

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

September 14, 2025 – 8:30 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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www.fumcbelmont.org



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!

PRAISE AND PRAYER

*OPENING SONG

"This is the Day"

CCLI Song # 7195146

*PRAYER

Quanna McAlister

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

The Rev. Ellen Robison

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Peter 2:2-10

The Rev. Kim Ingram

SERMON

The Rev. George Ragsdale

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

As a forgiven and reconciled child of God, you are invited to give your offerings and gifts to God by placing them in the offering plate when you come forward to receive communion.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*THE PEACE

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

*TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

*BREAKING THE BREAD (gluten free option available)

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

"The Church"

CCLI Song # 7245762

For the different ways we see You
For all the ways You move
All the colors and expressions
Oh the beauty of Your Church
What a masterful reflection
When we are unified
Truly celebrate each other
And let go of our pride
That You would have a spotless bride
Oh praise the Father praise the Son
Holy Spirit make us one
Every nation tribe and tongue
This is our cry Your Kingdom come
We surrender our agendas
Our preferences our plans
Would You help us work together
To be Your feet and hands

Our heart is just to know You
To show them who You are
The Gospel's still the answer
For every searching heart
Brothers sisters under the banner of Your Name
Mothers fathers under the banner of Your Name
All Your children all for the glory of Your Name
Every story of revival
Every miracle we've seen
It's a glimpse of what is coming
So by faith help us believe
And we know the day is coming
When we will see Your face
Every knee will bow before You
And every heart will say
Lord hear our cry Your will be done
This is our cry Your Kingdom come

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG

"Cornerstone"

CCLI Song # 6158927

**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! – All donors will receive a \$20 egift card, free t-shirt and a 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 jennifer@fumcbelmont.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 – *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman. Two class are offered: Wednesdays beginning September 17 at 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays beginning September 18 at 11:00 a.m. Sign up at fumcbelmont.org/signup.



Experience the thrill of Little Shop of Horrors

A PLANT'S WILD ADVENTURE

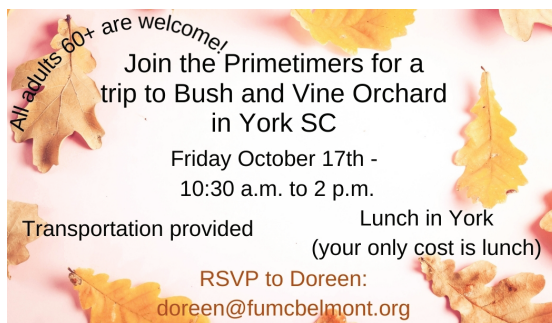
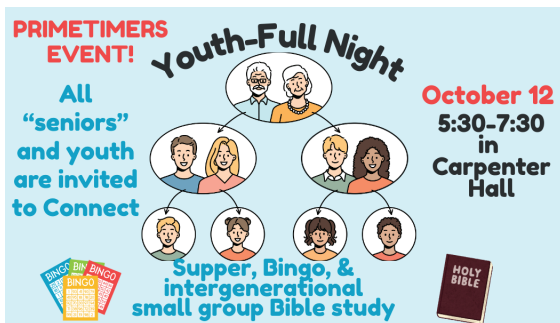
A thrilling show with laughter, love,
and a quirky plant!

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



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.

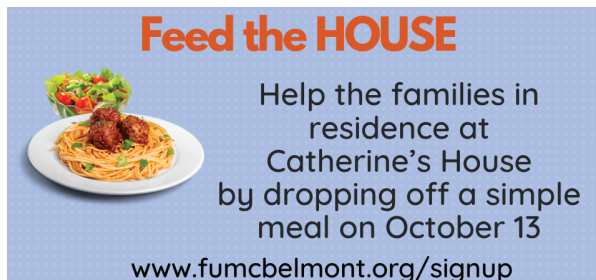
GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

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 7, 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 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
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.



ZOE



not-so-silent

AUCTION

Breakfast

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

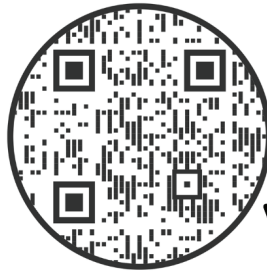
HELP

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

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