

Today we continue the sermon series: "Transformed." Many of us feel the pull to grow, to change, to become better versions of ourselves. For others, the voice is louder: something has to change—now. But how does deep, lasting transformation actually happen? Where does it come from? This series outlines the biblical, and time-tested path by which God shapes human hearts and lives -- healing us, and making us new.

CHIMES

Worship begins at the opening voluntary. At the sound of the chimes, we invite you into a period of quiet reflection preparing for today's service.

OPENING VOLUNTARY "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"

Setting by Gayden Sikes

GREETING

† HYMN 340 "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"

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 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way.¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God.²¹ For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

SERMON "Transformed" (Part 3): "God's Story, Our Story"

Reverend Whittton

MINISTRY OF MUSIC "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters"

Setting by Allan Mahnke

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFSSION AND PARDON

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *All pray in silence.*

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

OUR SHARED LIFE

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Judy Powers.

Today's music is underwritten in celebration of the 60th wedding anniversary of John and Terry Demarche.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

An offering is collected to support the work of First United Methodist Church sharing God's love with the world. 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 when passed to you. Make a secure gift by scanning the QR Code or visit fumcbr.org/give to give online.



OFFERTORY

“Let Us Break Bread Together” (8:30 a.m.)

Setting by Moses Hogan

Let us break bread together on our knees, when I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, oh, Lord, have mercy on me. Let us drink wine together on our knees, when I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, Oh, Lord, have mercy on me. Let us praise God together on our knees, when I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether” (11:00 a.m.)

Harold Friedell

Draw us in the Spirit’s tether; for when humbly, in thy name, two or three are met together, thou art in the midst of them: Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now thy garment’s hem. As the brethren used to gather in the name of Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup, Alleluia! Alleluia! So knit thou our friendship up. All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee, that by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be. Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve thee faithfully.

† DOXOLOGY

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING P. 17

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.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP *All who love Christ are invited to receive. Unfermented grape juice is used.*

MUSIC FOR COMMUNION

“Let Us Break Bread Together” (11:00 a.m.)
“Pastoral” (8:30 a.m.)
“Come, and Let Us Sweetly Join”

Setting by Moses Hogan
Charles Wesley
Setting by Jacob Weber

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

† HYMN 156 “I Love to Tell the Story”

† BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “Rigaudon”

André Campra

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Communion Servers	Lisa Burns, Carl Goode, Jim Howell, Nicholas Totaro, (8:30 a.m.) Amy James, Amy King, Chris King, Chris Spencer (11:00 a.m.)
Liturgists	Reverend Kale Wetekamm, <i>Pastor to Children and Youth</i> Cherri Johnson, <i>Director of Spiritual Formation, Emerita</i>
Musicians	Nicholas Dieux, <i>Bass</i> ; Shea Tully, <i>Oboe</i> ; The 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>
Preaching	Reverend Brady Whitton, <i>Senior Pastor</i>
Soundboard	Rebecca Mitchell (8:30 a.m.); Rick Waldrop (11:00 a.m.)

New to First United Methodist Church? Here's Where to Begin!

Café 930 - Enjoy fellowship and a cup of hot coffee or tea from 8:00-11:00 a.m. (Ory Parish Hall) every Sunday morning. An assortment of teas, flavored syrups, and sweeteners are available. All are welcome.

If you are new to First United Methodist and are ready to learn more or have questions, we invite you to join us at today's **Newcomer Coffee**. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and meet others. This event takes place on the first Sunday of each month from 9:45–10:45 a.m. in Ory Parish Hall. Registration is helpful (scan the QR code) but not required. For more information, contact Shan Schatzle, Coordinator, at shan@firstmethodist.org.



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 9:45-10:45 a.m. To find a group, visit the check-in table located across from the welcome desk in the Conference Center lobby.

Believe & Belong – Are you discerning becoming a member of FUMC or ready to join? Attend the next Believe & Belong on March 15 from 9:45–10:45 a.m. in the Conference Center. Childcare and Children's Sunday School are available during this hour. Register by scanning the QR code. Questions? Email Patty Hewitt, *Executive Director of Adult Education, Hospitality, and Care*, at phewitt@firstmethodist.org.

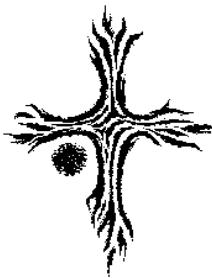


Announcements

We welcome the following persons who joined FUMC at the last “Believe & Belong:” Jon Gwatney and Jeryl Williams.

Senior Adult Luncheon – Join us on Wednesday, February 11, in the Conference Center to celebrate Valentine’s Day and Mardi Gras. The program, featuring local zydeco duo T’Monde, begins at 10:30 a.m. with lunch following (\$25 per person). To register, email Dr. Chelsey Geeting at cgeeting@firstmethodist.org or call (225) 383-4777, ext. 225.

Girls, infant-5th grade, and their father figures are invited to the **Daddy Daughter Disco** on Thursday, February 12 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the FUMC Conference Center! Tickets are \$25 per family. Register online at www.firstmethodistchildren.org, and sign up to help with the event!



Ash Wednesday is on February 18. Ash Wednesday marks the start of the Lenten season of reflection and repentance. On this day we mark the sign of the cross on ourselves to be grounded in our mortality as we seek a more faithful life. Lent is an opportunity to go deeply into our hearts and the souls of our communities, and to recognize the depth of our estrangement from God.

- 7:00-8:00 a.m. drive-thru imposition of ashes at America Street.
- 12:10 and 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary services with imposition of ashes.
- 6:30 p.m. Mid City Ash service at Counterspace (Government St.)

You are invited to a daylong retreat, “Open the Door,” to seek spiritual disciplines that enhances your awareness of how the doors of Christ are opening in your life. As we approach the season of Lent, this day will focus your faith journey. Saturday, February 28 from 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church. Registration is \$15. Led by Mary Rotenberg.



This April, Easter Sunday 2026, marks the centennial of the completion and dedication of the Baton Rouge First United Methodist Church sanctuary. Additional accounts regarding the “new” sanctuary will be shared in the bulletin over the coming months. We thank Dr. Ron Garay for gathering the historical information.

The very first Baton Rouge Methodist congregation gathered in its new building at the corner of Church (now North Fourth) and Laurel Streets in 1836. For nearly eighty years the Baton Rouge Methodist Episcopal Church, as it was known then, served its congregation well. The 1850 census shows that of the 306 churches in Louisiana, 125 of them were Methodist. As Methodism’s popularity grew alongside the city’s population, it became apparent by the early 1920s that the church had no alternative but to expand. More seating space was needed in the sanctuary; more Sunday School space was needed; and more parking space was needed as members increasingly made their way to church in automobiles.

After failed efforts to acquire adjacent property to allow expansion, the church’s Board of Stewards elected to begin looking elsewhere for property to construct a new church building. As was commonplace for Methodists, several committees were tasked with finding a site, choosing an architect, and hiring a contractor. An ideal property with plenty of room for future expansion was selected at the corner of North and East Boulevards. The property was purchased, and construction on the current sanctuary began in 1924.



Original building on Church and Laurel

“Worship at River’s Edge” by Ronald Garay, Ph.D.