



Service of Worship

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

October 26, 2025 at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY "Jesus Shall Reign"

Setting by Franklin Ashdown

GREETING

INTROIT (11:00 a.m.) "Exultate, Jubilate"

Helen Kemp

God who made all music, make my life a song. Help me sing your praises simple, true and strong. Exultate, Jubilate, Alleluia, Gloria! Together let us celebrate God's gift of melody. Together, voice and heart and mind in tuneful harmony. We'll sing a song with spirit and understanding too, rejoicing as we sing each word in love and gratitude. We thank the music makers who help us find our voices, help us make our lives a song, and all God's world rejoices!

† CALL TO WORSHIP

This is an amazing day the Lord has made: **a day for praise and prayer; a day for gratitude and generosity.**

This is the time God has given us: **a time for singing and silence; a time for speaking and listening.**

This is the life to which God calls us: **a life of humility and service; a life of faith and trust.**

Let us worship God together!

† HYMN 157 "Jesus Shall Reign"

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

Morgan Travis Allison and 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 Winnie Byrd, whose 100th birthday would have been on October 11, 2025.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER AND 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 during the last verse of the hymn.

† HYMN 361 "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

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 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Setting by Tom Trenney

Come, thou Fount, of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love. Here I find my greatest treasure; hither by thy help I've come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, bought me with his precious blood. O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee: prone to wander, Lord, to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

† 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.

† GOSPEL LESSON Luke 18:9-14

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

SERMON "God Rewrites the Scorecard"

Reverend Whitton

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

† HYMN 371 “I Stand Amazed in the Presence”

† BENEDICTION (8:30 a.m.)

† CHORAL BENEDICTION (11:00 a.m.) “The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

Peter Lutkin

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord lift his countenance upon you; and give you peace, the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. Amen.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “Ceremonial March”

Herbert Sumsion

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Acolyte	Jack Meyer (8:30 a.m.); Hayes Daigle (11:00 a.m.)
Children’s Sermon	Beth Newell
Lay Reader	Anna Schilling (8:30 a.m.); Fran Harvey (11:00 a.m.)
Liturgist	Reverend Doctor Kim McGee, <i>Chaplain</i> , Our Lady of the Lake Hospital
Musicians	Spencer LeFebvre, <i>Baritone</i> Chancel Choir; 3-5 Grade Choir (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	Rebecca Mitchell (8:30 a.m.); Rick Waldrop (11:00 a.m.)

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

Newcomer Coffee – We would like to meet you and learn what brought you to FUMC. The Newcomer Coffee is held the first Sunday of each month at 9:45 a.m. in the Ory Parish Hall. Coffee, hot tea, and light breakfast items will be served. Registration is helpful but not required. Register by scanning the QR code. Questions? Email Shan Schatzle, *Coordinator*, at shan@firstmethodist.org.



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.



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.

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.

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.

Events, Missions, and Learning

The Sacred Stories ~ Guest Voices Sunday School class invites you to “**Because of Jesus: Stories of Hope, Change, and New Beginnings**,” (concludes November 23) where different guests will share how their lives have been changed because of Jesus. Whether you are just beginning to wonder about faith, or have walked with Christ for years, these stories will remind you that God’s work in human lives is wonderfully diverse. The class meets from 9:45-10:45 a.m. in the Adult Building, Room 118. No registration required - attend when you can. Questions? Contact Pattye Hewitt at phewitt@firstmethodist.org.

The FUMC Children’s Ministry invites you to **Fall Fest** this evening from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at FUMC. At this free community event, you will find food, contests, games, and lots of spooky fun. Costumes are encouraged and invite a friend or neighbor for an evening of family fun! Help is still needed at the event; sign up at <http://www.fumcbr.org/ffevent25!>

As part of the opening processional on **All Saints Sunday**, November 2, you have an opportunity to honor a life on the All Saints Banner that incorporates names of past lives. A ribbon and bell will be attached to the banner for each name submitted. Email the name you want to memorialize to Lamar Drummonds at lamar@firstmethodist.org. Deadline for submittal is tomorrow, October 27.

The **Love Your Neighbor** van needs your help restocking! Please place your donations in the large box near the America Street entrance. Items needed:

- Fruit Cups
- 12 oz. Coffee Grounds
- New or lightly used sleeping bags
- Men’s Long Sleeve Crew Neck T-Shirts – Sizes: L and XL
- Men’s and Women’s Elastic Waist Pants – All sizes

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>.



“All You Can” Sermon Series – November 9-23

Our upcoming sermon series, “All You Can,” 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, we’ll explore how these simple yet powerful principles shape a life of purpose, generosity, and stewardship. Together, we’ll learn what it means to work with integrity, manage wisely, and give joyfully as acts of love toward God and neighbor. Join us as we seek to live fully and

faithfully—doing all we can to honor God with our hearts, our hands, and our resources.