FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

November 8, 2026 – 11:00 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
807 South Point Road // Belmont, NC 28012
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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE *Voice of Praise* Ellen Jane Lorenz

*CALL TO WORSHIP Based on Isaiah 52:7-10 Quanna McAlister

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
Your sentinels lift up their voices; together they sing for joy.
Break forth together into singing, for the Lord has comforted his people.
The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 57 *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, whose kingdom has no end: we confess that our hearts are divided and our loyalties are many. We give our devotion to lesser things, let fear speak louder than faith, and hold back the hope that was given us to share. Forgive what we have done and left undone, and so order our lives by your grace, that all who see us may glimpse your goodness; 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

MUSIC — *Majestic* — Chris Sligh
Alleluia Choir

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN — Jennifer Martin

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON — Psalm 96 — 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 — *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 — *Witness* — arr. Jack Halloran

Who'll be a witness for my Lord?
Oh, I'll be a witness for my Lord.
I'll be a witness for my Lord.
There was a man of the Pharisees,
His name was Nicodemus and he didn't believe.
The same came to Christ by night,
Wanted to be taught out of human sight.
Nicodemus was a man who desired to know
How a man can be born when he is old.
Christ told Nicodemus as a friend,
"Man you must be born again.
He said Marvel not, man, if you want to be wise,
Repent, believe, and be baptized,"
Then you'll be a witness for my Lord.

My soul is a witness for my Lord.

You read about Samson, from his birth
He was the strongest man that ever lived on earth.
Way back yonder in ancient times
He killed ten thousand of the Philistines.
Then old Samson went a-wand'rin' about.
Samson's strength was never found out.
'Til his wife sat upon his knee. She said,
"Tell me where your strength lies, if you please!"
Well, old Samsons's wife she talk so fair
Samson said, "Cut off a my hair! Cut it off!
Shave my head just as clean as your hand,
and my strength will come like a natural man,"
Samson was a witness for my Lord.

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. 715 *Rejoice, the Lord is King*

POSTLUDE *Let All Who Have Breath Praise the Lord!* 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 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.



Summer Mission Trip: All youth 12 and older and interested adults are welcome to join our congregation for our summer mission trip to Hinton Retreat Center in Hayesville, NC. The trip features three days of a safe & healthy home repair ministry, worship and devotional times, poverty awareness activity, Appalachian Culture Night, delicious meals, and fun Staff-Camper Challenges with an amazing crew of college-aged summer staffers. Contact Quanna today for more information or to sign up.

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.

Gingerbread Jesus (Family Advent Kits) will be available for pick up on ***November 22***.

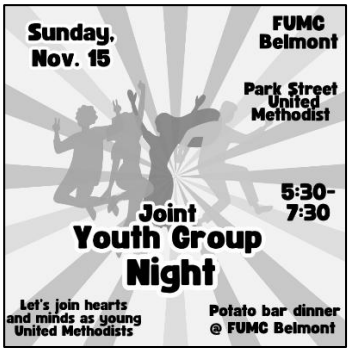
GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

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're 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. Signup today through Quanna's email or our church website.



GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

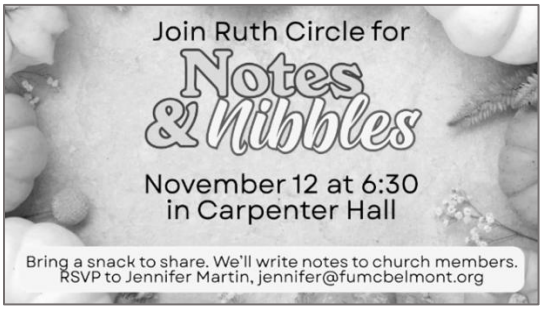
SUNDAY SCHOOL

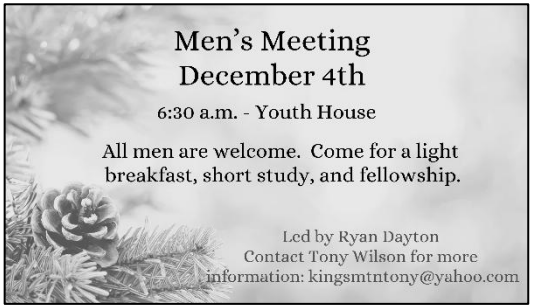
Disciple: will be studying promises kept. They will spend five weeks exploring how we live out the promises we make as United Methodist Christians. In November and December, we will look at our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Meets in room 503, off of the Old Fellowship Hall.

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
- 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.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We will be decorating the sanctuary with poinsettias during the Advent season to glorify God and to remember and honor loved ones.

They are $15 each and orders are due by Nov. 29.

Order forms are at the Information Desk and online at **fumcbelmont.org/poinsettias**

THRIVE

Giving That Grows Us

COMMITMENT SUNDAY IS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

We'll offer our commitment cards for 2027 as an act of worship. Additional cards are available at the Information Center. They can also be completed online at **fumcbelmont.org/card**

HELP WANTED

Advent and Christmas Decorating

November 22 at noon

We need a few strong, able-bodied volunteers who are comfortable with heights, ladders, and heavy lifting. Reach out to Barb Lange at scubadol@icloud.com or 704-287-3977.



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