FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

October 25, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
The Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost



The Watermill with the Great Red Roof, by Meindert Hobbema, 1665

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



Welcome to worship at First United Methodist Church of Belmont! We're so glad you are here! This morning, we continue our THRIVE series, exploring the practices that help individuals and congregations thrive in faith. Today, we turn to abundance, drawing upon Psalm 65 and its beautiful celebration of God's overflowing goodness. From the waters that sustain creation to the grace that renews our lives, God's gifts are meant not simply to be received, but to bring life to others. As we worship, we consider what it means to live with open hearts and open hands, allowing God's generosity to flow through us into the world.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

*OPENING SONG	*Raise a Hallelujah*	CCLI Song # 7119315
*PRAYER		Doreen Collins
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		
MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN		Jennifer Martin

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON	Psalm 65	Sloane Taylor
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 — *Pour Me Out* — CCLI Song # 7118246

Make me a vessel of Your peace
Where there is war, let fighting cease
All that divides us, come reconcile us
Make me a vessel of Your peace

Make me a vessel of Your love
Where there is hatred, break it up
All creeds and colors, bind us together
Make me a vessel of Your love

Pour me out, pour me out, pour me out
Wherever I am, wherever I go

Make me a vessel of Your hope
Where dreams are dead,
come wake them up
A new horizon, I feel it rising
Make me a vessel of Your hope

Like a rushing river let mercy flow
Through my heart to my world

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS — Jose and Giovana Reyes

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG — *Sing Wherever I Go* — CCLI Song # 7138601

** 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!

Welcome, New Members! This morning, we are blessed to welcome new members into our church family. Joining today by Profession of Faith are Jose and Giovana Reyes. If you would like more information about joining our church family, please call or email Pastor George (704-249-0645 or george@fumcbelmont.org) or speak with him after the service today.

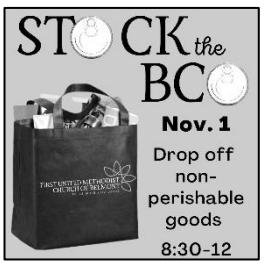
Weekly Devotional Guides offer daily Scripture readings, reflections, and questions for contemplation and discussion. Each guide follows the theme and content of Sunday's sermon and includes a prayer for the week. Copies of the guides, along with transcripts of today's sermon, are available at the Information 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 Meindert Hobbema's *The Watermill with the Great Red Roof* (c. 1665), from the Dutch Golden Age of landscape painting. A mill sits among tall trees beside a running stream, its wheel turned by water that came from somewhere upstream and is headed somewhere beyond the frame. Hobbema, a student of Jacob van Ruisdael, returned to watermills again and again, finding beauty in ordinary places where nature and daily work meet. As we look with him, we can hear the harvest song of the Psalmist, who saw the land's abundance as God's own gift: "The river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain."

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.









GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

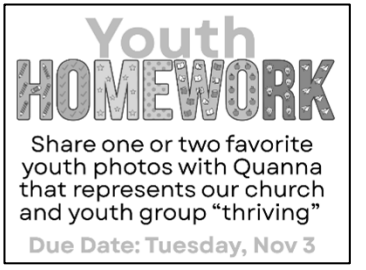
TODAY is our Community Fall Festival. Join us from 4:00-6:30 at Reid Park.

Crossroads, 4th and 5th graders, will meet on ***November 8*** from 5:30-7:30. We'll play games, eat, and complete a service project for the Society of St. Andrews.

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

GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

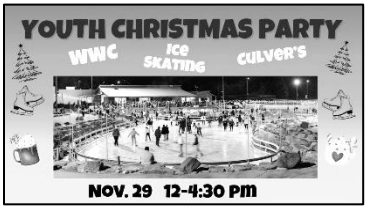
Youth Sunday School – Join us for a timely discussion on faithful civic engagement. As we enter election season, it's a nice time to discuss how we, as young Christians, can spread peace and love to our fellow citizens, even those who disagree with us.



TONIGHT, 4:00-6:30 – All youth are invited to sign up for tonight'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, November 1, 5:30-7:30 – Join us for Game Night next Sunday. Bring a card or board game to share. We will play Grog after dinner. Get ready for some fun!





Youth Christmas Party, November 29, 12:00-4:30 – Join us for lunch at Culver's and ice skating at the Whitewater Center. Signup through Quanna's email or through our church website.

GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

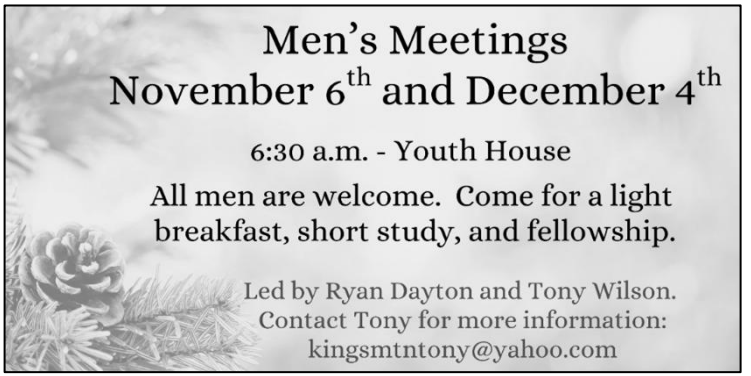
SUNDAY SCHOOL

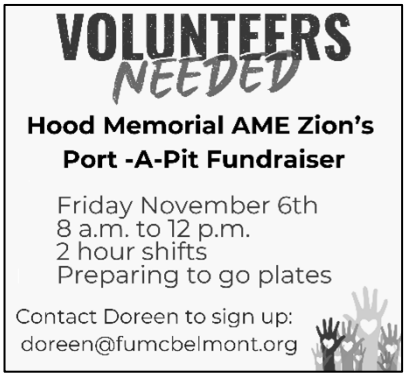
Marriage Class: Utilizing the book, *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work*. Drawing on decades of research, internationally known psychologist John Gottman offers practical tools to help couples deepen friendship, manage conflict, and build a stronger, more lasting marriage. Meets in room 503, off of the Old Fellowship Hall.

Route 66: Beginning a new study today, 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: Currently studying 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.







WEEKLY CALENDAR

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

Monday, October 26
- 6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Small Group: Marriage Class
- 7:00 p.m. Lay Leadership (Zoom)

Tuesday, October 27
- 11:00 a.m. Small Group: The Shape of Living
- 6:30 p.m. Small Group: Disciple

Wednesday, October 28
- 5:30 p.m. Alleluia Choir
- 6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir
- 6:30 p.m. Family Life Committee Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, October 29
- 10:00 a.m. CDC Trick or Treat
- 11:00 a.m. Small Group: The Shape of Living

Friday, October 30

Saturday, October 31

Sunday, November 1
- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Game Night

CHARGE CONFERENCE

November 9, 2026 | 7:00 p.m.

Join us as we give thanks for the last year, while committing to another year of being Jesus Christ for our community and beyond. We will also elect leaders and approve the 2027 budget.

All church leaders are encouraged to attend.
All church members are eligible to vote.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Owen McConnell's family upon his passing (Jamie Washam's brother-in-law)
Mark Moore's 84-year-old cousin
Lee Allen (Director of S.O.C.K.S. and Preston Taylor's friend)
Ginger Feimster
Murphy Clark and family
For the Zoe communities in Rwanda, especially Jean Dedieu (19) head of household, and siblings Vincent (14), Mugisha (8), Repaunce (5), and Claude (4)

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







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