

WELCOME



WE'RE SO GLAD YOU ARE JOINING US FOR WORSHIP TODAY! If you have any questions about Sunday morning activities & Worship or you would like more information about how you can be involved in the life of First United Methodist Church, Shreveport:

- Ask one of our wonderful ushers or volunteers in the Welcome Center. They'd be glad to help!
- Call the church office at 318.424.7771. We're open 8:30am - 5:00pm Monday - Thursday and 8:30am - 4:00pm on Friday.
- Visit www.firstshreveport.org/getconnected

WANT A TOUR OF THE CAMPUS?

Starting Point tours happen the second Sunday of each month at 9:45am beginning in the Welcome Center located in the Education & Administration Building. Whether you're joining us for the first time or have been considering making this your church home, join us as we explore our church campus.

READY TO JOIN OUR FIRST SHREVEPORT FAMILY?

If you're curious about what membership means and want to meet our pastors before deciding, join us for our next Starting Point Luncheon. Contact our New Member Pastor, Rev. Caroline Wilkinson at 424-7771, ext. 135 or cwilkinson@fumcshreveport.org for more information.

You may join the church today by profession of faith, transfer of membership or reaffirmation of your baptismal vows. Our church receives persons from other traditions by transfer. If you have been baptized in another denomination, re-baptism is not necessary. To join, simply come to the front of the church and meet the pastors during the singing of the last hymn.

NEXT STEPS:

- Join a small group! Contact Erik Rasmussen at erasmussen@fumcshreveport.org or call the church office for more info.
- Firstdiscipleship.org is Now Live! Find out where you are in your discipleship journey and steps you can take to go deeper. Sign in today at firstdiscipleship.org. Call the church office at 424.7771 for more info.
- Serve with us! For Local and Global service opportunities visit www.firstserves.org or email Ashley Goad (Global) at agoad@fumcshreveport.org or Michelle Osborn (Local) at mosborn@fumcshreveport.org.

FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Grab a copy of the *First Weekly* or *The Columns* located at any of the entryways or visit firstshreveport.org.

Welcome to First United Methodist Church.

To all of our guests – welcome! We are glad you're here. Please be sure to let us know that you're visiting, so we can make you feel at home.

NEW MEMBERS: Deborah Ann Ash • Bobby Gean Gilbert • Ryan Patrick Wicker

CONGRATULATIONS TO Mandy & Aaron Storer on the birth of their daughter, Audrey Rose Storer on April 18, 2016. Paternal grandfather is Craig Storer and great grandmother is Martha Storer.

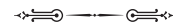
HOSPITALIZED: Gwen Branton • Jere Saur • Arthur Clyde Harper

DISCHARGED: Trinity Edwards • Lois Lucas • Jennifer Mahoney • Mike Mooney • Berry Glassell

SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO Paul Robertson, Jr. & family in the death of his father, Richard "Dickie" Robertson; and to Glenda Laird & Karen L. Porter & family in the death of their husband and father, Joseph "Joe" Laird.

THE RED ROSE NEAR THE ALTAR honors those serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, at home & abroad.

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Aaron and Mike Singer and Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Leath from Vicki Singer.



MEMORIALS:

Mary Bamberg
from Don and Don M. Bamberg

Honorarium:

Betsy Chandler Peatross
from Patrick and Allison Walsh

VITAL SIGNS

Contributions	Week Ending 05.01.16	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date
Goal	\$63,112	\$63,112	\$1,343,753
Received	\$94,631	\$94,631	\$1,313,026
Over/(Under)	\$31,519	\$31,519	(\$30,727)

ATTENDANCE: WEEK OF MAY 1, 2016

Traditional worship (8:30)	198
Traditional worship (11:00)	432
FaithLink worship	218
Wednesday Business Lunch	15
Wesleyan Communion	28
Total worship attendance	861
Total Sunday School attendance, all ages	524

MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING

Mother's Day offering to the Louisiana United Methodist Children's Home will be taken Sunday, May 8, 2016. Please make checks payable to First United Methodist Church, Shreveport with the memo to "Children's Home". Envelopes will be found in the pews and may be dropped in the collection plates. Thank you.



WE ARE A STEPHEN MINISTRIES CARING CONGREGATION. If you are in need of personal prayer, we have Stephen Ministers available to listen and pray with you. A Stephen Minister will be at the altar by the left door at the end of each service. A private space is available for visiting.

Senior Pastor: Dr. R. Pat Day • Executive Pastor: Dr. Jonathan Beck • Associate Pastor: Rev. Derek Joyce
Associate Pastor: Rev. Caroline Wilkinson • Pastor of Senior Adult Ministry: Rev. Dr. Carl E. Rhoads • Director of Music: Dr. David Hobson
Director of Fine Arts: Rev. Dr. Will K. Andress • Principal Organist: E. Ray Peebles • Scholar-in-Residence: Dr. Donald Webb

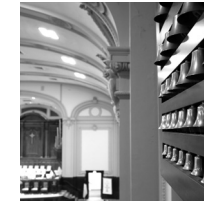
TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM, LIVE TELECAST ON KTBS/ABC AT 11:00 AM
FAITHLINK CONTEMPORARY SERVICE: 11:00 AM • SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45 AM
WESLEYAN COMMUNION SERVICE: 9:45 – 10:30 AM, FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH IN COUCH CHAPEL

318.424.7771 office • 318.429.6888 fax • PRAYER LINE: 318.429.6898 TOLL FREE: 1.888.393.PRAY
www.firstshreveport.org • fumc@fumcshreveport.org

FIRST

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, SHREVEPORT

MAY 8, 2016 • 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



EMBRACING GRACE. GROWING LEADERS.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Celebration of Worship – Seventh Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE.....*Heut' triumphieret Gottes Sohn*.....E. Ray Peebles, organ
(Today God's Son triumphs)
Johann Sebastian Bach
Jerusalem, My Happy Home
George Shearing

WORDS OF WELCOME & GREETING Rev. Wilkinson

INTROIT.....*This is the Day*.....Texas Street Singers (8:30)
Warren Angell Chancel Choir (11:00)

CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION.....Rev. Wilkinson

† HYMN OF PRAISE.....“For the Beauty of the Earth”.....No. 92

AFFIRMATION OF FAITHNo. 881 Rev. Wilkinson

BAPTISM (11:00).....Andrew Pierce Summers.....No. 39, Dr. Day
Presented by his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Mahlon Summers

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*The Gift of Love*.....Benjamin McDonald, bass
Hal Hopson/Lloyd Larson Rebecca Jordan, soprano

† SCRIPTURE READING.....ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12.....Dr. Rhoads
Old Testament, Pages 757 in your Pew Bible

‡

† GLORIA PATRI
*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.*

‡

CHILDREN'S BLESSINGRev. Wilkinson
Children leaving the service for Children's Chapel may be picked up after the service:

- *Infants–4 years (8:30 & 11:00): Children's Ministry Center*
- *K5–1ST graders (11:00): Dawson Building, Room 207, behind the Sanctuary*
- *2ND–3RD graders (11:00): Dawson Building, Room 208, behind the Sanctuary*

JOYS & CONCERNS Dr. Day

MORNING PRAYER.....Dr. Beck

THE LORD'S PRAYER..... Congregation (speaks in unison)

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.

‡

† HYMN OF PREPARATION.....“Happy the Home When God is There”.....No. 445

OFFERTORY PRAYER.....Dr. Rhoads

MUSICAL OFFERING (8:30).....*Praise His Holy Name*.....Texas Street Singers
Keith Hampton

MUSICAL OFFERING (11:00).....*Christus Paradox*.....Chancel Choir
Alfred Fedak

† DoxologyNo. 94
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose
power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

SCRIPTURE READING.....PSALM 127.....Dr. Day
Old Testament, Page 704 in your Pew Bible

MESSAGE.....**THE STRENGTH OF A NATION**.....Dr. Day

† HYMN OF INVITATION.....“O Lord, May Church and Home Combine”.....No. 695

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS.....Dr. Beck
We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ's holy church, and bid you welcome to the congregation of First United Methodist Church. With you, we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

BENEDICTION.....Dr. Beck

SENDING FORTH.....*God Be With You*Texas Street Singers (8:30)
'Till We Meet Again Chancel Choir (11:00)
Fred Bock

POSTLUDE.....*Toccata for Organ*.....E. Ray Peebles, organ
John Weaver

ACOLYTES: Vivian Vekovius (8:30), Will Brady (11:00), Mason Sater (11:00)

CRUCIFER: Drew Moffitt (8:30), Mason Brady (11:00)



† *Those who are able may stand. ‡ Latecomers may be seated at these times.*

♦ **COMMUNION WILL BE SERVED AT 9:30AM IN THE SANCTUARY AND NOON IN COUCH CHAPEL.**

♦ **YOU MAY JOIN THE CHURCH** by profession of faith, transfer of membership, or reaffirmation of your vows of discipleship. Our church receives persons from other traditions by transfer. If you have been baptized in another denomination, re-baptism is not necessary. If you wish to join our church family, please come to the front of the church, and meet the pastors during the singing of the last hymn.

♦ **To watch online**, download bulletins and sermons, visit our website: www.firstshreveport.org.

♦ **WORSHIP SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE FOR FREE DOWNLOAD ONLINE** at firstshreveport.org, via iTunes and on your Android and iPhone. Copies of today's sermon are also available for purchase on CD or DVD. Please contact the church office, 424-7771, for additional information.

♦ **LIKE US ON FACEBOOK** at www.facebook.com/fumcshreveport for the latest events, photos and more; then follow us on Twitter @FUMCShreveport.

Sermon Notes

THE STRENGTH OF A NATION
PSALM 127 • MAY 8, 2016

I. First, strong families are committed to building a strong team.

II. Second, strong families enjoy spending time together.

III. Third, strong families work at improving their communication skills.

IV. Fourth, strong families express love and appreciation to each other.

V. Finally, strong families build strong churches.