

FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

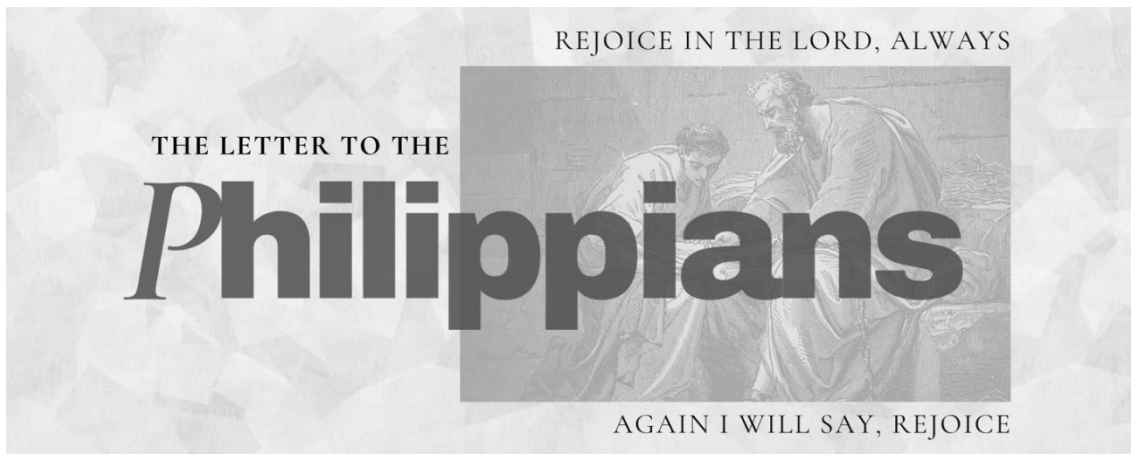
September 13, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.  
The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost



*Wisdom's Path*, by Jan L. Richardson, 1998

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



*Good morning and welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont! We are glad you are here! Today we begin a new worship series exploring our 2026 Scripture focus, Paul's Letter to the Philippians. Over the coming weeks we'll return to this beloved letter to see what happens when Christ becomes the center of our lives. Today, we begin with Paul's words of introduction. He offers a heartfelt remembrance and prayer for the church he loves. And what he prays is not merely that they will love one another, but that their love will keep growing: deepening in knowledge, insight, and wisdom. As we worship, we join Paul in that prayer, trusting that God is still at work among us, bringing our love to maturity in Jesus Christ.*

## **PRAISE AND PRAYER**

\*OPENING SONG

*Promises*

CCLI Song # 7149439

\*PRAYER

Quanna McAlister

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

Jennifer Martin

## **PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Philippians 1:1-11

The Rev. Kim Ingram

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 *Yes and Amen (You Never Fail)*

CCLI Song # 7251473

Faithful forever, You are faithful  
Generations sing Your praise  
You never fail

Able, forever You are able  
All creation will proclaim

I will not fear  
'Cause You're still the great I Am  
And I'm still within Your hands  
I stand on Your promises  
Yes and amen

Power there's wonder-working power  
For those who call upon Your name

Let faith arise  
My God brings the dead to life  
I'll see it with my own eyes  
I stand on Your promises  
Yes and amen

I'm standing on Your promise  
My God You never fail  
You'll finish what You started  
My God You never fail

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

\*BENEDICTION

*\* 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 *Wisdom's Path*, a collage by Jan Richardson, an artist, writer, and ordained United Methodist minister whose work brings word, image, and faith into conversation. Cut from a printed map, hands reach toward the heart beneath an unfolding sky, while winding paths suggest the choices that emerge from discernment. Richardson, a native Floridian, is widely known for her contemplative writing and visual art.

**The rosebud on the altar** is in celebration of the birth of son, Theodore Dean, to Marshall and Alexandra Joiner on September 4, 2026.

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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.

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



**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)



**Feed the HOUSE**




Help the families in residence at Catherine's House by dropping off a simple meal on **Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>**



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

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## GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

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**Crossroads** (4th-5th graders) meets *TONIGHT* from 5:30-7:30 for recreation, supper, and more faith conversations.

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

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](mailto:jennifer@fumcbelmont.org) for more information.

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## GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

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**Youth Sunday School**– Our current Bible study goes along with our sermon series on Philippians. Join us each Sunday at 10 for a reflection and application to our scripture. High school youth will meet in the Carpenter Hall classroom; middle school youth meet in the Youth House. All youth are welcome.

**Sunday Night Youth**– All youth are invited to join us tonight for a time of fellowship, dinner, and small group Bible study. We will play Nine Square and act out some of the most important miracles of the Bible.

**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. We will spend time on Saturday serving the local community and playing pickleball. Sign Up by October 15 through Quanna's weekly emails.

**Youth  
Winter Retreat  
at Lake Junaluska  
February 12-14**

**#Nofilter**

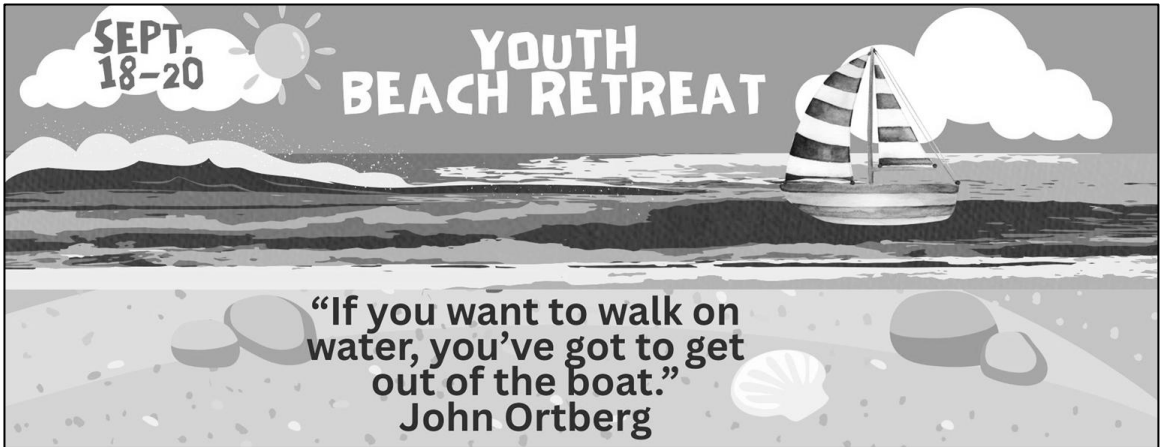
Worship

Leadership

Pickleball Tourney

Fellowship

Bible study



## 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:** Is studying *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 Men's Meeting*  
*Friday October 2nd*  
*6:30 am - Youth House*

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

### 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](mailto:doreen@fumcbelmont.org)



## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### 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

### Monday, September 14

6:30 p.m. Service & Missions Meeting  
6:30 p.m. Small Group: Marriage Class

### Tuesday, September 15

5:30 p.m. Alleluia Choir  
6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir  
6:00 p.m. Small Group: Disciple  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

### Wednesday, September 16

6:30 p.m. Small Group: Beloved Community

### Thursday, September 17

11:00 a.m. Small Group: The Shape of Living

### Friday, September 18

4:00 p.m. Youth Beach Retreat

### Saturday, September 19

Youth Beach Retreat

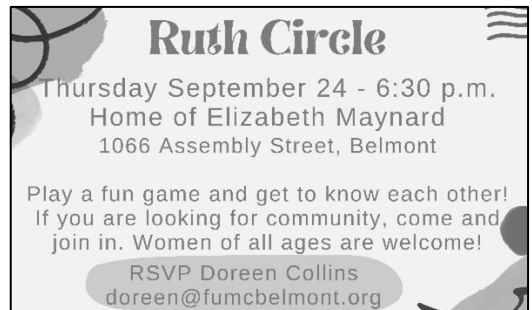
### Sunday, September 20

8:30 a.m. Worship  
9:15 a.m. Breakfast  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
12:30 p.m. Fishes & Loaves Family Event  
12:30 p.m. Small Group: Emotionally Healthy  
3:30 p.m. Youth Beach Retreat Return

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Betty Kupneski (Matt Gillespie's grandmother)  
Amanda Owens and her family: Derek, Bentley, Haley, and Hunter  
Sarah DesJardins (Teri & 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)  
Taylor Hayward  
Patty Gibson  
Jeff Farris (Alice Farris' brother-in-law)  
Harold Byrum  
Beulah Mullinax's family upon her passing  
Ginger Feimster  
Murphy Clark and family  
For the Zoe communities in Rwanda, especially Emmanuel (20) head of household, and siblings Patrick (18), Sandrine (9), & Obed (4)

***Submit prayer requests to:  
[prayers@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:prayers@fumcbelmont.org).  
Prayers remain on this list for 4 weeks.  
For continued prayers, please  
submit a new request.***



**Ruth Circle**

Thursday September 24 - 6:30 p.m.  
Home of Elizabeth Maynard  
1066 Assembly Street, Belmont

Play a fun game and get to know each other!  
If you are looking for community, come and join in. Women of all ages are welcome!

RSVP Doreen Collins  
[doreen@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:doreen@fumcbelmont.org)

## 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**



## 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](http://fumcbelmont.org/events) or find Quanna to sign up in person



*Save the date!*



## Community FALL FESTIVAL

**Oct 25 / 4:00-6:30  
at Reid Park, Belmont**

*Sponsored by Hood Memorial AME Zion & First UMC Belmont*

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## OUR STAFF

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Doreen Collins | Director of Adult Discipleship | [doreen@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:doreen@fumcbelmont.org)  
Rebekah Huffstetler | Business Administrator | [rebekah@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:rebekah@fumcbelmont.org)  
Jennifer Martin | Director of Children's Ministry | [jennifer@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:jennifer@fumcbelmont.org)  
Quanna McAlister | Director of Youth Ministry | [quanna@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:quanna@fumcbelmont.org)  
Boyce O'Tuel | Director of the Child Development Center | [boyce@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:boyce@fumcbelmont.org)  
Marsha Patton | Administrative Assistant | [marsha@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:marsha@fumcbelmont.org)  
George Ragsdale | Senior Pastor | [george@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:george@fumcbelmont.org)  
Ellen Robison | Minister of Worship and the Arts | [ellen@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:ellen@fumcbelmont.org)