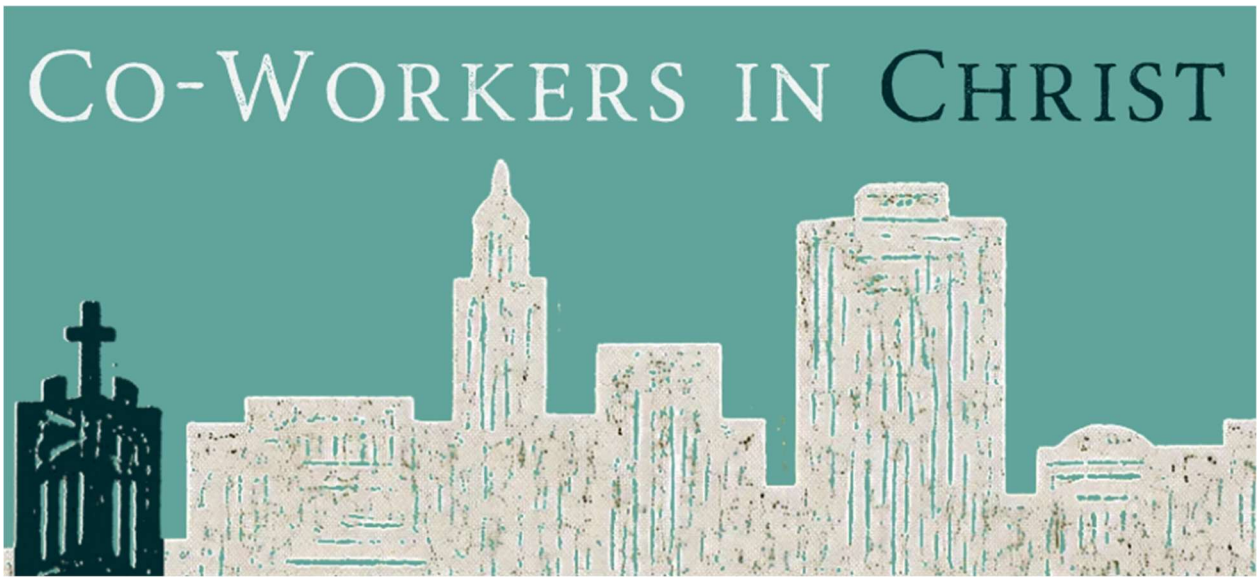


Together in Faith. Together in Mission.

November 8, 2026
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service" Setting by Dale Wood

GREETING

† HYMN 158 "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Julia Grace, child of Austin and Rebecca Safford (8:30 a.m.)
Isla Claire, child of Brandon and Marianne Turner (11:00 a.m.)

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:*

(Child's first and middle name), 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.
(Child's first and middle name), God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

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 581 "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service"

CHILDREN'S SERMON

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Alex Byo, *Executive Director, FUMC Ministry Resources*

Copies of the Discipleship Covenant are available in baskets at the front corners of the sanctuary, and at the back of the balcony. You may pick up a copy during the Passing of the Peace.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

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 "Be Thou My Vision" Setting by Bob Chilcott (8:30 a.m.)

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart, be all else but naught to me, save that thou art; be thou my best thought in the day and the night, both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light. Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word; be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord; be thou my great Father, and I thy true son; be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one. Be thou and thou only the first in my heart; O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art; great heart of my own hearts, whatever befall, still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Today's anthem was composed in 1989 by renowned American organist John Weaver, who taught organ at the Juilliard School and was also the Organist/Choirmaster at the famed Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City. Weaver's substantial and virtuosic organ accompaniment matches the triumphant nature of the Psalm 46 text, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." The opening section (the storm) reflects the imagery of roaring, foaming waters, and trembling mountains. The middle section (the refuge) resolves into a peaceful assurance of God's protective presence.

"Psalm 46" John Weaver (11:00 a.m.)

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea; though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown; God shall help her at the break of day. The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away. Come now and look upon the works of the Lord, what awesome things he has done on earth. It is he who makes wars to cease in all the world; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire. "Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

† 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 2 Corinthians 8:1–11

We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia, for during a severe ordeal of affliction their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the favor of partnering in this ministry to the saints, and not as we expected. Instead, they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you. Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. I do not say this as a command, but I am, by mentioning the eagerness of others, testing the genuineness of your love. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. And in this matter I am giving my opinion: it is beneficial for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something. Now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means.

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

Sermon "This Sermon Is Not Really About Money" Reverend Whitton

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

You are invited to place your Discipleship Covenant in the altar basket as your commitment to God and the church's mission.

† Hymn 568 "Christ for the World We Sing"

† Benediction

Closing Voluntary "Postludium Festiva" David Lasky

Acolyte	Caleb Milazzo (8:30 a.m.); Shepherd Addison (11:00 a.m.)
Children's Sermon	Beth Newell
Lay Reader	Mike Steinkamp (8:30 a.m.); Mary Harper Hart (11:00 a.m.)
Liturgist	Cindy Mann
Musicians	Grayce Reynolds, *Soprano* (8:30 a.m.); Chancel Choir, Dr. Chelsey Geeting, *Cantor* (11:00 a.m.)
	Holden Miller, *Associate Director of Music and Organist*
	Lamar Drummonds, *Director of Music and Worship*
Preaching	Reverend Brady Whitton, *Senior Pastor*
Soundboard	Rebecca Mitchell (8:30 a.m.); Josh Ford (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.

Are you discerning becoming a member of FUMC or ready to join? Attend the next Believe & Belong on November 15 from 9:45–10:45 a.m. in Adult Building, Room 118. 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.

Announcements

Second Sunday Mission opportunities in the Conference Center

- Pick up a **Mission Lunch benefiting Front Yard Bikes!** Today's lunch includes fried fish, potato salad, green peas, a roll, and a cookie for $10 per plate. Front Yard Bikes teaches youth bike mechanics and workforce skills while providing a welcoming space for mentorship, learning, and recreation.
- Support **Methodist Children's Home** by purchasing salsa ($7) and jelly ($8).
- Shop the **Hope Shop's** fair-trade products supporting women artisans.
- Visit the **Methodists for Social Justice** table to learn how to get involved.

The Youth Ministry is selling FUMC-famous **Crawfish Soup and Bergeron's Pecans** in the Conference Center. A bag of pecans is $15 and a quart of soup is $20. Cash, check, and cards are accepted.

The Giving Tree provides joy to a child on Christmas morning. Visit the Conference Center to select a child's name, or select a name by visiting www.firstmethodistgivingtree.org. Questions: contact Caroline Tyler at givingtree@firstmethodist.org. Wrapped gifts are due by Sunday, December 13. Please do not return gifts before November 30.

Interested in making plarn (plastic yarn) or crocheting mats for the **Love Your Neighbor Van**? Visit the table in the Conference Center to learn more. For more information, contact Judy Foust at jpfoust@ccr.brcoxmail.com.

The Love Your Neighbor Van connects caring community members with unhoused neighbors by delivering food, essential supplies, and compassion directly to the streets of Baton Rouge. The van currently needs men's dark color long-sleeve t-shires, sweatshirts, and elastic waist sweatpants (M, L and XL). 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.

Ornament Making Workshop: All ages are welcome at this gathering on November 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Conference Center! Create a variety of ornaments in preparation for the Christmas season and enjoy hot cocoa with friends. Please RSVP to Katie Davis, *Director of Communication and Connection*, at kdavis@firsmethodist.org.

Adorn worship by ordering your poinsettia today! We hope you will place a poinsettia in a worship space in memory or honor of someone special this year. Order by scanning the QR Code to the right, or by visiting www.fumcbr.org/poinsettia. Each plant is $21. The deadline to order is Sunday, December 13. Poinsettias will adorn worship spaces on December 20, Christmas Eve, and December 27.

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 www.fumcbr.org/give.