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## This Sunday



**Sermon Title:** So the World Will Know  
(Part 3): No Greater Purpose

**Scripture:** Matthew 28:18-20

**Theme:** What if the world's greatest purpose wasn't about career success, fame, or wealth, but about sharing a love so profound it changes the world? In this sermon, we explore Jesus' Great Commission, the simple yet life-altering message of God's love, reconciliation, and hope for the world. You'll hear why this good news is not only worth living but worth sharing—and how our mission as a church makes an eternal impact. If you've ever wondered why the church exists or what your part in it is, this message is for you.

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## Generosity

This Sunday concludes our *So the World Will Know* sermon series, which has explored our prayers, presence, financial gifts, service, and witness help the church fulfill its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and live into love of God, neighbor, and self.

As this series culminates, you are invited to submit a **Discipleship Covenant**. The Discipleship Covenant asks you to reflect on the commitments we make as part of this community – to bless and strengthen the church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. You may submit a paper covenant in worship this Sunday, or fill out an online covenant below.

**Our financial goal this year is to increase the number of recurring givers to the ministries of the church.** Recurring financial gifts are a meaningful way to support one

another in the journey of discipleship. Recurring gifts can be set up through ACH bank draft or online.

[Online Discipleship Covenant](#)

[Community Commitment Brochure](#)

[Set Up a Recurring Gift](#)

[Learn More about Recurring Giving](#)

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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. By clicking the button, you will be directed to the poinsettia reservation page. Each plant is \$20. Poinsettias will be used in worship on Sunday, December 15 through Christmas Eve. The deadline to order is Sunday, December 8.

[Order Now](#)

## Advent at FUMC



## Advent Volunteer Opportunities

**Looking for a way to serve during the Advent and Christmas season?** Whether helping feed the hungry or welcoming the stranger, there is a place for you to share in the joy of service as part of our church. To sign up, please click the buttons or directly contact ministry area leads listed below.

- **Children's Ministry – Sarah Wright, [swright@firstmethodist.org](mailto:swright@firstmethodist.org)**
  - Serve gumbo; run children's activity booths at the Advent Adventure | December 15, 4:00 p.m.
  - Participate in the Live Nativity at the Family Christmas Eve Service | December 24, 11:00 a.m.
- **Missions Ministry – Ben Kennedy, [bkennedy@firstmethodist.org](mailto:bkennedy@firstmethodist.org)**

- Load Giving Tree gifts and deliver gifts to schools | December 16, 8:00 a.m.
- Unload groceries for Christmas Food Boxes | December 20, 10:00 a.m.
- Pack Christmas Food Boxes | December 21, 9:00 a.m.
- **Worship Ministry – Lamar Drummonds, [lamar@firstmethodist.org](mailto:lamar@firstmethodist.org)**
  - Serve Holy Communion at the America Street Service | December 24, 2:00 p.m.
  - Assist guests with parking | December 24, 3:00 p.m.
  - Serve Holy Communion in the balcony at the Sanctuary Service | December 24, 4:00 p.m.
- **Inviting and Welcoming Ministry – Pattye Hewitt, [phewitt@firstmethodist.org](mailto:phewitt@firstmethodist.org)**
  - Greet attendees with a smile and a handshake at various services and events | December 4 through 24
  - Serve gumbo to guests at “Oh Come, All Ye Gumbo” | December 8, 4:00 p.m.
  - Box cupcakes for children for Christmas Eve | December 23, 1:00 p.m.

[Sign up to Greet for Events](#)

[Sign Up to Greet for Worship](#)

## Advent Missions

### Love Your Neighbor Van

This December, we invite you to participate in a special offering to support the launch of the **Love Your Neighbor van**, a new ministry of First United Methodist Church. Starting in January, this van will deliver food, supplies, and compassion to Baton Rouge’s homeless community, sharing the love of Christ with those in need.

In a city where over 1,000 people face homelessness, this ministry aims to do more than provide relief—it seeks to foster dignity, connection, and hope. Inspired by the church’s commitment to “Love3” (love God, love neighbor, and love self), the *Love Your Neighbor* van will bring faith into action.

Your generosity will ensure this vital mission can make a lasting impact. Please prayerfully consider giving to this special offering throughout December and culminating on Christmas Eve. Together, we can share Christ’s love and transform lives in Baton Rouge.

[Give](#)

[Volunteer](#)

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### The Giving Tree

Would you like to help provide joy to a child on Christmas morning? Select a child on the FUMC Giving Tree to provide gifts for this Christmas. Wrapped gifts are due by **Sunday, December 15** in the Conference Center. Please do not bring gifts before November 30. Questions: contact Caroline Tyler at [givingtree@firstmethodist.org](mailto:givingtree@firstmethodist.org).

[Sign Up](#)

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### First Tuesday

For our upcoming First Tuesday on **December 3rd**, we will be serving at Front Yard Bikes (FYB). Dustin LaFont and FYB need to move from their current location on Government St

to a different building across the street so that they can do the renovations and construction project to be able to better support the community in the years to come. If you have not had the opportunity to check out what Dustin and FYB are doing in our community, please take a minute and watch this video.

Watch the Video

Volunteer

## Advent Classes

### Sundays | Starting Dec. 3

**Rejoicing in a Weary World:** 'Encountering God in Everyday Life' Sunday School class will explore important biblical Advent themes using Lectio Divina (divine reading), reading and meditating on Scripture, discussion questions, and small group sharing. Led by Cherri Johnson and Cindy Mann, this class meets in Room 105, Adult Building. No registration required. Questions? Contact Cherri at [cherri@firstmethodist.org](mailto:cherri@firstmethodist.org)

**Names for the Messiah:** 'Journey' Sunday School class will take a deep look into four royal titles—Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Names for the Messiah ponders each title and how the people understood it then, how Jesus did or did not fulfill the title, and how Christians interpret Jesus as representative of that title. Led by Alvin Smith, this class meets in McKenzie Library, Chapel Building. No registration required. Questions? Contact Alvin Smith at [alvinsmith@gmail.com](mailto:alvinsmith@gmail.com).

## Advent and Christmas Worship

### Wednesdays | Chapel Services

Celebrate Holy Communion in the **Aldrich Chapel at 12:10 PM** on Wednesdays December 4, 11, and 18.

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### December 15 | Music Sunday

Sanctuary Service: The Chancel Choir and Festival Orchestra will offer music at the **8:30 & 11:00 AM services**.

America Street Service: The AMST band will offer seasonal selections at the **9:45 AM service**.

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### December 19 | The Longest Night Service

This service begins at **7:00 PM in the Sanctuary**. Join us for a service of healing, hope, and encouragement at this time as a reminder that even on the darkest day, Christ comes to offer light into our world.

Join us before the worship service for a fellowship supper of hot soup, warm bread and sweet treat beginning at 6:00pm. Please email Nan Defoe at [care@firstmethodist.org](mailto:care@firstmethodist.org) to let her know you will be attending supper.

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### December 24 | Christmas Eve Services

**11:00 AM** — Sanctuary Service (Family Service)

**2:00 PM** — America Street Service (Communion and Candlelight)

**4:00 PM** — Sanctuary Service (Communion and Candlelight)

**6:00 PM** — Sanctuary Service (Communion and Candlelight)

All Christmas Eve Worship Services will be live streamed on Facebook, YouTube, and [firstmethodist.online.church](http://firstmethodist.online.church). At-home worship kits, which contain everything you need to experience Christmas Eve while worshipping online, will be available in the Ory Parish Hall beginning December 1.

## Advent Events

### December 8 | Downtown Pilgrimage

This annual event begins at **5:30 PM at Mt. Zion First Baptist Church**. Join us at **4:30 PM in the Conference Center for delicious gumbo** before embarking upon this event.

Pilgrimage Schedule:

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

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### December 11 | Senior Adult Program

Make plans to attend the Senior Adult Christmas Event on **Wednesday, December 11**. Musical entertainment will be provided by Richard Hobson, Baritone. The program begins at 10:30 a.m. in the Church Sanctuary, with Luncheon to follow in the Conference Center. Lunch and program \$35.00. To make reservations, call (225) 383-4777, ext. 229 or email [care@firstmethodist.org](mailto:care@firstmethodist.org).

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### December 15 | 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 15 from 4-6pm** downtown at Galvez and Rhorer Plazas with candlelight carols at 5:30pm.

## Ways to Give

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

[Give Online](#)

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

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



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