



Service of Worship

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

November 9, 2025 at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Welcome to First United Methodist Church. Today we begin a sermon series, “All You Can,” which invites us to rediscover John Wesley’s timeless wisdom—earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can—as a blueprint for faithful living. Each week explores how these simple yet powerful principles shape a life of purpose, generosity, and stewardship. Together, we will learn what it means to work with integrity, manage wisely, and give joyfully as acts of love toward God and neighbor.

CHIMES *At the sound of the chimes, we invite you into a period of quiet reflection preparing for today’s service.*

OPENING VOLUNTARY “Songs of Thanksgiving”

Setting by Sondra Tucker

GREETING

INTROIT (11:00 a.m.) “Three Songs of Faith”

Susan Eltringham

Welcome to a place of hope, all of us together, held in God’s embrace. Welcome to a place of hope.

I am loved, I am not alone. You are loved, you are not alone. Made by God, one big family. All are loved, no one is alone.

God made the earth, God made the sea, all living things made for you and me. Care for God’s good earth each day, give your thanks in every way. God made the earth, God saw that it was good. God made the day, God made the night, sun, moon, and stars giving us great light. Shining on the earth so fair which God has left to our care. God made the earth, God saw that it was good.

† CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 98

I will sing about the wonders of your love forever, O God!

I will tell everyone I meet about your faithfulness to all generations!

I will declare that your love stands firm,

that your faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens above!

Blessed are those who know you as their God,

for they walk in the light of your presence!

† HYMN 140 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00 a.m.)

Morgan Travis Allison

Alexander James Allison

Pastor to congregation:

Do you, as Christ’s body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Morgan and Alex, now before you, in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the Good News and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Morgan and Alex with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *All sing:*

(First and middle name), God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

We this day do all agree, a child of God you'll always be.

(First and middle name), God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

OUR SHARED LIFE

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of William Bailey, by his parents, Katherine and Ray Castle.

Today's music is provided in memory of Leo J Eveleth, Jr. by Sue Smith.

The rose honors the birth of Joseph Touchton Potter, Jr., child of Jay and Stephanie Potter, grandchild of Bill and Mary Lou Potter, born October 14, 2025.

The votive candle is in memory of Lori Pierce.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

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.

Children are invited to come forward for the children's sermon.

HYMN "Jesus Loves Me"

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

An offering is collected to support the work of First United Methodist Church sharing God's love with the world. Please take a moment and record your attendance on a card located in the blue folders in the pews. Place the card in the offering plate when passed to you. Make a secure gift by scanning the QR Code or visit fumcbr.org/give to give online.



OFFERTORY "Let All Things Now Living"

Setting by Cathy Moglebust

† DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the scriptures are read and your word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Colossians 3:23-24

Whatever task you must do, work as if your soul depends on it, as for the Lord and not for humans, since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON “Earn All You Can”

Reverend Whitton

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

You are invited to place your Discipleship Covenant in the basket at the altar as an offering of your commitment to God and the church's mission.

† HYMN 438 “Forth in Thy Name, O Lord”

† BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “Ceremonial March”

Herbert Sumsion

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Acolyte	Clara Lann (8:30 a.m.); Hayes Daigle (11:00 a.m.)
Children's Sermon	Beth Newell
Lay Reader	Jennifer Winstead (8:30 a.m.); Aaron Cox (11:00 a.m.)
Liturgist	Pattye Hewitt, <i>Executive Director of Adult Discipleship and Welcoming Ministries</i>
Musicians	Woodland Ringers; Nathan Anderson, <i>Flute</i> K-2 nd Grade Choir; Dr. Jason Bowers, <i>Director</i> , Kaylee Mancuso, <i>Assistant Director</i> (11:00 a.m.) Holden Miller, <i>Associate Director of Music and Organist</i> Lamar Drummonds, <i>Director of Music and Worship</i>
Preaching	Reverend Brady Whitton, <i>Senior Pastor</i>
Soundboard	Tim McKee (8:30 a.m.); Jim Hewitt (11:00 a.m.)

New to First United Methodist Church? Here's Where to Begin!

If you are new to First United Methodist and are ready to learn more or have questions, we invite you to join us for our monthly **Newcomer Coffee**. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and meet others. This event takes place on the first Sunday of each month from 9:45–10:45 a.m. in Ory Parish Hall. Registration is helpful (scan the QR code) but not required. For more information, contact Shan Schatzle, *Coordinator*, at shan@firstmethodist.org.



Café 930 - Enjoy fellowship and a cup of hot coffee or tea from 8:00-11:00 a.m. (Ory Parish Hall) every Sunday morning. An assortment of teas, flavored syrups, and sweeteners are available. All are welcome.

Families with Children – Children are always welcome in worship! Childcare is available during all services for children ages 6 weeks through Kindergarten. FUMC also offers Sunday morning groups for children and youth from 9:45-10:45 a.m. To find a group, visit the check-in table located across from the welcome desk in the Conference Center lobby.

Believe & Belong – Are you discerning becoming a member of FUMC or ready to join? Attend the next Believe & Belong on Sunday, November 16 from 9:45–10:45 a.m. in the Conference Center. Childcare and Children’s Sunday School are available during this hour. Register by scanning the QR code. Questions? Email Patty Hewitt, *Inviting & Welcoming Director*, at phewitt@firstmethodist.org.



Resource Table – Looking to grow your love for God, self, and others? Stop by the Resource Table located in the narthex off the back of the sanctuary and help yourself to a Bible and highly recommended books. These free resources will encourage and inspire you in following Jesus and loving others in his name.

Do you receive our E-News? Our weekly email newsletter is one of the primary means by which we communicate with our congregation and friends. If you’d like to be added to the distribution list, please email info@firstmethodist.org.

Accessibility

There is an elevator, ADA compliant, on T. J. Jemison/East Blvd. The elevator provides access to the sanctuary from the street level without encountering any stairs.

Restrooms (one ADA compliant) and a Hospitality Room are located off the narthex at the back of the sanctuary. The larger restroom has an infant changing table. The Hospitality Room has a television displaying live video of the service.

Large-print bulletins and hymnals are available in the church office. Please return items to the office following the service.

A Hearing Loop, a special sound system for people with hearing aids or cochlear implants, is installed around the perimeter of the pews in the lower portion of the sanctuary. The hearing loop provides a magnetic, wireless signal that is picked up by hearing aids when set to “T” (Telecoil) for a more complete listening experience. The dispenser of your hearing aid will need to activate the Telecoil before it is compatible with the system.

Events, Missions, and Learning

Our Ministries Require Your Support: Your contributions help underwrite the important ministries of FUMC. Recurring gifts provide stability for our church, helping us know how much income to expect and to manage cash flow throughout the year. To establish a recurring gift via ACH bank draft, contact Destiny Muse, *Contributions Coordinator*, at dmuse@firstmethodist.org, or at 225-383-2777, extension 218. For instructions on setting up an online recurring gift, visit <http://www.fumcbr.org/give>.

In 2026, First United Methodist Church will celebrate the **100th anniversary** of moving from the original church site on the corner of Fourth and Laurel to the current location on North Boulevard. To commemorate this milestone, solid brass ornaments of the façade of the sanctuary are for sale in the Conference Center. Each ornament is \$20 (cash, check, or card accepted). This ornament will make a great gift. Purchase one for yourself, or for family members who were either baptized, confirmed, or married in the sanctuary.



The **Youth Ministry** is selling FUMC-famous crawfish soup and Bergeron's Pecans in the Conference Center. Bags of pecans and quarts of soup are \$15 each (cash, check, and cards accepted). This fundraiser raises money for youth summer mission trips.

4th and 5th graders are invited to **Messy Game Night** at FUMC on Friday, November 14 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. They should bring a towel, goggles, a change of clothes, and expect a mess (and a whole lot of fun)! Cost is \$30 per child and includes supplies and a light dinner. Register at www.firstmethodistchildren.org and invite your friends!

SEASON OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

The four-week liturgical season of Advent begins on Sunday, November 30. Advent derives from the Latin *adventus*, which means “coming.” The season proclaims the coming of Christ—whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again.

- December 7 Advent Adventure at 4:00 p.m.; Mid City Worship at 5:00 p.m.
- December 14 Music presented by the Chancel Choir and Festival Orchestra at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Music presented by the America Street Band at 9:45 a.m.
“O Come, All Ye Gumbo” at 4:30 p.m.
Downtown Christmas Pilgrimage at 5:30 p.m.
- December 20 Christmas Food boxes packed and delivered at 9:00 a.m.
- December 21 Mid City Worship at 5:00 p.m.; Longest Night Service at 7:00 p.m.
- December 24 Family Sanctuary Service at 11:00 a.m.; America Street Service at 2:00 p.m.
Sanctuary Services at 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.
- December 28 Combined Service at 10:00 a.m. No Sunday School.

Would you like to help provide joy to a child on Christmas morning? Visit the Conference Center today to select a child on the **FUMC Giving Tree**, or at www.firstmethodistgivingtree.org (note, during the Sunday School Hour on Sunday mornings, online sign-ups will temporarily be unavailable, but will be back up Sunday afternoon). Wrapped gifts are due by Sunday, December 14. Please do not bring gifts before December 1. Contact Caroline Tyler, *Giving Tree Coordinator*, at givingtree@firstmethodist.org with questions.



Order your poinsettia today! We hope you will consider placing a poinsettia in a worship space in memory or honor of someone special this year. By scanning the QR Code to the right, you will be directed to the poinsettia reservation page. You can also order via the Advent Section on the church's website at www.firstmethodist.org or by visiting www.fumcbr.org/poinsettia. Each plant is \$21. The deadline to order is Monday, December 8. Poinsettias

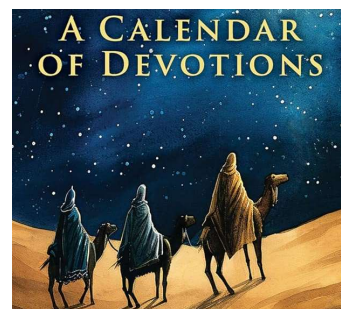


will adorn worship spaces on December 14, 21, and Christmas Eve.

“**Advent 2025: A Calendar of Devotions**” are available!

This resource provides daily devotions to guide you through the season of Advent. Each day's reading, from the first Sunday of Advent (November 30) to Christmas Day, is based on the Revised Common Lectionary and includes scripture, a short devotion, and a prayer. Printed devotionals are available each sanctuary entrance.

For a downloadable version or a printed copy mailed to your home, email Pattye Hewitt at phewitt@firstmethodist.org.





First United Methodist Church of Baton Rouge **HOW WE SERVE**

MISSION SUNDAY OPPORTUNITIES

Visit the Conference Center to pick up a **mission lunch** benefiting First Tuesday. Today's lunch is fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, a roll, and a cookie, all for \$10 per plate. First Tuesday is a community initiative that empowers businesses to serve local nonprofits on the first Tuesday of each month. By fostering a culture of generosity and teamwork, First Tuesday helps build a more connected and compassionate Greater Baton Rouge.

Enjoy some **Methodist Children's Home Salsa and Jelly!** It's just \$7.00 per jar, and all proceeds go to support the incredible work of the Methodist Children's Home and their 156 children.

Support **The Hope Shop** by stopping by their table and checking out their collection of ethically made, fair-trade products. Each purchase helps empower women artisans, providing them with job training, mentorship, and income to build independence.

Baton Rouge Youth Coalition (BRYC) helps underserved youth excel in high school; enter, persist through, and graduate from college; and secure career-track jobs.

Capital Area Alliance of the Homeless implements its mission through its One Stop Services Center; collaborative community partnerships; collecting and optimizing data on homelessness, housing, and best practices; and by connecting providers, government agencies, and people in need across LA.

Christmas Food Boxes: Each December, members and friends of FUMC assemble 100+ food boxes for those in need of a Christmas meal.

Downtown Christian Outreach Center meets each individual in their need, regardless of their circumstance, and moves them towards self-sufficiency.

First Tuesday: Teams from local businesses give the First Tuesday of every month to partner with local non-profits.

Front Yard Bikes (FYB) Teaches youth mechanics and workforce skills while promoting inclusivity, mentorship, recreation, and academic achievement.

HOPE Ministries helps prevent homelessness and promote self-sufficiency and dignity through their Client Choice Food Pantry and "The Way to Work" program.

Maison des Amis takes care of up to 46 adults whose mental illness has left them homeless in the Baton Rouge region, giving them a safe environment and help with daily living.

O'Brien House saves lives and families from alcoholism and drug abuse through residential treatment and community outreach.

Public School Partners: FUMC supports the Gardere Initiative and Front Yard Bikes by providing back-to-school backpacks. Students at our partner schools can also receive Christmas gifts through our Giving Tree program.

Revive225 is a ministry of FUMC whose mission is to transform our community, one house at a time. Volunteer mission teams do home repairs in the neighborhoods surrounding FUMC.

Three O'Clock Project is a nonprofit organization with a mission of increasing access to healthy, nutritious food for at-risk youth and their families.

Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) strives to foster student success and build support for public education.

Youth Oasis supports youth and young adults recovering from the trauma of homelessness and family separation through housing, healthcare, and advocacy.

First United Methodist Church supports many missions in the Greater Baton Rouge Community. If you would like to learn more or get involved in our missions, please contact Ben Kennedy, Director of Missions, at bkennedy@firstmethodist.org.