



Service of Worship
August 2, 2026 at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Making Disciples in Three Centuries

CHIMES

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

OPENING VOLUNTARIES

Fanfare on "Hymn to Joy"
Allegro from "Sonata in F Major"

Setting by May Schwarz
George Philipp Telemann

GREETING

OPENING PRAYER

† HYMN 89 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

† 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 LESSONS Mark 1:14-15; Mark 11:1-7

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this: 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it.

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

SERMON "Believe"

Reverend Todd Rossnagel

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. As we come to the table with the risen Jesus, we are witnesses to the resurrection! Let us forsake all that holds us back from this joy as we offer our confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON

Merciful God, we confess that like the owners of the colt, we are often hesitant to untie and give up what we think belongs to us.

We confess that when you say, "The Lord has need of it," we hold tighter to our time, our comforts, and our plans.

We confess our slow obedience. Unlike the disciples who went without questioning, we pause to bargain, to doubt, and to ask for guarantees before we follow your lead.

We confess our fear of what others think. We hesitate to live openly for you out of fear that the world will question our choices or judge our devotion.

Gracious God, melt the hardness of our hearts, and cultivate within us a spirit of immediate, joyful obedience.

Silent is kept for personal reflection and confession.

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. 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 Ruth McCarty.

The votive candle on the lectern is in memory of Marjorie Kemp.

Today's music is underwritten by Janice Evans in memory of Robert Evans and Stacey Richard.

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 "Rejoice, the Lord Is King"

Setting by Dan Forrest

† 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

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.

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

MUSIC FOR COMMUNION

“Thee We Adore”

“Ave Verum Corpus”

Ralph Johnson

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

† HYMN 436 “The Voice of God Is Calling”

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS, STUDENTS, AND TEACHERS

After the 11:00 a.m. service, everyone is invited to take a backpack and help load the bus parked on America Street. The backpacks are being delivered to Dufrocq Elementary immediately following worship.

† BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “Praise Him! Praise Him!”

Setting by Charles Callahan

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Communion Servers	Carl Goode, Jim Howell, Brooke Lambertson, and Linda Spain (8:30 a.m.) Connie DeLeo, Vanessa Graham, Cheryl Kirchoff, and Chris Spencer (11:00 a.m.)
Lay Reader	Rachel Harvey (8:30 a.m.); Beau Olinde (11:00 a.m.)
Liturgists	Reverend Doctor Kim McGee, <i>Deacon</i> Reverend Brady Whitton, <i>Senior Pastor</i>
Musicians	Stefka Madere, <i>Violin</i> ; Carlos Suarez, <i>Violin</i> ; Ana Sofia Suarez, <i>Viola</i> Doctor Susannah Knoll, <i>Cello</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 Todd Rossnagel, <i>Communications Director, Louisiana Annual Conference</i>
Soundboard	Rebecca Mitchell (8:30 a.m.); Joseph Kayuah (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.

Families with Children – Children are always welcome in worship! Should you choose, staffed nursery care is available 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 welcome desk in the Conference Center lobby.

If you are new to First United Methodist and are ready to learn more, we invite you to join us for a **Newcomer Coffee** today 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.



Are you discerning becoming a member of FUMC or ready to join? Attend the next Believe & Belong on September 20 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 Chelsey at welcome@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 books we highly recommend and a Bible.

Announcements

We welcome the following persons who joined First United Methodist Church at the last Believe & Belong on July 19: Richard Collier, Sarah Collier, Meggie Dobson, and Blake.

The **Journey Sunday School** class will begin a study today on the book of Psalms, “The Prayer Book of Jesus.” Deep with feelings of joy, fear, shame, and at times, inconsolable rage, the Psalms help readers express a range of emotions in their prayers and daily lives. The class will learn how the Psalms teach our hearts how to express our feelings before God. All are welcome to attend at 9:45 a.m. in the McKenzie Library.

You are invited to be part of **Jumpstart Month** — when we welcome new faces into our church family! Every Sunday in August, join us as a Greeter (standing at doors to offer a warm hello), or a Wayfinder (walking new guests to where they are headed with some friendly conversation along the way). There are plenty of other ways to serve during Jumpstart evening programming as well. Scan the QR code below to sign up, or email Chelsey at welcome@firstmethodist.org.



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 need flushable wipes, men’s large elastic waistband gym pants and shorts (dark colors), men’s large and extra-large t-shirts (dark colors), fruit cups, and men’s crew socks.



First United Methodist cares deeply about members and friends of the church, but are often not aware of significant events in your life. There are several ways to let the Care Ministry know of your needs or the needs of those around you. You can send an email to care@firstmethodist.org, or fill out a Prayer Request Card located in the pew racks and place in the offering plate or give to a minister following the service.

The **Church Council** will meet on August 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Center. Members are welcome to attend.

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>.

The **Chancel Choir, Woodland Ringers, and Children’s Choirs** are taking a well-deserved vacation from weekly rehearsals this summer. Rehearsals for all groups will resume in mid-August and September. If you are interested in becoming involved in the Chancel Choir, Woodland Ringers, or volunteer to be a Children’s Choir “helper” this fall, please contact Lamar Drummonds, *Director of Music and Worship*, at lamar@firstmethodist.org. All are welcome!

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. We are grateful for the support the campaign has already received. As we continue working toward our goal of \$1,000,000, we invite you to pray about how you will support this effort. Scan the QR Code to make a gift.

