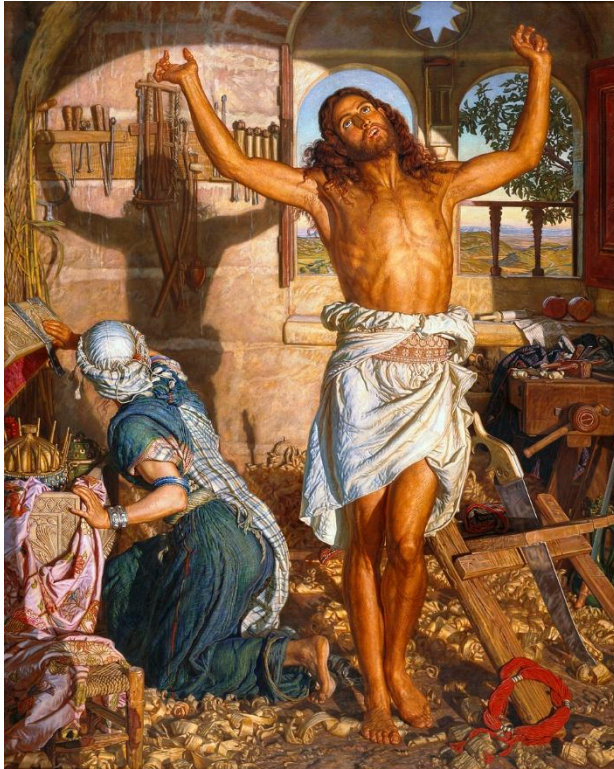


FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

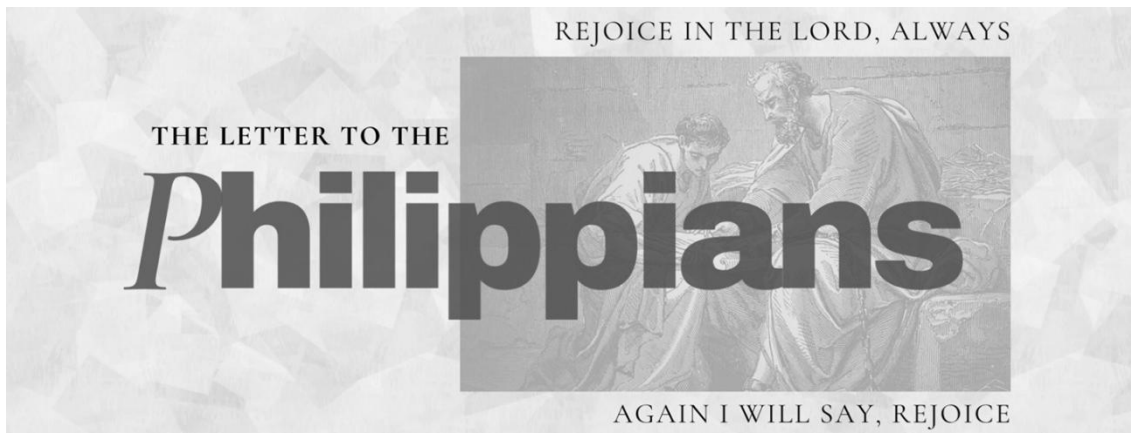
September 27, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost



The Shadow of Death, by William Holman Hunt, 1873

.....
***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***



Welcome to First United Methodist Church! We're so glad you've joined us for worship today! This morning, we continue our series exploring Paul's letter to the Philippians, turning to perhaps its most famous passage and one of the great high points of the New Testament. In words Paul appears to draw from an early Christian hymn, we hear one of the Church's earliest confessions about Jesus Christ as fully divine and fully human. In Jesus, we are shown something astonishing about the very life of God. What does God's way look like? It looks like humility, self-giving love, and a life poured out for the sake of others. It is this downward way of Christ that has the power to save us, heal us, and draw us together as one.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

*OPENING SONG

The Joy

CCLI Song # 7209419

*PRAYER

Quanna McAlister

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Philippians 2:1-11

Cindy Tilley

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

Worthy

CCLI Song # 7111931

It was my cross You bore
So I could live in the freedom You died for
And now my life is Yours
And I will sing of Your goodness forevermore

And now my shame is gone
I stand amazed in Your love undeniable
Your grace goes on and on
And I will sing of Your goodness forevermore

Worthy is Your name, Jesus
You deserve the praise; worthy is Your name
Worthy is Your name, Jesus
You deserve the praise; worthy is Your name

Be exalted now in the heavens
As Your glory fills this place
You alone deserve our praise
You're the name above all names

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG

Jesus Messiah

CCLI Song # 5183443

** 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 Shadow of Death* (1870–73) by William Holman Hunt. At first glance, the painting shows an ordinary moment: Jesus, a young carpenter, stretches his tired arms at the end of a day's work. But the evening light casts his shadow across the wall in the shape of a cross, allowing the ordinary labor of Jesus' human life to foreshadow his death. Hunt connected this painting directly to Philippians 2, emphasizing not only the cross to come, but the humility of Christ "found in human form," sharing the life, work, weariness, and vulnerability of humanity. The contrast between the everyday workshop and the shadow behind Jesus suggests that the glory of Christ is revealed as Jesus enters ordinary human life and suffering, not apart from them.

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.



Feed the HOUSE
Help the families in residence at
Catherine's House
by dropping off a simple meal on
Sept 28, Oct. 26, or Nov. 9
www.fumcbelmont.org/signup



BCO
Drop off by Oct. 4
Collecting monthly non-perishable food to help those without adequate food resources

TOP 20

- Rice
- Jelly
- Pop tarts
- Grits
- Oatmeal
- Soup
- Peanut Butter
- Instant Potatoes
- Crackers
- Mac & Cheese
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Dried Beans
- Corn Muffin Mix
- Cookies
- Canned: Meat
- Tomatoes
- Vegetables
- Pasta
- Fruit

Save the Date for our next
auction to support Zoe, Feeding
the Children, Weekend Backpack,
and other children ministries



**Weekend
Backpacks**
Hunger doesn't take
the weekend off



Sunday, February 28
during breakfast & S.S.

GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Alleluia Choir is on a different schedule this month. Kids ages 4 - 5th grade are invited to join us for rehearsals on Tuesdays at 5:30. (Note, the choir will resume Wednesday rehearsals in October.)

Sunday School classes are available for all First Kids: Birth–2-year-olds in room 405, Preschool (3–4-year-olds) in room 400, Kindergarten and 1st grade in room 401, 2nd and 3rd grade in room 408, and 4th and 5th grade in room 139. Email jennifer@fumcbelmont.org for more information.

Crossroads (4th-5th graders) meet Oct 11, 5:30-7:30 for recreation, supper, & faith conversations.

GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

Youth Sunday School– Join us in Sunday School for a reflection and application of George's sermons on Philippians. On September 27, we're discussing humility and completing a service project for our neighbors in need. Join us!

Potluck and Missions Night– Youth are invited to join our church wide event tonight from 5:30 to 7:30. Drop off like normal or bring your parents too. Sign up please.

Pickleball Tournament– All youth are invited to play in our friendly tournament at Davis Park next Sunday from noon to 2. Bring a water bottle and pickleball equipment. Sign up through Quanna's weekly emails or on our website.



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.



Ruth Circle and Square Two Event
Take a tour of the new Least of These Carolina's facility. October 8th - 6:30 pm
Out to dinner afterwards
RSVP to Doreen - doreen@fumcbelmont.org



Fall Men's Meeting
Friday, October 2nd
6:30 am - Youth House
CONTACT TONY WILSON
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
KINGSMTNTONY@YAHOO.COM



60 min
Minute to Win it games

Youth-Ful Night
October 11
5:30 - 7:30
Carpenter Hall
All Primetimers (55+)
and Youth are invited
to Youth Group



Bingo and Dinner!
B I N G O
6 26 36
2 23 39
12 25

All adults 55+ are welcome!

Primetimers trip to Bush and Vine Orchard - York SC

Thursday October 22
10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Transportation provided

RSVP to Doreen:
doreen@fumcbelmont.org

Lunch in York (your only cost is lunch)

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, September 27

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. CDC Board Meeting
5:30 p.m. Potluck & Mission Night
5:30 p.m. Youth join Mission Night

Monday, September 28

6:00 p.m. Admin Council Meeting
6:30 p.m. Small Group: Marriage Class

Tuesday, September 29

11:00 a.m. Small Group: The Shape of Living
5:30 p.m. Alleluia Choir
6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir
6:30 p.m. Small Group: Disciple
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Wednesday, September 30

6:30 p.m. Small Group: Beloved Community
6:30 p.m. Small Group: Men's Engage

Thursday, October 1

11:00 a.m. Small Group: The Shape of Living
6:30 p.m. Wanderer's Social Gathering

Friday, October 2

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

Saturday, October 3

Sunday, October 4

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Breakfast
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Youth Pickleball Tournament

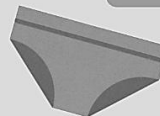
PRAYER REQUESTS

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
David Lange
Lee Allen (Director of S.O.C.K.S. and Preston
Taylor's friend)
Mary Deal's family upon her passing (Linda
England's sister)
Ginger Feimster
Murphy Clark and family
For the Zoe communities in Rwanda, especially
Francois (19) head of household, and siblings
Clarisse (15) and Emmanuel (6)

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

DROP YOUR DRAWERS

Underwear drive for
Rice and Beans



Oct. 4-
Nov. 1



**We are collecting new briefs for
Rice and Beans Ministry. The need
is for sizes 5, 6, or 7 women's briefs
and all sizes of sports/wireless
bras. Men prefer M, L, or XL boxers.**

Potluck Dinner & MISSIONS NIGHT

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



PASTRIES WITH THE PASTOR

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

OCT 11 | 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