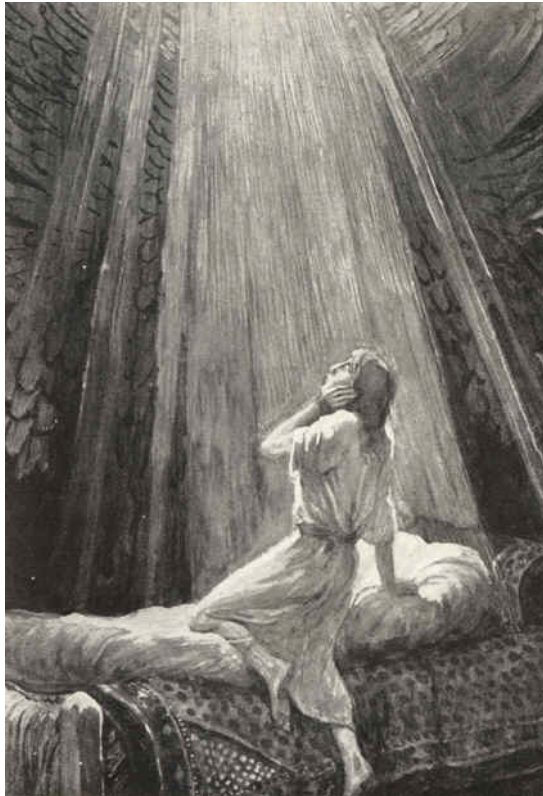


FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 18, 2016 – 11:00 a.m.



The Voice of the Lord, James Tissot, 1836-1902

.....
*United in the Spirit, First United Methodist Church of Belmont exists
to be more like Jesus Christ for our community and beyond*
.....

REV. GEORGE RAGSDALE, PASTOR
807 South Point Road // Belmont, NC 28012
P: 704-825-2106 // F: 704-825-2176
www.fumcbelmont.org

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP Based on Psalm 98

Katie Fangman

Sing a new song!

Make a joyful noise!

Let the sea roar,

And let the sky shimmer.

Let the earth be glad,

And let the children run and roll.

Let the old laugh with deep wisdom.

Let the young listen, wide-eyed and wondering.

And let us worship God.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 61

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

*OPENING PRAYER

Colin McAlister

Open our ears, O God, that we might hear you speaking to us in this moment.

Open our ears, O God, that we might listen for your voice calling to us.

Open our ears, O God, that we might understand your promises to us.

Open our hearts, O God, that we might enter into the love you offer us.

Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Shout It Loud"

DeShatler/Craig
Godsquad and Sonshine Club

SHARING OUR FAITH WITH THE CHILDREN

Stacey Featherston

Children may come as we sing *"Jesus Loves Me"*.

Please remember to bring your ZOE offerings.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON (Pg. 247) 1 Samuel 3: 1-20

Katelin Vaher

*This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.***

SERMON

Rev. George Ragsdale

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF REFLECTION No. 454

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES TO SECOND GRADERS

Receiving at 8:30 a.m. Henry Davis ~ Jake Jenkins ~ Carsyn Redmond ~ Olivia Teders
Receiving at 11:00 a.m. Sophia Cochran ~ Hailey Curfman ~ Danny Larck

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Kristen Surratt

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

"Speak, O Lord"

Getty

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your Truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in Your likeness;
That the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us Lord, full obedience, Holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail; let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time, that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises; and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, 'til Your church is built, and the earth is filled with Your glory.

*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!**

*Prayer of Dedication

The Lord's Prayer (Hymnal Pg. 895)

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT No. 463

"Lord, Speak to Me"

****Those who are able please stand.***

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

- Pam Martin
- Mark & Deb Baxa
- Debbie Ballard (mother of Chelsea & Josh Elmore)
- Tom Bingham and family (friend of Thomas & Heather Taylor)
- Kaylan Cuthbertson (friend of Renee Painter)
- Sam & Esther Garneau (friends of Shawn & Danielle Kelly)
- The Family of Shawn Kelly upon the passing of his grandfather in Michigan and for his grandmother who has been hospitalized
- Shannon Sauerwein and her friends daughter, Sarah
- Amber and Joan (Kristen Surratt's step-sister and step-mom)
- Becky Cardwell (Rita Greene's sister in-law)
- Ellen Adams niece's son, Brody
- The 9/11 Victims
- Tom Haggai (Bradley Haggai)
- Glenda Brown Hinnant (mother of Amanda Beaty)
- Ginger Feimster

If you have an emergency or have a confidential prayer request, please contact George at the church office (704-825-4187) or his cell (704-249-0645). The names above will remain on the prayer list for one month unless otherwise notified.

WELCOME: We're glad you chose to worship with us this morning. We invite you to check out the opportunities we have for children, youth and adults of all ages and stages of life. We offer ministries and a community of faith that will help challenge and encourage you as together we seek to grow as faithful followers of Jesus Christ, serving God and our neighbor in all that we do.

VISITORS: Stop by our welcome table in the narthex as you leave today to receive a small gift and more information about our church. We would love to know more about you, so please sign the attendance pad as it is passed down your pew and share your contact information so that we can be in touch with you.

CELEBRATE CHILDREN: This morning we celebrate the children of our church in worship. Our second graders are receiving their Bibles in both worship services this morning. Children are also leading us in prayer, song and readings during worship. This day, and every day, let us be thankful for the ministry and contributions of the children in our church family.

PIZZA WITH THE PASTOR: Are you interested in learning more about FUMC Belmont? Guests and newcomers who would like to know more about our church are invited to join Pastor George and other members of our staff and congregation for an informal pizza luncheon next Sunday following our 11:00 a.m. service in Carpenter Hall. To RSVP, email george@fumcbelmont.org

GREETERS AND USHERS, join us next Sunday, September 25 at 10:00 a.m. in Carpenter Hall for a special training session. We'll review and discuss our hospitality and welcoming ministry for all who visit our church.

COLLEGE ADDRESSES NEEDED: Please send updated college mailing addresses (even if it remains the same year to year) to sara@fumcbelmont.org

SMALL GROUPS BEGINNING IN OCTOBER: Pastor George will be facilitating Christian Believer, a 30-week study, beginning October 3rd from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Email George@fumcbelmont.org for class resources and to register. Kristen Surratt will be facilitating Disciple I, a 30-week study that guides participants through the Bible giving equal attention to the Old and New Testaments. For books and to register, email for either the Tuesday evening 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. class or Wednesday mornings from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Disciple classes will begin October 4th and 5th.

LAITY SOUP LUNCHEON: Join us for a soup lunch on October 2nd to celebrate the wonderful work of our laity. Email Kristen@fumcbelmont.org to R.S.V.P. Please include the number of people who will be attending when you reply.

PASTOR GEORGE'S WEEKLY EMAIL: Pastor George sends a weekly email, delivered to your inbox on Friday that will include brief devotional thought to prepare for Sunday's worship, congregational news, and other items of interest. If you'd like to receive this email, send your email address to george@fumcbelmont.org. Or, text PASTORMAIL to 22828.

COMMITTING YOUR PRAYERS TO THE CHURCH



WHAT IS PRAYER?

Many of us are familiar with prayers like The Lord's Prayer and those that we say during worship. We also offer prayers over our meals at the dinner table. However, there are a variety of different prayer practices available to us. Reading Scripture is a prayer practice, a time when we are listening to God and reading God's word. If you are uncertain where to begin with reading Scripture, the Psalms are a wonderful starting point! There are other prayer practices like Lectio Divina, Centering Prayer, the Ignatius Examen, and journaling. There are rote prayers and there are also prayers that are simply thought of on the spot. We can experience prayer both through individual practice, as well as, communal prayer. Consider trying one new prayer practice, taking just a step in your prayer life. If you are familiar with each of these, try dedicating a set amount of time, each day, to deepening your prayer practices.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER IN OUR CHURCH

- † Wednesdays– Join Valerie Elrod and Martha Taylor at noon for an hour of prayer at our church. Valerie and Martha have been faithfully praying in our prayer room for 14 years and are hopeful that more people will join them.
- † During Lent and Advent our church hosts a pray-where-you-are opportunity. We also offer a variety of creative ways for you to pray in Carpenter Hall during Holy Week.
- † Participate in a Disciple or Christian Believer class to encourage daily reading of Scripture.

ENCOURAGING OUR YOUTH TO PRAY

- † Participate in the Advent and Lenten prayer opportunities.
- † Find a prayer partner who you can commit to praying for over the coming year. Support one another and hold each accountable in your effort to be more like Jesus.
- † Prayerfully read and memorize this verse from the Gospel of Luke: "But he said to them, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God; for I was sent for this purpose."
-Luke 4:43

NEW WAYS TO PRAY WITH YOUR CHILDREN

- † Breath prayer – Help your children take deep breaths in, remembering God's love for us. On the exhale, breathe out your worries and concerns, maybe even naming them.
- † Colorful Prayers – anytime that you have a snack that is multi-colored, seize the opportunity for prayer! Foods such as skittles, goldfish, and m&ms have a variety of colors. Designate each color (you could also use shapes) to a type of prayer that you can offer (for example: green– give thanks for something in nature, red– share a concern, yellow– give thanks for a person, orange– name a place we should be praying for, etc.)
- † Each week in Sunday school children are learning the stories of our Scriptures. Re-visit these stories with your children throughout the week.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, September 18

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School Breakfast
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
4:00 p.m. Knitting Group
5:00 p.m. Care Team Training
5:00 p.m. Youth Bell Choir Rehearsal
5:30 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal
6 - 7 p.m. Youth Group
7 - 8 p.m. Youth Family Commitment Service

Monday, September 19

9:00 a.m. Roots & Shoots
2:30 p.m. Godsquad
6:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m. Lay Leadership Committee

Please Note: The October newsletter deadline is

Tuesday, September 20. Please email articles to carole@fumcbelmont.org

Tuesday, September 20

2:30 p.m. Sunshine Club
6:00 p.m. Godly Play Leaders Meeting

Wednesday, September 21

6:00 p.m. Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, September 25

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School Breakfast
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Usher/Greeter Training
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Pizza With The Pastor
4:00 p.m. Knitting Group
4:30 p.m. Youth Leader Meeting
5:00 p.m. Youth Bell Choir Rehearsal
5:30 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal

USHERS

Greta Martin, Madelyn Lowrance, Matt Boehike, Reid McGraw, Michael Nance, Tommy Redmond

GREETERS

Adam Lowrance, Gale Collins, Deborah Brooks, Dottie Moore

ALTAR

Sara Clark

ACOLYTE

Reilly Canterberry

CHILDREN'S TIME

Senior High Sunday School (September 25)

TELLERS

Sam Pennington, Melinda Russell, Stuart Bondurant