

AUGUST 23, 2026 10:30AM
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME

Hunter Wade

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE, CONNECTION, AND GIVING

Please register your attendance using the QR code.

You may give online by visiting belmontumc.org/give, texting BELMONT to 73256, scanning the giving QR code (back of bulletin), contacting Sara Christi (bookkeeper@belmontumc.org) to set up a bank draft, or mailing your offering to the church, Box 120098, Nashville, TN, 37212.

CENTERING PRAYER

**O God, Sustainer of all life and Creator of the universe,
lift us above the unstable currents of our self-will
and establish us on the rock of your purposes.
Be to each of us the secret stay and the inner guide of our lives.
May your Spirit dwell in us more and more,
that your peace which exceeds all understanding may possess our hearts and minds. Amen.¹**

PRELUDE

Festive Prelude on BEACH SPRING
Robbie Jones, organ

Alfred V. Fedak

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Susan Gray

In a world where powerful people make decisions to lift themselves up and cast others aside,
how does God teach us to use our power?
God teaches us to protect the vulnerable, resist the oppressors, and persist in doing good.
In a world where power means might, how does God show us what power means?
God shows us through the midwives' daring, Peter's truth-telling, and Jesus' humility.
In a world where power is held over people's heads, how does God exercise power?
God exercises power with—with the oppressed, with the outcasts, with the poor and downtrodden.
Beloved, we gather to recognize our world as it is and to grow as disciples and imitators of Christ.
So, how will you use your power today?
**We will side with the vulnerable, build community in the margins,
and love all of our neighbors with the exuberant and all-encompassing love of Christ. Amen.²**

†HYMN NO. 568

Christ for the World We Sing

ITALIAN HYMN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We look for you in all the wrong places, God of the lost, and wonder why we cannot find you.
We wander the corridors of power, while you are on the sidewalks, beside the unhoused.
We sit at the head tables of the world,
while you are handing out soup to the hungry at the kitchen's backdoor.
We applaud those who win the race, while you are cheering on those in last place.**

In forgiving us, God of new life,
you would transform our cold hearts into those melted in service to others.
In granting us mercy, you challenge us to think of all those we have ignored.
In gifting us with grace, you enable us to proclaim Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,
as the hope, the joy, the peace the world seeks.³

(silent meditation)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

It's not money, but our generosity with it; it is not power, but our willingness to humble ourselves;
it is not our efforts, but Christ's gift, which transforms us into God's children.

It is more than just how we think.

In mercy and grace, our hearts, our lives, our spirits are transfigured and made new.

Thanks be to God. Amen.³

†PASSING THE PEACE

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Penelope Joy Keller

†HYMN NO. 611

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

STUTTGART

SCRIPTURE

Rachel Suggs

Exodus 2:1-10 | *New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition*

†Matthew 23:23

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Do Not Be Afraid

Philip Stopford

Sanctuary Choir; Amy Cooper, soloist

SERMON

Jesus' Moral Philosophy: Justice

Paul Purdue

†HYMN

As a Fire Is Meant for Burning

BEACH SPRING

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Roll Down, Justice

Mark Miller

†DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

†HYMN

At the Name of Jesus

KING'S WESTON

†BENEDICTION

May the God of all creation bless you and keep you.
May Jesus Christ make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May the Holy Spirit lift up her countenance upon you and bring you peace
as all the beloved of God say, “**Amen!**”

POSTLUDE

Finale on BEACH SPRING

Alfred V. Fedak

Penelope Joy Keller, daughter of Mary Alice and Brian Keller, sister of Jack,
is receiving the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Penelope was born on December 31, 2025.

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Sanctuary Choir

Robbie Jones, Organist

Paul Purdue, Senior Pastor

Diana Sanchez-Bushong, Guest Choir Conductor

Hunter Wade, Belmont Wesley Fellowship Director/Discipleship Pathways Associate

Liturgy selected/written by Matthew Webb.

¹adapted from Lawrence Gandiya, *Prayers Encircling the World*, 1998.

²Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2026

³adapted from Thom Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies

Watch our Centennial Campaign video:



Would you like to receive news and announcements in your inbox?

Email Angie Slade (angie@belmontumc.org) to sign up for our Friday *Upcoming Events* email, a digital version of the Sunday newsletter, and other church announcements.

You can also stay connected by following us on social media: Facebook (@BelmontUMC.Nashville), Instagram (@belmontumc), and YouTube (@belmontunitedmethodistchur7735).

Our staff is always ready to assist you!

Go to belmontumc.org/staff for contact information.

PROGRAM STAFF

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We believe every person is of sacred worth and created in God's image. We commit to Jesus' example of inclusive love, care, and intentional hospitality with persons of every race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, faith story, physical or mental ability, economic status, or political perspective.

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