

## SERVICE OF WORSHIP

October 18, 2026 at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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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 "Be Thou My Vision"

Setting by Healey Willan

GREETING

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Earthly rulers, nations, and powers claim our attention and demand our taxes, but God is the Lord of all life!

**In God we live, move, and have our being.**

The coins in our pockets may bear the images of this world, but our hearts bear the very image of God.

**We belong to God in body and in spirit. Let us praise God and offer all that we are in service and love!**

† HYMN 152 "I Sing the Almighty Power of God"

† 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*

MINISTRY OF MUSIC "Reflection on 'Beach Spring'"

Setting by Hal Hopson

OUR SHARED LIFE

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of the Care Team members.

The rose honors the birth of Colman Luke, child of Luke and Caroline Younger, grandchild of Tim and Jodi McKey, born October 13, 2026.

The votive candle is in memory of Molly McKenzie.

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 451 "Be Thou My Vision"

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 “Holy, Holy, Holy”

Setting by Michael Helman

† 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 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. <sup>16</sup>So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” <sup>21</sup>They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” <sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

SERMON “The Revolutionary Politics of Jesus”

Reverend Whitton

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

† HYMN 593 “Here I Am, Lord”

† BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “Festival Voluntary”

Flor Peeters

## MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

|                   |                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Acolyte           | Claire Smith (8:30 a.m.); Paul Johnson (11:00 a.m.)                                                                                           |
| Children’s Sermon | Sirena Brock                                                                                                                                  |
| Lay Reader        | Rachel Harvey (8:30 a.m.); Annika Small (11:00 a.m.)                                                                                          |
| Liturgist         | Reverend Doctor Don Cottrill, <i>Pastor Emeritus</i>                                                                                          |
| Musicians         | The Woodland Ringers; Holden Miller, <i>Associate Director of Music and Organist</i><br>Lamar Drummonds, <i>Director of Music and Worship</i> |
| Preaching         | Reverend Brady Whitton, <i>Senior Pastor</i>                                                                                                  |
| Soundboard        | Rebecca Mitchell                                                                                                                              |

## 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, November 1 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](mailto:shan@firstmethodist.org).



**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](mailto:welcome@firstmethodist.org).



## Announcements

Attend **Mumus and Mahjong** today from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the Ory Parish Hall. Wear comfy clothes! This is a night all about comfort, community, connection, and a little friendly Mahjong competition. A Mahj 102 lesson (for those who took the 101 lesson last month) will be available, as well as free play! Sign up at [www.fumcbr.org/mahjong](http://www.fumcbr.org/mahjong).

The Youth **Great Pumpkin Hunt** is tonight from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Teams will start at FUMC and end at the Maciaszs' house in Port Allen. Parents are invited to the Maciaszs' for a cook out and fellowship after the Hunt. All the details are available at [www.firstmethodistyouth.org](http://www.firstmethodistyouth.org).

FUMC will participate in **Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge's Interfaith Build** on Saturday, October 31, from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at 1648 N. 29th St., Baton Rouge. We need approximately 15 volunteers. A Sunday School class is also needed to sponsor and deliver lunch to the worksite. To volunteer or learn more, contact Joshua Glass at [j.glass1217@gmail.com](mailto:j.glass1217@gmail.com) or (225) 572-0359.

**You are invited to attend a Love Your Neighbor** van meeting on Thursday, October 24 at 9:00 a.m. in the Adult Building, Room 117, to begin a special project. Plastic mats to place under sleeping bags will be made to provide cushioning, insulation, and protection from moisture. You will be taught a simple crochet stitch to create the mats (no experience required). Volunteers are also needed to cut plastic bags. Please bring size P or Q crochet hooks, scissors, and clean plastic grocery bags. For more information, contact Judy Foust at [jpfoust@ccr.brcoxmail.com](mailto:jpfoust@ccr.brcoxmail.com).

**Preparations are underway for Fall Fest** on Sunday, October 25 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Fall Fest sponsorship opportunities are available. Support this event by dropping off candy at the America Street welcome desk and in the



church office, or by sponsoring games, inflatables, food, and balloon artists. Enjoy baking? We need dozens of baked goods for the cookie walk. Do you make a mean chili? Contact Sarah Wright at [swright@firstmethodist.org](mailto:swright@firstmethodist.org) to enter it in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chili Cookoff. Visit



Dessert [www.firstmethodistchildren.org](http://www.firstmethodistchildren.org) to get involved with Fall Fest.

Sponsorship

FUMC's **Church Council** will meet on Monday, October 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Center. All members are welcome to attend.

The **Fall Senior Luncheon** will be held on Wednesday, October 28 at 11:00 a.m. in the Conference Center, featuring the Florida Street Blowhards jazz and second line band. Join in the festivities in your Halloween costume or best fall colors - there will be a prize for best autumn outfit! Registration for the luncheon is \$20 per person. To register, for more information, or to volunteer, email Dr. Chelsey Geeting at [cgeeting@firstmethodist.org](mailto:cgeeting@firstmethodist.org), or call (225) 383-4777.

As part of the opening processional on **All Saints' Sunday**, November 1, you have an opportunity to honor a life on the All Saints' Banner that incorporates names of past lives. A ribbon and bell will be attached to the banner for each name submitted. Email the name you want to memorialize to Lamar Drummonds at [lamar@firstmethodist.org](mailto:lamar@firstmethodist.org). Deadline for submittal is Wednesday, October 28.

### **Kairos Angola Needs Your Support**

"I was in prison and you visited me." — Matthew 25:36

About 10 men from First United Methodist Church of Baton Rouge will be serving on the Kairos Prison Ministry team at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, November 5–8.

The team and retreat participants invite your support in several ways:

- Prayer: Please pray for the team, the residents, and all who will participate in the November 5–8 retreat.
- Cookies: Homemade cookies are an important part of showing love to the residents. Instructions are available at [listenlistenlovelove.com/cookies](http://listenlistenlovelove.com/cookies).
- Children's Agape: Artwork and notes from children are a special blessing to the residents. Please include only the child's first name and age on anything submitted.

Cookies, letters, artwork, and other items should be delivered to the church office by November 4. For questions, contact Brian Snyder at [snyder.brian.f@gmail.com](mailto:snyder.brian.f@gmail.com). To learn more about Kairos Prison Ministry, visit [www.kairosprisonministry.org](http://www.kairosprisonministry.org).

Join us for **safeTALK Suicide Alertness Training** on Saturday, November 7, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the FUMC Conference Center. This free, three-hour practical workshop is open to anyone age 15 and older and will equip you to become a suicide-alert helper. This workshop is presented by Patty Rives, *MSW, LCSW* and materials are provided by the Baton Rouge Crisis Intervention Center. Free and open to the public. Register today at [www.fumcbr.org/safetalk](http://www.fumcbr.org/safetalk) or scan the QR code.



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 fruit cups, soft-baked fruit and grain bars, and long-sleeve T-shirts (L and XL) in dark colors. 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.



FUMC member and certified yoga instructor Mary Byo continues leading **Strong and Steady: Movement for Seniors** every Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. in the Joe Dean Court on the third floor of the Youth Building. This gentle class focuses on strength, stability, and mind-body-spirit integration and welcomes all - including those using mobility aids. For more information, email [cgeeting@firstmethodist.org](mailto:cgeeting@firstmethodist.org) or call (225) 383-4777, ext. 225.

**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>.