



Service of Worship

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

September 28, 2025
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Welcome to First United Methodist Church. Whether you are a first-time visitor, longtime member, or somewhere in-between, welcome to this place where together we sing, pray, listen, and praise the living God whose love brings new life for us and for the world.

“Lazarus at the Gate”
Peter Koenig, 20th century

In today’s gospel, Jesus tells a parable where a rich man’s life is set against that of a poor man, Lazarus. When the rich man discovers that the blessings of earthly life do not necessarily reflect the judgment or kingdom of God, he pleads to have someone sent to his family to warn them of what may await them. Father Abraham says to the rich man that his family has the message and the warning provided by the law and the prophets. Further, if they do not heed the warning they have, they will not even respond if someone rises from the dead.

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Johann Gottfried Walther

† CALL TO WORSHIP

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, say to the Lord:
My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.

The Lord executes justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry, sets the prisoners free, opens the eyes of the blind, lifts up those who are bowed down, and upholds the orphan and the widow.

Let us pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, and gentleness. Let all generations praise the Lord!

† HYMN 139 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

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

Blaire Parker, child of Nic and Gabi Yeager

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 this family, 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 this family 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:*

**Blaire Parker, 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.
Blaire Parker, 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 honor of Patricia Landry's birthday.

The rose honors the birth of Benjamin Tyler, child of Chris and Emily Bolin, born September 19, 2025.

CALL TO PRAYER (11:00 a.m.) "When the Poor Ones"

Setting by David Cherwien

When the poor ones, who have nothing, still are giving; when the thirsty pass the cup, water to share; when the wounded offer others strength and healing; we see God, here by our side, walking our way. When compassion gives the suffering consolation; when expecting brings to birth hope that was lost; when we choose love, not the hatred all around us: we see God, here by our side, walking our way. When our spirits, like a chalice, brim with gladness; when our voices, full and clear, sing out the truth; when our longings, free from envy, seek the humble: we see God, here by our side, walking our way. When the goodness poured from heaven fills our dwellings; when the nations work to change war into peace; when the stranger is accepted as our neighbor: we see God, here by our side, walking our way.

PASTORAL 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 during the last verse of the hymn.

† HYMN 340 "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"

CHILDREN'S SERMON

† PASSING OF THE PEACE *As a forgiven people, we greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

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 "I Got a Home In-A That Rock"

Setting by H. T. Burleigh

I got a home in-a that Rock, don't you see? Between the earth and sky, thought I heard my Savior cry: you got a home in-a that Rock, don't you see? Poor man Lazarus, poor as I, when he died he found a home on high. He had a home in-a that Rock, don't you see? Rich man Dives, he lived so well, when he died he found a home in hell; he had no home in-a that Rock, don't you see? God gave Noah the rainbow sign, no more water but fire next time: better get a home in-a that Rock, don't you see?

† 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 16:19-31

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON “How to Succeed at What Matters Most”

Reverend Whitton

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

† HYMN 436 “The Voice of God Is Calling”

† BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “Fanfare”

William Mathias

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Acolyte	Emelie Graham (8:30 a.m.); Bennett Brock (11:00 a.m.)
Children’s Sermon	Joy Irwin
Lay Reader	Dan Reed (8:30 a.m.); Shannon Hyde (11:00 a.m.)
Liturgist	Patty Hewitt, <i>Executive Director of Adult Discipleship and Welcoming Ministries</i>
Musicians	Richard Hobson, <i>Bass</i> John Bishop, <i>Guitar</i> ; Chancel 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, Senior Pastor
Soundboard	Rebecca Mitchell (8:30 a.m.); Rick Waldrop (11:00 a.m.)

Welcome to First United Methodist Church

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.

A great place to learn more about First United Methodist Church is at the monthly “**Discover First**” gathering in the Ory Parish Hall. The next gatherings, led by Shan Schatzle, *Discover First Coordinator*, will be held on Sunday, October 5 at 9:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Registration is not required. For more information, email Shan at shan@firstmethodist.org.

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. Let us assist you in finding a group by visiting the check-in table located across from the welcome desk in the Conference Center lobby. Ask a greeter for directions.

Interested in membership at First United Methodist Church? “Believe & Belong” is where you will learn what it means to *Believe* in Jesus and *Belong* to this community of faith. The next “Believe & Belong” will be held on November 16 from 9:45–10:45 a.m. in the Conference Center. Childcare and Sunday School for children and youth are available during this time. To register visit: fumcbr.org/believelong or scan the QR code.



We welcome the following who joined First United Methodist Church at *Believe & Belong* last Sunday: Alexander Allison, Morgan Allison, Kari Calhoun, Mike Calhoun, Jonathan Dills, Madeline Dills, JoAnn Fox, Monty Fox, Suzie Kershaw, Wanda Lee, Mandy O’Dell, Alex Price, Gabi Yeager, and Nichlas Yeager. This brings a total of 99 new members this year.

Events, Missions, and Learning

Recovery Month, which started in 1989, is a national observance held every September to promote and support new evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, the nation’s strong and proud recovery community, and the dedication of service providers and communities who make recovery in all its forms possible. If you or a loved one are experiencing addiction, we encourage you to reach out to one of the pastors or one of these recovery specialists:

- Dr. Terry Ellis, *Professional Interventionalist*, (225) 405-0797
- Georgia Small, *Provisional Licensed Professional Counselor*, (225) 267-7216
- Logan McIlwain, *Licensed Clinical Social Worker*, (225) 240-4275
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at FUMC on Tuesdays (noon), Wednesdays (6:30 p.m.) and Thursdays (noon)
- Adult Children of Alcoholics meets at FUMC on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m.



Catherine Rodland



Kimberly Sparr

Concerts with a Cause at First United Methodist Church of Baton Rouge presents acclaimed organist Dr. Catherine Rodland in concert today at 4:00 p.m. Dr. Rodland is an award-winning organist with degrees from St. Olaf College and the Eastman School of Music and is *Artist in Residence* at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. A highlight of the concert will feature collaborative works for viola and organ with Dr. Kimberly Sparr, *Associate Professor of Viola*, of the Louisiana State University School of Music.

Underwritten in memory of Anita Haygood Bridges by Malissa Turner, this concert is free and open to the public. A voluntary offering will be your opportunity to support the **Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank**, who distribute donated products to over 140-member agencies that directly serve people in need. In 2024, the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank distributed 12.8 million meals. Childcare is provided during the concert.