FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

November 8, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
The Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost



Christ Enthroned with Angels, Basilica of Sant'Apollinare Nuovo, Ravenna, Italy. 6th century.

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
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P: 704-825-2106 // F: 704-825-2176
www.fumcbelmont.org



Welcome to First United Methodist Church! We're so glad you have chosen to worship with us today! This morning we continue THRIVE, our fall generosity series exploring five marks of a flourishing, thriving congregation. This morning, we turn to the fourth mark, Witness, through the words of Psalm 96. The psalm calls all the earth to sing a new song, proclaiming the glory of God and declaring God's reign among the nations. In a world of competing loyalties and divided allegiances, we are reminded that the church's first and most enduring confession is Jesus Christ is Lord. As we gather for worship, may our words and lives bear faithful witness to the good news of God's kingdom.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

*OPENING SONG	*A Thousand Hallelujahs*	CCLI Song # 7190270
*PRAYER		Quanna McAlister
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		
MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN		Jennifer Martin

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON	Psalm 96	Connie Atkins
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 *I've Witnessed It* CCLI Song # 7213282

When I was lost and all alone
Your presence was where I found home
You were there and You're here right now
In every high and every low
You never left me without hope
You were good and You're good right now

I've witnessed Your faithfulness
I've seen You breathe life within
So I'll pour out my praise again
You're worthy God You're worthy of all of it
Your promises never fail
I've got stories I'll live to tell
So I'll pour out my praise again
You're worthy God You're worthy of all of it

You left the throne and chose the cross
Laid down Your life to rescue us
The Savior then the Savior now
But even death was not the end
You conquered hell so I could live

To the broken I'll witness it
To the hurting I'll witness it
To the lost I will witness it
To my family I'll witness it
To my city I'll witness it
To the nations I'll witness it
I'll tell them this
I'll tell them what I witnessed

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG *Sing* CCLI Song # 7232587

** 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 a sixth-century mosaic of Christ enthroned, surrounded by angels, from the Basilica of Sant'Apollinare Nuovo in Ravenna, Italy. Created in a world shaped by the power and authority of emperors and kings, the mosaic portrays Christ as the true sovereign, clothed in imperial purple and seated upon a throne. It offers a striking visual expression of the proclamation at the heart of Psalm 96: "Say among the nations, 'The LORD is king!'" In every age, amid changing rulers and competing allegiances, the church bears witness to a kingdom that does not rise or fall with the powers of this world. Our enduring confession remains: Jesus Christ is Lord.

The ***rosebud on the altar*** is in celebration of the birth of son, Henry Aaron, to Aaron and Carolyn Tyson on October 22, 2026.

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.

Feeding the Children: Sign up ***today*** to serve our community over Gaston County School's Christmas break.

Summer Mission Trip – July 11-15: All youth 12+ and adults are welcome to join our summer mission trip to Hinton Retreat Center in Hayesville, NC. The trip features a safe & healthy home repair ministry, worship and devotional times, poverty awareness, Appalachian Culture Night, delicious meals, and fun Staff-Camper Challenges with an amazing crew of college-aged summer staffers. Contact Quanna for more info.

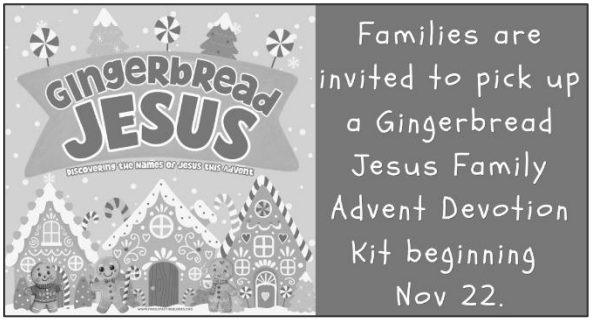




GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Crossroads, 4th and 5th graders, meets ***today*** from 5:30-7:30 in the Old Fellowship Hall. Join us for supper, games, and a service project for the Society of St. Andrews.

Alleluia Choir rehearses Wednesdays from 5:30-6:00. Email ellen@fumcbelmont.org to join us as we get ready to sing during Advent!





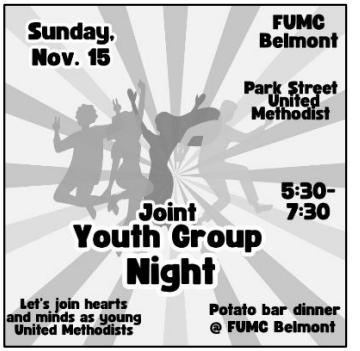
GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

Youth Sunday School – Join us today for our last session on faithful civic engagement. For the next two weeks, get excited about diving deep into our Sunday scripture. On November 15, our theme is "Joy: Giving that shapes our attitude." On November 22, our theme is "Christ shows up in unexpected places." All youth are welcome.

Sunday, November 8, Sunday Night Youth-5:30-7:30 – Join us tonight as we discuss our sermon series "Thrive." We will discuss why we are better together as we study the Bible in small groups.

Sunday, November 15, Sunday Night Youth-5:30-7:30 – Get excited about hosting Park Street UMC's youth group! This will be a great night of fellowship and faith.

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



GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

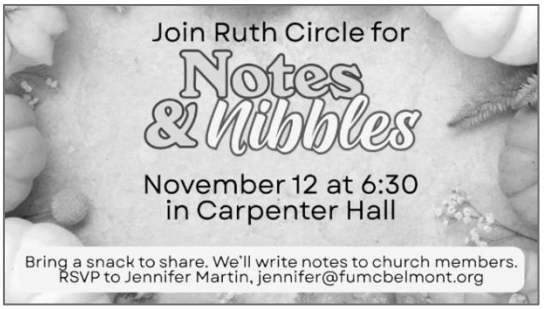
SUNDAY SCHOOL

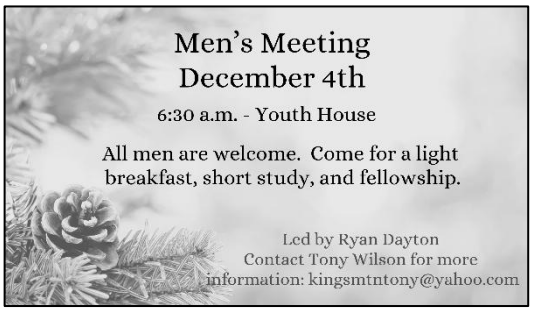
Disciple: will be studying promises kept. They will spend five weeks exploring how we live out the promises we make as United Methodist Christians. In November and December, we will look at our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Meets in room 503, off of the Old Fellowship Hall.

Route 66: Studying *Short Stories by Jesus*, 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, November 8
- 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
- 5:30 p.m. Crossroads
- 5:30 p.m. Youth: Thrive

Monday, November 9
- 6:00 p.m. Administrative Council Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Charge Conference

Tuesday, November 10
- 11:00 a.m. Small Group: The Shape of Living
- 1:30 p.m. Soup for the Soul
- 6:30 p.m. Small Group: Disciple

Wednesday, November 11
- 5:30 p.m. Alleluia Choir
- 6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, November 12
- 11:00 a.m. Small Group: The Shape of Living
- 6:30 p.m. Ruth Circle: Notes & Nibbles

Friday, November 13

Saturday, November 14

Sunday, November 15
- 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. Joint Youth Group 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.

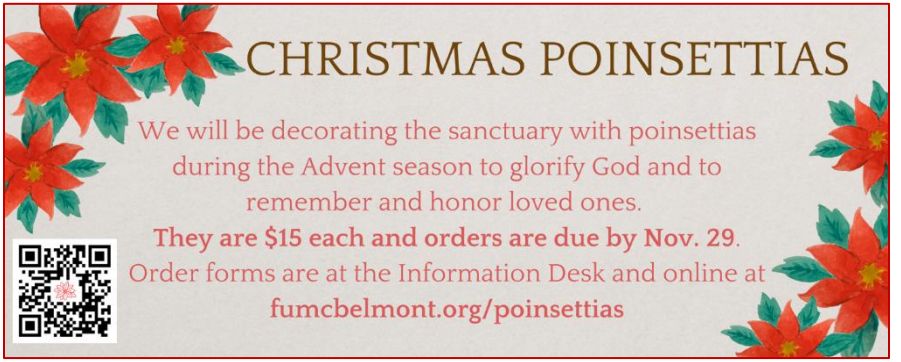
PRAYER REQUESTS

Lee Allen (Director of S.O.C.K.S. and Preston Taylor's friend)
Meghan, Brian, and baby-to-be (Patty Hayward's daughter)
Maggie Jenkins and Joni
Mary Rutledge
Jane Washam
Women's #59 Tres Dias team and candidates at Camp Walter Johnson Nov 5-8, and Susan Burnette, serving as rector
Ginger Feimster
Murphy Clark and family
For the Zoe communities in Rwanda, especially Jean Claude (19) head of household, and siblings Josiane (13), Francine (11), Françoise (12), and Innocent (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
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