

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

October 18, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
The Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost



Wanderer above the Sea of Fog, by Caspar David Friedrich, c. 1818

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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***
.....

***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! This morning we begin a new worship series called THRIVE, exploring what it means to be a vibrant, flourishing, and faithful congregation together. We begin with CLARITY. Not the kind that sees the whole picture or predicts the future, but the kind that recognizes God's presence and trusts where God is leading. With the psalmist we pray, "Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths." As we worship today, may our generosity make us humble and teachable, ready to follow Christ into the good life God has in store for us.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

*OPENING SONG

Rest On Us

CCLI Song # 7126736

*PRAYER

Jennifer Martin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 25:1-12

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

Lord, Have Mercy

CCLI Song # 2989578

Jesus, I've forgotten
The words that You have spoken;
Promises that burned within my heart
Have now grown dim.
With a doubting heart I follow
The paths of earthly wisdom.
Forgive me for my unbelief
Renew the fire again.

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy on me

I have built an altar
Where I've worshipped things of man.

I have taken journeys
That have drawn me far from You.
Now I am returning
To Your mercies ever flowing.
Pardon my transgressions;
Help me love You again.

I have longed to know You
And all Your tender mercies,
Like a river of forgiveness
Ever flowing without end.
So, I bow my heart before You
In the goodness of Your presence;
Your grace forever shining
Like a beacon in the night.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG

Goodness of God

CCLI Song # 7117726

** 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 Caspar David Friedrich's *Wanderer above the Sea of Fog* (c. 1818), one of the best-known paintings of the German Romantic movement. A solitary figure stands above a vast landscape of mountains and mist, unable to see everything that lies ahead. Friedrich often placed figures with their backs to the viewer, inviting us to stand where they stand and look with them. As we do, we can imagine praying like the Psalmist. We do not need a complete map of the future, but guidance: "Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths."

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.



**OUR COMMUNITY FALL FESTIVAL IS
NEXT SUNDAY!**
**PLEASE SIGN UP TO TO HOST A TRUNK
OR OTHER VOLUNTEER JOBS.**
WE HAVE JOBS FOR EVERYONE!
FUMCBELMONT.ORG/SIGNUP

**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



Feeding the
Children

GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Crossroads, 4th and 5th graders, will meet **Nov 8** 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.



Mark your calendars for our **Pies and Praise Family Event** on **Wednesday, November 18, 6:00-7:30**. Sign up today at www.fumcbelmont.org/kids.

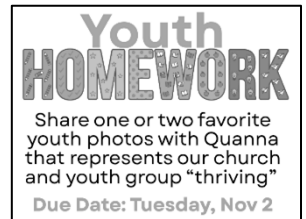
GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

Youth Sunday School – Join us today as we begin a timely discussion on faithful civic engagement. As we enter election season, it's a nice time to discuss how we, as young Christians, can spread peace and love to our fellow citizens, even those who disagree with us.



Sunday Night Youth, Oct. 25, 4:00-6:30 – All youth are invited to sign up for next week's Fall Festival. Help run fun, interactive games for the community! Go to Quanna's weekly emails or the church website to help.

Sunday Night Youth, Nov 1, 5:30-7:30 – Join us for Game Night on November 1. Bring a card or board game to share. We will play Grog after dinner. Get ready for some fun!



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: On October 25th, will begin a new study based on the book *Short Stories by Jesus*, written by Amy-Jill Levine. Learn how Jesus' parables may have overlooked some groups of people and how that writing impacts us today. 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: will begin a six week study today based on Matt Rawle's book *Jesus Revealed*. Through the I Am statements in the book of John, he shows us that Jesus is both fully human and fully divine and calling us as his followers. Meets in room 502, off of the Old Fellowship Hall.



Men's Meetings November 6th and December 4th

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:
kingsmtntony@yahoo.com

HOOD MEMORIAL PORT-A-PIT FUNDRAISER

Friday Nov. 6th

**Chicken \$15
Ribs \$20**

Place Order at the FUMC
information desk or
call Hood Memorial
to pre-order 980-283-7007

****Pickup at Hood Memorial****
10 am - 1 pm Fri, Nov 6th
215 Sacco Street, Belmont

**Ribs are Pre-Order
Only!!**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Hood Memorial AME Zion's
Port -A-Pit Fundraiser**

Friday November 6th
8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
2 hour shifts
Preparing to go plates

Contact Doreen to sign up:
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,
Oct 25th! Drop items in
the bin in the Narthex!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, October 18

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:15 a.m. Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, October 19

6:30 p.m. Justice & Equity Ministry Meeting

6:30 p.m. Small Group: Marriage Class

7:00 p.m. Finance Committee

Tuesday, October 20

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

6:30 p.m. Small Group: Disciple

Wednesday, October 21

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 22

10:30 a.m. Primetimers Trip to the Orchard

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

Friday, October 23

Saturday, October 24

Sunday, October 25

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. Community Fall Festival

PRAYER REQUESTS

Mary Deal's family upon her passing (Linda England's sister)

Owen McConnell's family upon his passing (Jamie Washam's brother-in-law)

Mark Moore's 84-year-old cousin

Ginger Feimster

Murphy Clark and family

For the Zoe communities in Rwanda, especially

Jaqueline (20) head of household, and

siblings Faustin (16) and Pascal (13)

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. 23, Dec. 14, or
Dec. 28**

www.fumcbelmont.org/signup



WE NEED YOU!

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!

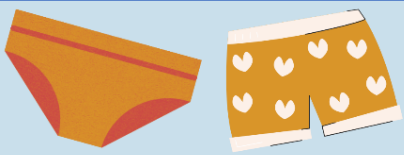
A Service of Unity and Peace

Wednesday, November 4 | Sanctuary | 6:30 p.m.



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.

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
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 Ellen Robison | Minister of Worship and the Arts | ellen@fumcbelmont.org