

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

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

First United Methodist Church

Baton Rouge, Louisiana



Today we conclude 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 VOLUNTARIES “Fanfare and Trumpet Tune on Nettleton”
Prelude from “Suite for Cello No. 1 in G Major”

Setting by David Lasky
Johann Sebastian Bach

GREETING

† HYMN 400 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

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

Riley Maria, child of Chene and Shelby Ghashghaee

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:*

Riley Maria, 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.

Riley Maria, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC “Be Thou My Vision”

Setting by Charles Callahan

OUR SHARED LIFE

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

The rose honors the birth of Margaret Frasier Ortego, child of Marshall and Mazie Ortego, grandchild of Bill and Dana Brown, born March 2, 2026.

Today's music is underwritten by Lorice Say.

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 432 "Jesu, Jesu"

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 "When the Poor Ones"

Setting by David Cherwien

When the poor ones, who have nothing, still are giving; when the thirsty pass the cup, water to share; when the wounded offer others strength and healing; we see God, here by our side, walking our way. When compassion gives the suffering consolation; when expecting brings to birth hope that was lost; when we choose love, not the hatred all around us: we see God, here by our side, walking our way. When our spirits, like a chalice, brim with gladness; when our voices, full and clear, sing out the truth; when our longings, free from envy, seek the humble: we see God, here by our side, walking our way. When the goodness poured from heaven fills our dwellings; when the nations work to change war into peace; when the stranger is accepted as our neighbor: we see God, here by our side, walking our way.

† 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 LESSONS Matthew 7:12 and Romans 13:8–10

In everything do to others as you would have them do to you, for this is the Law and the Prophets. Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

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

SERMON "Finding Sanity" (part 4): "Living Ethically"

Reverend Whitton

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

† HYMN 398 “Jesus Calls Us”

† BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “Hornpipe in D Major”

John S. Dixon

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Children’s Sermon	Eric Lockridge
Scripture Reader	Felder Beacham (8:30 a.m.); Elizabeth Blades (11:00 a.m.)
Liturgist	Cherri Johnson, <i>Director of Spiritual Formation, Emerita</i>
Musicians	Dr. Nicholas Ciraldo, <i>Guitar</i> Dr. Chelsey Geeting, <i>Soprano</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	Rebecca Mitchell (8:30 a.m.); Joseph Kayuha (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

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.



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.

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. This training is presented by Patty Rives, *MSW, LCSW*. Register by scanning the QR code.



Boys (5th grade and younger) and the moms/maternal figures in their lives are invited for an evening of bowling and quality time together on Thursday, September 17 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Red Stick Social (1503 Government Street, 70802). One ticket per family (\$35) pays for food, lemonade, and bowling. Limited spots are available so grab your ticket now at www.firstmethodistchildren.org or by scanning the QR code!



Kids' Night for K-5th graders returns on Sunday, September 13. From 5:00-6:30 p.m. kids will enjoy an evening of music and recreation designed to grown their faith and have fun! Kids can eat dinner (\$5/meal or \$50/semester). Register at fumcbr.org/kidsnight.

Mission Sunday is a great opportunity to serve together and support our community. Volunteers are needed to help with Mission Sunday on September 13. Prepare and plate meals, sell boxed lunches, and help with other tasks throughout the morning. Scan the QR code to sign up today for any amount of time!



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 **Congregational Care Lay Ministry** of FUMC provides a supportive connection to members of our church who are homebound or reside in assisted living facilities. Share the love of Christ with those no longer able to attend church services by becoming a Congregational Care Lay Minister (CCLM). An informational meeting will be held on Sunday, September 13 at 12:15 p.m. in Adult Building Room 115. A light lunch will be served. For more information contact Nan DeFoe, *Director of Care*, at (225) 383-4777 ext. 229, or email at NDeFoe@firstmethodist.org.

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>.