

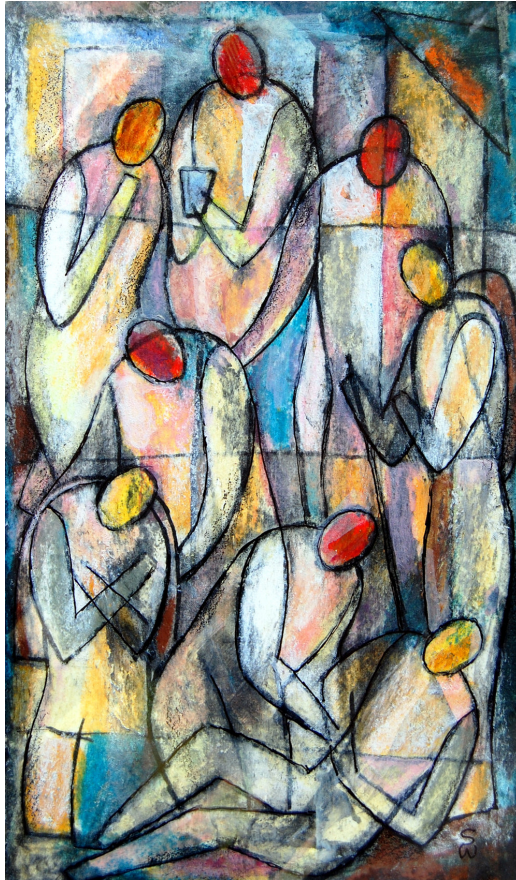
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

October 27, 2024 – 11:00 a.m.

The Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost



For the Least of These by Soichi Watanabe, 2004

.....
*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

Good morning and welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont. Today we are celebrating Children's Sabbath, a time to reflect on God's gift of children, and ways congregations and individuals can renew their commitment to care for, protect and advocate for all children. The Children's Defense Fund founded Children's Sabbath in 1991, as an ecumenical celebration to bring together people of all faiths to address the needs of children. Children's Sabbath allows us the opportunity to take a fresh look each year at the needs of children in the neighborhoods where we worship, work, and live and around the world; and then discover ways to address or meet those needs as people of God.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"Jesus Loves Me"

arr. Fred C. Bock

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jennifer Martin

You are a God who is able to make all things right and just.

You are a God who loves us from cradle to grave and beyond.

You are a God who is calling us to be agents of change in this world.

You call us to pray with our hands, our voice, and our feet.

You are calling us to create a safe world for all of your children.

Come let us worship the God of all our days.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 147

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we come before you in need of healing: the healing of our bodies and souls, the healing of our relationships, the healing of our pride and fear and apathy. We know that with you, nothing is impossible, not even our healing, not even the restoration of the whole world. We pray that you will heal us, that you will heal our world, so that we will be freed to serve and love and dream and be. In Jesus' name 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

*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 25:31-40

Jayce Marr, Mary Ellis Loper,
and Camilla Shook

This is the Word of God for the People of God. ***Thanks be to God.***

MESSAGE

Susanna Kavanaugh, Executive Director and co-founder
of The Least of These Carolinas

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

"I Will Bless the Lord"

Victor Johnson

I will bless the Lord at all times,

And God's praises I'll ever sing!

I will bless the Lord at all time;

and God's praises I'll sing forevermore.

My soul shall make its boast in the Lord;

The humble shall hear it and be glad.

Oh, magnify the Lord with me,

Let us exalt God's name!

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.

Blessed are the ones who put their trust in God.

The righteous will cry out, and the Lord will hear their plea,

Oh, put your hope in the Lord.

Alleluia Choir and Chancel Choir

Sally Bashant, 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! Alleluia!***

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

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Whatever You Do"

***"Whatever you do to the least ones of these,
I tell you in truth that you do unto me!"
Lord Jesus, you taught us! May we learn anew
that when we serve others, we also serve you.***

***When poor, waiting children pray hunger will end,
when those long forgotten cry out for a friend,
when thirsty ones whisper, "O Lord, where are you?"
we hear, in their longing, that you're calling, too.***

***In prisons and jails, Lord, we find a surprise:
we see you in people whom others despise,
At hospital bedsides we offer a prayer
and find, when we visit the sick, you are there.***

***When we reach to others in flood stricken lands
and offer our hearts there, and offer our hands,
we notice, Lord Jesus, the gift of your grace;
we see, in the crowds of the suffering, your face.***

***"Lord, when did we see you?" Your teaching is clear
that when we serve others, we're serving you here.
And when your church heeds you and helps those in pain,
then out of the chaos, hope rises again.***

*POSTLUDE

"Let Praise Ring Forth"

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!

Welcome to Susanna Kavanaugh, the Executive Director and co-founder of The Least of These Carolinas. She has a heart for children and is a great advocate for their needs. Susanna and her husband, Sean, became involved in orphan ministry in 2009 when they became foster parents. They have fostered long term placements and have grown their family by adoption through foster care. She and Sean live in Gastonia with their three daughters and one grown son who is married. Susanna has a desire to help the children of her community and help restore hope in their broken lives. Her prayer is that these children and their families would feel the love of Christ through this ministry.

Pastor George is away this morning on a previously scheduled vacation to celebrate his anniversary. He will return to the parish tomorrow.

Today's Bulletin Cover A resident of Koshigaya City, Saitama, Japan, Soichi Watanabe graduated in 1982 from the Ochanomizu Art School in Tokyo. He teaches at a private art school that he started in 1982. Soichi was drawn to God as an undergraduate student during a home Bible study when he encountered Mark 8:35: "Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it." Watanabe writes, *"In retrospect I realize that [my works] are my own humble responses to God's calling in my life. ... The images are often given to me through the words of God, at worship services on Sundays, and during my daily devotions. I have the earnest hope that I will go on painting to praise the Lord."*

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.



**Meet
in the
Middle**

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. 30: Pulled pork, baked beans, coleslaw,
chicken nuggets, and dessert.**

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

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>





First Friday Men's Meeting



**NOVEMBER 1ST - 6:30 AM
AT THE YOUTH HOUSE**

Men of the church are invited to a time of fellowship, devotion, and discussion over breakfast. All are welcome. RSVP helps us plan for food.

**<https://is.gd/MR5Raw>
Contact Brandon Martin with questions.**





BCO

Drop off

by Nov 3

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



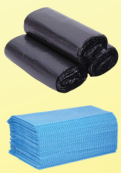
TOP 20

- 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

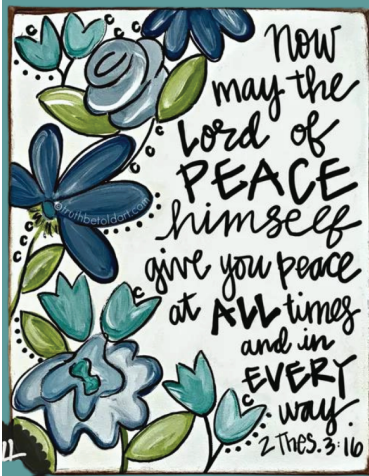



FLOOD BUCKET PREP

Come help roll trash bags and count out Handiwraps from our bulk supply in preparation for flood buckets.

Nov. 7th 10:30-12

then stay for lunch at the Community Cafe



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

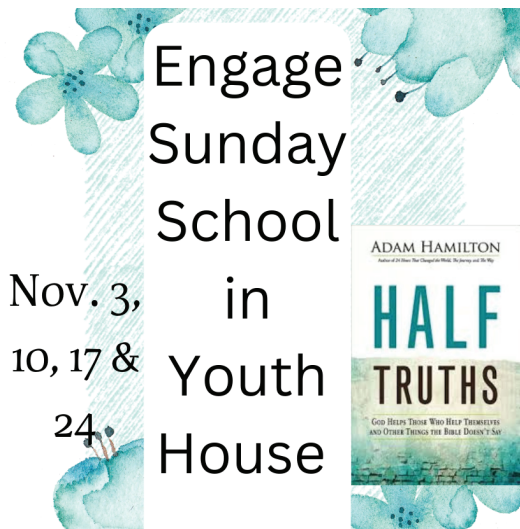


Know a neighbor who is sick or in need of comfort? Take them a quart of Chicken Noodle Soup made by our Soup for the Soul cooking team. The soup is in our freezer ready to bring comfort to someone in need of care.

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



YOUTH



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 27	6:30 p.m.	Small Groups
8:30 a.m. Worship	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast		
10:00 a.m. Sunday School	Thursday, October 31	
11:00 a.m. Worship	11:45 a.m.	Community Cafe'
4:00 p.m. Fall Festival with Hood		
Memorial Zion Church	Friday, November 1	
at Reid Park	6:30 a.m.	Men's Meeting
Monday, October 28	Saturday, November 2	
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting		
Tuesday, October 29	Sunday, November 3	
	8:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Breakfast
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
Wednesday, October 30	11:00 a.m.	Worship
5:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist in the Narthex	5:50 p.m.	Connect
Prayer Room	5:30 p.m.	Crossroads
5:30 p.m. Meet in the Middle		
5:30 p.m. Alleluia Choir		
6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal		

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Daniel Durham's father David, and David's wife Judy and the entire family
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)
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:



You're Invited to a Community Fall Festival

TODAY AT REID PARK

4:00-6:30



**JOIN US FOR TRUNK OR TREAT, FOOD, GAMES,
CRAFTS AND MORE!**

Sponsored by Hood Memorial AME Zion and First UMC Belmont



November 3 at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

All Saints' Sunday

We will remember all those in our church who have died in the past year
and joined the Church Triumphant.

A Service of Unity and Peace

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



OUR STAFF

Carole Bertino | Administrative Assistant | carole@fumcbelmont.org

Doreen Collins | Director of Adult Discipleship | doreen@fumcbelmont.org

Heather Gaskins | Director of the Child Development Center | heather@fumcbelmont.org

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Jennifer Martin | Director of Children's Ministry | jennifer@fumcbelmont.org

Quanna McAlister | Director of Youth Ministries | quanna@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