

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

August 23, 2026 at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

First United Methodist Church

Baton Rouge, Louisiana



Today we continue the sermon series, “Finding Sanity.” We live in a world that constantly tells us who we should be, what we should fear, and where we should put our attention. Jesus offers a different way—not more to-dos, but a sane center. Love. This series will explore the Great Commandment and how this essential teaching is a model for finding sanity.

August 9 – The Center

August 16 – Living Liturgically

August 23 – Living Beloved

August 30 – Living Ethically

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY Fanfares from “Sinfonies de Fanfares”

Jean Joseph Mouret

GREETING

† HYMN 98 “To God Be the Glory”

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

Margaret Goldie, child of Casey and Olivia Simoneaux

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 Margaret, 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 Margaret with a community of love and forgiveness, that she may grow in her trust of God, and be found faithful in her service to others. We will pray for her that she may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *All sing:*

Margaret Goldie, 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.

Margaret Goldie, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC “O Perfect Love”

Setting by Susan McDonald

OUR SHARED LIFE

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Ken and Mary Kenelly.

The votive candle is in memory of Rose Ellzey.

Today's music is underwritten by Bess Mitchell in memory of Bill Mitchell.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Liturgist: Lord, in your mercy. People: **Hear our 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 529 "How Firm a Foundation"

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 "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Setting by Mack Wilberg

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever. Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth and, where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth. And so through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never. Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

† 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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 John 4:7–12

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "Finding Sanity" (part 3): "Living Beloved"

Reverend Whitton

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

† HYMN 384 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

† BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY Rondeau from “Sinfonies de Fanfares”

Jean Joseph Mouret

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Children’s Sermon	Sheri Loy
Scripture Reader	Amanda Spain (8:30 a.m.); Reverend Doctor Kurt Appel (11:00 a.m.)
Liturgist	Cindy Mann
Musicians	Michael Hull, <i>Trumpet</i> ; Rebecca Todaro, <i>Harp</i> Spencer LeFebvre, <i>Baritone</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	Reverend Brady Whitton, <i>Senior Pastor</i>
Soundboard	Blake Mason (8:30 a.m.); Joseph Kayuuh (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 Children’s Check-in Station in the Conference Center.

If you are new to First United Methodist and are ready to learn more, we invite you to join us for a **Newcomer Coffee** on Sunday, September 13 from 9:45-10:45 a.m. in Ory Parish Hall. Registration is helpful (scan the QR code) but not required. For more 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 Dr. Chelsey Geeting, *Director of Senior Adults and Hospitality*, 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.

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.

Announcements

You are invited to be part of **Jumpstart Month** as we welcome new faces into our church family! Every Sunday in August, serve 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 Dr. Chelsey Geeting, *Director of Senior Adults and Hospitality*, 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 men's crew socks, men's large short sleeve t-shirts (dark colors), men's large elastic waist gym shorts (dark colors), flushable wipes, and soft baked fruit bars.



First United Methodist cares deeply about members and friends of the church, but is 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 **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 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!

Join the Good News Sunday School class in September and October as Tasha Whitton leads "Nevi'im, Part II: The Prophets," exploring the crises that shaped Israel's prophetic tradition and the voices that still challenge and inspire us today. From Amos and Isaiah to Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Jonah, and others, we will consider their enduring messages of justice, judgment, hope, and faithfulness. Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in Aldrich Chapel, Adult Building.

Join us for **safeTALK Suicide Alertness Training** on Saturday, September 12, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the FUMC Conference Center. This free workshop is open to anyone age 15 and older and will equip you to become a suicide-alert helper—someone who can notice subtle calls for help, move past the tendency to avoid conversations about suicide, and connect someone experiencing suicidal thoughts with community support, safety, and hope. Hosted by FUMC and Methodists for Social Justice, this training is presented by Patty Rives, *MSW, LCSW*. Register by scanning the QR code.



Lights, Camera, Worship! Step behind the scenes and into the action with our TV Ministry team! Enthusiastic volunteers are needed to help broadcast our worship services to homes near and far. No experience? No problem! We will teach you everything you need to know. Reach out to Stephen Loy at fstephen.loy@gmail.com. An average of 800 people view our services online throughout the week. The television broadcast is viewed by an estimated 12,000 households each week.

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>.