



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

First United Methodist Church
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

September 7, 2025 at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Welcome to First United Methodist Church. In a world often marked by anger, selfishness, and division, Jesus offers us a better way. Today we continue a sermon series exploring values from Romans 12 that reflect the beauty

of Jesus and offer a more purposeful, more hopeful, and more God-honoring way of being in the world.

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY "Dearest Jesus, We Are Here"

Setting by Kenneth Kosche

GREETING

† HYMN 73 "O Worship the King"

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 Romans 12:1-2, 9-18

translation: New International Revised Version (NIRV)

Brothers and sisters, God has shown you his mercy. So I am asking you to offer up your bodies to him while you are still alive. Your bodies are a holy sacrifice that is pleasing to God. When you offer your bodies to God, you are worshipping him in the right way. Don't live the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect. Love must be honest and true. Hate what is evil. Hold on to what is good. Love one another deeply. Honor others more than yourselves. Stay excited about your faith as you serve the Lord. When you hope, be joyful. When you suffer, be patient. When you pray, be faithful. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Welcome others into your homes. Bless those who hurt you. Bless them, and do not curse them. Be joyful with those who are joyful. Be sad with those who are sad. Agree with one another. Don't be proud. Be willing to be a friend of people who aren't considered important. Don't think that you are better than others. Don't pay back evil with evil. Be careful to do what everyone thinks is right. If possible, live in peace with everyone. Do that as much as you can.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON "A Better Way (part 5): Humility That Values Others"

Reverend Whitton

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON

Gracious God, we confess that too often we have sought honor for ourselves rather than caring for others. We have looked past those in need, treated others with pride instead of humility, and failed to follow Christ's example of self-giving love. Forgive us, Lord. Shape us in the likeness of Jesus and help us live in joyful service. In his name we pray.

A moment of silence for offering personal confessions.

† KYRIE *All sing*



The Almighty and merciful Lord grant us absolution and remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

OUR SHARED LIFE

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of William Zartman, by Nedra Zartman.

Today's music is provided in memory of Jerry Johnson, by Margaret Johnson.

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 "With What Shall I Come Before the Lord"

John Ness Beck

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, shall I come before him with yearling calves? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give him my firstborn for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O man; he has shown you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

† 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.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING P. 17

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.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP *All who love Christ are invited to receive. Unfermented grape juice is used.*

MUSIC FOR COMMUNION

“Aria” from Suite Antique
“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

John Rutter
Setting by Kyle Pederson (11:00 a.m.)

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

† HYMN 399 “Take My Life, and Let It Be”

† BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “Toccata in Seven”

John Rutter

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Communion Servers	Lisa Burns, Jim Howell, Sandra Shuford, Linda Spain (8:30 a.m.) Glennell Cottrill, Amy King, Patty Rives, Denise Sellers (11:00 a.m.)
Liturgists	Cherri Johnson, <i>Director of Spiritual Formation, Emerita</i> Kale Wetekamm, <i>Pastor to Children and Youth</i>
Musicians	Dr. Brianne Little, <i>Flute</i> ; Dr. Susannah Knoll, <i>Cello</i> Nicholas Dieux, <i>Bass</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, <i>Senior Pastor</i>
Soundboard	Rebecca Mitchell

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 today 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 on September 21 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/believebelong or scan the QR code.



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.

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

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.

Events, Missions, and Learning

The **Nominating Committee** is looking for members interested in serving on FUMC's Church Council or in other elected leadership positions. Please submit a self-nomination form no later than Wednesday, September 17. More information and the 2026 Self-Nomination Packet can be found by scanning the QR Code.



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.

Want to help a local family move into a new home—and make some new friends along the way? FUMC is forming a Habitat for Humanity team. This group will gather for a fellowship meal on Sunday, September 14 at 5:00 p.m. at FUMC and will participate in a Habitat build on Saturday, October 4. (Volunteers must be at least 16 years old.) Contact Tonni McCollister at tonnimccollister@gmail.com for more information.

The Love Your Neighbor van needs your help restocking inventory. Please place donations in the large box near the America Street entrance. We need:

- Men's T-shirts (new) Size: Large
- Men's tennis shoes (used) Sizes: 10-14
- Men's and Women's elastic waist shorts (new or used) - all sizes
- Equate brand Nutrition Shakes (chocolate and vanilla flavors)
- Equate brand Flushable Wipes



Catherine Rodland



Kimberly Sparr

Concerts with a Cause at First United Methodist Church of Baton Rouge presents acclaimed organist Dr. Catherine Rodland in concert on Sunday, September 28 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.

First United Methodist Church • Sanctuary Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. • America Street Service at 9:45 a.m. • Mid City: First and Third Sunday of the month at 5:00 p.m. (Today's location: Mid City Ballroom at 136 S Acadian Thruway).