

FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

July 13, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

The Fifth Sunday After Pentecost



*The Good Shepherd, fresco painting, c. 250 CE*

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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**

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*Good morning and welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont! This summer, we're exploring the Book of Psalms, the "Prayerbook of the Bible," giving voice to every human emotion and experience and offering it to God. Today we turn to the familiar and comforting words of Psalm 23, reminding us of God's unwavering presence in every season of life. In the deepest valley, the Psalmist proclaims, God walks beside us to sustain us with gentle care. But the Psalm promises God's goodness does even more! It does not wait passively for us but actively seeks us out, even in the darkest of places. We worship today remembering that we are never alone. The presence and love of the Good Shepherd surround us wherever we go.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

*"How Firm a Foundation"*

Robert Hobby

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Doreen Collins

Goodness and mercy follow us all our days.

***You are with us, O Lord.***

In green pastures and in the darkest valleys,

***You are with us.***

Our cups overflow with your grace.

***And we will dwell in your house forever.***

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 529

*"How Firm a Foundation"*



\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***Merciful God, we confess that we often resist your goodness. We want to earn your love, rather than receive it as a gift. We struggle to celebrate your mercy when it is given freely to others. Too often, we fail to see your presence beside us — in green pastures and in dark valleys alike. Forgive us, Good Shepherd of our souls. Teach us to trust your grace, to rejoice in your generosity, and to follow you with open hearts all the days of our lives. 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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 23

***The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.***

***He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:***

***he leadeth me beside the still waters.***

***He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of***

***righteousness for his name's sake.***

***Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,***

***I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;***

***thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.***

***Thou preparest a table before me***

***in the presence of mine enemies:***

***thou anointest my head with oil;***

***my cup runneth over.***

***Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me***

***all the days of my life:***

***and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.***

SERMON

The Rev. George Ragsdale

SILENT REFLECTION

## RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 881

*The Apostles' Creed*

INVITATION TO PRAYER

*"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"*

Taize

***Oh Lord, hear my prayer, Oh Lord, hear my prayer.  
When I call, answer me.  
Oh Lord, hear my prayer, Oh Lord, hear my prayer.  
Come and listen to me.***

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

*After each petition we enter into the prayer together with these words: Lord, in your mercy.  
**hear our prayer.***

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

*"The Lord is My Shepherd" (Psalm 23)*  
Sally Bashant, soloist

Howard Goodall

## 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!***

\*THE LORD'S PRAYER (Hymnal No. 895)

## GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

COMMISSIONING OF 2025 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL TEAM

\*BENEDICTION

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN NO. 138

*"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"*

\*POSTLUDE

*"Trompette di Marcate"*

Arcangelo Corelli

*\*Those who are able please stand.*

**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 and stages of life. 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!

**Today's Bulletin Cover** features a 3rd-century fresco from the Catacombs of Priscilla in Rome, an underground burial place where early Christians expressed their faith and hope. This ancient image, painted on the ceiling of a family tomb room (cubiculum), depicts a shepherd in a white tunic with purple stripes—ordinary clothing marked by royal color, symbolizing both humanity and divine authority. The shepherd carries a rescued sheep and extends an open, welcoming hand, while nearby sheep and doves with olive branches evoke peace and community. Echoing Psalm 23, this scene suggests a guiding presence who seeks, carries, and sustains us even in life's darkest valleys.

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## GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

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### **Sunday School**

**Disciple:** Bible Project videos and class questions to start conversations about what we believe as Methodists and how we respond to people who think differently.

**Route 66:** *"God is Closer than You Think"* by John Ortberg.

**Salt & Light Fellowship (new class):** A place to have real conversations and build relationships.

**Wanderers:** *"Christianity and World Religions"* by Adam Hamilton. Starts today.



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## GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

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**August 24 - 10:00-10:45** - All youth parents are invited to gather in Carpenter Hall to meet with our Youth Director, Quanna McAlister. She will share important information about yearly plans, youth and parent expectations, and goals she has in place for our youth.

**August 24 - 5:30-7:30** - All rising 6th graders and up are invited to our Youth Kickoff Party in our church's backyard playground. We will enjoy a GIANT waterslide, games, and a cookout dinner. Note: youth parents need to complete the new Emergency Contact Information form prior to the event. Find the link in Quanna's weekly emails or on our website.

**September 19-21** - Youth Fall Retreat at Mt. Shepherd - All rising sixth through twelfth graders are invited to gather with other United Methodist Churches in our district for a fun-filled weekend with lots of recreation, fellowship, worship, and small group sessions. You are welcome to sign up today online. Please sign up and pay by Friday, August 1st.

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## GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

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**Summer Bible Bingo** packets are ready for pick up on the children's shelf in the Narthex. Kids are encouraged to use the Bingo cards to spend time in the Bible every day over the summer. Bring your card back each week to earn a prize.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, July 13

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 5:30 p.m. VBS

Monday, July 14

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 5:30 p.m. VBS
- 6:30 p.m. Service & Missions Mtg

Tuesday, July 15

- 1:00 p.m. Small Group on the Psalms
- 5:30 p.m. VBS

Wednesday, July 16

- 5:30 p.m. VBS

Thursday, July 17

- 5:30 p.m. VBS
- Deadline for Newsletter Articles

Friday, July 18

Saturday, July 19

Sunday, July 20

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Alex Underhill, Cindy Griffin's nephew

Katy McCombs, Melinda Gibson's daughter

The family of Erin Carver, Tim and Renee Painter's daughter, who passed away

Ginger Feimster

Angela Bradmon's friend, Linda Spencer

Tina Price and the Price Family

The Cox Family

Susan Burnette

Jacob Scoggins, Mary Rutledge's nephew

The family of Beverly Karr, who passed away

Judy Harris

The family of Bill Fogerty, Lisa Millspaw's father who has passed away

Murphy Clark and family

*You can submit prayer requests to  
**[prayers@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:prayers@fumcbelmont.org)***

*Prayers remain on this list for 4 weeks. If your loved one needs continued prayers, please resubmit a new request.*

# THERE IS STILL TIME TO HELP!

- VBS set up in the Sanctuary on  
TODAY at noon
- VBS clean up on Thursday, July  
17 at 7:30 pm



**EMAIL [JENNIFER@FUMCBELMONT.ORG](mailto:JENNIFER@FUMCBELMONT.ORG)**



## LOST & FOUND

If you've misplaced an item, please  
check our lost and found at the  
information desk in the narthex. Items  
will be donated on July 14 if not claimed.



Sign up to drop off sandwiches in  
increments of 20 servings to help meet  
our quota of 400. Use the QR code or go to  
[www.fumcbelmont.org/signup](http://www.fumcbelmont.org/signup)

## SANDWICH DROP

July 21st | 5-7pm

Prepare sandwiches at home  
& drop them off in  
Carpenter Hall for  
A Roof Above



## OUR STAFF

Carole Bertino | Administrative Assistant | [carole@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:carole@fumcbelmont.org)  
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