



October 20, 2024 – 11:00 a.m.

A large, multi-colored plastic bag sculpture by Jaume Plensa, displayed in a museum. The bag is shaped like a dress and features handwritten text in various colors. The text includes phrases like "I and but an", "plastic bag may", "flowers, ain't the rule", "finding that bag and", "ing about it the", "some level you sh", "a sniggering man", "mae / on some of Her".

*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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Ephesians

Christ Is Our Peace

Good morning and welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont. Over the past two months, in the midst of much upheaval, we have been reading and studying Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, a bold proclamation of the peace Jesus Christ brings to individuals, communities, nations and the world. Today, we conclude by turning to Paul's final admonitions in Chapter 6 to "put on the full armor of God." At first glance they seem violet, at odds with the peaceful message of the rest of the letter. But on closer look we realize, the armor Paul mentions invites us to join Christ in a life that runs counter to the culture, proclaiming peace in all that we do.

MUSIC

"Simple Gifts"
Bellissimo Handbell Choir

arr. Sandra Eithum

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"A Testament to Hope"

arr. Lee G. Barrow

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 46

Doreen Collins

God is our safe space, our hiding place, a very present help in times of trouble.

God is our safety, we will not fear!

The mountains shake, the oceans roar, the nations rage, the world changes.

God is our safety, we will not fear!

Flowing like a river through the city, in the middle of his people, God is there.

God is with us, his power wraps us round.

Come! See our God at work: God breaks our weapons and destroys our defenses.

God is our peace, we will not fight.

All wars are coming to an end. God's voice thunders through a world in chaos:

Be still! Know that I am God!

Through all the earth, God be praised! Through all the world, God is with us!

God is our safety, we will not fear!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 110

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Spirit of God, we confess that we put on airs more often than we put on the armor of God. We are guilty of girding ourselves with lies instead of the truth. We try to protect ourselves with arrogance, superstition, and self-reliance instead of righteousness, faith, and your gift of salvation. Our footsteps do not follow your path of peace. And we are quick to use your Word to attack one another, instead of striking out against the sins we personally commit. Forgive us, Holy God. Gift us with the wisdom and strength to change our ways, so that we may live as your faithful ambassadors of the Good News. 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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Ephesians 6:10-20

Tresca McSwain

This is the Word of God for the People of God. ***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

"Make Us Holy, Make Us Whole"

Mark Friedman

***In your love, make us whole, may we rest in your compassion.
Calm the lost weary soul in the warmth of your love.
May your peace fill our hearts. May we know the love of Jesus.
By your grace, you console. Make us holy, make us whole.***

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

"Forevermore"

Dan Forrest

Father and Son and Holy Spirit, Word of God, the Cornerstone.
Yesterday, today, forever, seated on His heavenly throne.
In this world that God created broken by the fall of man,
God remains the sure foundation, steadfast and unshakable.

Congregation: ***O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.***

God will not forget His promise ever faithful to remain,
Never to forsake or leave us, by our side both night and day.
Our tomorrows hold no secrets that the Father does not know;
WE can trust Him, ever working for His glory and our good.

Congregation: ***Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure: sufficient is Thine arm alone.
And our defense is sure.***

Praise the Author of creation, of the world and all it holds;
Word eternal, standing firm, our God is forevermore.

Congregation: ***O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,
And our eternal home.***

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 NO. 435

"O God of Every Nation"

*POSTLUDE

"Llangloffan"

arr. Charles Callahan

**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 work of South African artist Judith Mason. Her "blue dress" fashioned from plastic grocery bags, was created in response to hearing the story of Phila Ndwandwe, an anti-apartheid activist who was kidnapped and later executed by the South African security police. While in captivity, she is reported to have fashioned undergarments from blue plastic bags to maintain dignity. Written on the dress Mason crafted is a letter to Phila: "Sister, a plastic bag may not be the whole armour of God, but you were wrestling with flesh and blood, and against powers, against the rulers of darkness, against spiritual wickedness in sordid places. Your weapons were your silence and a piece of rubbish. Finding that bag and wearing it until you were disinterred is such a frugal, common-sensical, house-wifely thing to do, an ordinary act... Memorials to your courage are everywhere; they blow about in the streets and drift on the tide and cling to thorn bushes. This dress is made from some of them..."

Prayer after each worship service in the prayer room off of the Narthex.



Our Congregational Care Ministers and retired clergy are available to pray with you.

A Supply Sabbath



Our bishop and receiving churches distributing supplies have asked for a pause with supply donations. They need to distribute the goods they have in storage and evaluate their need. The best way to help is to donate funds so they can purchase the uncommon items that typically are not donated. The conference will update us when they have supplies they need. To contribute to the relief efforts you can use this link or the QR code.

<https://bit.ly/WNCCHurricaneReliefDonations>



Blessing of the Animals

TODAY at 5:00pm
Outdoor Pavilion

Bring your pets to be blessed; to remember those pets who have died, and to celebrate the gift God has given us in all God's Creatures, especially those who are our companions.



Please sign up to help serve
or clean up at
fumcbelmont.org/meetmiddle

Midweek Fellowship Meals
Wednesday - 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

***Oct. 23 meal: Pasta and meatballs,
green salad, chicken nuggets, and dessert.***

Meals cost FUMC \$10 per adult, \$5 for children. We ask those who join us to contribute what they can.



Will not be open Thursday, October 24. They will return next week.

HOST A TRUNK AT OUR COMMUNITY FALL FESTIVAL

WWW.FUMCBELMONT.ORG/FALLFESTIVAL



OCTOBER 27

4:00-6:30

REID PARK

**Please donate candy
and/or small prizes
for our Community
Fall Festival
youth-led
games.**



JOIN THE LADIES OF SQUARE TWO

TRUNK OR TREAT WITH HOOD MEMORIAL AME CHURCH

(COWGIRL THEME - JEANS/BOOTS)

REID PARK - OCTOBER 27

OUT TO DINNER AFTERWARDS

All ladies
welcome!

RSVP ALICE FARRIS:
AWFARRIS@ME.COM

VOLUNTEER AT OUR
COMMUNITY FALL FESTIVAL
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
HOOD MEMORIAL AME ZION CHURCH

OCTOBER 27 4:00-6:30

REID PARK

WWW.FUMCBELMONT.ORG/FALLFESTIVAL



November 3

All Saints Sunday

Give rest, O Christ, where sorrow and pain are no more...

On All Saints' Sunday we will remember all those in our church who have died in the past year and joined the Church Triumphant. We will welcome family members and friends of church members who have died, and recognize all those we love but see no longer. Plan now to join us, at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., for this very powerful day in the life of our church.

BCO

Drop off
by
Nov 3

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



TOP 20

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

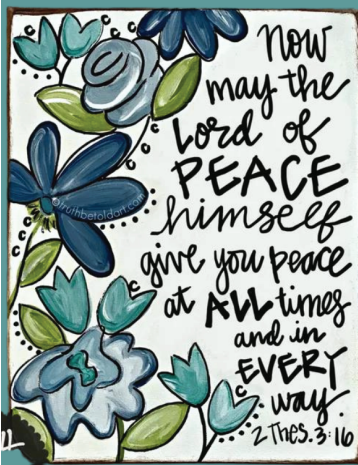


ELECTION DAY PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

Tuesday, November 5
Sanctuary Open from 9:00 - 4:00

A Service of Unity and Peace

Wednesday, November 6 | Sanctuary | 6:30 p.m.



Ruth Circle is hosting
A Truth Be Told
Art Party
Everyone is invited!

Sunday, Nov 10
2:00-4:30
Carpenter Hall

\$30/ RSVP to
Jennifer Martin



MISSIONS NIGHT Nov 13 | 6:30

HELP FROM ALL AGES ARE
NEEDED TO ASSEMBLE

*500 total SANDWICHES

*200 Bagged LUNCHES for the unhoused

*72 FLOOD BUCKETS

*CARDS to military in active duty



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 dhthames@gmail.com

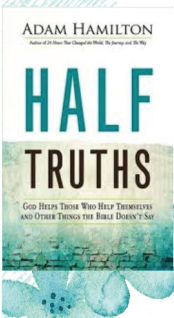


YOUTH



Engage
Sunday
School
in
Youth
House

Nov. 3,
10, 17 &
24



**Sandwich
Building
Mission**

TODAY

Youth will prepare 100 lunches
for Roof Above in Charlotte
during Connect
5:30 to 7:30

**Please be in prayer for those
experiencing homelessness in our
community.**

FIRST KIDS

BIBLE ART Creating With God - Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 7:30 pm for 3 year olds through 5th grade.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, October 20	5:30 p.m.	Alleluia Choir
8:30 a.m. Worship	6:00 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal
9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast	6:30 p.m.	Small Groups
10:00 a.m. Sunday School	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
11:00 a.m. Worship		
5:00 p.m. Blessing of the Animals	Thursday, October 24	
5:30 p.m. Connect		
5:30 p.m. Crossroads	Friday, October 25	
6:00 p.m. Stories to Live By		
	Saturday, October 26	
Monday, October 21		
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting	Sunday, October 27	
	8:30 a.m. Worship	
Tuesday, October 22	9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast	
2:00 p.m. Soup for the Soul	10:00 a.m. Sunday School	
	11:00 a.m. Worship	
Wednesday, October 23	4:00 p.m. Fall Festival with Hood	
5:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist in the Narthex	Memorial Zion Church	
Prayer Room	at Reid Park	
5:30 p.m. Meet in the Middle		

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Anne Haxton, Dottie Moore's mother
Joann Leathers (John Butler)
Roy Norwood, Jane Herstine's friend
The Ragsdale Family
Maggie Moore
The Giang family after the passing of Sam Giang, Mike's father
Arthur Ligon
The family of Luc Albee upon her passing (Adrian Lunsford's cousin)
Cordell Shirlen (Teri Wilson)
Brian Nixon (Teri Wilson)
Jim and Cindy Griffin
Erin Carver, Renee and Tim Painter's daughter
Murphy Clark and family

You can submit prayer requests to prayers@fumcbelmont.org or by clicking this QR code:





Dear FUMC Family,

A fire at the Parsonage has caused significant damage to the home of Pastor George and his family. Not only have they been displaced from their home, they will have many unexpected expenses as a result of the fire.

If you would like to contribute to a Love Offering for the Ragsdale family to help them through this difficult time, you can make your donation directly to FUMC Belmont and just note "Love Offering" on the memo line.



Community FALL FESTIVAL



We are taking a beloved tradition (Trunk or Treat), partnering with friends and making something new, and we need your help! On **October 27** from **4:00-6:30**, FUMC Belmont and Hood Memorial AME Zion will provide a **Community Fall Festival** at **Reid Park**. We will have trunk or treat, games, hot dog supper, and more. This is an exciting way for us to live into our mission, and we have jobs for everyone. Please use the link below to sign up.

www.fumcbelmont.org/fallfestival



OUR STAFF

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