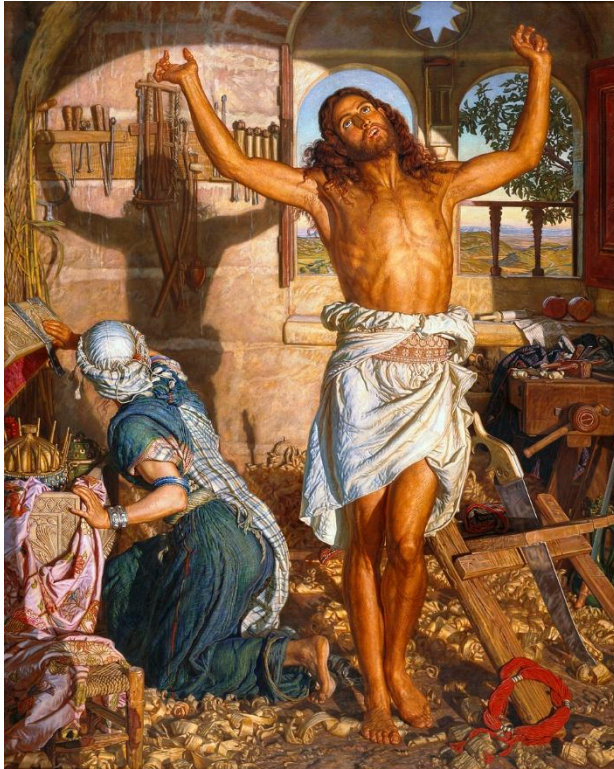


FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

September 27, 2026 – 11:00 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***

REJOICE IN THE LORD, ALWAYS

THE LETTER TO THE

Philippians

AGAIN I WILL SAY, REJOICE

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

This Sacred Hour

Gilbert Martin

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 138

Quanna McAlister

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

***I will bow down toward your holy temple
and praise your name, because of your love and faithfulness.***

Though the Lord is high,
he regards the lowly.

***Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life.***

The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 154 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most merciful God, whose greatness is revealed in self-giving love, we confess that we have loved too often with our own desires in mind. We seek comfort rather than faithfulness, control rather than trust, and our own good before the good of others. We are slow to yield, reluctant to serve, and unwilling to bear the cost of love.

Forgive us, we pray, and by your grace renew us, that with humble hearts we may seek the good of our neighbors and walk faithfully in the way of Christ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Philippians 2:1-11

Ed Hanigan

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

My Jesus, I Love Thee

arr. Dan Forrest

(text may be found in hymnal, No. 172)

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. 581 *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*

POSTLUDE

Living for Christ

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!

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.

DROP YOUR DRAWERS

Underwear Drive
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.



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's ministries

Sunday, February 28
during breakfast
& Sunday School



zoe empowers



Weekend Backpacks
Hunger doesn't take the weekend off



Feeding the Children

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 available for Birth–5th grade! Email jennifer@fumcbelmont.org for info!

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 on our scripture focus on Philippians. On October 4, we're discussing how our relationship with Jesus is more valuable than our popularity and accomplishments.

Potluck and Missions Night – Youth are invited to join our church wide event *tonight*, 5:30-7:30. 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. Signup 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 making excuses and growing 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 FOR MORE INFO
KINGSMTNTONY@YAHOO.COM

A graphic for a "Fall Men's Meeting" on Friday, October 2nd, at 6:30 am in the Youth House. It includes contact information for Tony and features decorative elements like leaves and a book.

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

A graphic for a "Ruth Circle and Square Two Event" on October 8th from 6:30 pm to 6:30 pm. It includes a tour of the new facility and a dinner afterwards. RSVP information is provided for Doreen.

All adults 55+ are welcome!

Join the Primitimers for a trip to Bush and Vine Orchard York SC

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

Lunch in York
(your only cost is lunch)

Transportation provided

RSVP to Doreen:
doreen@fumcbelmont.org

A graphic for a trip to Bush and Vine Orchard in York, SC, on Thursday, October 22. It mentions that all adults 55+ are welcome, transportation is provided, and lunch is included. RSVP information is provided for Doreen.

Youth-Ful Night Bingo and Dinner!

October 11
5:30 - 7:30
Carpenter Hall

All Primitimers (55+) and Youth are invited to Youth Group

Minute to Win it games

A graphic for "Youth-Ful Night" on October 11 from 5:30 to 7:30 at the Carpenter Hall. It includes a bingo game and dinner. A graphic of a bingo card is shown on the right. The text also mentions "Minute to Win it games" and that all Primitimers (55+) and Youth are invited to Youth Group.

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.***



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