

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

October 5, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

The Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

World Communion Sunday



The Mulberry Tree by Vincent van Gogh (1889)

.....
*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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Welcome to worship at First United Methodist Church of Belmont. Today we begin a new series, Outgrow, exploring the prayers and habits we sometimes cling to but may need to release in order to grow in our relationship with God. This first week we hear the disciples' plea, "Lord, increase our faith!" in Luke 17. Like them, we often assume we need more — more faith, more courage, more resources — before we can be obedient to Jesus' call. Yet Jesus reminds us that faith is not about plenty, but about risk of trust, even when it begins small.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

arr. Robert Lau

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 36:7-10

Doreen Collins

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

Continue your steadfast love to those who know you, and your salvation to the upright of heart!

We come to worship you, O God of life and light.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 73

"O Worship the King"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we think we need more—more faith, more money, more security—before we can be obedient to your call. Yet you tell us that even a mustard seed is enough. Forgive us when we hold back, waiting for greater strength or certainty. Teach us to trust you with all that we have, that we may walk in faithfulness with you. 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

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 17:5-10

Sam Pennington

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

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

"How Majestic is Your Name"

Tom Trenney

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.
You have set your glory in the heavens.
We lift our eyes to the wonders you have made.
Your fingers shaped the moon and stars
that light the night like the day,
yet you made us, Lord, to worship, serve and pray.
Who am I, that you care for me?
Who am I that you remember me?
Who am I that you would die for me?
Who am I that you have set me free?
You have crowned us with glory and with honor.
You made us just a little lower than the angels.
You have given us dominion over all the works of your hands;
Your flocks, your seas, your flowers, your trees, your lands.

Amy Dominov, J. Michael Beech, soloists

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

*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!***

TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Hymnal No. 17-18)

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

*BREAKING THE BREAD

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

"Holy as a Day is Spent"

Carrie Newcomer

Catherine Ragsdale, soloist

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EXTENDING THE TABLE

This morning, lay communion servers come forward to receive consecrated bread and juice from worship to share with homebound members who cannot be present today. We pray for them, remembering God's grace unites us as one within Christ's holy church. If you are aware of someone who would like to receive but cannot be present, speak with Pastor George after service.

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN NO. 452 *"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"*

*POSTLUDE *"Partita in B minor"* J. S. Bach

**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, New Members This morning we are blessed to welcome new members into our church family. Joining today at our 8:30 service are Janet Jones and Angie Wheeler, by Transfer of Membership from St. John's Baptist Church in Charlotte and by Profession of Faith. We rejoice to welcome Janet and Angie to our congregation! If you would like more information about joining our church family, please call or email Pastor George (704-249-0645 or george@fumcbelmont.org) or speak with him after the service today.

Today's Bulletin Cover features Vincent van Gogh's *The Mulberry Tree* (1889). Painted during a brief respite from a dark period in Van Gogh's life at the asylum in Saint-Rémy, the tree bursts with fiery colors and surging vitality through bold, swirling brushstrokes. Mulberry trees were known for their deep roots, strength, and resilience — qualities Van Gogh brings to life on the canvas. In Luke 17, Jesus says that even faith no bigger than a mustard seed is greater still, able to do what seems impossible. Faith is not about quantity or certainty, but about the life of God at work within us.

Our 2025 Stewardship and Generosity Campaign is also called OUTGROW. As we explore the prayers and habits God calls us to release in order to grow in faith, we also consider how we might outgrow fear, pride, or hesitation in order to grow into a deeper relationship with God through our generosity. Each step of giving is a step of trust, rooted not in abundance but in the God who provides. Campaign packets are available in the narthex at the information center. Information is also available online at fumcbelmont.org/outgrow. **Commitment Sunday is October 19**, when we will offer our 2026 Commitments to FUMC as an act of worship.

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 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.

GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

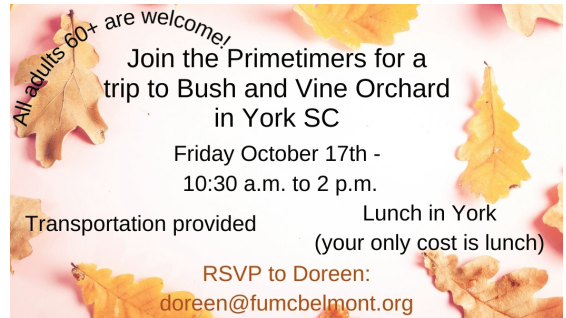
Sunday School

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



Trunk or Treat is Sunday, October 26 from 5:30-7:00. Please sign up to host a trunk at www.fumcbelmont.org/signup.

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, a lesson on priorities, and a service project making cat toys.

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

GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH



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



ITEMS

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



ITEMS

**HELP
NEEDED!**

Want to volunteer?



email Kristen Surratt

kristensurratt@gmail.com

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, October 5

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 5:00 p.m. Blessing of the Animals
- 5:30 p.m. Connect
- 5:30 p.m. Crossroads
- 6:00 p.m. Stories to Live Small Group

Monday, October 6

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Racial Healing Meeting

Tuesday, October 7

- 12:00 p.m. Congregational Care Minister Mtg.

Wednesday, October 8

- 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 9

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

Friday, October 10

Saturday, October 11

Sunday, October 12

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 5:30 p.m. Connect (Intergenerational Youth Night)

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

The friends and family of Colby Smith

The family of Cathy Hansen, Jeff Hansen's mother, who passed away

Annie Smith (Shanda Fangman's six year old niece)

Janet Matijkwi (Judy Kely)

Brook Rowland (Becky and Tom Fortenberry's daughter)

Amy (Lewis) Dominov and her parents Barry and Roberta after the death of her brother Peter

Nicole and Greg Stanforth

Ginger Feimster

Marshall Stowe, brother of Sally Bashant and Wes Stowe

Murphy Clark and family

For our ZOE communities in Rwanda, especially:
Jeannette 20, head of household, and siblings,
Esperance 14, Robeni 6, and Fiette 4

*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.

Blessing of the Animals Service Tonight at 5pm

Everyone is invited to bring your leashed,
loving pets to our
annual event



See you on the
backyard
playground for a
fun and furry
time!

PRIMETIMERS EVENT!

All "seniors"
and youth are
invited to
Connect

Youth-Full Night



Supper, Bingo, & intergenerational
small group Bible study

October 12

**5:30-7:30
in
Carpenter
Hall**



HELP FLOOD VICTIMS BUY A BUCKET

\$75 is the cost of making a flood bucket.
Consider donating \$75 to help us achieve
our goal to make 72 buckets this year on

MISSIONS NIGHT | Nov 5th 6:30

Donations can be made by check or
www.fumcbelmont.org/floodbuckets



OUR STAFF

Carole Bertino | Administrative Assistant | carole@fumcbelmont.org
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