

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

October 19, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

The Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Commitment Sunday



The Light of the World by William Holman Hunt, 1851-53

.....
***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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www.fumcbelmont.org



Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont! We are glad you are here! Today we conclude our OUTGROW series, exploring the habits and attitudes in our prayer life and relationship with God that we must release in order to grow in faith. Our scripture, Luke 18:1–8, reminds us that we are called to pray without giving up. The prayer we outgrow is the prayer that loses heart. Today is also Commitment Sunday, as we present our 2026 commitments to FUMC as an act of worship. Our commitments are a sign of our resolve and desire to remain faithful in the year ahead, "growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"Preludio"

Domenico Zipoli

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 121

Doreen Collins

We lift up our eyes to the hills—from where will our help come?

Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

God will not let our foot be moved; The One who keeps us will not slumber.

The sun shall not strike us by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep us from all evil; God will keep our life.

And will keep our going out and coming in from this time on and for evermore.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 400

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and ever living God, we confess that we have grown weary in prayer and faint of heart in faith. Too often we have yielded to doubt, surrendered to despair, and ceased to seek your will. Have mercy upon us, O Lord. Strengthen our resolve, renew our desire, and grant us grace to persevere, that we may ever trust 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

Quanna McAlister

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 18:1-8

Genora Cheshire

SERMON

The Rev. George Ragsdale

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 881

The Apostles' Creed

INVITATION TO PRAYER

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

Ken Medema

***Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.***

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

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

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

"This Our Prayer"

Robert Sterling

Almighty God, sovereign and true, help us to seek only you.
Quiet our minds till worries cease. Lead us to find perfect peace.
Make the stillness of this moment something sacred.

God, be with us right here. Show us how to love one another without fear.
Forgive our failings, though countless, with mercy so boundless.
May we show love. may we live love. O all loving God! Almighty God!
Hear this our prayer. Amen.

Small Ensemble

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)

PRESENTATION OF 2026 COMMITMENTS

***Gracious God, you call us to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.
Help us to outgrow fear and trust the abundance of your provision, to
outgrow ingratitude and give thanks with a grateful heart, to outgrow despair
and walk in persistent, active faith. May our generosity reflect a deeper
commitment to you as our church grows together in love and service. Amen.***

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN NO. 526

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

*POSTLUDE

"Suite in D"

Henry Purcell

**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 *The Light of the World*, an allegorical painting by English artist William Holman Hunt, completed between 1851 and 1853. It depicts Jesus preparing to knock on an overgrown door, inspired by Revelation 3:20: "*Behold, I stand at the door and knock.*" Hunt wrote of the work, "I painted the picture with what I thought, unworthy though I was, to be divine command, and not simply a good subject." The door in the painting has no handle and thus can only be opened from the inside, symbolizing the invitation to respond to Christ's persistent call. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells of a widow who refuses to give up seeking justice. In her persistence we glimpse the character of God—knocking, seeking, pressing toward us in love until we are changed. Hunt's painting, long considered one of the most significant renderings of Christ, now hangs in the chapel of Keble College, Oxford.

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: If you are wondering what we teach the youth in confirmation classes visit the Disciple class. They will talk about essential lessons of the Christian faith and Methodism.

Route 66: "*Faithful and Inclusive*" by Robert Fuquay

Salt & Light Fellowship: A place to have real conversations and build relationships.

Wanderers: "*The Bible Jesus Read*" by Phillip Yancy



JOIN THE LADIES
OF SQUARE TWO

OCTOBER 26 - 5 TO 7 PM
TRUNK OR TREAT
OUT TO DINNER AFTERWARDS

RSVP ALICE FARRIS;
AWFARRIS@ME.COM

All ladies
welcome!

The banner features a yellow background with a subtle pattern of small triangles. On the left, three spiders are hanging from a string. On the right, there are illustrations of a black cat, a jack-o'-lantern, a ghost, and several bats flying around a full moon.



Trunk or Treat
Sunday, October 26 from 5:30-7pm
Invite your friends & neighbors.

Join us on the field for 20 trunks, free hot dog supper, youth-led games, & more!
If you are willing to host a trunk, visit www.fumcbelmont.org/signup.

The banner has a brown background with a decorative border of small, colorful triangles at the top and bottom. On the left is a simple white ghost illustration. On the right is a smiling jack-o'-lantern with a face made of orange and white stripes.

GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Crossroads meets tonight from 5:30-7:30 in the Old Fellowship Hall. All 4th and 5th graders are invited to join us for games, supper, and a lesson on priorities.

First Kids and their families are invited to our Prayer Pet Adoption Event this Wednesday, October 22 from 6:00-7:30. Read more and sign up at www.fumcbelmont.org/kids.

GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

Lunch Outing TODAY 12:00-2:00 All youth are invited to go out to lunch after church at Culver's in Belmont. Please bring money for lunch and dessert. Also, bring 5 non perishable canned goods as your ticket to this event. We will donate all goods to the BCO in Belmont.

October 26 5:30-7:00 All youth are invited to run the games for Trunk or Treat. Find Quanna to sign up for a game.

November 2 Connect All youth are invited to Connect for Game Night! We will play board games first and then play the popular game Grog later in the evening. Youths need to wear white so you will glow in the dark.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

Serve as an Offering

Teller Looking for an easy but important way to serve? Offering Tellers work in teams to count the Sunday offering after the 11:00 service, helping us be good stewards of the gifts God provides. Training will be offered on October 12 following the 11:00 service. To learn more or sign up, contact Russell Tindall at rbtindall@gmail.com.



Sunday, October 26, 2025

TIME: during Sunday breakfast and Sunday School

TICKETS ARE FREE ALL AGES WELCOME NURSERY AVAILABLE

GET READY! BID NOW IN THE NARTHEX

Silent auction baskets will be in the narthex for
3 consecutive weeks prior to the auction

Bidding on silent auction baskets will be final on October 19 at 12:30 PM

Winners of the silent auction will be announced at the Breakfast Event October 26

Live Auction Items will be auctioned at breakfast October 26th

3 nights - 2 Bedrooms - Myrtle Beach Waterfront Condo
3 nights - 4 Bedrooms - HYCO Lake House
7 nights - 3 Bedrooms - Foley Beach - Lake View
Outdoor Entertainment Set
Blackstone Flattop Accessories



**HELP
NEEDED!**

Want to volunteer?



email Kristen Surratt
kristensurratt@gmail.com

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, October 19

- 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. Youth Lunch
- 5:30 p.m. Crossroads (4th/5th Grade)

Monday, October 20

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

Tuesday, October 21

Wednesday, October 22

- 5:30 p.m. Alleluia Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m. Small Group - Jesus and the Disinherited
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 23

- 11:00 a.m. Small Group - Jesus and the Disinherited
- 11:45 a.m. Community Café

Friday, October 24

- 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Kickoff Retreat

Saturday, October 25

Confirmation Kickoff Retreat

Sunday, October 26

- Children's Sabbath
- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:30 a.m. ZOE Auction and Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 5:30 p.m. Trunk or Treat

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

The family of Margaret "Peggy" Robinson, David Surratt's grandmother, who passed away
Cindy Jenkins on the passing of her father, Claude Ward

Chip Stansell's sister, Regina

The Slayton family in the loss of their sister

Sima Ellis

Clay Jones, a friend of Mary and Pete Rutledge

Judy Fann (Cassie Fann's mother)

Patty and Taylor Hayward

Jeff Byrum, Jacob Somers, and Lisa Brooks

(Barbara Byrum)

South Point teacher, Brian Ziemer (Leigh Nance)

The family & fiancée of their nephew, Justin Martin, who died (Thomas & Heather Taylor)

Deborah Cornwell, friend of Teri and Claude Wilson

The family of Marie Widenhouse, who passed away

The family of Anne Tria, who passed away

The family of Elizabeth Bunce upon her passing

The family and friends of Justin Frady upon his passing

Alan and Pam Smith and family, after the passing of their grandson Evan

Ginger Feimster

Marshall Stowe, brother of Sally Bashant and Wes Stowe

Murphy Clark and family

For our ZOE communities in Rwanda, especially:

Leatitia 18, head of household, and siblings,

Alexia 16, Celestin 14, and Faustin 13

*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.

k **Ways to Give at FUMC Belmont** k

Online – Visit fumcbelmont.org/online-giving to give securely anytime.

By Mail – Send your gift to the church address listed on the front of this bulletin.

In Person – Drop your gift in the secure Drop Box outside the church office, available 7 days a week.



FUMC FELLOWSHIP
Pizza Dinner!
 WEDNESDAY, NOV 05 | 5:30 PM | CARPENTER HALL
FREE | PIZZA, SALAD, DESSERT

Join us before Missions Night



MISSIONS NIGHT
Nov 5 | 6:30 pm
ALL AGES ARE NEEDED TO SERVE

Sandwiches for our Unhoused Neighbors
 Cards for our military
 Flood Buckets



Feed the HOUSE

Help the families in residence at Catherine's House by dropping off a simple meal on November 10 or November 24
www.fumcbelmont.org/signup

OUR STAFF

Carole Bertino | Administrative Assistant | carole@fumcbelmont.org
 Doreen Collins | Director of Adult Discipleship | doreen@fumcbelmont.org
 Jennifer Martin | Director of Children's Ministry | jennifer@fumcbelmont.org
 Quanna McAlister | Director of Youth Ministries | quanna@fumcbelmont.org
 Boyce O'Tuel | Director of the Child Development Center | boyce@fumcbelmont.org
 George Ragsdale | Senior Pastor | george@fumcbelmont.org
 Ellen Robison | Minister of Worship and the Arts | ellen@fumcbelmont.org
 Mark Sutton | Business Administrator | mark@fumcbelmont.org

Dahlia Grove continues to live into its mission of serving survivors of Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence and Addictions. We offer a two year rent free restorative care home where our residents are given the time and resources for healing.



Join us to learn more about the work of Dahlia Grove and what you can do to help.

Boxed lunches will be prepared with love by Dahlia Grove survivors.

Saturday, October 25th

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

St. Stephen United Methodist Church*

6800 Sardis Road

Charlotte, NC

**Enter around the back of the church by the gym.
Program and lunch will be held in Room 8.5.*

Volunteers Needed!
Join Us for a Lunch + Learn
Dear Friends,

Dahlia Grove is in critical need of volunteers, and we'd love for you to consider how you might be part of this life-changing work. Volunteering with us doesn't have to be a big time commitment—even being on a "back-up list" for driving women to and from appointments makes a huge difference.

We're also in the process of revamping our volunteer program and rebuilding our database, so now is the perfect time to let us know where you'd love to plug in.

Right now, we especially need support in these areas:

Transportation: Be on-call or scheduled to drive women to and from important appointments.

Café Support: Help at our weekly cafés—assist with set up, hostessing, and hospitality!

Classroom Proctors: Serve as learning aides, helping women stay on track during workforce development courses.

Class Facilitator: Teach a skill, lead a workshop, or share your professional expertise—life skills, wellness, financial literacy, and more.

Even a small amount of time can make a big impact.

If you're interested in learning more we invite you to attend our next Volunteer Lunch & Learn on:

Saturday, October 25

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

St. Stephen United Methodist Church, 6800 Sardis Road, Charlotte

Come enjoy lunch, hear more about our mission, and see how you can play a role in empowering women survivors right here in Charlotte.

Together, we can build a stronger Dahlia Grove community.