



Service of Worship

Easter Day

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

April 5, 2026 ~ 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Look Around You—For 100 Easters, First Church has worshipped where we worship today. The sanctuary was opened on Easter Day, April 4, 1926, and from then until now our church has proclaimed the Gospel, prayed for the sick, baptized persons, and shared the holy meal of Communion in this lovely and lively worship space. As part of our 100th year in the sanctuary, today we launch the Century Fund—a lasting investment in mission, justice, and healing in Baton Rouge. Give thanks and offer yourself to God’s glory as we continue the journey on this Easter Day.

The Paschal Candle, the symbol of Easter returns to the chancel area today. Fire has long been a sign of God’s presence and early Christians viewed the kindling of a new fire as a symbol of the presence of the resurrected Lord, the new pillar of fire. Unlighted, the candle represents Christ’s death and burial; lighted, it represents the splendor and glory of Christ’s resurrection. The candle will remain lit at all worship services throughout the Easter season which ends on Pentecost Sunday. The Paschal Candle is lit and placed near caskets and urns during funeral services as a reminder, in death we are raised with Christ.

OPENING VOLUNTARY “Allegro Maestoso”

Felix Mendelssohn

REMEMBERING GOOD FRIDAY Luke 23:44-49; John 19:38-42

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, “Certainly this man was innocent.” And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things. After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of Jewish leaders, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

LIGHTING THE PASCHAL CANDLE

Please stand, as able, at points marked †.

† HYMN 302 “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” verses 1-4

EASTER HYMN

OUR SHARED LIFE

The flowers on the altar are provided in honor of John and Janelle Hickey's wedding anniversary.

Today's guest musicians are provided by the Rings and Ivy Sunday School Class in loving memory of Dorothy Cook Wilder, Earl Redding, Thelma Horton, Ashton Sommers, Nicholas Tota, Don Buchanan, Hazel Miller, Linda Heflin, John Monson, Marsha Alfred, Alan Fletcher, William Moorman, Teresa Summers, Linda Fletcher, Tom Heflin, Jim Humphreys, Ralph Perlman, Roy Marley, Paul Dietzel, Oscar Huh, Paul Humes, Billie Perlman, George Seale, Mel Meyers, Lou Faxon, Bob Rainer, Walter Wright, George Ballard, Bill Avery, Vern Wright, Dyke Martin, Roy Davis, Carolyn Wright, Priscilla Monson, Ann Dietzel, Bert Knight, Stephanie Alfred-Gant, Woody Chew, Phyllis Burton, Jerry Johnson, Syd Nelson, Cheri McDaniel, Pat Faxon, Rob Harroun, Helen Morgan, Doris Akers Knight, Doris Carver, Gail Nelson, Frank Keegan, and Marilyn Moorman.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Liturgist: Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

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.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC "Hallelujah" from MESSIAH

George Frideric Handel

Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth! The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever. King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, Hallelujah!

† PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Father of glory, by the raising of your Son you broke the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and resurrection hope, and send your Spirit to illuminate your holy word; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

† EASTER PROCLAMATION Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!



He is ris - en, he is ris - en! Tell it out with joy - ful voice:
 Come, ye sad and fear - ful - heart - ed, with glad smile and ra - diant brow!
 Come, with high and ho - ly hymn - ing, hail our Lord's tri - um - phant day;
 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! He hath o - pened hea - ven's gate;

he has burst his three days' pris - on; let the whole wide earth re - jice:
 Death's long sha - dows have de - part - ed; Je - sus' woes are o - ver now,
 not one dark - some cloud is dim - ming yon - der glo - rious morn - ing ray,
 we are free from sin's dark pris - on, ris - en to a ho - lier state;

death is con - quered, we are free, Christ has won the vic - to - ry.
 and the pas - sion that he bore; sin and pain can vex no more.
 break - ing o'er the pur - ple east, sym - bol of our Eas - ter feast.
 and a bright - er Eas - ter beam on our long - ing eyes shall stream.

† 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 ANTHEM “Love’s Redeeming Work Is Done”

Tom Trenney

The strife is o’er, the battle done; the victory of life is won; the song of triumph has begun. Alleluia! The three sad days are quickly sped; Christ rises glorious from the dead: glory to our risen Head! Alleluia! For love’s redeeming work is done; he fought the fight; the battle won; eternal life now has begun! Alleluia! Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee, from death’s dread sting thy servants free, that we may live and sing to thee: Alleluia! We soar now where our Christ has led and follow our exalted Head, for Christ is risen from the dead! Alleluia!

Text: Charles Wesley

† 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.**

EASTER MESSAGE “The ‘So What?’ of Easter”

Reverend Brady Whitton

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

† BLESSING

Go forth in joy to love and serve God in all that you do.

We are sent in the name of the risen Christ. Alleluia!

May the God of peace, who raised to life the great Shepherd of the sheep, make us ready to do his will in every good thing, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.

Amen. Alleluia!

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “Ceremonial Dialogue”

Daniel Ficarri

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Acolyte	Emelie Graham (8:30 a.m.); Bennett Brock (11:00 a.m.)
Lay Reader	Shan Schatzle (8:30 a.m.); Sue Heflin (11:00 a.m.)
Liturgist	Pattye Hewitt, <i>Executive Director of Adult Education, Hospitality, and Care</i>
Musicians	The Chancel Choir Lamar Drummonds, <i>Director of Music and Worship</i> Holden Miller, <i>Associate Director of Music and Organist</i> Ross Ahlhorn and Michael Hull, <i>Trumpets</i> ; Johanna Yarbrough, <i>Horn</i> Arie VandeWaa, <i>Trombone</i> ; Charlie Goodman, <i>Tuba</i> ; Brett Dietz, <i>Timpani</i>
Preaching	Reverend Brady Whitton, <i>Senior Pastor</i>
Soundboard	Jim Hewitt (8:30 a.m.); Rebecca Mitchell (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 our monthly **Newcomer Coffee**. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and meet others. The next meeting will be next Sunday, April 12 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, *Coordinator*, 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.



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.

Announcements

The church will be closed tomorrow, April 6.

The **Spring Senior Adult Luncheon** will be held this Wednesday, April 8 at 10:30 a.m. in the FUMC Conference Center, featuring zydeco band T'Monde. Luncheon is \$25 per person. To register, contact Dr. Chelsey Geeting at cgeeting@firstmethodist.org or (225) 383-4777, ext. 225. Registration forms are in the foyer of the Adult Building.



The FUMC Love Your Neighbor van delivers food, supplies, and compassion to Baton Rouge's unhoused community, sharing the love of Christ with those in need.

In a city where over 1,000 people face homelessness, this ministry aims to do more than provide relief—it seeks to foster dignity, connection, and hope. Inspired by FUMC's



commitment to "Love³" (love God, love neighbor, and love self), the Love Your Neighbor van puts faith into action. **The 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 currently collecting the following items: large backpacks; new or gently used T-shirts (L-XL, no white), men's crew socks; new or gently used men's elastic waist pants and shorts (L-XXL); and new or gently used men's tennis shoes (sizes 10-12).

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>.

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.

Do you know about the McKenzie Library? Located in the Chapel Building, the McKenzie Library offers abundant resources for personal use and for groups that will enhance Christian formation. It is open throughout the week 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and on Sundays from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

- The library includes devotional and formational material, class curriculum/DVDs, Christian novels and classics, and much more!
- You may search our online database by author, title and keyword for the resources that are available for check out: <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/FUMCBR>.
- There are some resources that cannot be checked out but can be used while at church.
- If you want to donate items to the library, please contact Pattye Hewitt, *Executive Director of Adult Education, Hospitality, and Care*, at phewitt@firstmethodist.org. Please do not leave any books/curriculum in the library for donation as all resources must first be approved.

Each **Sunday sanctuary flowers** are given to the glory of God by members and friends of our congregation who want to remember a loved one or to give thanks for the people and events in their lives. Requests can be on-going for annual placement or one-time only recognitions. To reserve flowers, contact Virginia Guffey at vguffey@firstmethodist.org or by calling (225) 383-4777, ext. 210.

One of the goals of renovating the historic sanctuary six years ago was not only to improve worship experiences, but also create an environment inviting and engaging for musicians and musical organizations in the community. The sanctuary, with its improved acoustics, has garnered acclaim and is becoming a destination for community engagement through music. You are invited to attend the following concerts in the sanctuary. Bring a friend!

- Dr. Willis Delony, *Pianist and LSU Boyd Professor*, will present a recital 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.
- The LSU Chamber Singers presents a Graduate Choral Conducting Studio Recital on Tuesday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m. 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.
- Spencer LeFebvre, *Tenor*, will present a recital of vocal and solo piano works on Sunday, May 17 at 4:00 p.m. Spencer, a member of the Chancel Choir, will be graduating from the LSU with a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance this spring.

2026 EASTER FLOWERS

In memory of:

Jane Ann Atkinson

by Dr. Martha Littlefield

Frank and Lillian Audiffred

by Ed and Sherry Herringshaw

William Bailey

by Katherine and Ray Castle

Priscilla Barfield

by Gloria Delony

Martha Beinvenu and son, St. Clair

by Margo Eglin

Allen Black

by Ed and Brownie Jeffries

Bernard Blanchard

by Colette Blanchard

Lee Blanchard

by Colette Blanchard

Augusta and George Burgess

by Marilyn Sue and George Burgess III

Troy and Betty Burnett

by Dean and Lynda Burnett

David and Martha Burt

by Richard Burt

Bill and June Byo

by the Byo Family

Chester Calcote

*by Mignonne Ramagos, Leigh Reed,
and families*

Joan "Nana" Calvert

by Parker and Shelby Burr

Sally Ann Stevens Carlisle

*by her parents, Peggy and Robert
Wooley*

Anne and Prent Castle

by Katherine and Ray Castle

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Clark

by Glenna Fallin

Cooky Coffey

by the Coffey Family

by Margo Eglin

by Rob and Pam Fairly

Ms. Cook

by her son, John F. Smith

Caitlin Cottrill

by Don and Glennell Cottrill

Liam Alexander Courville

by Jean and Dick Bengston

Micky Cunard

by Rebecca Cunard

Doris and Joe Dean

by their family

John and Dot Desselle

by Sherry Desselle and Sue Hunt

Joan Dubrey-Ducre

by Esperanza Zenon

Lu and Ralph Elwell

by the Quaid Family

John M. Evans

by his children and grandchild

Red and Mildred Evans

by the Youngest Bee

Phoebe and Bob Fairly

by their family

Mercedes Eisenmenger French

by Lee Ann Thomas

James and Mary Gardner

by Eric and Lara Gardner

Betty Gayle <i>by the Quaid Family</i>	David Santo Labarre <i>by Steven and Stephanie Labarre</i>	Lawrence and Jean Radenz <i>by Cheryl and Don Kobetsky</i>
Richard Gibbs <i>by Margo Eglin</i>	James and Elizabeth Giuffre Labarre <i>by Steven and Stephanie Riley Labarre</i>	Bob Rainer <i>by Sue Rainer</i>
Billy Giles <i>by Nancy Giles</i>	Bob Leitner <i>by his family</i>	Lisa Blanchard Raynal <i>by Colette Blanchard</i>
Helen Giles <i>by Nancy Giles</i>	Leona Johns Littlefield <i>by Dr. Martha Littlefield</i>	Earl Redding <i>by the Earl Redding Family</i>
William and Ethel Giles <i>by Nancy Giles</i>	Matthew and Andrew Littlefield <i>by Dr. Martha Littlefield</i>	Bobbie Reis <i>by Scott Reis</i>
Linn and Susan Goldsmith <i>by Richard and Jane Goldsmith</i>	Loved Ones <i>by Bill and Sue Smith</i>	Beth Ann Rife <i>by Ed and Sherry Herringshaw</i>
Roger and Gayle Guissinger <i>by Bob and Cindy Mann</i>	Fred Loy <i>by Bob and Cindy Mann</i>	Wilbur and Alice Rigby <i>by the Rigby Family</i>
Vida Nereaux Hall <i>by Richard Burt</i>	Lois Lueg <i>by the Towns Family</i>	Roy (R. B.) and Helen Bennett Riley <i>by Steven and Stephanie Riley Labarre</i>
Mildred Hardin <i>by Joanna Arrington</i>	Kaye McCullough Ory and Terry McCullough <i>by Ed and Brownie Jeffries</i>	Reverend Gene Rives <i>by the Rives Family</i>
Bob and Thelma Herringshaw <i>by Ed and Sherry Herringshaw</i>	Larry Melsheimer <i>by his wife, Susan</i>	Betty Robert <i>by Richard and Jane Goldsmith</i>
Stanley and Ethel Giles <i>by Nancy Giles</i>	John Miller <i>by Bob and Cindy Mann</i>	Rev. and Mrs. C. W. Quaid <i>by the Quaid Family</i>
Randy Harelson <i>by Margo Eglin</i>	Louise Milner <i>by Ed Milner</i>	Berna Schambach <i>by Kate and Kale Wetekamm</i>
Dr. Bobby Hines <i>by Marilyn Sue and George Burgess III</i>	Bill Mitchell <i>by Bess Mitchell</i>	Arla Jean Spangler <i>by Nancy Kelly</i>
Robert and Pat Hines <i>by Marilyn Sue and George Burgess III</i>	Janice Labarre Mizelle <i>by Steven and Stephanie Labarre</i>	Grace and J. D. Stewart <i>by the Edward Jeffries Family</i>
Nora and Perry Holliman <i>by their family</i>	Michael Moore <i>by Kathryn Moore and family</i>	Kenneth Talbot <i>by the Rigby Family</i>
Honey <i>by anonymous</i>	Mumsie <i>by her daughter, Sou Hayes</i>	Jimmy Taylor <i>by Helen Taylor</i>
Luther and Anita Hunt <i>by Sherry Desselle and Sue Hunt</i>	Sharon D. Smith Musy <i>by her husband, Philip Musy</i>	Carolyn Thaxton and Mildred Timmons <i>by Lee and Phyllis McLaurin</i>
Edward and Willene Jeffries <i>by the Edward Jeffries Family</i>	Ernest, Mattymac, and Hope Nahr <i>by Vincent Nahr</i>	Roy and Dot Towns <i>by the Towns Family</i>
Jerry Johnson <i>by Bob and Cindy Mann</i>	Susan Nickel <i>by Bob and Cindy Mann</i>	Trudi <i>by anonymous</i>
Alphonse Rene Jolissaint III <i>by Bryan, M.E., John, and Mary Harper Hart</i>	Margaret Oatley <i>by the Quaid Family</i>	Bill VanDuzee <i>by Katherine and Ray Castle</i>
Dolores Joyner <i>by Eric and Lara Gardner</i>	Inger Parvizian <i>by Leila, William, and Robert</i>	Benjamin Matthew Verbois <i>by Brenda Verbois</i>
Donnie Kellebrew, my husband <i>by Debbie Kellebrew</i>	Beau Passman <i>by the Rigby Family</i>	Vincent Vorndran <i>by Nancy Giles</i>
Sandra King <i>by Rob and Pam Fairly</i>	Joyce and Billy Perkins <i>by their daughter, Jennie Perkins Fedric</i>	Rudy and Alma Weeks <i>by the Byo Family</i>
Robert Kobetsky <i>by Cheryl and Don Kobetsky</i>	Peter Barbay Proffit (Grampy) <i>by his family</i>	

In honor of:

The America Street Band

by Sophia Abbott

The America Street Service Volunteers

by Sophia Abbott

Lauren Bradford (Class of 2026)

by Elizabeth Bradford

Monica and Henry Bradsher

by Mary Sue and Ron Garay

Pete and Carol Broussard

by Maryanna Haynes

John and Lisa Burns

by Mary Sue and Ron Garay

Mary Byo

by Mary Sue and Ron Garay

Nancy Cadwallader

by Mary Sue and Ron Garay

Mary Gerace Carleton, Norma Gerace,
and Betty Carleton (our mother and
grandmothers)

by Joe and John Carleton

Josephine Cecile

by Sam and Parth Parikh

The Chancel Choir

by Lamar Drummonds

The K-2 Grade Choir

*by Dr. Jason Bowers and Kaylee
Mancuso*

The 3-5 Grade Choir

*by Lamar Drummonds and Holden
Miller*

Our Children

by Rob and Pam Fairly

The Brown Circle

by Dottie Anklam

Lou Day

by Rob and Pam Fairly

Margo Eglin

by Mary Sue and Ron Garay

Elva Evans

by the Care Team

by Mary Sue and Ron Garay

Judy Foust

by the Good News Sunday School Class

FUMC Youth and Children, and their
ministry leaders

by Reverend Kale Wetekamm

Anne Graham

by Mary Sue and Ron Garay

Steve and Karen Haynes

by Maryanna Haynes

Pattye Hewitt

by Dr. Chelsey Geeting

by Susan Melsheimer

Ali Hopson

by the Quaid Family

Skip and Joy Irwin

by the Chancel Choir

Cherri Johnson

by Mary Sue and Ron Garay

Barbara Jones

by Dottie Potter

by Louise Potter

Margaret King

by Mary Sue and Ron Garay

Arlo and Eunice Landolt

by Lynda and Dean Burnett

Cindy Mann

by Mary Sue and Ron Garay

Carol Wager McClain

by John and Robyn Pardue

Missions Ministry Volunteers

by Sophia Abbott

Bess Mitchell

by the Good News Sunday School Class

John O'Brien

by Rob and Pam Fairly

Cheryl Arrington Olinde

by her family

Judith Pennebaker Pardue

by John and Robyn Pardue

Judy "Honey" Powers

by her grandchildren

Patty Rives

by Mary Sue and Ron Garay

Denise, Drew, Andrew, and Graham
Sellers

by Judy and Dale Powers

Jayne Spencer

by Mary Sue and Ron Garay

The Woodland Ringers

by Lamar Drummonds

