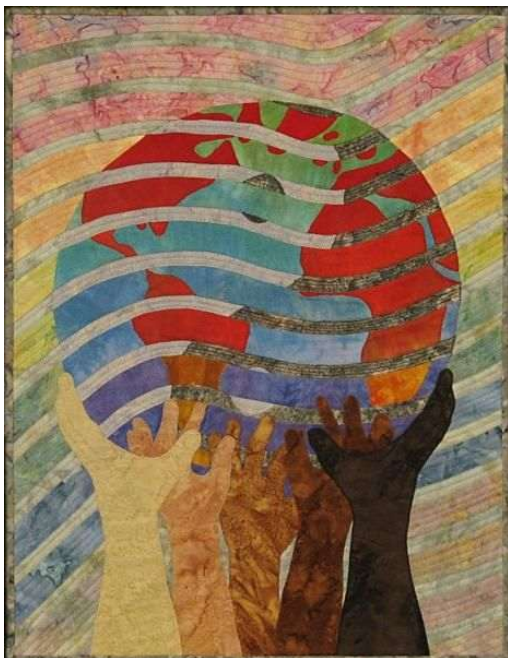




World Communion Sunday October 4, 2026 at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

First United Methodist Church
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Welcome to First United Methodist Church. Whether you are a first-time visitor, longtime member, or somewhere in-between, welcome to this place where together we sing, pray, listen, and praise the living God whose love brings new life for us and for the world.

This morning we celebrate World Communion Sunday, giving thanks for fellowship with Christians of every tribe and tongue around the world. At the communion table, God's gift of our diversity becomes united in worship of Jesus Christ, the only Son of God. First observed by Presbyterians in 1936, World Communion Sunday was shortly thereafter observed in Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren churches.

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY "Allemanda"

Arcangelo Corelli

GREETING AND OPENING PRAYER

INTROIT (11:00 a.m.)

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

Setting by Bradley Ellingboe

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy: bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard. Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the word around: loaves abound! Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone. Teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share: God Immanuel everywhere!

Please stand at points marked †.

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Almighty God, we join with sisters and brothers around the world around Christ's holy table.

We come to feast together.

Have mercy on your church, troubled and divided.

Renew us and make us one.

Transform our daily bread into the bread of life,
and the cup that we drink into the cup of salvation.

† HYMN 62 "All Creatures of Our God and King"

† 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 25:37-40

Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

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

SERMON “Holy Love in Action”

Doctor Christopher Holoman

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. We look at a world undone by strife, torn by violence, separated by hatred. Yet you call us to walk the way of peace. Forgive us, O Lord, for refusing to follow you on this path because the cost is too high, the direction too confusing, the conditions too harsh. Forgive us our complacency. Grant us clarity of vision to see the light, and the strength to walk behind you.



By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

† PASSING OF THE PEACE *As a forgiven people, we greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

OUR SHARED LIFE

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Dr. William Weldon, by his family.

Today's music is underwritten by Dr. Lee and Melissa Rowe Montgomery, in memory of Ken and Wilma Rowe's wedding anniversary.

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 “Eternal Life”

Olive Dungan

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is dying that we are born to eternal life.

Text: St. Francis of Assisi

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† 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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

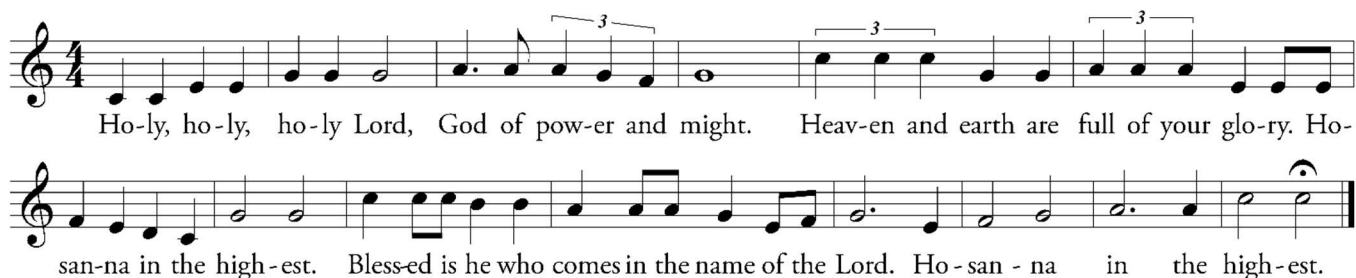
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You have made from one every nation and people to live on all the face of the earth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth and to make disciples of all nations, and today his family in all the world is joining at his holy table.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Renew our communion with your Church throughout the world, and strengthen it in every nation and among every people to witness faithfully in your name. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP *All who love Christ are invited to receive. Unfermented grape juice is used.
Money placed on the communion rail supports the Pastor's Benevolence Fund.*

MUSIC FOR COMMUNION

"A Communion Prelude"

Charles Callahan

"Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether" (11:00 a.m.)

Harold Friedell

Draw us in the Spirit's tether; for when humbly, in thy name, two or three are met together, thou art in the midst of them: Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now thy garment's hem. As the brethren used to gather in the name of Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup, Alleluia! Alleluia! So knit thou our friendship up. All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee, that by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be. Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve thee faithfully.

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

† HYMN "All Who Love and Serve Your City"



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: All who love and serve your city, all who bear its daily stress, all who in your day of wealth and plenty, wast-ed work and wast-ed play, call to Ris-en Lord, shall yet the city be the city of de-spair? Come to - cry for peace and jus-tice, all who curse and all who bless: in your mind the word of Je-sus, "Work ye yet while it is day." For all day, our Judge, our Glo-ry, be its name, "The Lord is there!" By your day of loss and sor-row, in your day of help-less strife, hon-or, days are days of judg-ment, and the Lord is wait-ing still, draw-ing own e-ter-nal spir-it rule in all our hearts a-lone; by your peace, and love re-treat-ing, seek the Lord, who is your life. near to all who spurn him, of-fering peace from Cal-vary's hill. all-suf-fi-cient mer-it, raise us to your glo-rious throne.

† BENEDICTION

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Acolyte	Kate Altazan (8:30 a.m.); Parker Audas (11:00 a.m.)
Communion Servers	Lisa Burns, Elva Evans, Brooke Lambertson, Nick Totaro (8:30 a.m.) Vanessa Graham, Carole Lamar, Sandra Loy, Charles Spencer (11:00 a.m.)
Liturgists	Reverend Doctor Kim McGee, <i>Deacon</i> Reverend Kale Wetekamm, <i>Pastor to Children and Youth</i> Reverend Brady Whitton, <i>Senior Pastor</i>
Musicians	Richard Hobson, <i>Bass</i> ; Jennifer Lau, <i>Flute</i> 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	Doctor Christopher Holoman
Soundboard	Rebecca Mitchell (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 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** today 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.



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.



Do you receive our E-News? Our weekly email newsletter is one of the primary ways we communicate with the congregation and friends. If you’d like to be added to the distribution list, please email info@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.

Accessibility

There is an elevator, ADA compliant, on T. J. Jemison/East Blvd. The elevator provides access to the sanctuary from the street level without encountering any stairs.

Large-print bulletins and hymnals are available in the church office. Please return items to the office following the service.

Restrooms (one ADA compliant) and a Hospitality Room are located off the narthex at the back of the sanctuary. The larger restroom has an infant changing table. The Hospitality Room has a television displaying live video of the service.

Announcements

We welcome Dr. Christopher Holoman, President of Centenary College, to worship. A native North Carolinian, he earned a Bachelor of Arts in international relations with concentrations in political science and economics at the University of North Carolina, and a Master of Arts and Ph.D. in political science from the University of Chicago. Since assuming the Centenary presidency in 2016, Dr. Holoman has led the formation and implementation of two strategic plans: a new campus master plan, several significant improvements to the campus. Holoman and his wife, Connie, have two daughters, Allie Fritz and Fran Holoman. Allie and her husband Jamie are the parents of Milo and Casey, Fran and her wife Kate are the parents of Emery and Louis.

Centenary College of Louisiana is a private liberal arts college in Shreveport, Louisiana, and is affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Founded in 1825, it is the oldest chartered liberal arts college west of the Mississippi River and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Calling all college-aged students: The College Community Group is a place to meet new friends, ask real questions about faith, dive into scripture, and build a community that goes beyond the classroom. This group gathers weekly for good fellowship and plenty of fun. For more information, contact Katie Davis, *Director of Communication and Connection*, at kdavis@firstmethodist.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. Interested in helping? Attend an information gathering on Sunday, October 11, at 5:30 p.m. in the Ory Parish Hall. To volunteer or learn more, contact Joshua Glass at j.glass1217@gmail.com or (225) 572-0359.

The Youth Great Pumpkin Hunt is on Sunday, October 18 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Teams will start at FUMC and end at the Maciaszs' house in Port Allen. Teams should register in advance and are limited to 4-5 or fewer people. Adult drivers are needed for each team. Details are available at www.firstmethodistyouth.org.

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 to enter it in the 3rd Annual Chili Cookoff. Visit www.firstmethodistchildren.org to get involved with Fall Fest.



Sponsorship

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>.