This week at Belmont UMC

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16
6:00pm Finance Committee, Zoom
6:00pm Youth girls basketball practice, Community Center

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17
6:00pm Staff Parish Relations Committee, Zoom
6:30pm Harp School's Fall 2026 Awards Recital, sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
10:00am Lectio Divina, Zoom
5:00pm Community meal, Community Center
5:45pm Mahjong, Parker Hall
6:00pm Wrestling with reconciliation: Are there limits to Christian hospitality?, 124
6:00pm High school Bible study, various homes
6:00pm Children's choirs, Faith Finders Hall
7:00pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, choir room

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19
8:00am Centering prayer, Zoom
10:00am Prayer Portals, Prayer Room
12:00pm *Means of Grace*, Zoom

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20
5:00pm Room in the Inn, Community Center

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21
10:00am Parent and Child Music, 213

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22
8:10am Worship with Communion, chapel/live stream
9:00am Confirmation breakfast, Parker Hall
9:00am Adult Sunday school, various rooms
9:15am Children's Sunday school, Faith Finders Hall
9:15am Youth Sunday school, 3rd floor
10:30am Worship, sanctuary/live stream
10:30am Golden Triangle Fellowship worship, chapel
11:30am Centennial Campaign Lunch and Learn, Parker Hall
1:30pm Carillon Ringers rehearsal, 226
3:30pm Wesley Ringers rehearsal, 226
4:30pm Open Door Singers rehearsal, choir room
5:30pm *Means of Grace*, 120/Zoom
5:30pm United Methodist Youth, Community Center

BELMONT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

November 15, 2026

Together, We Grow

During worship on November 8, Ethan Bagwell shared that growing up at Belmont, he was the kid who doodled on worship bulletins. Today, he uses that creativity to give back to the church that helped shape him. From designing Belmont's directional signs and Pride logo to creating materials for the Centennial Campaign, Ethan has found meaningful ways to share his talents. He also sings in the Sanctuary Choir and serves on the Communications Committee.

Reflecting on the impact Belmont has had on his life, Ethan encouraged us to consider how our generosity can help future generations grow and thrive, and that giving is more than a financial commitment - it's a promise to help Belmont continue growing together.

Read Ethan's entire message and pledge online at belmontumc.org/together.

The Harp School's Fall 2026 Awards Recital

Tuesday, November 17, 6:30pm in the sanctuary

Join us this Tuesday, November 17, at 6:30pm in the sanctuary for The Harp School's Fall 2026 Awards Recital. Students will share their musical talents and be recognized for their hard work and accomplishments throughout the season. Learn more at belmontumc.org/harp-school.

Deadline change for November 29 newsletter

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the December 29 issue of the newsletter will be published earlier than usual. Articles, announcements, or calendar items for both the November 22 and 29 issues should be sent to Angie Slade (angie@belmontumc.org) by 2:00pm *this Wednesday*, November 18.

Wrestling with reconciliation: Are there limits to Christian hospitality?

Wednesday, November 18, 6:00pm in room 124

What does it mean to love our neighbors, even when they may be causing harm? Join us this Wednesday, November 18, at 6:00pm in room 124 as Belmonter Dr. Beth Ritter-Conn explores the tension between the Christian call to welcome everyone and the equally important call to seek justice and accountability. Drawing on the legacy of Will D. Campbell and the Committee of Southern Churchmen, Beth will lead a thoughtful conversation about how we can faithfully engage with those we may see as enemies. Learn more at belmontumc.org/beth-ritter-conn.

Centennial Campaign update: WDS Task Force explores future opportunities

On June 14, 2026, a Weekday School (WDS) Task Force was formed to explore how Belmont UMC can continue providing affordable, high-quality childcare while supporting the church's mission. Co-chaired by Pam Auble and Jennifer Bagwell, the task force includes Maggie Bryant, Charlie Warfield, Kerry Galvin, Carrie Sherrill, Nancy Northington, Lynne Collier, Rachel Parker, and Lucian Geise (ex officio).

Since June, the task force has met nine times to examine several aspects of the WDS's operations and future. Our review of operating costs found that the amount the WDS pays the church is fairly close to the estimated costs incurred by the church. We also looked at other United Methodist preschools and found that they operate under similar models. (continued on back)

Save the date!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25
12:00pm Church closes for Thanksgiving

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26 - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27
Church closed for Thanksgiving

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
5:30pm Advent craft night, Community Center

Joys and concerns

Congratulations to

Amy Smith on the birth of her granddaughter Eleanor "Nora" Leigh Kelley.

New members

We are thrilled to welcome Jasie Carter, Jacob Rutherford, Peyton Scheffler, and Rachel Suggs to the Belmont UMC family! Jasie, Jacob, Peyton, and Rachel joined on Sunday, November 8.

Reconciling Ministries Network

Belmont UMC is a member of the Reconciling Ministries Network.

Stay connected

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WDS Task Force explores future opportunities (continued)

Location continues to be an important factor for WDS families, many of whom live or work nearby. We also found that more Weekday School families are connected to Belmont UMC than in the past, with approximately 20% currently having a connection to the church.

While our classrooms adequately meet current needs, there are opportunities for improvement. The task force is now exploring ways to generate additional income through grants and other funding sources to help support the WDS's long-term sustainability.

Parent and Child Music

Saturday, November 21, 10:00am in room 213

Infants, preschoolers, and the adults who love them are invited to Parent and Child Music this Saturday, November 21, at 10:00am! Come sing songs of faith and other childhood favorites, play instruments, dance, enjoy stories, and have fun with scarves and puppets as we celebrate God's love together. Learn more at belmontumc.org/parent-child-music.

Centennial Campaign Lunch and Learn

Sunday, November 22, 11:30am in Parker Hall

Join us next Sunday, November 22, at 11:30am in Parker Hall for a closer look at the campaign, including updates and what's ahead. There is no cost for the Lunch and Learn meal, but registration is necessary if you plan to attend. The lunch reservation deadline is *noon tomorrow, Monday, November 16*. Learn more at belmontumc.org/centennial-campaign-updates.

Charge Conference

Tuesday, December 8, 6:00pm in Parker Hall

Our annual Charge Conference with our new District Superintendent, Dr. Cynthia Talley, will be held on Tuesday, December 8, at 6:00pm in Parker Hall and via Zoom. Dinner will be served at 5:30pm.

Dinner reservations must be made by 4:00pm on Wednesday, December 2. Payment of $13.50 per person is required by credit card at the time of registration. For menu or to make your reservation, go to belmontumc.org/charge-conference.

Christmas at WNAB

Wednesday, December 16, 4:30pm on the church steps

Join us on Wednesday, December 16, for a festive evening of Christmas music, food, and fellowship! We'll kick things off with Christmas caroling and hot chocolate on the church's front steps from 4:30-5:00pm. Come help us spread some holiday cheer throughout Hillsboro Village!

At 5:00pm, we'll gather for our final soup supper before Christmas, followed by Amanda Dembiec's annual Christmas Piano Concert in the sanctuary at 6:00pm.

Children's Choirs will meet in their usual rooms at 6:00pm before joining Amanda's concert around 6:30pm.

Bring your family, invite a friend, and join us for this special Christmas celebration. All are welcome!

ENCORE ministries wants to hear from you!

Are you 60 or older? ENCORE Ministries would love your input! Please take a few minutes to complete our online survey at belmontumc.org/encore-survey. Your feedback will help us plan meaningful activities, educational opportunities, and ministries for the coming year.

We are a community of Christ-followers growing in love of God and neighbor.

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. We respect our diversity of opinion and expressions of faith. Therefore, as God loves us, so let us love and serve in the name of Christ.