

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday of Easter • April 26, 2026 at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

First United Methodist Church

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY "In Thee Is Gladness" BWV 615

Johann Sebastian Bach

GREETING

INTROIT (11:00 a.m.) "Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!"

Michael Bedford

Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead! Hail, bright and glorious morn, day so rich in cheer! Hail, bright and glorious morn, Easter now is here! Jesus has died for us, in the tomb he lay; Jesus now lives for us, risen on Easter Day!

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, calls our names to come and follow him.

His voice, speaking our names, draws us to him.

We follow without fear, for the shepherd cares for us.

Our hearts rejoice and we can place our trust in the Good Shepherd.

Come, let us enter the gate with thanksgiving!

Let us rejoice with songs of praise!

† HYMN "Christ Is Risen"



Christ is ris-en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days! Christ is ris - en!
Christ is ris-en! Raise your spir - its From the cav - erns of de - spair. walk with glad - ness
Christ is ris-en! Earth and heav-en nev - er - more shall be the same. Break the bread of



Hush in won - der: All cre - a - tion is a - mazed. In the des - ert all - surround - ing, See a spread - ing
in themorn - ing. See what love can do and dare. Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, Not a ser - vant,
new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain. Tell its grim, de - mon - ic cho - rus: "Christ is ris - en!



tree has grown. Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.
but a friend. Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.
Get you gone!" God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na, ev - ery - one!

† 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 Winnie Byrd, by her family.

Today's music is underwritten in memory of Ina Shirley, by her family.

CALL TO PRAYER "Gabriel's Oboe"

Ennio Morricone

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 during the singing of "Jesus Love's Me."

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 "Look at the World"

John Rutter

Look at the world, everything all around us: look at the world, and marvel every day. Look at the world: So many joys and wonders, so many miracles along our way. Praise to thee, O Lord, for all creation, give us thankful hearts, that we may see: all the gifts we share, and every blessing, all things come of thee. Look at the earth bringing forth fruit and flower; look at the sky, the sunshine and the rain; look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains, valley and flowing river, field and plain. Think of the spring, think of the warmth of summer bringing the harvest before the winter's cold. Everything grows, everything has a season, till it is gathered to the Father's fold. Every good gift, all that we need and cherish comes from the Lord in token of his love; we are his hands, stewards of all his bounty; his is the earth, and his the heavens 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 John 10:1-10

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

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

SERMON “Follow Jesus to True Life”

Reverend Wetekamm

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

† HYMN 381 “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS (11:00 a.m.)

† BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “Toccatà”

Théodore Dubois

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Acolyte	Ian Venuto (8:30 a.m.); Fletcher DeCuir (11:00 a.m.)
Children’s Sermon	Sheri Loy
Lay Reader	Shannon Venuto (8:30 a.m.); Curry Hines (11:00 a.m.)
Liturgists	Pattye Hewitt, <i>Executive Director of Adult Education, Hospitality, and Care</i> Reverend Brady Whitton, <i>Senior Pastor</i> (11:00 a.m.)
Musicians	Gabriela Werries, <i>Harp</i> ; Nathan Anderson, <i>Flute</i> ; Nathaly Pagoaga, <i>Oboe</i> Dr. Chelsey Geeting, <i>Soprano</i> (8:30 a.m.); The Chancel Choir (11:00 a.m.) 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 Kale Wetekamm, <i>Pastor to Children and Youth</i>
Soundboard	Virginia Guffey (8:30 a.m.); Jim Hewitt (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.

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** on May 3 from 9:45-10:45 a.m. in Ory Parish Hall. Registration is helpful (scan the QR code) but not required. For information, contact Shan Schatzle, at shan@firstmethodist.org.



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 phewitt@firstmethodist.org.



Announcements

Dr. Willis Delony, *Pianist and LSU Boyd Professor*, will present a recital today in the sanctuary 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.

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.

Visit firstmethodistchildren.org to register for 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.

Visit fumcbr.org/MusicCamp to register for Music Camp (June 8-11) for rising 1st-6th Graders.

FUMC is excited to host a production of “**Every Brilliant Thing**” on Friday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Center. This event honors Mental Health Awareness Month. “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.



The Love Your Neighbor Van needs restocking! Please place your donations in the box near the America Street entrance. Visit the Love Your Neighbor Van Amazon Registry by scanning the QR code. We are collecting the following: flushable wipes; large backpacks; men’s crew socks; new or gently used men’s elastic waist pants and shorts (M-XL); rain ponchos; and new or gently used men’s tennis shoes (sizes 10-12).



The **LSU Chamber Singers** presents a Graduate Choral Conducting Studio Recital this Tuesday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Four conductors will lead the Chamber Singers and instrumentalists in music of Buxtehude, Handel, Jerusalem, and Walton. Holden Miller, *FUMC Organist and Music Associate*, will be featured.

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.



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>.