

## SERVICE OF WORSHIP

July 12, 2026 at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

First United Methodist Church

Baton Rouge, Louisiana



“Love and Faithfulness Meet”

St. Michael’s Church, Wales, ca. 1850

Welcome to worship! Whether you are visiting for the first time, or are a longtime member, we are blessed to have you with us. In today’s Gospel reading, Jesus calls those who follow him to go the extra mile in love and forgiveness. This teaching on holy, righteous love culminates in the call to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect.

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Setting by Wayne Wold

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

We come together today to hear a radical calling.

**A call to love not just our friends, but our enemies.**

We serve a God who pours out rain on the just and the unjust.

**His mercy is wide, and His grace is unconditional.**

Let us lay down our desire for revenge and retaliation.

**Let us worship the One who teaches us the way of perfect love.**

### † HYMN 139 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH “The Apostles’ Creed”

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*\* universal*

† 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 Doug Salmon, by the Salmon and Zetzmann families.

CALL TO PRAYER “Jesus Loves Me”

Setting by Michael T. Smith

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong. Jesus loves me, he will stay close beside me all the way. When at last I come to die he will take me home on high.

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](http://fumcbr.org/give) to give online.



OFFERTORY “My Hope Is Built”

Setting by Tom Trenney

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand. When darkness seems to hide his face, I rest on his unchanging grace; in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found, dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.

† 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 Matthew 5:38-48

You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ <sup>39</sup> But I say to you: Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also, <sup>40</sup> and if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, give your coat as well, <sup>41</sup> and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. <sup>42</sup> Give to the one who asks of you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you. <sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup> But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the gentiles do the same? <sup>48</sup> Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

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

SERMON “Turn the Other Cheek?”

Reverend Whitton

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

† HYMN 121 “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

† BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “Gigue Rondo”

Johann Christoph Bach

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

|                   |                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Children’s Sermon | Sheri Loy                                                                                                                                                |
| Lay Reader        | Jennifer Winstead (8:30 a.m.); Amy McRae (11:00 a.m.)                                                                                                    |
| Liturgist         | Reverend Kale Wetekamm, <i>Pastor to Children and Youth</i>                                                                                              |
| Musicians         | Sara Cage, <i>Soprano</i> ; Dr. Henry Jones, <i>Piano</i> ; Elvia Hammett Parsons, <i>Organ</i><br>Lamar Drummonds, <i>Director of Music and Worship</i> |
| Preaching         | Reverend Brady Whitton, <i>Senior Pastor</i>                                                                                                             |
| Soundboard        | Virginia Guffey (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 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** 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](mailto:shan@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. We believe these free resources will encourage and inspire you in following Jesus and loving others in his name.

### Announcements

**REVIVE 225 is in full swing!** Teams are serving our community through a variety of projects, including repairing siding on two homes, building and painting wheelchair ramps, and volunteering with The Parole Project and Front Yard Bikes. This week we host Opendoor UMC from Pace, Florida with 15 volunteers.

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### Ways to help with Vacation Bible School – July 13-17

**Thank you for your generosity** in donating money to the VBS hospitality room! Spots are still open to bring finger-food desserts this week. Sign up by scanning the QR code. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Robin Reed at [robinreed@bellsouth.net](mailto:robinreed@bellsouth.net).



**Youth volunteers are needed for Vacation Bible School** from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Volunteers must have completed 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. Youth earn points and service hours for their time. Sign up on the youth website at [www.firstmethodistyouth.org](http://www.firstmethodistyouth.org).

**Consider donating old or new winter wear:** jackets, scarves, mittens, boots, etc. These donations will benefit the Love Your Neighbor van and the Gardere Initiative. Donations can be brought to the collection bins by the church office and the America Street welcome desk.

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**What's Up Wednesdays** conclude on Wednesday, July 15 with pickleball at Court to Table (7477 Burbank Dr.) from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Bring \$30 and invite your friends! More information can be found at [www.firstmethodistyouth.org](http://www.firstmethodistyouth.org).

**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](mailto: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 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 XL elastic waist pants (dark colors), fruit and grain bars, and men's crew socks.



**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](mailto: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>.