

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

September 21, 2025 – 8:30 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

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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?

PRAISE AND PRAYER

*OPENING SONG

"Christ Be Magnified"

CCLI Song # 7139866

*PRAYER

Jennifer Martin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Peter 3:13-22

The Rev. Richard Randolph

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

"Let it Be a Hallelujah"

CCLI Song # 7101300

Take my life and let it be
My soul devoted Lord to Thee
Take my moments and all my days
Make them endless praise
Take my heart and let it move
In spirit and in truth
For the glory of Your name
With every breath that's in me
With every song and melody
Let it be a hallelujah
In every breaking moment
In every blessing that You give
Let it be a hallelujah
All my hopes and all my fears
Every trial every tear
In the chaos You remain

Faithful all the way
Through the victories
Through the scars
Let me echo who You are
For the glory of Your name
Nothing but a hallelujah to You God
Let it be a hallelujah
All my life a hallelujah
Let it be a hallelujah to You God
With every breath that's in me
With every song and melody
Let it be let it be oh
In every breaking moment
In every blessing that You give
Let it be a hallelujah oh I pray oh

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG

"Firm Foundation (He Won't)"

CCLI Song # 7188203

**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.

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: *"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



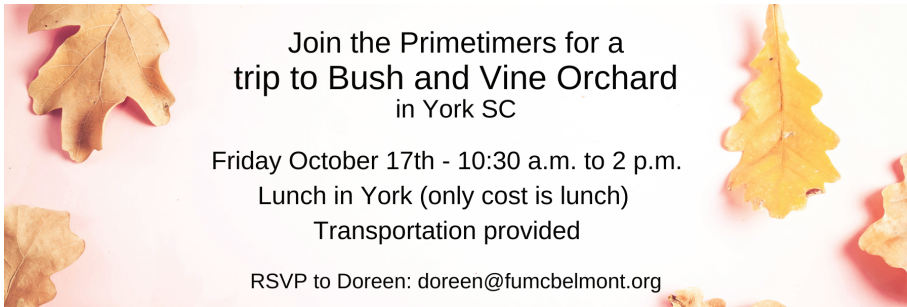
**PRIMETIMERS
EVENT!**
All "seniors"
and youth are
invited to
Connect

Youth-Full Night

October 12
5:30-7:30
in
**Carpenter
Hall**

**Supper, Bingo, & intergenerational
small group Bible study**

The poster features a central graphic of a family tree with eight people in circles. To the right are illustrations of a bingo card 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 poster has a light pink background with several autumn leaves scattered around the text.

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

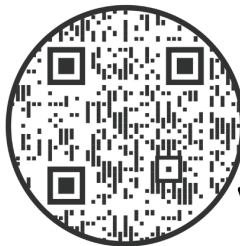
Bidding on silent auction baskets will be final on October 19 at 12:30 PM

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.

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



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
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 Mark Sutton | Business Administrator | mark@fumcbelmont.org