

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

September 7, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.

The Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost



Saint Peter by Marco Zoppo, 1468

.....
*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 begin a new series, **Hope Rising**, as we turn together to the letters of 1 and 2 Peter. Written to scattered and anxious Christians in an uncertain world, these letters remind us from the very beginning who we are and who we are becoming. In today's reading we hear Peter's opening blessing: in Christ we have been given a living hope, an inheritance that is "imperishable, undefiled, and unfading." Nothing—no trial, no doubt, no suffering—can take it away. This hope enlivens us, sustains us, shapes us, and calls us to joyful obedience and faithful living.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

*OPENING SONG

"A Thousand Hallelujahs"

CCLI Song # 7190270

*PRAYER

Doreen Collins

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

Jennifer Martin

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Peter 1:3-9

Leigh Nance

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

"Living Hope"

CCLI Song # 7106807

How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished the end is written
Jesus Christ my living hope
Who could imagine so great a mercy
What heart could fathom such boundless grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ my living hope
Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me

You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope
Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
Jesus Yours is the victory

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG

"You Keep Hope Alive"

CCLI Song # 7125876

**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 *Saint Peter*, painted by the Italian artist Marco Zoppo around 1468 and now in the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. Peter is almost always shown with keys because of Jesus' words in Matthew 16: "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven." The keys symbolize not only authority, but also the assurance of God's faithfulness in Christ. Through him, the way to the kingdom of heaven is opened, and God's promises are held secure. As Peter's own letter reminds us, we are given a living hope and an inheritance that cannot fade—a gift held safe in God's keeping, and a source of strength for our faith today.

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.



BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, September 14 | 10 - 2

SIGNUP

**@ ONEBLOOD.ORG/DONATE
(USE CODE 77697)**

**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 –

Jesus and the Disinherited by Howard Thurman. Two class 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.

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**





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

**AT
THEATRE
CHARLOTTE**

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

Contact Doreen for tickets doreen@fumcbelmont.org

GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Today, 5:30-7:30 Crossroads, a special group for 4th-5th graders, kicks off in the Old Fellowship Hall. We will play games, talk Bible, eat supper and complete a service project for the Society of Saint Andrew.

September 17, 5:30-6:00 First kids ages 4-5th grade are invited to join Alleluia Choir. Email ellen@fumcbelmont.org to join.

September 17, 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.

Today - 5:30-7:30 - All youth are invited to Connect tonight, where we will begin a small group Bible study centered around HOPE. Youth will also receive their new t-shirt and prayer bookmark.

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.

Feed the **HOUSE**



Help the families in
residence at
Catherine's House
by dropping off a simple
meal on September 22,
or October 13

www.fumcbelmont.org/signup

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, September 7

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Parent Meeting
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 5:30 p.m. Connect
- 5:30 p.m. Crossroads
- 6:00 p.m. Stories to Live Small Group

Monday, September 8

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Service & Missions Mtg

Tuesday, September 9

Wednesday, September 10

Thursday, September 11

- 11:45 a.m. Community Cafe'

Friday, September 12

Saturday, September 13

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

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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:
Shemeya 16, head of household, and siblings,
Clarisse 14 and Didier 10

*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.



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

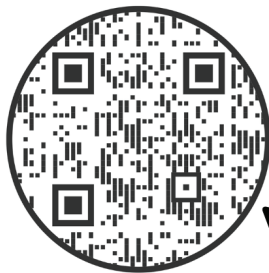
Bidding on silent auction baskets will be final on October 19 at 12:30 PM

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