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## Worship This Sunday



**We are so excited you want to worship  
with us from wherever you are!**

**Join us Sunday morning online or at the  
church at 8:30, 9:45, and 11 AM.**

**Sermon Title:**

Merry Apocalypse!

**Scripture Reading:**

Mark 13:24-37

The season of Advent starts in what seems a strange place: with a reminder of the second coming of Christ. In particular, the scriptures call us to stay alert and awake for that inevitable day. But why? What's the rush? Can't it wait? This message will explore a unique and essential aspect of "the end" and why focusing on it now has the power to bring immense blessing into our lives.

[Watch Past Services](#)

## Advent Offerings



## December 3: Advent Adventure

The FUMC Children's Ministry invites you to experience the story of Christmas as a family through activities, crafts, food, and music at Advent Adventure on December 3 from **4-6pm** downtown at **North Blvd. Town Square**.

Please note that in case of rain this event will be held in the FUMC gym.

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## Wednesdays: Mid-Week Communion

Draw closer to God by attending a mid-week communion service in the **Aldrich Chapel** each Wednesday during Advent from **12:10-12:40 p.m. (December 6, 13, and 20)**. Clergy will offer a short devotional and serve Holy Communion.

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## December 10: Music Sunday, Gumbo, and Pilgrimage

Celebrate with us on December 10 as the Chancel Choir and Festival Orchestra offer music of the season at the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. services, and the America Street band offers music at the 9:45 service. This gift of music celebrating the birth of Jesus provides a wonderful opportunity to invite friends to join you in worship. We kick-off the **Downtown Christmas Pilgrimage** with a warm cup of **gumbo** being served in the Conference Center at 4:30 p.m. The Pilgrimage begins at Mt. Zion First Baptist Church at 5:30 p.m.

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## December 16: Christmas Food Boxes

Join the assembly line to pack 100 boxes with traditional holiday food items! Bring the family, invite your friends, and deliver joy to our neighbors in need this holiday season. Assembly will take place on Saturday, December 16 from **9:00-11:00 a.m.** in the FUMC **Conference Center**.

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## December 19: The Longest Night Service

On one special day in December, we celebrate the winter solstice, the longest night of the year. We host opportunities for healing, hope, and encouragement at this time as a reminder that even on the darkest day, Christ comes to offer light into our world. This contemplative service speaks particularly to persons who have had a difficult year and to all of us who have unspoken concerns and needs. The service will have a meditation and music, all by candlelight. This service in the **Sanctuary at 7 p.m.**

## December 24: Christmas Eve

Celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve!

- 8:30 AM — Sanctuary Service
- 9:45 AM — America Street Service
- 11:00 AM — Sanctuary Service
- 4:00 PM — Sanctuary Service
- 6:00 PM — Sanctuary Service

*The morning services include special worship moments for children in place of the sermon. The singing of Silent Night and lighting of candles will take place at all services. The evening services include Holy Communion.*

Christmas Eve Worship Services will be live streamed on Facebook, YouTube, and [firstmethodist.online.church](http://firstmethodist.online.church).



[Sign Up](#)

[Ask a Question](#)

[Donate](#)

### The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is a ministry of FUMC where Christmas gifts are purchased for children in local elementary public schools. This year we are collecting presents for 175 children.

Visit the Giving Tree website to select a child's wish list or visit the Parish Hall and a representative from The Giving Tree can guide you in selecting a wish list.

**All wrapped gifts should be returned to the FUMC Conference Center before Sunday, December 10.**

If you would like to participate by making a **financial donation**, please click the donate button.



[Contact Pattye](#)

### Cupcake Bakers Needed

Following Christmas Eve worship services, children will be invited to take home a cupcake with candle to help them remember whose birthday we celebrate on Christmas morning.

Bakers will prepare 20 cupcakes (or more) using only white cake mix and only white icing. No sprinkles or other decorations are to be added. (White paper baking cups will be given to volunteer bakers.) Cupcakes must be brought to the church **Fri. 12/22 or Sat. 12/23 by noon**. Contact Pattye Hewitt to sign up.



RSVP

## Mental Health and the Holidays

The holiday season can be a magical, festive time. It can also be an overwhelming or difficult time for folks. If you get the holiday blues, have grief that makes it hard to celebrate, or even would just like a non-judgmental place to talk about the stresses of the holidays, please join Methodists for Social Justice for Let's Keep Talking: Mental Health at the Holidays. This will be a listening session facilitated by social worker Patty Rives. **Sunday, December 10; 5-6 pm in the McKenzie library.** Please RSVP by clicking the button.



## The Advent We Actually Have

You are invited to join the Esthers Sunday School class (ladies 30's-40's) for **The Advent We Actually Have**, a study written by Kate Bowler.

Sundays during advent in the Adult Building, Room 112 from 9:40-10:45 a.m.



## Journey Sunday School Class

The Journey Sunday School class continues a four-part Advent study focusing on Jesus' birth narrative in the Gospel of Matthew. This class meets in **McKenzie Library** in the Chapel Building from **9:40-10:45 a.m.**

All are welcome!



## Advent Devotional

Would you like to deepen your life with God as we move toward the celebration of Jesus coming into the world on Christmas day?

The Advent 2023 Calendar of Devotions is a resource that will help prepare your heart to welcome the Christ child anew. Daily readings & reflections begin the first Sunday of Advent, December 3rd, and conclude on Christmas Eve.

Printed copies are available on the Resource Table and at the entrances/exits of the sanctuary/worship space. If you would like a printed copy mailed directly to your home or an electronic version emailed



to you, please reach out to Pattye Hewitt.

Contact Pattye

## Love Self



Sign Up

Learn more about Becky

### Longing For Christ's Companionship Women's Retreat

Take a pause to retreat with God before the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season. On **Saturday December 2nd from 8:30am – 2:00pm**, Ignatian trained spiritual director **Becky Eldredge** will be our guest facilitator for a very special women's event: 'Longing for Christ's Companionship'. Our time will be one of learning, reflecting, praying, singing, and enjoying fellowship with other women.

**\$40.00 retreat fee** includes lunch, snacks, and materials. Childcare is available with advanced registration.

## Love Others



ELC Voucher

### ELC Book Fair

Saturday, December 2, support the Early Learning Center by purchasing books at Barnes & Noble as a part of their Bookfair program. You can shop in person at the Barnes & Noble at Perkins Rowe, and support ELC by showing the voucher linked here.

You can also support this Bookfair by shopping online. Instructions are below:

- Add the items you want to purchase to your cart and select Checkout.
- From the Checkout page, scroll to the very bottom and click the plus sign next to Add Bookfair ID.
- Enter the **Bookfair ID (12700159)** into the Apply Bookfair ID field and click Apply.

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### Poinsettia Orders

Orders for poinsettias are being taken online. We hope you will consider placing a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone special this year.

**Each plant is \$20.** Poinsettias will be used



in worship from Sunday, December 17 to December 31.

The deadline to order is December 10 .

[Order Now](#)

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## Sock Drive



[Contact Anne](#)

The FUMC Children's Ministry is hosting a sock drive for its winter family mission!

**Donate any kind of socks** to those in need. We are accepting brand-new socks in women's, men's, and children's sizes.

These sock donations will be collected until Advent Adventure, when kids will be involved in decorating gift tags and packaging the socks to be given to local charities. Sock donations may be brought to the FUMC office or the welcome desk in the Conference Center. Contact Anne Roberts with any questions.

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## MissionBR 2024



The weekend of **January 13-15** FUMC Youth (6th-12th grade) will grow as disciples by serving in the Baton Rouge community and through worship and group activities.

**Total cost is \$150 with a \$50 deposit due upon registration.** Youth and chaperones will stay at FUMC overnight on Saturday and Sunday with activities and service taking place on Sunday and Monday.

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## Hygiene Kits



[Learn More](#)

Methodists for Social Justice continues to collect hygiene kits for the homeless. Please donate the following items in the blue box at the Welcome Desk outside the Conference Center: bar soap, small body lotions, deodorants, small Kleenex packs, lip balms, toothbrushes, toothpastes, and disposable razors. Used jackets (all sizes) are also being collected. Want to help assemble kits? Please call or text Sandra Jones at (225) 937-9453.

## Praying With Protestant Prayer Beads



Led by Cindy Mann, gather with others for a time of prayer using prayer beads. If you do not have prayer beads of your own, bring anything meaningful that may help you focus: A special piece of jewelry, a knotted scarf, rock(s) or simply yourself - a vessel to be filled with the presence of God. **Sunday December 3 from 5:00pm to 6:00pm** in Aldrich Chapel.

Nursery is available.

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## Believe and Belong

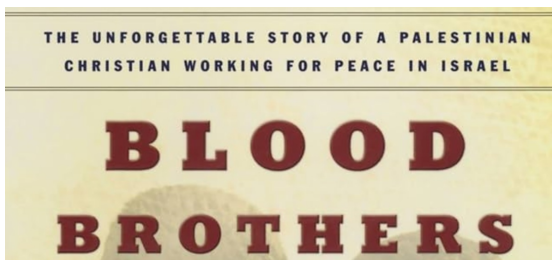


[Sign Up](#)

Have you been visiting FUMC for some time now? We believe the Christian life is most fully lived out with others. We invite you to attend one of our final Believe & Belong events for 2023, where we will explore what it means to follow Jesus and commit to our community of faith. Two opportunities are available: a hybrid option on **Sunday, December 17 from 12:00-2:00 p.m. in the Ory Parish Hall**, and via **Zoom on Monday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m.** Lunch and childcare will be provided on December 17.

## You're Invited!

### What are the roots of the ongoing conflict in Israel?



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Travel back 2000 years and explore the landscape of Jerusalem and the surrounding countryside in light of the present war between Israel and Palestine. **Dr. Tasha Whitton** will facilitate this time of learning and discussion using the book 'Blood Brothers' by Elias Chacour. (Reading of the book is not required.)

**Sundays 5:00pm – 6:30pm**  
(continues December 3 and 10) in **Ory Parish Hall**. Nursery is available.

For questions or if you would like to let us know you will be attending? Contact Pattye Hewitt.

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## Senior Adult Luncheon



Make plans to attend the Senior Adult Christmas Luncheon on Wednesday, **December 13** at the Baton Rouge Country Club at 11:30 a.m. Reservations and payment of \$35.00 required by Tuesday, December 5. To make reservations, call (225) 383-4777, ext. 229, or email below.

[Sign Up](#)

## Ways to Give

**TEXT** "FUMCBR" to 225-425-3862 and follow instructions

[Give Online](#)

**MAIL** a check to FUMC, 930 North Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802

### End-of-Year Gifts

As Christmas and the New Year draw near, many people make end-of-year gifts to their favorite charities. We want to make you aware of some end-of-year giving options that could benefit you and ask you to remember First United Methodist Church of Baton Rouge in your giving.

- The IRS requires retirees to take a minimum distribution from their retirement account each year or face a penalty. These distributions are an excellent way to give to your favorite charity.
- Some find it advantageous to pre-pay their 2024 charitable gift before December 31, 2023. Talk to your tax-preparer or accountant to determine if this is a good option for you.
- Some choose to give by donating stock and First United Methodist is able to receive such donations. Contact Bonnie Brignac at [bonnie@firstmethodist.org](mailto:bonnie@firstmethodist.org) to find out the details of making a stock donation.

**For more information about giving** to First United Methodist Church, contact Bonnie Brignac at [bonnie@firstmethodist.org](mailto:bonnie@firstmethodist.org).

Thank you for your generous support for the work God is doing through First United Methodist of Baton Rouge as we seek to Love3 (Love God, Love Neighbor, Love Self).

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If you would no longer like to receive the E-news from FUMC, please email [Katie Davis](mailto:Katie.Davis@firstmethodist.org), or call 383-4777 and we will remove you from this list.



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