

Tri-Angles

OCTOBER 2025

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



.....
***United in the Spirit, First United Methodist
Church of Belmont exists to be more like
Jesus Christ for our community and beyond***
.....

Hello
October

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." — 1 Peter 2:9

Dear FUMC Family,

One of my seminary ethics professors used to say that "the task of a theologian is to make it difficult to be a Christian." I've never forgotten that. As we've read First and Second Peter, and shared some of their powerful passages in worship this month, I've felt the weight of that truth. It is difficult to be a Christian. The first recipients of Peter's letters knew this, but he encouraged and spurred them on—just as he does for us today.

Peter reminds us that though we are "exiles and strangers" in this world, called to live in the world but not of it, we are also chosen by God. At the center of our faith is Jesus, the one rejected and crucified, who has now been raised from the dead. To follow him is to live according to the logic of the cross and resurrection, a way of life that only makes sense if Easter is true.

Peter presses us toward patience, echoing the patience of God who is merciful and longsuffering toward us. He warns us that the Christian life will not be made easier by any promise of comfort or convenience. If anyone tells you otherwise, run! For to be a Christian is to stake your life on a reality that the world cannot comprehend, and to keep trusting that God is faithful.

And yet, as difficult as it is, the Christian life is not impossible. As Peter writes, we have been "born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3). That living hope is what steadies us, carries us, and keeps us going. Our strength does not come from ourselves but from God, whose grace is always sufficient. John Wesley described grace not as a passive idea but as a dynamic power—a power that can sanctify, change, and transform us. We receive that power through the practices that open us to God's presence—prayer and worship, study and service, life shared together in community. In these ways, God faithfully meets us, strengthens us, and shapes us more and more into Christ's likeness.

Our calling, FUMC Belmont, is to be "means of grace" together: bearing one another's burdens, supporting, challenging, and encouraging each other as brothers and sisters in faith—so that, as hard as it might be, we can follow Christ with courage, faith, and conviction.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your pastor.

George



Prayer is where God shapes our hearts. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus meets those asking for more faith, those healed yet slow to give thanks, and those tempted to give up too soon. In each encounter, he calls us to outgrow the prayers that keep us comfortable and to grow into trust that acts, gratitude that overflows, and perseverance that does not lose heart. Join us this October as we explore how deeper prayer helps us grow and mature in Christ, deepens our faith in the face of an uncertain future, and opens our lives more fully to God's work in us and in the world.

October 5 – "Lord, Increase Our Faith!"

Luke 17:5–10: The prayer that wants more—but doesn't use what it already has.

Why are we always asking God for more faith? What if the real invitation is to be faithful with what we already have? Faith isn't certainty—it's acting even when you still have questions.

October 12 – "Where Are the Other Nine?"

Luke 17:11–19: The prayer we forget to pray—thank you.

Gratitude is more than a feeling—it's an action. One healed man turns back to thank Jesus. Will we remember to do the same?

October 19 – "Pray Always and Do Not Lose Heart"

Luke 18:1–8: The prayer that gives up too soon.

Jesus tells a story about a widow who refuses to stop knocking. Persistence in prayer isn't about wearing God down—it's about being opened up to God's transforming justice.



October 26 – Children's Sabbath (Observed)

The Rev. Gaston Warner, CEO of Zoe Empowers will be preaching. We are celebrating Children's Sabbath in connection with Zoe Sunday. It is a multifaith call to bear witness, to celebrate, and to act on behalf of children's lives, well-being, and futures. Our Alleluia Choir will sing at the 11 am service and children will be participating in leading worship throughout the morning services.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER

FALL Men's Meetings

Friday October 3
6:30 am - Youth House

CONTACT TONY WILSON
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
KINGSMTNTONY@YAHOO.COM

**Blessing of the Animals
Outdoor Service**

Bring your
dog, cat, or
other pet!

October 5
5:00 pm 🐾 Outdoor Pavilion

**PRIMETIMERS
EVENT! Youth-Full Night** October 12

Supper, Bingo, &
intergenerational
small group Bible
study

All "seniors"
and youth
are invited
to Connect
on Sunday,
October 12

5:30-7:30
in
Carpenter Hall

RUTH CIRCLE
Oct 13 at 7:00

Join us at the home of Elizabeth Maynard (1066 Assembly St.) for a night of fellowship. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

RSVP to Elizabeth
704-607-2223

Join the Primetimers
for a trip to
Bush and Vine Orchard
in York SC

Friday October 17th
10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Lunch in York (only cost is lunch)
Transportation provided

RSVP to Doreen:
doreen@fumcbelmont.org

JOIN THE LADIES OF SQUARE TWO
OCTOBER 26 - 5 TO 7 PM
TRUNK OR TREAT
OUT TO DINNER
AFTERWARDS

All ladies
welcome!

RSVP ALICE FARRIS:
AWFARRIS@ME.COM

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

Dahlia Grove

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.

**HELP FLOOD VICTIMS
BUY A BUCKET
MISSIONS NIGHT
NOV 5TH 6:30**

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

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

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



Ikizere "Hope"

Mamba Empowerment Group, Rwanda
Partnered with FUMC, Belmont,
January 2025 – December 2027

ZOE not-so-silent **AUCTION**

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Live Auction and Silent Auction Winners
Announced during Breakfast and Sunday School



BID ON AMAZING ITEMS!



1 Week at Folly Beach (3BR Condo)



Myrtle Beach Resort Getaway- March 19-22,2026
(2BR Condo at Marriott's Oceanwatch Resort)



Hyc0 Lake House Weekend Getaway (4BR/2BA)



Blackstone Grill Accessory Basket



Movie Night Under the Stars Basket



Taco Tuesday Kit



One-of-a-kind handcrafted and handmade items
(Nativity, bowls, blanket ladder, and more)



Oil Paintings



Cosmetics Basket



Dental Health Basket



And more! Don't miss your chance to win, learn
and make a difference.

JOIN THE FUN!



Place your SILENT bids on October 5, 12, and 19
in the narthex between 8 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Silent bidding ends October 19 at 12:30 p.m.



Come for breakfast and our LIVE auction on
October 26 - Gaston Warner from ZOE will be
joining us for the morning.



Celebrate and support children in Rwanda as we
spend the morning learning, bidding, and praying for
our Empowerment Groups.

Want to help make this event a
success? Check out how to help.



Questions? Email KristenSurratt@gmail.com

GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

Youth Sunday School in October - Our current study is called "Welcome All" and focuses on hospitality from both Old and New Testaments. We will examine our own idea of "welcoming all" and ask ourselves if a friend or stranger would experience the welcoming spirit of Christ in us.

Confirmation Kickoff Weekend - Our Confirmation class will kick off with a retreat at the church on October 24 and 25. The retreat begins with a taco dinner and an outing at an escape room at Xtreme Xscapes. Mentors will join us on Saturday to meet their confirmands at 10:30, and parents are invited to join us at 11:30. We ask for prayers from our congregation as our confirmands begin this meaningful journey in their faith formation.



WE HAD A SPLASHING GOOD TIME!

The youth of our church had an awesome start to the year on August 24th. We enjoyed a giant waterslide, games, and a cookout dinner. We look forward to many more adventures together this year. All sixth through twelfth graders are welcome to join us. We meet every Sunday night from 5:30 to 7:30. Email Quanna at Quanna@fumcbelmont.org for our fall calendar schedule.





Reflections from Our Piece of Cake Project

Last month our First Kids and families put together 22 birthday cake kits for Catherine's House and Least of These Carolinas. It was a beautiful night learning about compassion and generosity.



4th-5th Grade Crossroads

October 5 & 19

5:30-7:30

Supper, games,
lessons on priorities

First Kids Join Us For Prayer Pet Adoption



Wed, Oct 22
6:00-7:30
Carpenter Hall

Supper
Stuffed Pets
Prayer Fun

www.fumcbelmont.org/kids



Alleluia Choir

Practice Wednesdays @ 5:30

Performing Oct 5 @ 5:00 pm

Oct 26 @ 11:00 am

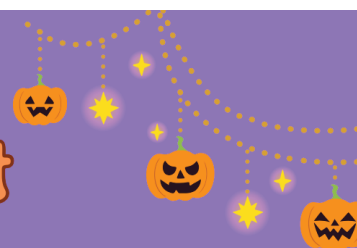
Email ellen@fumcbelmont.org to join



Join us October 26 for Trunk or Treat

FUMC Belmont Playground
Hot Dog Supper, Youth-led Games, 20 Trunks

Sign up to host a trunk at www.fumcbelmont.org/signup



THANK YOU

Dear FUMC Belmont,

Please know how much your hard work and dedication means to our neighbors in need. Through your help we have been able to assist numerous families and individuals with food, clothing, household items, medication, gas, utility bills, rent, and school supplies.

Thank you from BCO (Belmont Community Organization)



First United Methodist,

On behalf of the thousands of individuals we serve, I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous grant. Your kindness plays a crucial role in our mission at NC MedAssist, where we are dedicated to breaking down the barriers to health care.

We are so grateful for your thoughtfulness and support.

Sincerely, Brenda Vass
CEO, NC MedAssist

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October 1	Stephanie Beaty Madison Pruden Carsyn Redmond Allie Rice	October 11	Jake Jenkins Julie Martin John Earl McKee Chantz Redmond	October 24	Rodney Brown Katie Fangman Katie Gillespie Taylor Henkel
October 2	Melanie Beam	October 13	Reid McGraw		Melissa Williamson
October 4	Kelly Setzer		Micah Quispe	October 25	Carol Andrews Harrison Davis Price Feimster
October 5	Denise Andrews Nicholas Cochran	October 14	Thomas Pennington		Miranda Hartsell
October 6	William Hendricks Alex Lowrance Kaylee Thagard Reagan Wilson	October 15	Meredith Ramsey		Jeff Kalmbach Nicholas Latchana Thomas Redmond
October 8	Wes Stowe	October 16	Crystal Blanton Autumn Deal Ivy Tyson	October 26	Paloma Shrauder
October 9	Stacey Featherston Shawn Kelly Mary Moore Nancy Stamps	October 18	Kim Ingram	October 27	Parker Jones
		October 19	Kendall Karr Juliana Marr Joshua Ruiz	October 28	Drew Loper Mallory McCarn Peg Pinkerton
October 10	Betty Cauble Genora Cheshire Shelly Gray Jonathan Marr Derek Smith	October 20	Preston Taylor		Shane Redmond Oliver Surratt
		October 23	Kendyll Levra Amy Thagard	October 30	Elizabeth Mobley
				October 31	

THOUGHTS, PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

The family and friends of Justin Frady upon his passing
Anne Tria
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 Kelty)
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
Murphy Clark and family
Our ZOE communities in Rwanda

You can submit prayer requests to prayers@fumcbelmont.org

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



We will celebrate Commitment Sunday, returning our Commitment Cards for 2026, as an act of worship on October 19. Cards were mailed to homes in late September. They are also available at the information center or the church office, and can be completed online at fumcbelmont.org/card.



Global Ministries
The United Methodist Church

Learn more about how the United Methodist Church collaborates with partners in more than 100 countries to connect the church in mission and alleviate human suffering. And see how you can get involved!
www.umcmmission.org

Rev. Sally Queen
Installation as District Superintendent
October 26 ~ 3 PM at Aldersgate (Shelby)

A note from Sally: You are invited as Bishop Carter officially installs me as your District Superintendent. We will be gathering at a church that is central to my call; it is where I had my first appointment, where I preached my sermon for ordination, and where two of my children were baptized. If you can join us, please bring a small container of water from your area to be used as part of the service.

**HOOD MEMORIAL
PORT-A-PIT
FUNDRAISER**

Friday Nov. 7th

Place Order at the information desk or call Hood Memorial to pre-order 980-283-7007

****Pickup at Hood Memorial****
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday Nov. 7th
215 Sacco Street, Belmont

**Chicken \$15
Ribs \$20**

**Ribs are Pre-Order
Only!!**

