

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Second Sunday of Easter • April 12, 2026 at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

First United Methodist Church

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY "Trumpet Tune"

William Boyce

GREETING

† HYMN 304 "Easter People, Raise Your Voice"

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

Hunter Allen, child of Brittany and Scotty Gwatney

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:*

Hunter Allen, 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.

Hunter Allen, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

Christ died for our sins, was buried, was raised on the third day, and appeared first to the women, then to Peter and the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God, the firstborn of all creation, the firstborn from the dead, in whom all things hold together, in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell by the power of the Spirit. Christ is the head of the body, the church, and by the blood of the cross reconciles all things to God. Amen.

† GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

OUR SHARED LIFE

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Liam Courville.

The rose honors the birth of Margaret Goldie, child of Olivia and Casey Simoneaux, born March 16, 2026.

The votive candle is in memory of Jerry Womack.

Today's music is underwritten by Mike and Jan Steinkamp in honor of Elizabeth Scott and in memory of Rob Harroun.

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 307 "Christ Is Risen"

CHILDREN'S SERMON

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

Emily George Tilley, O'Brien House

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 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Setting by Maurice Bevan

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea; there's a kindness in his justice which is more than liberty. There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven; there is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement given. For the love of God is broader than the measure of man's mind; and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind. But we make his love too narrow by false limits of our own; and we magnify his strictness with a zeal he will not own. There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed; there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head. There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this; there is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss. If our love were but more simple, we should take him at his word; and our lives would be all gladness in the joy of Christ our Lord.

† 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 Matthew 27:1-10

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. ²They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. ³When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. ⁴He said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." ⁵Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. ⁶But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money." ⁷After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. ⁸For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. ⁹Then was fulfilled what had

been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, ¹⁰ and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”

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

SERMON “Stay: God Is Not Finished Yet”

Pattye Hewitt

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

† HYMN 140 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

† BENEDICTION “May the Lord, Mighty God”

Richard Rogers

May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep you forever, grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor. Lift up your eyes and see his face, and his grace forever. May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “O Love How Deep, How Broad, How High”

Setting by David Johnson

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Acolyte	Hans Styron (8:30 a.m.); Liam Snyder (11:00 a.m.)
Children’s Sermon	Sarah Wright, <i>Associate Director of Children’s Ministry</i>
Lay Reader	Rachel Harvey (8:30 a.m.); Terry Preis (11:00 a.m.)
Liturgist	Reverend Brady Whitton, <i>Senior Pastor</i>
Musicians	Michael Hull, <i>Trumpet</i> Spencer LeFebvre, <i>Tenor</i> (8:30 a.m.); The 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	Pattye Hewitt, <i>Executive Director of Adult Education, Hospitality, and Care</i>
Soundboard	Lamar Drummonds (8:30 a.m.); Rick Waldrop (11:00 a.m.)

Welcome to First United Methodist Church

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.

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.

If you are new to First United Methodist and are ready to learn more or have questions, we invite you to join us for a **Newcomer Coffee**, today from 9:45-10:45 a.m. in Ory Parish Hall. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and meet others. Registration is helpful (scan the QR code) but not required. For more information, contact Shan Schatzle, *Coordinator*, at shan@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.

Believe & Belong – Are you discerning becoming a member of FUMC or ready to join? Attend the next Believe & Belong on May 17 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 Pattye Hewitt, *Executive Director of Adult Education, Hospitality, and Care*, at phe Witt@firstmethodist.org.



Announcements

A century of worship. A future of generosity. Easter Sunday marked the centennial of the completion and dedication of the sanctuary. In celebration of this milestone, we will receive a special offering throughout the year to launch the Century Fund. This new fund will help FUMC provide lasting support to local nonprofit partners in Baton Rouge. Thank you for praying about your gift. Scan the QR Code make a gift.



Graduate Recognition and Blessing will take place Sunday, April 26. The Senior Banquet honoring the students and families of the Class of 2026 will follow the 11:00 a.m. service. Senior parents, please RSVP by April 15 and submit 8-10 photos to Anna Langford at anna@firstmethodist.org.

Kids and Youth love summer at FUMC! Visit firstmethodistyouth.org to register for the Sr. High Mission Trip (May 23-May 31) for 8th-12th graders and the Jr. High Mystery Mission Trip (July 21-24) for 6th-8th graders. Elementary signups are at firstmethodistchildren.org with Mission Day Camp (June 15-18) for rising 4th-6th graders and Vacation Bible School (July 13-17) for rising prek-4 to 6th graders!

The Music Ministry is thrilled to announce an immersive week of music, drumming, art, and recreation at the **First United Music Camp!** Camp will be June 8-11 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. for rising 1st-6th Graders (Fall of 2026). A \$60 registration fee includes snacks, t-shirt, and activities. Days will include singing, drumming, Orff ensemble (xylophones and glockenspiels), movement, art, and missions, all taught by specialists in each field from the LSU School of Music and Greater Baton Rouge Community. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, email Holden Miller, *Associate Director of Music and Organist*, at hmill er@firstmethodist.org. Invite friends and grandchildren—Space is limited with 30 spots remaining, so register now by going to fumcbr.org/MusicCamp or scanning the QR Code.



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>.

Dr. Willis Delony, *Pianist and LSU Boyd Professor*, will present a recital in the sanctuary on Sunday, April 26, at 4:00 p.m. Selections will draw from his latest album "Standards and Improvisations - Music by Joe Makhholm," along with a special performance of "Impromptu Variations (After Chopin)" by LSU colleague Dr. Stephen Beck. Also featured will be music by Rachmaninov, Samuel Barber, and Joni Mitchell. This is a free concert. Invite a friend to join you!

FUMC is excited to host a production of “**Every Brilliant Thing**” on Friday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Center. “Every Brilliant Thing” is an exhilarating and heartwarming play, in which a man looks back at his life and the glimmers of hope that carried him through life. This production contains mature themes and is recommended for audiences 12 years of age and older. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at www.fumcbr.org/brilliant or by scanning the QR Code.

