

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY "Fugue in C Major" BWV 547 Johann Sebastian Bach

† HYMN 154 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00 a.m.)

Patrick Lee, child of Alex and Emily McCollam

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:*

Patrick Lee, 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.

Patrick Lee, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

OUR SHARED LIFE

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Susan Wilder, by her family.

The votive candles are in memory of Susan Wilder and Michael Gaulden.

CALL TO PRAYER "Rock of Ages"

Setting by Luigi Zaninelli

Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee; let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed, be of sin the double cure, save from wrath and make me pure. Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands; could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow, all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone. Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee. Amen.

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 “Help Us Accept Each Other”

Help us ac-cept each oth-er as Christ ac-cept-ed us; teach us as sis-ter,
 Teach us, O Lord, your les-sons, as in our dai-ly life we strug-gle to be
 Let your ac-cep-tance change us, so that we may be moved in liv-ing sit-u-
 Lord, for to-day's en-coun-ters with all who are in need, who hun-ger for ac-
 broth-er, each per-son to em-brace. Be pres-ent, Lord, a-mong us, and
 hu-man and search for hope and faith. Teach us to care for peo-ple, for
 a-tions to do the truth in love; to prac-tice your ac-cep-tance, un-
 cep-tance, for righ-teous-ness and bread, we need new eyes for see-ing, new
 bring us to be-lieve we are our-selves ac-cept-ed and meant to love and live.
 all, not just for some, to love them as we find them, or as they may be-come.
 til we know by heart the ta-ble of for-give-ness and laugh-ter's heal-ing art.
 hands for hold-ing on; re-new us with your Spir-it; Lord, free us, make us one!

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 to give online.



OFFERTORY “Our Soul Waiteth for the Lord”

Joan Pinkston

Our soul waiteth for the Lord: for he is our help and our shield. Our heart shall rejoice in him, our heart shall rejoice, for we have trusted in his holy name.

-Psalm 33:20-21

† 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 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his

slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

SERMON "Let's Talk About Hell"

Reverend Whitton

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

† HYMN 389 "Freely, Freely"

† BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

Setting by John Longhurst

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Acolyte	Joshua Newell (8:30 a.m.); Liam Snyder (11:00 a.m.)
Children's Sermon	Sheri Loy
Lay Reader	Susan Burkhart (8:30 a.m.); Peggy Wooley (11:00 a.m.)
Liturgist	Reverend Doctor Kim McGee, <i>Deacon</i>
Musicians	Lindsay Kate Brown, <i>Mezzo-soprano</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	Reverend Brady Whitton, <i>Senior Pastor</i>
Soundboard	Blake Mason (8:30 a.m.); Rick Waldrop (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 September 20 from 9:45–10:45 a.m. in the Conference Center. 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.



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.

Announcements

We welcome Lindsay Kate Brown to worship. Lindsay is *Assistant Professor of Voice* at the LSU School of Music, and holds degrees from Rice University, Houston, TX, and Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY. She has received a number of awards and distinctions from competitions, young artist programs, and institutions. Recent credits include contracts with The Metropolitan Opera and Houston Grand Opera.

You are invited to a Dessert Social: An afternoon of sweet treats and fellowship on September 27 from 4:00-5:30 p.m. in the Conference Center! Bring your favorite dessert to share, or simply come and enjoy a delicious treat and good company. If you plan to bring a dessert, please sign up by scanning the QR code.



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 men's crew socks, men's large elastic waist gym shorts (dark colors), and flushable wipes.



Kids' Night for K-5th graders returns today from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Kids will enjoy an evening of music and recreation designed to grow their faith and have fun! Dinner is available for \$5/meal or \$50/semester. Register at fumcbr.org/kidsnight.

The **Congregational Care Lay Ministry** of FUMC provides a supportive connection to members of our church who are homebound or reside in assisted living facilities. Share the love of Christ with those no longer able to attend church services by becoming a Congregational Care Lay Minister (CCLM). An informational meeting is being held today at 12:15 p.m. in Adult Building Room 115. A light lunch will be served.

7th-8th grade youth and their parents are invited to One Night Stand, a human sexuality and theology workshop, on Sunday, September 27 from 11:00-5:00 p.m. at FUMC. This workshop creates space for you and your teenager to have the conversations you want to have regarding your family and faith's regard for sexuality. Cost is \$80/student, which includes lunch, materials, and a James Avery ring or pendant. Sign up at www.firstmethodistyouth.org.

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>.