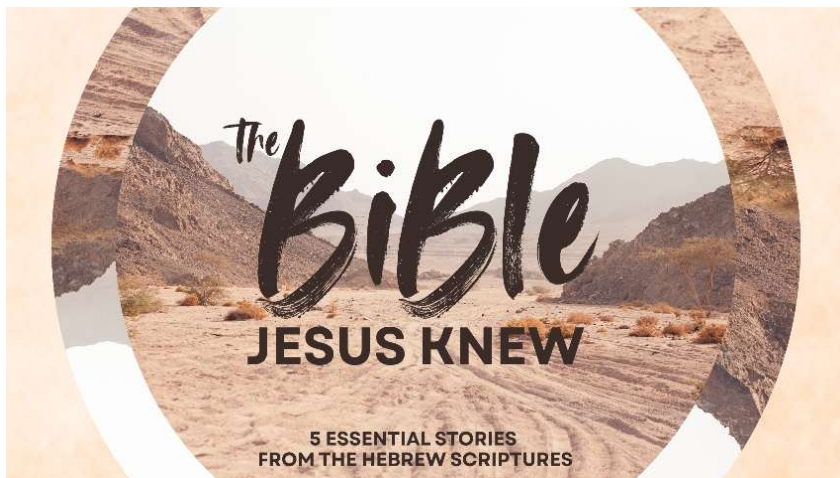


SERVICE OF WORSHIP  
May 31, 2026 at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

First United Methodist Church  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana



Today we begin a new sermon series, “The Bible Jesus Knew.” In this series, we’ll dive into some of the foundational stories from the Hebrew Scriptures that shaped Jesus’ life and teaching. From Creation to Exile, we’ll see how these ancient narratives reveal God’s character and help us live with faith today.

May 31 - Creation and the Fall  
June 7 - Abraham and Sarah  
June 21 - The Exodus  
June 28 - David and the Promise of Kingship  
July 5 - Exile and Return

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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

† CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, and God saw that it was very good.  
**He formed humanity in His own image, blessing us with life, purpose, and the earth to steward.**  
Yet, we turned away from the light.  
In the quiet of the garden, we hid from our Creator, covering our shame and yielding to temptation.  
**We confess our brokenness, our turning away, and our need for grace.**  
But even in our wandering, the voice of the Lord calls out in love, “Where are you?” seeking reconciliation.  
**He does not leave us in the shadows. He restores our image and calls us to a new life.**  
Come, let us worship the God who creates, redeems, and calls us by name.

† HYMN 64 “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We are not alone, we live in God’s world.**  
**We believe in God:**  
    **who has created and is creating,**  
    **who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,**  
    **to reconcile and make new,**  
    **who works in us and others by the Spirit.**  
**We trust in God.**  
**We are called to be the church:**  
    **to celebrate God’s presence,**  
    **to love and serve others,**  
    **to seek justice and resist evil,**  
    **to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,**  
    **our judge and our hope.**  
**In life, in death, in life beyond death,**  
    **God is with us.**  
**We are not alone. Thanks to be God. Amen.**

† 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 honor of Sandra Loy.

The votive candles are in memory of Jim Corbett, Rex Reed, and Samear Zaitoon.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER AND 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 150 "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"

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 "Creating God, Your Fingers Trace"

Ralph Johnson

Creating God, your fingers trace the bold designs of farthest space; let sun and moon and stars and light and what lies hidden praise your might. Sustaining God, your hands uphold earth's mysteries known or yet untold: let water's fragile blend with air, enabling life, proclaim your care. Redeeming God, your arms embrace all now despised for creed or race; let peace, descending like a dove, make known on earth your healing love. Indwelling God, your gospel claims one family with a billion names; let every life be touched by grace until we praise you face to face.

† 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 Genesis 1:1–5, 26, 31; 2:15–17; 3:4–9, 14–15, 21–23

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” <sup>31</sup> God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.” <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. <sup>8</sup> They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” <sup>14</sup> The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.” <sup>21</sup> And the Lord God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife and clothed them. <sup>22</sup> Then the Lord God said, “See, the humans have become like one of us, knowing good and evil, and now they might reach out their hands and take also from the tree of life and eat and live forever”— <sup>23</sup> therefore the Lord God sent them forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which they were taken.

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

SERMON “The Bible Jesus Knew: The Creation & Fall”

Reverend Whitton

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

† HYMN 144 “This Is My Father’s World”

† BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Children’s Sermon	Sarah Wright, <i>Associate Director of Children’s Ministry</i>
Lay Reader	Judy Foust (8:30 a.m.); Margaret King (11:00 a.m.)
Liturgist	Pattye Hewitt, <i>Executive Director of Adult Discipleship and Welcoming Ministries</i>
Musicians	William Rhys, <i>Bass</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	Tim McKey (8:30 a.m.); Jim Hewitt (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! 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.

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** on June 7 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).



## 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 flushable wipes, fruit cups, soft baked Nutri-Grain bars, new or gently used men's athletic shoes (sizes 10-13.5), and men's XL gym shorts.



**Soundboard volunteers are needed for the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. sanctuary services.** Persons do not need to be tech-savvy to participate and will be provided training to ensure confidence. Please email Lamar Drummonds at [lamar@firstmethodist.org](mailto:lamar@firstmethodist.org) to learn more about this important ministry.

**There are two more weeks to register for Vacation Bible School** (July 13-17 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) Children entering pre-K4 (who are potty trained) to those entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to become VBS Challengers and gear up for frosty games, snowy surprises, lessons about resilience and faith. Cost is \$45/child and includes materials, t-shirt, and a daily snack. **The deadline to register is June 15**, and there is an option for pre-care and after-care at ELC summer camp. Visit [www.firstmethodistchildren.org](http://www.firstmethodistchildren.org) to sign up!

**This summer, Revive225 will welcome four mission groups to our community!** One meaningful way we can welcome is by providing homemade or store-bought desserts for our guests during their stay. Please scan the QR code to review available dates and sign-up to help. Have questions? Contact Sophia Abbott at [sabbott@firstmethodist.org](mailto:sabbott@firstmethodist.org).



The first **What's Up Wednesday** for youth who have completed 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade actually starts on a Tuesday, June 2 (because of First Tuesday). Get your work gloves ready! Youth will be serving with Revive225 from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Meet at FUMC. Lunch is provided. Go to [www.firstmethodistyouth.org](http://www.firstmethodistyouth.org) for more info, to fill out the required waiver, and to register at [www.firsttuesdayserves.com](http://www.firsttuesdayserves.com).

**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>.



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.