

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



## SERVICE OF WORSHIP

October 26, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

The Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

Children's Sabbath



*Ikizere (Hope)*

Mamba Empowerment Group, Rwanda

.....  
*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](http://www.fumcbelmont.org)**

Today we are participating in the multi faith observance of Children's Sabbath. What unites us is our belief that God calls us to protect children, especially the most economically disadvantaged and vulnerable, and the conviction that our faith calls us to live out God's justice and compassion. Jesus said, *"Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."* Matthew 19:14

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

*"Jesus Loves Me"*

John Ness Beck

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jennifer Martin

We gather this morning with listening hearts to hear the voices of the world's children through song, prayer and God's Word.

***We ask that you heal the hurts and nurture the hopes of children as we seek to protect them and provide a safe and healthy life for all of them.***

We have come to worship God in confidence that you hear us and will strengthen us for our mission.

***God has called us to be partners in caring for all children with a passion for justice and hearts full of love. Come let us worship God!***

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 547

*"O Church of God, United"*

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***Loving God, we confess that often we fail to hear the voices of those who are young, impoverished, and hurting. Too many times we ignore the voices of those who speak in other languages, come from other communities, and have different life experiences than our own. O God, when Jesus put a child among the disciples he told us what is important. Remind us to listen and heed the voices of children and young people. Open us to what they have to teach us, for ways they might lead us to more faithfully be your people who love and listen, heal and protect, and pursue your ways of peace and justice. 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

MUSIC

*"Hello to all the Children of the World"*  
Alleluia Choir

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

\*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 19:13-15

Ellie Delany

SERMON

The Rev. Gaston Warner

SILENT REFLECTION

## RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 881

*The Apostles' Creed*

INVITATION TO PRAYER

*"Lead Me, Lord"*

***Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness,  
take thy way plain before my face.  
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord, only,  
That makest me dwell in safety.***

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

*"O Sing"*

Kenney Potter

Sing to all the nations, O sing to all the people,  
Sing to the heavens, O sing all around us!  
O sing for all the children, O sing for all the thirsty,  
O sing for all the tired, O sing for all the weary.  
May we never forget who came before us,  
Provided for us, who brought us up.  
May we honor each other by hearing one another.

# 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. 548

*"In Christ There Is No East or West"*

\*POSTLUDE

*"Raise the Sound of Praise"*

Edward Broughton

*\*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!

***This morning we are delighted to welcome Rev. Gaston Warner,*** an elder in the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. Rev. Warner has led congregations in inner-city, multi-ethnic, and suburban settings, from Chicago to Bristol, England. He has consulted with and served on a number of non-profit boards and as staff for Habitat for Humanity, Duke Divinity School, and Duke University Chapel. Gaston joined Zoe Empowers as a board member in 2007 and currently serves as CEO, Global North.

Rev. Warner earned a BA from Brown University, an MDiv from Duke Divinity School, and an MBA from The University of Durham, England. He lives outside of Hillsborough, NC, with his spouse, the Rev. Dr. Lacey Warner, who teaches at Duke University Divinity School, their daughter Clare, and various pets and livestock.

**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.

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

Online – Visit [fumcbelmont.org/online-giving](http://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.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Monday, November 10

Administrative Council Meeting - Monday, November 10 at 6:00 p.m.

FUMC Belmont Annual Charge Conference following at 6:30 p.m.

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**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

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**GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN**

**Crossroads is meeting on November 2 from 5:30-7:30 in the youth house.** All 4th-5th graders are invited to join us for games, supper, and a lesson on priorities.

**Join us on November 16 from 4:00-6:00 for Experience Advent,** our reimagined Advent Workshop. Families will receive an Experience Advent devotion book and will create their own Jesse Tree to use throughout the Advent Season. Register today at [www.fumcbelmont.org/signup](http://www.fumcbelmont.org/signup).

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## GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

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**All youth are invited from 5:30 to 7:00 tonight to help run games at Trunk or Treat.** It'll be a spooky good time of fellowship!

**Nov. 2 Connect:** All youth are invited 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.

**Nov. 9 Connect:** Youth from both Myers Memorial and Park Street United Methodist Church will join us here for an awesome night of fellowship and Bible study. We will play games, enjoy pizza and dessert, and get to know other United Methodists in our community.



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## OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

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**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. To learn more or sign up, contact Russell Tindall at [rbtindall@gmail.com](mailto:rbtindall@gmail.com).



Join us for Lunch  
on Thursdays 11:45-1:15

Dahlia Grove cooks lunch here at FUMCB.  
Invite your friends and neighbors to dine with us and support the women in the Dahlia Grove community who are survivors of human trafficking, domestic violence, or addiction.

**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](http://www.fumcbelmont.org/signup)

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, October 26

Children's Sabbath

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m. ZOE Auction & Breakfast

11:00 a.m. Worship

5:30 p.m. Trunk or Treat

Monday, October 27

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

Tuesday, October 28

Wednesday, October 29

5:30 p.m. Alleluia Choir Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 30

11:45 a.m. Community Cafe'

Friday, October 31

Saturday, November 1

Sunday, November 2

Daylight Saving Time Ends

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast

9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

5:30 p.m. Connect

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

6:00 p.m. Stories to Live Small Group

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Owen Harris

JoshnCourtney Poynter's family & friends, after her sudden passing (Nichole Standforth's friend)

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

Ginger Feimster

Marshall Stowe, brother of Sally Bashant and Wes Stowe

Murphy Clark and family

For our ZOE communities in Rwanda, especially:

Samweli 18, head of household, and siblings,

Jean Paul 14 and Theophile 5

*You can submit prayer requests to  
**[prayers@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:prayers@fumcbelmont.org)***

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



# Trunk or Treat is tonight!

Invite your friends and neighbors.  
Join us on the field 5:30-7:00  
20 trunks, free hot dog supper, youth-led  
games, and more!

**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**

*Cards for our military*  
*Sandwiches for our Unhoused Neighbors*  
*Flood Buckets*

## OUR STAFF

Carole Bertino | Administrative Assistant | [carole@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:carole@fumcbelmont.org)  
Doreen Collins | Director of Adult Discipleship | [doreen@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:doreen@fumcbelmont.org)  
Jennifer Martin | Director of Children's Ministry | [jennifer@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:jennifer@fumcbelmont.org)  
Quanna McAlister | Director of Youth Ministries | [quanna@fumcbelmont.org](mailto:quanna@fumcbelmont.org)  
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