFTER
PENTECOST**



Good morning and welcome to worship at First United Methodist Church of Belmont! We're glad you are here! Today, we turn to powerful words from Jesus in Matthew's Gospel about what it means to be the church. In fact, today's passage includes one of only two uses of the word "church" in the entire Gospel, suggesting that these words are crucial for our life together. Notice that Jesus never promises this life together will be easy, but he does promise to be present whenever his people gather in his name. Today we reflect on the difficult and grace-filled work of being the church: telling the truth, extending mercy, seeking reconciliation: learning, essentially, to live the forgiven life. As we worship, may Christ meet us and form us into a community through which God's kingdom becomes visible on earth.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

*OPENING SONG

Good Grace

CCLI Song # 7122177

*PRAYER

Jennifer Martin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 18:15-20

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

The Church

CCLI Song # 7245762

For the different ways we see You,
For all the ways You move,
All the colors and expressions,
Oh, the beauty of Your Church.
What a masterful reflection
when we are unified,
Truly celebrate each other,
and let go of our pride.

That You would have a spotless bride

Oh, praise the Father, praise the Son.

Holy Spirit, make us one.

Every nation, tribe, and tongue,

This is our cry, Your Kingdom come.

We surrender our agendas,
our preferences, our plans.
Would You help us work together,
to be Your feet and hands.
Our heart is just to know You,
to show them who You are.

The Gospel's still the answer
for every searching heart.

Brothers, sisters, under the banner of Your Name
Mothers, fathers, under the banner of Your Name
All Your children, all for the glory of Your Name

Every story of revival,
Every miracle we've seen,
It's a glimpse of what is coming,
so by faith help us believe.
And we know the day is coming
when we will see Your face.
Every knee will bow before You
and every heart will say:

Oh, praise the Father, praise the Son.

Holy Spirit, make us one.

Every nation, tribe, and tongue,
This is our cry, Your Kingdom come.
Lord, hear our cry, Your will be done
This is our cry, Your Kingdom come.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG

Hear the Call of the Kingdom

CCLI Song # 4930752

** 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 *The Insistent Friend*, a 1973 work by JESUS MAFA, a Christian community in Cameroon that interpreted Gospel stories through dramatic reenactment and painting. The image interprets both Luke 11, where a man persistently knocks at his neighbor's door seeking bread, and today's Gospel, in which Jesus calls us to go directly to one another when relationships are broken. Both passages invite us to cross the distance between ourselves and our neighbors rather than give up on them. As we undertake this difficult work of truth, mercy, and reconciliation, Christ is present and God's kingdom becomes visible among us.

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.



**BUY
A
BUCKET**

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)

GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Alleluia Choir (ages 4–5th grade) meets on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:00 in the choir room. Email ellen@fumcbelmont.org to join.

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

We have wonderful **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.

Fishes & Loaves

Family Service Project

First Kids and Families – sign up today for a 1.5 hour time slot on September 20 (12:30-2:00 or 2:00-3:30). We will learn about Jesus' feeding the 5,000, learn kitchen and food safety, and then you will prepare freezer meals for families hosting foster children.

Sign up today: www.fumcbelmont.org/signup



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.

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.

Youth
Winter Retreat
at Lake Junaluska
February 12-14

#Nofilter

Worship Leadership
Pickleball Tourney
Bible study Fellowship

SEPT.
18-20

YOUTH BEACH RETREAT



"If you want to walk on
water, you've got to get
out of the boat."
John Ortberg

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.



FALL ADULT SMALL GROUPS THROUGH THE WEEK

Groups begin the week of September 13
Childcare may be available for these groups based on interest and advance registration. Please contact Jennifer Martin (jennifer@fumcbelmont.org) as soon as possible if you will need childcare.

- **Sunday 12:30 pm:** The Emotionally Healthy Woman
Led by Patty Hayward and Emily Lyons
- **Monday 6:30 pm:** The Seven Principals For Making Marriage Work
Led by Leigh and Mike Nance
- **Tuesday 6:30 pm:** Disciple - Led by Pastor George and Catherine Ragsdale
- **Wednesday 6:30 pm:** Building Beloved Community
Led by Kim Ingram and Janet Jones
- **Wednesday 6:30 pm:** Men's Group: Engage
Led by Matt Gillespie
- **Thursday 11 am:** The Shape of Living - Led by Pastor Ellen

The number of weeks per class vary
For more details go to fumcbelmont.org/smallgroups

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, September 6

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:15 a.m. Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, September 7

Church Office Closed for Labor Day

Tuesday, September 8

Wednesday, September 9

5:30 p.m. Alleluia Choir

Thursday, September 10

7:00 p.m. Square Two

Friday, September 11

Saturday, September 12

Sunday, September 13

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:15 a.m. Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Pastries with the Pastor

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

12:30 p.m. Small Group: Emotionally Healthy

5:30 p.m. Crossroads

5:30 p.m. Youth Group

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



PRAYER REQUESTS

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)

Carol Tomlinson's family upon her passing

Steve Redmond's family upon his passing (Shane Redmond's father)

Beulah Mullinax

Taylor Hayward

Patty Gibson

Jeff Farris (Alice Farris' brother-in-law)

Ginger Feimster

Murphy Clark and family

For the Zoe communities in Rwanda, especially

Emmanuel (19) head of household, and siblings Liliane (15) and Jean Claude (12)

Submit prayer requests to:

prayers@fumcbelmont.org

Prayers remain on this list for 4 weeks.

For continued prayers, please submit a new request.

PRIMETIMERS - HELP SORT FOR MISSIONS NIGHT

**TUESDAY SEPT. 22
11 A.M. TO 1 P.M.**

Enjoy lunch and serve our community.

RSVP to Doreen if you can attend: doreen@fumcbelmont.org



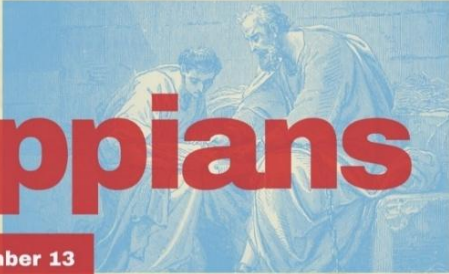
REJOICE IN THE LORD, ALWAYS

THE LETTER TO THE

Philippians

New Series Begins September 13

AGAIN I WILL SAY, REJOICE




**Small
Groups
Begin
Next Week!**

fumcbelmont.org/all_in

STOCK the BC

Sept. 13

Drop off
non-
perishable
goods

8:30-12



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