



Service of Worship

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Making Disciples in Three Centuries

September 17, 2023 at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Welcome to First United Methodist Church. Today we conclude a sermon series on the foundations of our Christian faith, and in particular, the United Methodist *Articles of Religion*. Booklets containing the entire *Articles of Religion* can be found in the hymnal racks on the sanctuary floor. Copies are on pedestals at each balcony entrance.

GATHERING

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Herr Gott, dich loben alle wir – Lord God, We All Praise You*

Johann Pachelbel

GREETING

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

† HYMN 545 *The Church's One Foundation*

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

United Methodist Hymnal, p. 885

Where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is the one true church, apostolic and universal,
whose holy faith let us now declare:

We believe in God the Father,
infinite in wisdom, power and love,
whose mercy is over all his works, and
whose will is ever directed to his children's good.

We believe in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Son of man,
the gift of the Father's unfailing grace,
the ground of our hope,
and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit
as the divine presence in our lives,
whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance
of the truth of Christ,
and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself
in the service of love
as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord,
to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.

Be seated.

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 during the last verse of the hymn for the children's sermon.

† HYMN 555 *Forward Through the Ages*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

† PASSING OF THE PEACE *The people stand and greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. You can also give and register your attendance by texting FUMCBR to (225) 465-0770.

OFFERTORY

Bread of the World

Arranged by Mark Hayes (8:30 a.m.)

Bread of the world in mercy broken, wine of the soul in mercy shed, by whom the words of life were spoken, and in whose death our sins are dead. Look on the heart by sorrow broken; look on the tears by sinners shed; and be your feast to us the token that by your grace our souls are fed! Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, One in Three; Christ above me, Christ beneath me, Christ within me, Three in One. Amen.

God of Grace and God of Glory

Paul Langston (11:00 a.m.)

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power; crown thine ancient church's story; bring her bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour. Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days. Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they may be armored with all Christ-like graces in the fight to set men free. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, that we fail not man nor Thee! Amen.

† DOXOLOGY *All sing*

**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.**

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

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 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

† HYMN 540 *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

SENDING FORTH

† BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Postlude on "Old Hundredth"*

Paul Fey

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Preaching	Reverend Brady Whitton, <i>Senior Pastor</i>
Liturgist	Reverend Kale Wetekamm, <i>Pastor to Children and Youth</i>
Musicians	Jaci Guidry, <i>Soprano</i> ; 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>
Acolyte	Camille Murray (8:30 a.m.); Oliver Boudreaux (11:00 a.m.)
Children's Sermon	Reverend Kip Shuford, <i>Associate Pastor of Visitation</i>
Lay Reader	Susan Burkhart (8:30 a.m.); Margaret King (11:00 a.m.)
Soundboard	Rebecca Mitchell (8:30 a.m.); Jim Hewitt (11:00 a.m.)

Welcome to First United Methodist Church

- **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 9:40-10:40 a.m. Let us assist you in finding a group by visiting the check-in table located across from the welcome desk in the Conference Center lobby. Ask a greeter for directions.
- **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.

Inviting and Welcoming

To respond to any of the following opportunities, contact Suzy Rivera, *Director of Inviting and Welcoming*, at welcome@firstmethodist.org.

- **New to First United Methodist?** Please fill out a Connect Card found in the blue folders located in the pews. Place the card in the offering plate when passed to you. Stop by Café 930 in the Ory Parish Hall from 8:00-11:00 a.m. for coffee and tea, and meet people who have a genuine love for the church. Ask a greeter for directions.
- **Been visiting and looking to take the next step?** A great place to start your journey is **Discover First** where you will meet staff and members of our community who can help you learn more about our church. Join us in-person on September 17, and 24 at 9:45 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. in Ory Parish Hall. No registration required for in-person guests. Want to attend online? Email welcome@firstmethodist.org for a Zoom link.
- **Want to become a member?** We believe the Christian faith and life are most fully lived out as part of a community and invite you to consider making First United Methodist your official church home. Our next membership class, *Believe and Belong*, will be held Sunday, October 8 from 12:00-2:00 p.m. in the Ory Parish Hall. You may attend in-person or online. Lunch is provided for those attending in-person.



Announcements, Events, and Mission Opportunities

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. We believe these free resources will encourage and inspire you in following Jesus and loving others in his name.

We welcome the following persons who joined the church at the Believe and Belong gathering on September 10: Rodney and Katie Boyd and Rebecca Wisbar. The addition of these persons brings the total of new members in 2023 to 53.

The Care Ministry is reimagining how the **Prayer Ministries** at FUMC can grow and thrive. You are invited to participate in the visioning, planning, and implementation of in-person and online prayer opportunities. Whether you feel led to pray from home or at FUMC, we want to hear from you! Contact Reverend Kip Shuford, *Associate Pastor of Visitation*, at (225) 383-4777, ext. 248, or email kshuford@firstmethodist.org.

Make plans to attend the next **Senior Adult Program and Lunch** on Wednesday, October 11. Musical entertainment will be provided by the Florida Street Blowhards. The program begins at 10:30 a.m. in the Conference Center. Lunch and program only \$10.00. To make reservations, call (225) 383-4777, ext. 229, or email care@firstmethodist.org.

The Music Ministry of First United Methodist Church invites you to *Sing the Love Amazing* on Sunday, October 22 at 4:00 p.m. This community hymn festival will be led from the organ by James Bobb, *Elliot and Klara Stockdal Johnson Chair in Organ and Church Music* at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. Prof. Bobb was Holden Miller's mentor while attending St. Olaf. Focusing on themes of unity and care of neighbor, the hymn festival features the FUMC Chancel Choir and the LSU Faculty Brass Quintet. Bridging the ecumenical Baton Rouge community, choirs from the following churches will also participate: Broadmoor United Methodist, St. Aloysius Catholic, St. Luke's Episcopal, St. James Episcopal, University Presbyterian, University United Methodist. Your voice is vital to the success of this festival; make plans to attend and invite a friend to join you as we *Sing the Love Amazing*. This event is generously underwritten by First United Methodist members, Omer and Marybeth Davis.

The reach of worship services at First United Methodist Church is broad. An average of 800 people view our services online throughout the week. The television broadcast is viewed by an estimated 12,000 households each week. The broadcast ministries are making disciples beyond the walls of the church via radio, television, Facebook, YouTube, and the church's website. Consider sharing these "viewing" opportunities with friends in the community. A replay of today's service is available on Facebook and YouTube.



Habitat for Humanity: Would you be interested in volunteering for a Habitat for Humanity build day with other local United Methodist Churches in the area? Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge became an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International in 1989 as an outgrowth of the Federation for Churches & Synagogues. Habitat is not a handout but a "hand up." They offer low-income families the opportunity to purchase a simple, decent home at an affordable price. Express your interest by scanning the QR code and filling out the form. Your involvement could change lives. Stay tuned for more details!



A Bead and A Prayer - For centuries, Christians have been using beads and stones to pray. From the pebbles used by the desert fathers and mothers to the Catholic rosary, to the more recent Protestant (Anglican) prayer beads, Christians across the world have used these tools to connect to God. For four weeks in October (1, 8, 15, 22), Kay Martin will lead a workshop on this life-giving practice on Sundays from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in Ory Parish Hall. Childcare provided. Use the QR code to register today!

