

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT

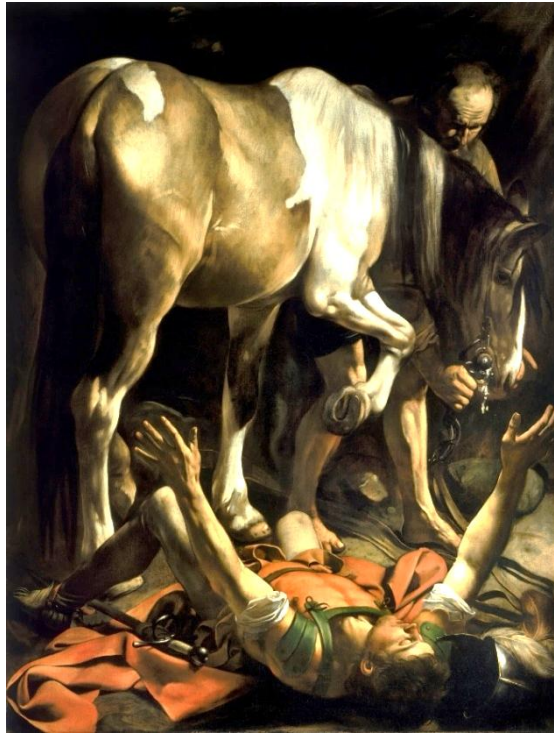


SERVICE OF WORSHIP

October 4, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.

The Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

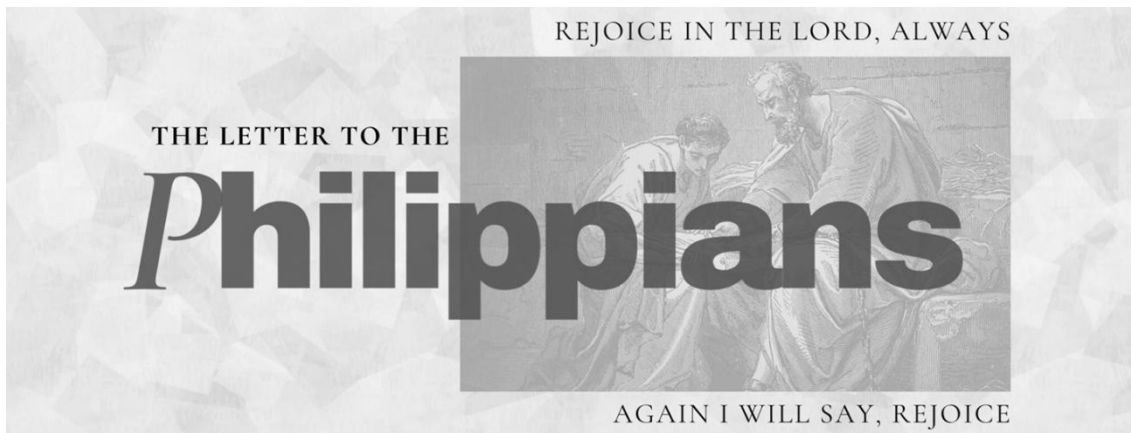
World Communion Sunday



The Conversion of Saint Paul, by Caravaggio, 1601

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***United in the Spirit, First United Methodist Church of Belmont exists
to be more like Jesus Christ for our community and beyond***
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***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 so glad you are here! Today we continue our journey through Paul's letter to the Philippians. In the words we will hear this morning, Paul reflects on the things he once held most dear and on the deeper desire that came to shape his life. His words invite us to look again at what we love, what we trust, and what we seek with our whole hearts. In many ways, this is why we gather for worship each week: to be shaped by God's grace, so that our desires are formed more fully toward the life God gives.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

*OPENING SONG

Holy Forever

CCLI Song # 7201044

*PRAYER

Jennifer Martin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Philippians 3:4b-14

Ella Beaty

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

How Great is Your Love

CCLI Song # 7076958

From the darkness I called Your name
Into darkness Your mercy came

You called me out, lifted me up
How great is Your love

You bore my weakness You took my shame
Buried my burdens in fields of grace

From the heights of heaven,
You stepped down to earth
Innocent perfection, gave Your life for us

And we are amazed, yes, we stand in awe
For we have been changed
by the pow'r of the cross
How great, how great,
how great is Your love for us

In Your kindness, You lead me home
In Your presence, where I belong

There has never been and there will never be
a God like You a love so true

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG

I Will Follow

CCLI Song # 5806878

** 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 Conversion of Saint Paul*, by Caravaggio, painted around 1600–1601. Before he was the apostle Paul, Saul was a zealous persecutor of the early church. While traveling to Damascus to arrest followers of Jesus, he was struck down by a blinding light and heard the voice of Christ asking, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" (Acts 9). Caravaggio captures the moment without a heavenly vision or a visible Christ: only a shaft of light falling on Paul, thrown from his horse, his helmet fallen and his sword lying useless beside him. His eyes are closed, yet his arms are open, as if to receive what has overtaken him. It is a fitting companion to today's reading, where Paul looks back on all he once counted as gain and declares that, compared with knowing Christ, he now counts it all as loss.

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.

Please donate candy and/or small toys to be used as prizes for the youth-led games at our Community Fall Festival on October 25. There is a bin in the narthex for donations.

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 boxer briefs.

Wanted: Open-hearted,
dedicated new folks to help our
missions team as we plan our
auction on Feb. 28

 **zoe empowers**



Contact Quanna or
Kristen Surratt for
more information



GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Alleluia Choir is back on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:00. We will sing at the 8:30 service on October 11.

Crossroads, a group for 4th and 5th graders, will meet on Sunday, October 11 from 5:30-7:30. We will play games, eat supper, and learn our next practice to be like Jesus. Join us.

Pick out your costume and plan to join us on **October 25** for our **Community Fall Festival** at Reid Park from 4:00-6:30.

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.

GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

The **Pickleball Tournament** is **today!** Join us at the Davis Park Courts from noon to 2!

Youth Sunday School– Join us in Sunday School for a reflection and application on our scripture focus on Philippians. On October 11, we're discussing peace and writing cards to friends in need.

Youth-ful Event– All youth are invited next Sunday night from 5:30-7:30 for a special Sunday Night Youth with our Primetimers. Get excited about games, fellowship, and dinner.

GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

Ruth Circle and Square Two Event

Take a tour of the new
Least of These Carolina's facility.
Out to dinner afterwards

October 8th
6:30 pm

RSVP to Doreen
doreen@fumcbelmont.org



SUNDAY SCHOOL OPTIONS

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: Beginning October 18th, they will begin a study based on the book *Jesus Revealed* by the Rev. Matt Rawle. Discover Jesus' character through the "I Am" statements in John's gospel. Meets in room 502, off of the Old Fellowship Hall.

 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! 
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<i>All adults 55+ are welcome!</i>  Transportation provided	Primetimers trip to Bush and Vine Orchard - York SC Thursday October 22 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	<i>Lunch in York (your only cost is lunch)</i> RSVP to Doreen: doreen@fumcbelmont.org 
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WEEKLY CALENDAR

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

Monday, October 5

6:30 p.m. Lay Leadership Committee
6:30 p.m. Small Group: Marriage Class

Tuesday, October 6

11:00 a.m. Small Group: The Shape of Living
12:00 p.m. Congregational Care Min. Meeting
6:30 p.m. Small Group: Disciple

Wednesday, October 7

5:30 p.m. Alleluia Choir
6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir
6:30 p.m. Small Group: Beloved Community
6:30 p.m. Small Group: Men's Engage
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, October 8

6:30 p.m. Ruth Circle & Square Two Event

Friday, October 9

Saturday, October 10

Sunday, October 11

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
3:30 p.m. CDC Board Meeting
5:30 p.m. Crossroads
5:30 p.m. Youth-ful Night

PRAYER REQUESTS

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)
Owen McConnell's family upon his passing
(Jamie Washam's brother-in-law)
Ginger Feimster
Murphy Clark and family
For the Zoe communities in Rwanda, especially
Fidele (19) head of household, and siblings
Jacqueline (13), Fiette (7), Jean Paul (4), and
Regis (5)

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

Feed the HOUSE



**Help the families in residence at
Catherine's House
by dropping off a simple meal
on
Oct. 26, Nov. 9, Nov. 23
www.fumcbelmont.org/signup**



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



Come hand out candy to the Child Development Center Children Thursday October 29th - 10 a.m. Carpenter Hall



**Bring treats to
hand out!**

**Come early
to decorate
a table!**

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