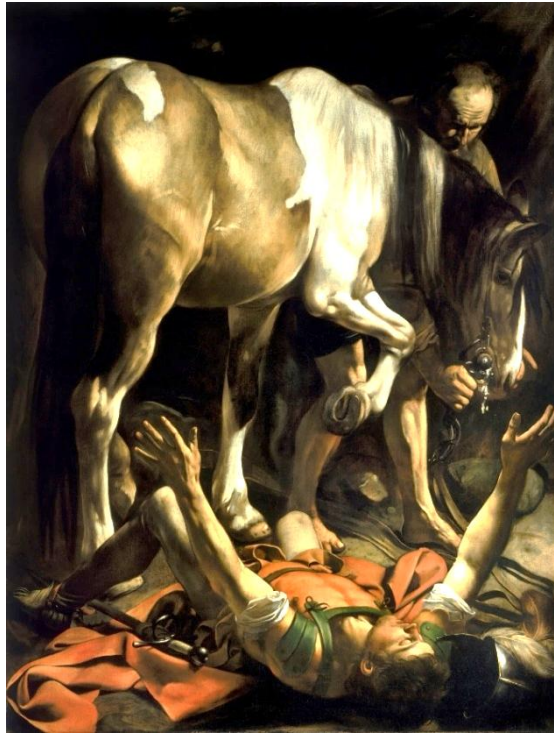


FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

October 4, 2026 – 11:00 a.m.
The Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost
World Communion Sunday



The Conversion of Saint Paul, by Caravaggio, 1601

.....
***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

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

Following Thee

James Southbridge

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 73

Jennifer Martin

You are always with us, O God;

you hold us by the hand.

You guide us with your counsel

and remain our strength when we are weak.

Whom have we in heaven but you?

There is nothing on earth we desire beside you.

Our hearts may fail,

but God is the strength of our hearts forever.

Let us worship God.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 158

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most merciful God, we confess that we have set our hearts on many things and too often mistaken them for our true good. We have trusted in what we can achieve, possess, and control, and have forgotten that our life is found in you.

Forgive us for the ways our desires have wandered and our loves have become disordered. Turn us again toward you, that our hearts may be made steadfast and our lives shaped more fully by 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 3:4b-14

Liz Gray

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

Give Me Jesus

arr. Mark Hayes

Jon Jones, soloist

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

*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!***

*TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Hymnal 17-18)

*THE LORD'S PRAYER (Hymnal No. 895)

*BREAKING THE BREAD

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EXTENDING THE TABLE

This morning, lay communion servers come forward to receive consecrated bread and juice from worship to share with homebound members who cannot be present today. We pray for them, remembering God's grace unites us as one within Christ's holy church. If you are aware of someone who would like to receive but cannot be present, speak with Pastor George after service.

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN No. 451

Be Thou My Vision

POSTLUDE

A Psalm of Trust

David Paxton

** 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.

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 boxer briefs.

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.

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 Philipians. 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

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: 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.



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

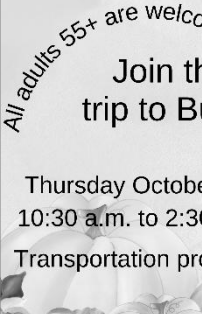
Please donate candy and/or small toys to be used as prizes for the youth-led games at our Community Fall Festival on October 25. There is a bin in the narthex for donations.



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



Bingo and Dinner!



All adults 55+ are welcome!

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

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

Lunch in York
(your only cost is lunch)

RSVP to Doreen:
doreen@fumcbelmont.org

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.***

**Wanted: Open-
hearted,
dedicated new
folks to help our
missions team as
we plan our
auction on 2/28**

**Contact
Quanna
or
Kristen Surratt
for more
information**



**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