

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

July 6, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

The Fourth Sunday After Pentecost



Jeremiah Lamenting the Destruction of Jerusalem by Rembrandt van Rijn, 1630

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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***
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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 continue our summer journey through the Psalms—biblical prayers and songs that give voice to the full range of human experience. From joy to sorrow, from trust to fear, the Psalms remind us that every part of life matters to God and belongs in God's presence. This morning, we turn to Psalm 13, which begins with a raw and honest cry: "How long, O Lord?" It is a prayer of lament, naming pain and pleading for light. Yet even in the depths, the psalmist chooses trust. As we worship, we bring our whole selves before God, knowing we are held by grace and surrounded by love.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"A Hymn for Our Nation"

arr. Franklin Ritter

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Quanna McAlister

Rejoice in the Lord, all you who trust in God's mercy.

We will sing to the Lord, for God has dealt bountifully with us.

In joy and in sorrow, in certainty and in doubt,

The Lord hears our cries and receives our prayers.

Come, all who long for light, all who wait for healing.

We bring our whole selves into the presence of God: To worship in truth, to lament in hope, and to rejoice in God's steadfast love.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 126

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have grown weary in the waiting and restless in the silence. We have doubted your presence, questioned your goodness, and turned away from your light. Forgive us, we pray. Restore to us the trust to rejoice, and the grace to sing again of your steadfast love. 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 13

Larry Bradmon

All sing: ***Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.***

Leader: How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?

All: ***How long will you hide your face from me?***

Leader: How long must I bear pain in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?

All: ***How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?***

All sing: ***Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.***

Leader: Consider and answer me, O Lord my God;

All: ***lighten my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death;***

Leader: lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him";

All: ***lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.***

Leader: But I trusted in your steadfast love;

All: ***my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.***

Leader: I will sing to the Lord.

All: ***for the Lord has dealt bountifully with me.***

All sing: ***Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.***

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.*

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

"Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel?"

arr. Evelyn Larte

Jennifer Martin, flute

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

*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!***

TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Hymnal No. 17-18)

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

*BREAKING THE BREAD

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EXTENDING THE TABLE

This morning, lay communion servers come forward to receive consecrated bread and juice from worship to share with homebound members who cannot be present today. We pray for them, remembering God's grace unites us as one within Christ's holy church. If you are aware of someone who would like to receive but cannot be present, speak with Pastor George after service.

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

"How Long Will You Forget Me"

***How long will you forget me, Lord, and hide your face away?
How long shall evils tear my heart and troubles fill my day?***

***Look on my need, O Lord my God, who grants my every breath;
give light that I may see your light, nor sleep the sleep of death.***

***Look on their threats and hear my cry, and answer when I call:
or they will claim the victory who long to see me fall.***

***Lord, in your mercy is my trust; I shall be glad and free:
then shall I sing with all my heart how you have dealt with me.***

*POSTLUDE

"Antioch"

Dale Wood

**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 *Jeremiah Lamenting the Destruction of Jerusalem* by Rembrandt van Rijn (1630), an early oil painting by the Dutch master that portrays the prophet seated in grief amid the ruins of a fallen city. Painted when Rembrandt was just 24 years old, the work captures the raw emotional weight of lament through Jeremiah's hunched posture, hand to brow, and the glint of temple vessels cast aside—symbols of desecrated worship and national collapse. Behind him, Jerusalem burns, a visual echo of divine judgment, while a scroll—likely representing the book of Lamentations—rests close at hand. As a prophet who wept over the people's refusal to turn back to God, Jeremiah embodies the sorrow and spiritual resilience also voiced in Psalm 13, where the psalmist pleads, "How long, O Lord?" This pairing invites reflection on lament not as a lack of faith, but as its most courageous and honest expression amid divine silence and collective suffering.

Prayer after each worship service is available in the prayer room off of the Narthex. Our Congregational Care Ministers and retired clergy are available to pray with you.

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. Starts today.

Summer Study on the Psalms Learn how to relate to God through your doubt, fears and anger. Coincides with George's sermon series. Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m., Now through July 29 (no class the week of July 1st).



Primetimers Event at "Little Bit of Art"

Do you like to paint or draw? Would you like to try? "Little Bit of Art" has ceramic pieces ready to paint or you can trace a picture onto canvas and paint it.

July 10th at 2 p.m.

Contact Doreen if you are interested.
doreen@fumcbelmont.org

THERE IS STILL TIME TO HELP!

- VBS set up in Carpenter Hall on Friday, July 11 at 9:00
- VBS set up in the Sanctuary on Sunday, July 13 at noon
- VBS clean up on Thursday, July 17 at 7:30 pm

EMAIL JENNIFER@FUMCBELMONT.ORG



GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

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. Let's celebrate our new youth year together.

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. Please sign up online today and pay by Friday, August 1st. Email Quanna for more details.

FUMC's Confirmation Class is beginning in the fall! All rising seventh, eighth, and ninth grade youth are invited to join the 2025-2026 class. We will begin with an opening retreat at the church on the weekend of October 24th and 25th. Youth in Confirmation will meet during Sunday School twice a month with their teachers, Leigh Nance, Michael Nance, and Kristie Marr. Confirmation Sunday is Sunday, May 17. If you would like to hear more information about our Confirmation process, please email Quanna at Quanna@fumcbelmont.org or George at George@fumcbelmont.org.

Email Quanna at quanna@fumcbelmont.org for more details or to sign up for our youth events.

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.

Vacation Bible School is July 13-17, and we invite all 4-year-olds through completed 5th grade to join us for our *True North* adventure! VBS is 5:30-8:00 and includes supper each night. Visit www.fumcbelmont.org/vbs for more details and to register.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, July 6

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

Monday, July 7

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Racial Healing Team Mtg

Tuesday, July 8

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

Wednesday, July 9

Thursday, July 10

- 2:00 p.m. Primetimers Art Event

Friday, July 11

- 9:00 a.m. VBS Decorating and Set Up

Saturday, July 12

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

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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*

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



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

SANDWICH DROP

July 21st | 5-7pm

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



KNOW A NEIGHBOR WHO IS SICK
OR IN NEED OF COMFORT?

TAKE THEM A QUART OF
HOMEMADE CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP.
SOUP IS IN OUR FREEZER WAITING
TO BRING COMFORT TO SOMEONE
IN NEED OF SOUL CARE.

SOUP
FOR
THE
SOUL



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.



OUR STAFF

Carole Bertino | Administrative Assistant | carole@fumcbelmont.org
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