

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

September 28, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost



The Prodigal Son by Eugène Burnand

.....
*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 conclude our Hope Rising series exploring the letters of First and Second Peter. In today's passage, Peter speaks into our longing and frustration with the state of the world. We wonder, where is God? Why does justice seem delayed? Peter reminds us that God is not absent but patient—mercifully giving space for grace to grow. As we worship, may we find strength to trust God's promises, patience to live with one another, and hope to keep walking toward the future God has promised.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

arr. Phillip Keveren

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 130

Quanna McAlister

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.

My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.

O people of God, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 140

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we are impatient people. We want quick fixes and instant answers. When justice takes too long, we grow cynical.

When our prayers seem unanswered, we lose heart. When life feels slow, we turn to distractions that do not satisfy. Forgive us, Lord. Teach us to

trust your promises, to rest in your mercy, and to grow in grace as we wait for your new creation. In Jesus Christ, who is our salvation, we pray. 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

2 Peter 3:8-15a, 18

James Harris

SERMON

The Rev. George Ragsdale

SILENT REFLECTION

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Paul and Liberty Salata

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Cooper Douglas Salata

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

"To Everything There is a Season"

Ed Harris

To everything there is a season,
To everything there is a time;
To every purpose under heaven
There is a time, a proper time.
To live and die, to plant and harvest.
To kill and heal, to wreck and build;
To cry and laugh, to mourn and dance.

There is a time, a proper time.
A time to cast away to bring together,
A time to be embraced, to be alone;
To find and lose, to keep and give,
There is a time, there is a time.
To tear apart, to mend together,
To be silent, and to speak;

To love and hate, for war and peace,
There is a time, a proper time.
To everything there is a time.

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. 534

"Be Still, My Soul"

*POSTLUDE

"Creation's Praise"

Dennis Elie

**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!

Welcome, New Members This morning we are blessed to welcome new members into our church family. Joining today at our 8:30 service is Susan Ray, by Transfer of Membership from The Pointe Church in Belmont. Joining today at our 11:00 service by Profession of Faith are Paul and Liberty Salata. We rejoice to welcome Susan, the Salatas and their son, Cooper, to our congregation! If you would like more information about joining our church family, please call or email Pastor George (704-249-0645 or george@fumcbelmont.org) or speak with him after the service today.

Receiving the Sacrament of Holy Baptism this morning are Cooper Salata, son of Paul and Liberty Salata. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome Cooper as a member of the family of Christ.

Today's Bulletin Cover features *The Prodigal Son* by Swiss painter Eugène Burnand, an artist of the late 19th and early 20th centuries known for his detailed realism and deeply sympathetic portrayals of biblical stories. Trained in Geneva and Paris, Burnand combined academic technique with a tender eye for human emotion. In this work, the father stands on a balcony, gazing into the distance as he waits, hopes, and longs for his son's return. The stillness of his figure conveys both the ache of absence and the steadfastness of love. The image invites us to see in the father's watchfulness a glimpse of God's own mercy and patience.

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!

Youth-Full Night

All "seniors" and youth are invited to Connect

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

Supper, Bingo, & intergenerational small group Bible study



All adults 60+ are welcome!

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.

Transportation provided Lunch in York (your only cost is lunch)

RSVP to Doreen: doreen@fumcbelmont.org



GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

October 1

- **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 Tonight: It will be a SWEET NIGHT at youth tonight when half of the youth bake dog treats for the Blessing of the Animals and the other half bake cookies for ourselves! We will also wrap up our Bible study on HOPE. Please join us!

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

Support Helene Recovery — This morning our WNC Annual Conference is remembering the anniversary of Hurricane Helene by receiving a special offering to support the ongoing recovery efforts. To contribute, mark your offering "Hurricane Relief". You can learn more and contribute online at fumcbelmont.org/helene.

Serve as an Offering Teller – Looking for an easy but important way to serve? Offering Tellers work in teams to count the Sunday offering after the 11:00 service, helping us be good stewards of the gifts God provides. Training will be offered on October 12 following the 11:00 service. To learn more or sign up, contact Russell Tindall at rbtindall@gmail.com.

Stock the BCO — Drop off date is October 5th. We collect non-perishable food to help those without adequate food resources on the first Sunday of each month.



Sunday, October 26, 2025 - 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



WEEKLY CALENDAR

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

Monday, September 29

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Lay Leadership Committee

Tuesday, September 30

Wednesday, October 1

- 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, October 2

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

Friday, October 3

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Meeting

Saturday, October 4

Sunday, October 5

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 5:00 p.m. Blessing of the Animals
- 5:30 p.m. Connect
- 5:30 p.m. Crossroads
- 6:00 p.m. Stories to Live Small Group

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Anne Tria

The family and friends of Justin Frady upon his passing

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

Doug Moody

Marshall Stowe, brother of Sally Bashant and Wes Stowe

Murphy Clark and family

For our ZOE communities in Rwanda, especially:

Xavier 17, head of household, and sibling,

Olivier 16

*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.



Blessing of the Animals Outdoor Service



Bring your
dog, cat, or
other pet!

October 5 / 5:00 pm 🐾 Outdoor Pavilion



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
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