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Worship this Sunday



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Sermon Title:
Begotten In Us

Scripture Reading:
Luke 1:26-38

Some suggest God has been trying to communicate the same message to humanity over and over. The pattern and message are evident in the earliest Biblical stories and find their fulfillment in the birth of Jesus, and in a special way in his mother, Mary. This sermon will explore's Mary's "yes" to God and how we are called to echo this "yes" in our own lives.

Advent Offerings



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)

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December 17: 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. Please return your filled food bags (or any bag from home) this Sunday, December 17. Let's "break the bank" this year and feed those in need for Christmas

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 will be in the **Sanctuary at 7 p.m.**

December 20: Mid-Week Communion

Draw closer to God by attending an Advent mid-week communion service in the **Aldrich Chapel on December 20** from **12:10-12:40 p.m.** Clergy will offer a short devotional and serve Holy Communion.

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 message at the morning services will be a retelling of the Christmas story appropriate for all ages. 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.

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 17th in the Ory Parish Hall or Discover First table in the gym, or in the front office December 14th – 15th and December 18th – 22nd between 9am – 5pm. Kits include a worship guide, communion elements, and candles for *Silent Night*.



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 Pattye Hewitt.

[Contact Pattye](#)

Love Others

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



Sign Up

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.

End-of-Year Gifts

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

Give Online

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

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 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.

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](mailto:Katie.Davis@firstmethodist.org), 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

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