

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

July 20, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

The Fifth Sunday After Pentecost



Salvation Mountain by Leonard Knight, 1984-2011

.....
*United in the Spirit, First United Methodist Church of Belmont exists
to be more like Jesus Christ for our community and beyond*
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THE REVEREND GEORGE RAGSDALE, SENIOR PASTOR

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Good morning and welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont! Today we conclude our summer journey through the Book of Psalms by turning to Psalm 121, the ultimate "Traveler's Psalm." In ancient Israel, pilgrims would sing this psalm as they made their way up to Jerusalem, facing steep hills and uncertain dangers along the road. It was a song of deep trust, affirming that true help comes not from the hills but from the Lord who made heaven and earth. As we worship today, we gather to lift our eyes, renew our trust, and find strength in the God who guards our going out and our coming in — now and always.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

MUSIC

"Deep River"
Luke Dayton, piano

Spiritual

PRELUDE

"Reverie at Dawn"

Edward Broughton

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Kristen Surratt

On every winding road and rocky path, God is our faithful guide.

In every moment of fear or doubt, God is our steady keeper.

When we feel alone or uncertain, God watches over us without rest.

Our help comes not from ourselves, but from the Maker of heaven and earth.

Come, lift up your eyes and open your hearts.

We come to worship the One who guards our journey now and always.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 127 *"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have trusted in our own strength and sought to be our own savior. We have doubted your constant care and failed to remember your faithfulness. We have not encouraged one another as fellow travelers on the way. Forgive us, renew our trust, and set our feet again on your path, that we may journey with courage and joy, upheld by your steadfast love; 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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalms 121

Catherine Ragsdale

All Sing: ***The Lord will keep your life both now and evermore.***

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?

All: ***help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.***

Leader: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

All: ***He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.***

All Sing: ***The Lord will keep your life both now and evermore.***

Leader: The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

All: ***The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.***

Leader: The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

All: ***The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.***

All Sing: ***The Lord will keep your life both now and evermore.***

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

All: ***Thanks be to God.***

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

"I Will Lift Up My Eyes"
Small Ensemble

John Purifoy

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

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

"God of Our Life"

***God of our life, through all the circling years, we trust in Thee;
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, Thy hand we see.
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
We own Thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.***

***God of the past, our times are in Thy hand; with us abide.
Lead us by faith to hope's true promised land; be Thou our guide.
With Thee to bless, the darkness shines s light,
And faith's fair vision changes into sight.***

***God of the coming years, through paths unknown we follow Thee;
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone; our refuge be.
Be thou for us in life our daily bread,
Our heart's true home when all our years have sped.***

*POSTLUDE

"The Joyous Heart"

Gerald Peterson

**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 *Salvation Mountain* by Leonard Knight. This vibrant, hand-painted hillside in the California desert was created by Leonard Knight over several decades as a joyful, lifelong expression of God's love. Covered in bright colors and simple messages like "God is Love," it invites all who see it to consider the journey of faith as one marked by trust, devotion, and wonder. Much like the psalmist lifting eyes to the hills, Knight's mountain points beyond itself — to a God who keeps watch over us and calls us ever onward. Recognized as a National Folk Art Site, *Salvation Mountain* stands as a testament to the power of persistent faith and creative witness in the most unexpected places.

GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

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.

GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

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.

GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

Youth Parent Meeting - August 24 - 10:00-10:45 All 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.

Confirmation Parent Meeting - September 7 - 10:00-10:45 All parents involved in Confirmation are invited to Carpenter Hall.

Youth Fall Retreat at Mt. Shepherd - September 19-21 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. Please sign up online and pay by Friday, August 1st.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

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

Monday, July 21

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Tuesday, July 22

1:00 p.m. Small Group on the Psalms

Wednesday, July 23

Thursday, July 24

Friday, July 25

Saturday, July 26

Sunday, July 27

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

The family of Mary Gillespie, Adam Tipton's grandmother, who passed away

Family and friends of Colby Smith, who passed away

Annette Biddle, Chip Stansell's mom

Kaleb Singleton, Cindy Griffin

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

Murphy Clark and family

For our ZOE communities in Rwanda, especially:

Mutesi, 16, head of household, and siblings

Josiane, 17 and Claudine, 9

*You can submit prayer requests to
prayers@fumcbelmont.org*

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



SANDWICH DROP TOMORROW | 5-7pm

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

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



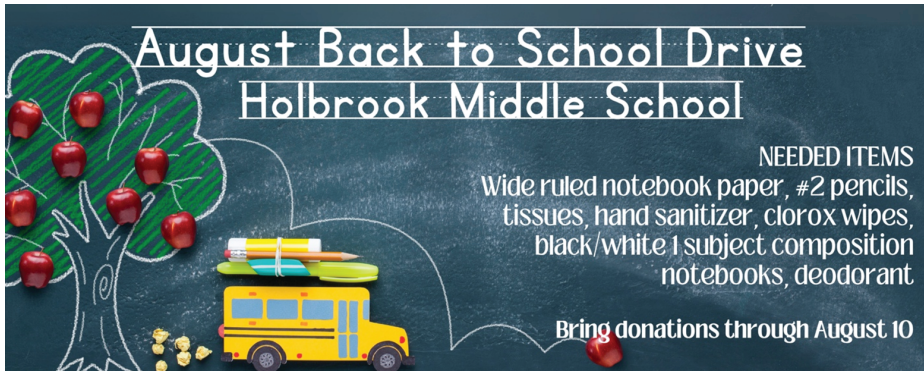
#loveyourneighbor

How to Share Your Faith with Others



New Series Begins August 03

August Back to School Drive Holbrook Middle School



NEEDED ITEMS
Wide ruled notebook paper, #2 pencils,
tissues, hand sanitizer, clorox wipes,
black/white 1 subject composition
notebooks, deodorant

Bring donations through August 10

OUR STAFF

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