

[Give Now](#)[Website](#)[Online Worship](#)

## Advent Offerings



### 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.

#### Pilgrimage Schedule:

- 5:30 p.m. Mt. Zion First Baptist
- 6:00 p.m. First United Methodist
- 6:30 p.m. First Presbyterian
- 7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Cathedral
- 7:30 p.m. St. James Episcopal
- 8:00 p.m. First Baptist

## The Giving Tree

Don't forget! All **wrapped gifts** should be returned to the FUMC Conference Center by **Sunday, December 10**. If you have questions, please email [givingtree@firstmethodist.org](mailto:givingtree@firstmethodist.org).

---

## Break the Bank Food Drive

FUMC is again partnering with the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank to fill **1,000 bags** with non-perishable food items. Bags with a shopping list will be handed out after the worship services this Sunday, December 10. Please return your filled bag next Sunday, December 17. Let's "break the bank" this year and feed those in need for Christmas

---

## 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 13 and 20)**. Clergy will offer a short devotional and serve Holy Communion.

---

## December 16: Christmas Food Boxes

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. Can't make it or desire to do more? Donations to offset food box expenses are appreciated!

Where: FUMC Conference Center

When: Saturday, **December 16** from **9:00 to 11:00 a.m.**

Cost per box: \$50. You can donate below or checks payable to FUMC (memo line: Food Boxes)

[Give Now](#)

---

## 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).

---

## Christmas Eve Worship Kits

Won't be with us in-person for Christmas Eve worship services? Pickup a **Christmas Worship Kit** following worship on December 10th and 17th in the Ory Parish Hall or Discover First table in the gym, or in the front office December 11th – 15th and December from 18th – 22nd between 9am – 5pm. Kits include a worship guide, communion elements, and candles for *Silent Night*.



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. Please note the new date: **Sunday, December 17; 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 Patty Hewitt.

[Contact Patty](#)

## Love Others

### 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](#)

---

## 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.



[Learn More](#)

## Hygiene Kits

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.

# Love God

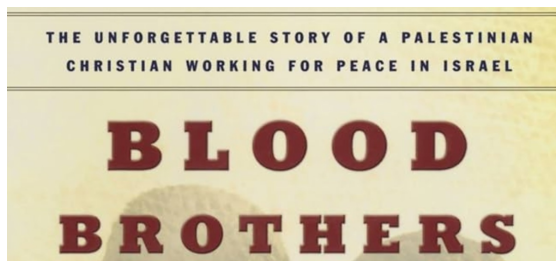
## Believe and Belong

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.



[Sign Up](#)

# You're Invited!



[Sign Up](#)

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

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 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.

## 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).

---

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



[Visit our Website](#)

First United Methodist Church | 930 North Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

[Unsubscribe grags@firstmethodist.org](mailto:grags@firstmethodist.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [bybwhitton@firstmethodist.org](mailto:bybwhitton@firstmethodist.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!