

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

September 21, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.
The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost



Icon of the Resurrection

.....
***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



Welcome to worship at First United Methodist Church of Belmont! Whoever you are and however you come, your presence is a gift to us. We're glad you are here! This morning we continue our fall series exploring the letters of First and Second Peter, which call us to live with hope and courage. Today Peter reminds us that on Easter morning Christ descended even to the darkest depths on His way out of the tomb. This is the hope of our faith: a way out, a way through, a way forward—where the world sees only endings. Peter imagines this hope as the ground not only of our faith but also the logic upon which to build our lives. Will we live in such a way that our choices and our courage only make sense because Jesus has been crucified and raised?

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"Alla Siciliana"

Alexander Guilmant

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jennifer Martin

Christ has gone before us, even to the grave.

He has broken the gates of death and opened the way of life.

Christ is the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

We fix our eyes on Him, our hope and our salvation.

Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Come, let us worship the God of life.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 529

"How Firm a Foundation"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of life, you call us to live with courage and hope, yet we confess how often we shrink back in fear. You invite us to bear witness to Christ, yet we keep silence when our words are needed. You lead us in the way of resurrection, yet we cling to habits of death. Forgive us, merciful Lord. Descend into the depths of our sin, raise us up by your grace, and order our steps in your ways, through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Peter 3:13-22

J. Michael Beech

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

"Order My Steps"

Glenn Burleigh

Order my steps in Your word dear Lord
Lead me, guide me everyday
Send Your anointing, Father I pray
Order my steps in Your word
Humbly, I ask Thee to teach me Your will
While You are working, help me be still
Though satan is busy, God is real
Order my steps in Your word
Please, order my steps in Your word
I want to walk worthy
My calling to fulfill

Please order my steps Lord
And I'll do Your blessed will
The world is ever changing
But You are still the same
If You order my steps
I'll praise Your name
Show me how to walk in Your word
Show me how to talk in Your word
When I need a brand new song to sing
Show me how to let Your praises ring
In Your word

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. 519

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

*POSTLUDE

"Rigaudon"

George F. Handel

**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 the *Icon of the Resurrection*, also known as Christ's Descent into Hades, a central image of Easter in the Orthodox tradition. Painted with vivid colors and layered symbolism, it shows Christ breaking the golden gates of hell, now shattered in half beneath His feet, with Death bound in chains at the bottom of the abyss. He lifts Adam and Eve from their graves while saints and prophets look on, bearing witness to God's redeeming work across all generations. Around Him shines a radiant mandorla—an almond-shaped field of divine light that reveals God's glory breaking into the darkest place. Echoing 1 Peter's vision of Christ proclaiming good news to the imprisoned spirits, this icon reminds us that no depth is beyond the reach of resurrection 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.

GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

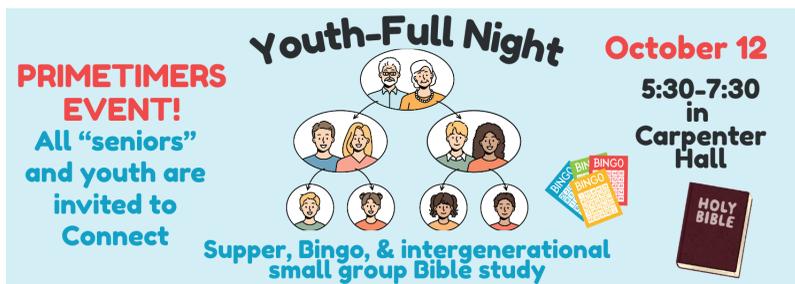
Sunday School

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



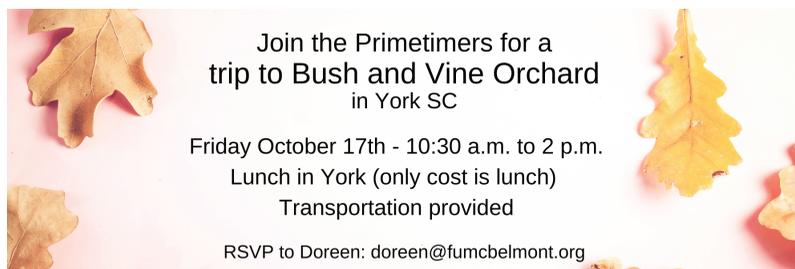
Youth-Full Night **October 12**
5:30-7:30
in
Carpenter
Hall

PRIMETIMERS
EVENT!
All "seniors"
and youth are
invited to
Connect

Supper, Bingo, & intergenerational
small group Bible study

HOLY BIBLE

The flyer features a central graphic of a family tree with icons of people of various ages. To the right, there are icons of bingo cards and a Holy Bible.



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

The flyer is decorated with several autumn leaves in shades of orange and yellow.

GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

September 24

• **5:30-6:00 First kids ages 4-5th grade** are invited to join Alleluia Choir.

Email ellen@fumcbelmont.org to join.

GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

Connect on Sept 28: 5:30-7:30 - It will be a SWEET NIGHT when half of the youth bake dog treats for the Blessing of the Animals and the other half bake cookies for ourselves! We will all enjoy the human cookies. We will also wrap up our Bible study on HOPE. All youth sixth grade and up are encouraged to join us.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE



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.



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**



WEEKLY CALENDAR

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)

Monday, September 22

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Tuesday, September 23

Wednesday, September 24

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, September 25

11:00 a.m. Small Group - Jesus and the Disinherited

11:45 a.m. Community Cafe'

Friday, September 26

Saturday, September 27

Sunday, September 28

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

12:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting

1:00 p.m. Primetimers to "Little Shop of Horrors" musical

5:30 p.m. Connect

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

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

Marshall Stowe, brother of Sally Bashant and Wes Stowe

Murphy Clark and family

For our ZOE communities in Rwanda, especially:

Vanessa 17, head of household, and siblings,

Fabrice 15, Aline 12 and Pasience 6

*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.

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.

PET SUPPLY DRIVE

FUMCB youth group is collecting specific food items for our furry friends in need!



Drop off Days: Sept. 28 and during Blessing of the Animals event on Oct. 5th

BENEFITTING GASTON COUNTY ANIMAL CARE AND ENFORCEMENT CENTER

Blessing of the Animals Outdoor Service



Bring your dog, cat, or other pet!



October 5 / 5:00 pm  Outdoor Pavilion

A book cover for 'Next Month's Book: Patricia' by Cecilia Costello. The cover features a woman's portrait and the text 'The Ordinary, the Sacred, the Holy' and 'Media Perspectives'.

STORIES TO LIVE EXPLORING SPIRITUAL MEMOIRS

Sunday, October 5 at 6:00

Sign up today by emailing george@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