

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

June 22, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

The Second Sunday After Pentecost



Praise the Lord with Gladness by Larry Poncho Brown, 2006

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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! This morning we begin our summer worship series, journeying through the Psalms. The Psalms provide us with a kind of "spiritual playlist" for every season of life. They give voice to our praise and our pain, our questions and our trust, offering language for the full range of human experience. Today we turn to Psalm 100, a psalm of thanksgiving that calls us back to our true purpose: we were created to worship God. The Psalmist reminds us that joy is not found at the end of the journey, but in belonging to the God who made us all along the way. As we enter this time of worship, take a moment to ask yourself: What joy is God inviting me to remember today? Wherever you are on the road, may you find yourself at home here in God's presence as we worship!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"How Can I Keep From Singing?"

arr. Robert Lowry

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 100

Quanna McAlister

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

We come with gladness, for we belong to God.

Know that the Lord is God—our Maker, our Shepherd, our Guide.

We are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture.

Let us enter with thanksgiving, and sing with joy.

For the Lord is good—steadfast in love, faithful through all generations.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 57

"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your purpose for us. We have pursued our own ends and forgotten that we were made to glorify and enjoy you forever. We have sought fulfillment in many things, yet neglected the joy of belonging to you. Forgive us, we pray. Restore us to the joy of your presence, that we may walk in your ways and delight in your will, to the glory of your name. 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 100

J. Michael Beech

(Sung response) ***Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing.***

(Leader) Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!

(All) ***Serve the Lord with gladness!***

Come into God's presence with singing!

(Leader) Know that the Lord, who made us, is God.

(All) ***We are the Lord's; we are the people of God,
the sheep of God's pasture.***

(Leader) Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,
and God's courts with praise!

(All) ***Give thanks and bless God's name!***

(Leader) For the Lord is good;

(All) ***God's steadfast love endures for ever;
God's faithfulness to all generations.***

(Sung response) ***Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing.***

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

"Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord"

Julie Knowles

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, Come before His presence with singing.

Serve the Lord with gladness; know ye that the Lord He is God.

It is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves;

We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise.

For the Lord is good and His mercy is everlasting,

And His truth endureth to all generations.

Chancel Choir Women

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

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Joe and Sue Hotz

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN NO. 60

"I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath"

*POSTLUDE

"Go Your Way with Rejoicing!"

Douglas Wagner

**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 *Praise the Lord with Gladness* by Larry Poncho Brown, originally commissioned by Epworth United Methodist Chapel in Baltimore to mark their 50th anniversary. Inspired by Psalm 100, the piece invites us into joyful worship and thanksgiving. With its rhythm, movement, and vibrant unity, Poncho's art blends realism and mysticism to reflect themes of family, spirituality, and belonging—echoing the psalm's call to come before God with singing and gladness. A native of Baltimore, Larry Poncho Brown is a nationally recognized artist whose work has appeared in galleries, magazines, television, and film. Known for his dynamic style and commitment to uplifting African American culture, Poncho's art celebrates unity, soul, and the sacred beauty of everyday life. You can learn more at www.larryponchobrown.net.

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.

Welcome, New Members! This morning we are blessed to welcome new members into our church family. Joining today by Transfer of Membership from Risen Christ Lutheran Church in Plymouth, Michigan are Joe and Sue Hotz. If you would like more information about joining our church family, please call or email Pastor George (704-249-0645 or george@fumcbelmont.org) or speak with him after the service today.

Congratulations, Kristen Surratt! We join in celebrating the Reverend Kristen Surratt who was ordained a Deacon in Full Connection last night at the Western North Carolina Annual Conference in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. Kristen is a former member of our staff and she and her family are very active in the life of our congregation. Congratulations, Kristen! We give thanks for you and your friendship and ministry among us!

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. Starts today.

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

Wanderers: *"Christianity and World Religions"* by Adam Hamilton. Starts June 29.

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).

GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

July 1 - Summer Night Youth Hangout - All youth are invited to a night of fellowship and fun at the Youth House. This event is for rising 7th through 12th graders. We will enjoy pizza, ice cream, Gaga Pit, and board games. Let's spend time 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. Recreation will include the zip line, ropes course, climbing tower, and much more. You are welcome to sign up today online. *Please sign up and pay by Friday, August 1st.*

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.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE



Collecting non-perishable food to help those without adequate food resources



July 6th

TOP 20 REQUESTS

Rice	Crackers
Jelly	Mac & Cheese
Pop tarts	Grits
Pasta	Oatmeal
Pasta Sauce	Peanut Butter
Dried Beans	Instant Mix
Corn Muffin	Potatoes
Cookies	Soup
Canned Meat, Fruit	
Tomatoes, Vegetables and Pasta	

SOUP FOR THE SOUL





Know a neighbor who is sick or in need of comfort? Take them a quart of Chicken Noodle Soup made by our Soup for the Soul cooking team. The soup is in our freezer ready to bring comfort to someone in need of care.

To learn more contact Debbie Thames at dthames@gmail.com

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, June 22

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

Monday, June 23

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Service and Missions Team Mtg

Tuesday, June 24

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

Wednesday, June 25

Thursday, June 26

Friday, June 27

Saturday, June 28

Sunday, June 29

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Mtg
3:00 p.m. Racial Healing Movie Event

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

Anne Hinkle's sister, Paula

Ginger Feimster

Erin Carver, Renee and Tim Painter's daughter

Frances Wilson, Denise Andrews' mother

John and Susan, Jim Griffin's brother and sister in-law

Nicole Stanforth's family after the passing of her
grandmother, Sue Ananda

Jennifer Stiver, Elizabeth Boney's friend

Anne Haxton, Dottie Moore's mother

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.*

WE

NEED

YOUR

HELP

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

We need a team to meet at Queen of Apostles Church at 7:00 pm
to load and deliver VBS decorations to Carpenter Hall.

EMAIL JENNIFER@FUMCBELMONT.ORG TO HELP.



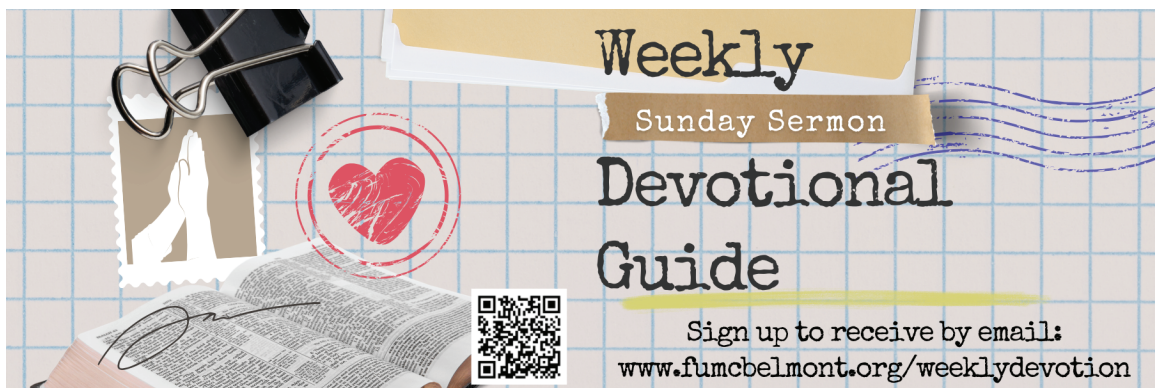
FUMC Belmont
Sunday, June 29th
3-5pm

VOTED IN.
TERRORIZED OUT.

AMERICAN COUP
WILMINGTON 1898

Join us
for film viewing
& discussion.
Refreshments &
childcare provided.

Discover the
little-known story
of a deadly insurrection
to overthrow the multiracial
government of Wilmington, NC in 1898



Weekly
Sunday Sermon
Devotional
Guide

Sign up to receive by email:
www.fumcbelmont.org/weeklydevotion

OUR STAFF

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