

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

September 14, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

The Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost



Moses Leading the People by Arthur Boyd, 1947

.....
***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 continue our fall series exploring our 2025 scripture focus, the letters of 1–2 Peter. Written to believers scattered and under pressure, these letters remind the church of its hope, calling, and endurance in Christ. In today's passage, we hear the bold image of God's people as "living stones," built into a spiritual house with Christ as the cornerstone. In a world that isolates and divides, we discover the deeper truth: we belong—to God and to one another. Whoever you are and however you come, know that your presence enriches our life together. We're glad you are here!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"How Firm a Foundation"

arr. Tom Birchwood

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 118

Quanna McAlister

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

Once we were no people, but now we are God's people.

Once we had not received mercy, but now we have received mercy.

Come, beloved of God—chosen and precious in Christ.

Let us rejoice, for this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 559

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***Merciful God, you call us your own, yet we wander and forget who we are.
You build us into a living temple, yet we treat faith as a private refuge.
You join us together in Christ, yet we choose division over unity, pride over
love. You pour out mercy, yet we are slow to show mercy to others.
Forgive us, O God. Claim us once more as your people, that we may belong
fully to you and to one another. By your Spirit, restore us and reshape
us, that our life together may proclaim your marvelous light. 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

The Rev. Ellen Robison

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Peter 2:2-10

Tresca McSwain

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.*

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

"Come to the Living Stone"

Steven C. Warner

Come to the living stone, Christ our Lord who is our strength.
Rejected by others but chosen by God! Hallelujah!
Built up as living stones into a holy house,
we are a priesthood created for praise to our God above.
We are a nation made to glorify the Lord, the living God;
ours is the joy to resound and proclaim the glorious works of God.
Out of the darkness God has called us into the light, a glorious light;
once we were lost and alone in this world, now we belong to God.
Once we were not within the mercy of our God, the loving God,
Now is the gift of a promise unfurled; God's mercy for the world!
Give praise to God above, and Jesus Christ the Lord, Redeemer Lord,
And to the Spirit who dwells in our hearts, now and forever more!

Small Ensemble
Brian Cripe, Percussion

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. 368

"My Hope Is Built"

*POSTLUDE

"Jesus Shall Reign"

arr. Eleanor Whitsett

**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 *Moses Leading the People* (1947) by Australian painter Arthur Boyd (1920–1999). Boyd, one of the most significant modern artists of Australia, was known for his vivid, expressive style and for reimagining biblical stories with raw, contemporary power. In this work, Moses is depicted guiding a weary, vulnerable people through wilderness—an image of deliverance and identity first spoken at Sinai: "you shall be my treasured possession... a holy nation" (Exodus 19). Our scripture today, 1 Peter 2:2–10, echoes that same covenant language, now extended to the church: "you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people." Notice Boyd's bold, almost turbulent brushstrokes and earthy tones, which heighten the sense of struggle and perseverance. They remind us that belonging to God is not abstract but lived out amid trial, exile, and hope.

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.



BLOOD DRIVE TODAY | 10 – 2

**ALL DONORS WILL RECEIVE A
\$20 EGIFT CARD, FREE T-SHIRT
AND WELLNESS CHECK**





SAFER SANCTUARIES

Nurturing Trust within Faith Communities

All persons leading our children or youth are required to attend a Safe Sanctuaries training. We are committed to providing a safe environment for all in our ministries. Our next training is:

September 21, 10am
Carpenter Hall Classroom

Email jenniferefumcbelmont.org to register.

GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

Sunday School

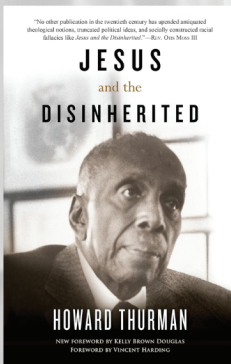
Disciple: If you are wondering what we teach the youth in confirmation classes visit the Disciple class. They will talk about essential lessons of the Christian faith and Methodism.

Route 66: *"What's God Up To: Bible Stories Through New Eyes."* by A.J. Levine

Salt & Light Fellowship: A place to have real conversations and build relationships.

Wanderers: *"Twelve Extraordinary Women"* by John MacArthur

Reading Women Book Group – *Happy Land* by Dolen Perkins-Valdez. We begin the year on Monday, September 15 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. We will then meet on Zoom the second Tuesday of each month in October through May. For more information, contact Ellen at ellen@fumcbelmont.org



Fall Adult Small Group

Six week study

Beginning September 17 or 18

Two classes offered:

Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday at 11 a.m.

Hatred does not empower--it decays. Only through self-love and love of one another can God's justice prevail.

Sign up at fumcbelmont.org/signup



Experience the thrill of *Little Shop of Horrors*

A PLANT'S WILD ADVENTURE

A thrilling show with laughter, love,
and a quirky plant!

Music directed by our own Minister
of Worship and Arts, Ellen Robison

Contact Doreen for tickets doreen@fumcbelmont.org

**AT
THEATRE
CHARLOTTE**

Sunday
September 28
at 2:30 pm
Tickets \$34. each

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**



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

GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

September 17

- **5:30-6:00 First kids ages 4-5th grade** are invited to join Alleluia Choir.
Email ellen@fumcbelmont.org to join.
- **6:00-7:30 First Kids** are invited to our Piece of Cake Project. We'll eat supper together and assemble birthday cake kits for Catherine's House. Visit www.fumcbelmont.org/kids for more details.

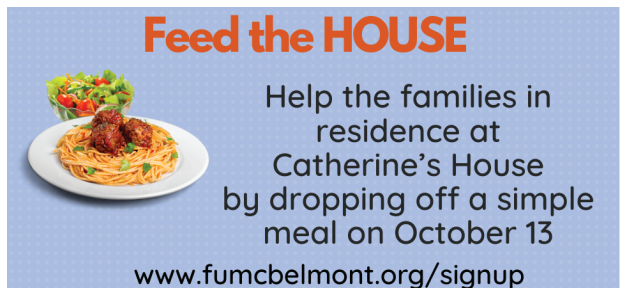
GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

Engage Sunday School - All youth are invited each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth House. Currently we are studying how Jesus' presence is found in movies, tv, and games. Beginning September 21 we will begin a new study called "Welcome All." We will read the Old and New Testament as we explore our own idea of welcoming all and displaying the spirit of Christ in our everyday lives.



OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

For the entire month of September, the youth group is collecting the following items for donation: spray cheese, unsweetened apple sauce, canned pumpkin, low sodium chicken broth, and soft dog treats. We are collecting on September 14, 21, 28, and at the Blessing of the Animals event on October 5 at 5 pm. We will have a bin in the narthex.



WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, September 14

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. OneBlood Blood Drive
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 5:30 p.m. Connect

Monday, September 15

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Tuesday, September 16

Wednesday, September 17

- 5:30 p.m. Alleluia Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Piece of Cake Project (First Kids)
- 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, September 18

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

Friday, September 19

Youth Fall Retreat

Saturday, September 20

Youth Fall Retreat

Sunday, September 21

Youth Fall Retreat

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Safe Sanctuaries Training
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 5:30 p.m. Crossroads (4th/5th Grade)

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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 Keltly)

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

The family of Paul Wallace, Judy Harris' brother, who passed away

Halo Wilson

Adam Lowrance

Trevis and Adrian Lunsford

The family of Humpy Wheeler, Angie Wheeler's brother, who passed away

Anne Haxton, Dottie Moore's mother

Doug Moody

The Family of Paul Kitchens upon his death (Dawn Finn's uncle)

Marshall Stowe, brother of Sally Bashant and Wes Stowe

Murphy Clark and family

For our ZOE communities in Rwanda, especially:

Solange 16, head of household, and siblings,

Albert 12 and Michel 9

*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.



Sunday, October 26, 2025

TIME: during Sunday breakfast and Sunday School

TICKETS ARE FREE ALL AGES WELCOME NURSERY AVAILABLE

GET READY! BIDDING STARTS OCTOBER 5th

Silent auction baskets will be in the narthex for

3 consecutive weeks prior to the auction

Beach Condos Lake House Family Fun Cosmetics Artwork

Bidding on silent auction baskets will be final on October 19 at 12:30 PM

Live Auction Items will be auctioned at breakfast October 26th

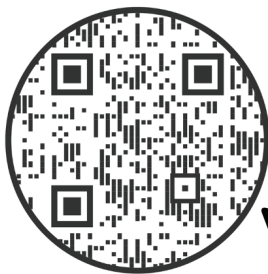
HELP

NEEDED!

Want to volunteer?

email Kristen Surratt

kristensurratt@gmail.com



**Want to
DONATE?
amazon list**



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

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Ellen Robison | Minister of Worship and the Arts | ellen@fumcbelmont.org

Mark Sutton | Business Administrator | mark@fumcbelmont.org