

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

October 11, 2026 – 11:00 a.m.
The Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost



The Wedding Dance, by Pieter Bruegel the Elder (1566)

.....
***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 of Belmont! We're so glad you're here today! As we gather for worship, many of us come with a deep awareness of life's problems: things that are wrong, uncertain, or unfinished. They can crowd our attention until we lose sight of the grace and goodness already surrounding us. Today, as we conclude our journey through Philippians, we hear Paul's invitation to rejoice, to pray, and to set our minds on whatever is true and worthy of praise. What might change if we received joy not as an escape from life, but as God's gift in the midst of it?

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

Rondo Passacaglia
Bellissimo Handbell Choir

Cynthia Dobrinski

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 100

Quanna McAlister

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is God who made us, and we are God's people.

Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving,
and the courts of the Lord with praise.

Give thanks to God and bless God's holy name.

For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever,
and God's faithfulness to all generations.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 89

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you are good and faithful, generous in mercy and steadfast in love. Yet we confess how easily we forget your goodness. We fix our eyes on what is wrong, and live as though our fears, failures, and frustrations tell the whole truth.

You made us for joy, and we have settled for so much less. We lose sight of who we are in your grace: beloved, forgiven, and held in Christ.

Forgive us, and turn our hearts again toward you, that our whole lives may become an offering of praise; 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

Jennifer Martin

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Philippians 4:1-9

The Rev. Dr. Larry Kimel

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

Reflections of Peace

Jason W. Krug

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. 161

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

POSTLUDE

Go Your Way with Rejoicing!

Douglas Wagner

** 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 Pieter Bruegel the Elder's *The Wedding Dance* (1566), a lively scene of villagers dancing, stomping, and celebrating beneath the trees. Throughout Scripture, the joy

of a wedding feast becomes a picture of God's kingdom: Jesus begins his ministry by turning water into wine at Cana, and his coming kingdom is described as a great feast where all are invited. Bruegel was among the first great painters to make ordinary peasants the subject of serious art. His early biographer claimed that Bruegel disguised himself to attend country weddings so he could observe them firsthand. The result is a painting full of ordinary people caught up in extraordinary joy, a glimpse of the feast for which we were made.

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.

**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**



zoeempowers



Reaching the
Children





GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Crossroads, 4th and 5th graders, will meet **TODAY** from 5:30-7:30. We will play games, eat supper, and learn our next practice to be like Jesus. Join us!

Alleluia Choir rehearsal is Wednesday from 5:30-6:00.

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

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

Youth Sunday School – Beginning next week, join us to discuss what God calls us to do and be in our communities.

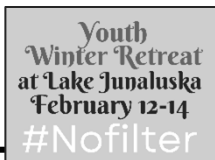
Faithful Civic Engagement

**Youth Sunday
School Study** Oct. 18-
Nov. 8

Middle School= Peaceful Living

High School= Peaceful Citizens





Winter Retreat –Our retreat speaker is Michael Beck, pastor, professor, author, and thought leader. He leads three churches Florida and is known to cultivate communities of love and grace. Sign up online or through Quanna's emails.

GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Marriage Class: 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.

All adults 55+ are welcome!

Primetimers trip to
Bush and Vine Orchard - York SC

Transportation
provided

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

Lunch in York
(your only cost is lunch)

RSVP to Doreen:
doreen@fumcbelmont.org

NOVEMBER 6 and DECEMBER 4

6:30 a.m. - Youth House

All men are welcome. Come for a light
breakfast, short study, and fellowship.

Led by Ryan Dayton and Tony Wilson.
Contact Tony for more information:
kingsmntntony@yahoo.com

WEEKLY CALENDAR

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

Monday, October 12

6:00 p.m. Safe Sanctuary Team Meeting
6:30 p.m. Small Group: Marriage Class
6:30 p.m. Service & Missions Meeting

Tuesday, October 13

6:30 p.m. Small Group: Disciple

Wednesday, October 14

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 15

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

Friday, October 16

Saturday, October 17

Sunday, October 18

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Breakfast
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship

PRAYER REQUESTS

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
Gaspard (19) head of household, and siblings
Emmanuel (12) and Vedaste (10)

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



Youth-Ful Night

TONIGHT!

5:30 - 7:30

Carpenter Hall

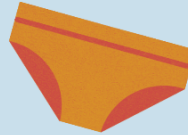
**All Primetimers (55+)
and Youth are invited
to Youth Group**

Bingo and Dinner!



DROP YOUR DRAWERS

**October 4-
November 1**



Underwear drive for Rice and Beans

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.

We need your help for our Community

FALL FESTIVAL

**On October 25 we will partner with
Hood Memorial AME Zion Church to
provide a Fall Festival in Reid Park.**

Sign up today to host a trunk, serve food, welcome visitors and more!

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