

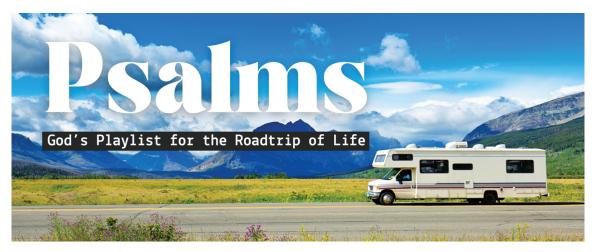
June 29, 2025 – 11:00 a.m. The Third Sunday After Pentecost



Under God's Wing by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

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 of Belmont! We're glad you're here as we continue our summer journey through the Psalms—ancient prayers that give voice to our deepest hopes and fears. Today we turn to Psalm 27, a bold confession of trust in God even in the face of fear and uncertainty. As you settle in for worship, ask yourself: Where do you seek light and salvation in your own life? In our community and our world? May this time of worship draw us closer to God, our refuge and strength.

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE "True Light of All Light" Gilbert Martin

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Based on Psalm 27 Jennifer Martin

The Lord is our light and our salvation—whom shall we fear?

**The Lord is the stronghold of our lives—of whom shall we be afraid?** One thing we ask of the Lord, this alone do we seek:

To dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of our lives, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to take refuge in God's shelter.

Come, let us worship the God who is our heart's desire and our sure refuge.

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 103 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and gracious God, you offer us shelter in the day of trouble, but we confess how quickly we run to other things for comfort and security. We are pulled in a hundred directions—distracted, anxious, and afraid. We long to desire only you, but our hearts are divided. Forgive us. Gather us beneath your wings. Teach us again to seek your face, and to find our rest in you alone. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. 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

#### PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 27 The Rev. Dr. Larry Kimel
Diane Kimel

SERMON The Rev. George Ragsdale

SILENT REFLECTION

## RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 881 The

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 Light"

Frances Allitsen

The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?
Though a host should encamp against me, yet shall not my heart be afraid:
Though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident
For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion:
Yea, in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; and set me on the rock

J. Michael Beech, soloist

#### 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!

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

## GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

\*BENEDICTION

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN NO. 397

"I Need Thee Every Hour"

\*POSTLUDE

"Sometimes a Light Surprises"

William Barnett

\*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 *Under God's Wing* by Lisle Gwynn Garrity, a mixed media work of acrylic on raw canvas with digital drawing, inspired by Psalm 27. The image began as a refugee tent and a child seeking shelter, but the tent flap transformed into a golden-lined wing, evoking the psalmist's cry for refuge in the house of the Lord. Painted as Afghan families arrived in the artist's hometown, the work invites us to read the psalm not only as personal prayer, but as a shared plea for protection amid fear and displacement. It is a visual reminder that faith is lived, not just believed—and that we all dwell, surely and safely, under God's wing. Image used with permission, *sanctifiedart.org*.

**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 converstions 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 Religious" 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).



## 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 <u>October 24th and 25th</u>. 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



## WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, June 29

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m. Worship

Board of Trustees Mtg 12:00 p.m. Racial Healing Movie Event 3:00 p.m.

Monday, June 30

Staff Meeting 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, July 1

Youth Summer Night Hangout 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 2

Thursday, July 3

Friday, July 4

Church Office Closed

6:30 a.m. Men's Meeting

Saturday, July 5

Sunday, July 6

8:30 a.m. Worship

Fellowship Breakfast 9·15 a m

Sunday School 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. Worship

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

Anne Hinkle's sister, Paula

Ginger Feimster

Erin Carver, Renee and Tim Painter's daughter

Frances Wilson, Denise Andrews' mother

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

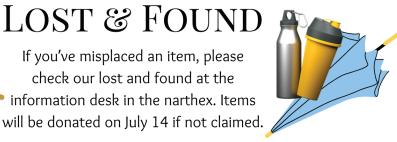
Murphy Clark and family

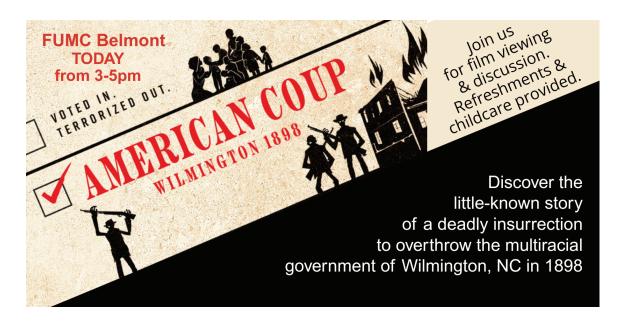
You can submit prayer requests to prayers@fumcbelmont.org

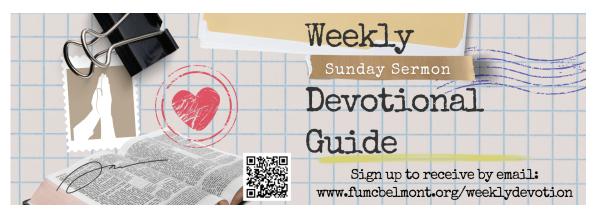
Prayers remain on this list for 4 weeks. If your loved one needs continued prayers, please résubmit a new request.

# LOST & FOUND

If you've misplaced an item, please check our lost and found at the information desk in the narthex. Items







# **OUR STAFF**

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