FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

October 25, 2026 – 11:00 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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE *How Can I Keep From Singing?* Arr. Robert Lowry

*CALL TO WORSHIP Based on Isaiah 55:1-3, 6 Doreen Collins

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters!
Come, buy and eat, without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?
Let us listen to the Lord,
that we may eat what is good and delight ourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.
We will seek the Lord while he may be found and call upon him while he is near.
Come, all who are thirsty, and receive the goodness of God.
We will rejoice in God's mercy and praise the One who gives us life!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 400 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you are the giver of life and the source of every good gift. Yet we confess that we often live as though everything depends upon us. We cling to what we have, worry about what we lack, and forget that all things belong to you. We have treated your gifts as possessions to be guarded rather than

blessings to be shared. We have grown accustomed to things as they are, even when they fall short of your purposes.

Forgive us, Lord. Renew our trust in your goodness, loosen our grip on what we hold too tightly, and open our hearts to the new life you make possible; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

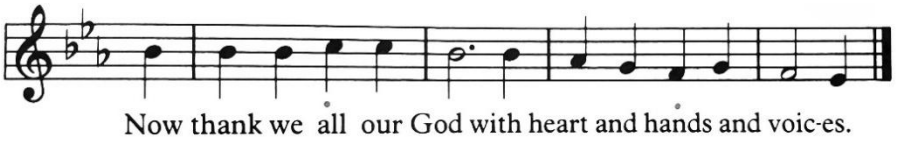
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI NO. 70

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN — Jennifer Martin

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

PSALTER — Psalm 65 — J. Michael Beech



SERMON — The Rev. George Ragsdale

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 881 — The Apostles' Creed

INVITATION TO PRAYER — *To You, Oh Lord* — Marty Haugen

To you, Oh Lord, I lift my soul;
To you, I lift my soul. (Repeat)

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 — *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* — Mack Wilberg

My Shepherd will supply my need: Jehovah is His Name;
In pastures fresh He makes me feed, beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake His ways,
And leads me, for His mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death, Thy presence is my stay;
One word of Thy supporting breath drives all my fears away.
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows, Thine oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;
O may Thy house be my abode, and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come;
No more a stranger, nor a guest, but like a child at home.

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 *How Can I Keep from Singing*

My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

REFRAIN: No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heav'n and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? (Refrain)

What though my joys and comforts die,
The Lord, my Savior, liveth.
What though the darkness round me close?
Songs in the night he giveth. (Refrain)

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing.
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? (Refrain)

POSTLUDE *Sing and Rejoice* Lani Smith

** 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 at the 8:30 service, we were 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.

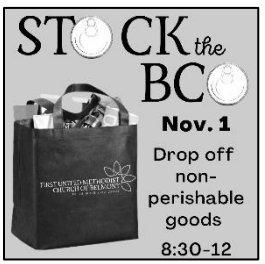
Today's Bulletin Cover features Meindert Hobbema's *The Watermill with the Great Red Roof* (c. 1665), from the Dutch Golden Age of landscape painting. A mill sits among tall trees beside a running stream, its wheel turned by water that came from somewhere upstream and is headed somewhere beyond the frame. 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Hood Memorial AME Zion's Port -A-Pit Fundraiser
Contact Doreen to sign up: doreen@fumcbelmont.org





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.

Share one or two favorite youth photos with Quanna that represents our church and youth group "thriving"

Due Date: Tuesday, Nov 3

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.

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

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

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.





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.







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