

# WELCOME

We are glad you're here. Please sign our register to let us know that you're visiting, so our members can make you feel at home.



**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:erasmussen@fumcshreveport.org) or call the church office for more info.
- ♦ Serve with us! For Local and Global service opportunities visit [www.firstserves.org](http://www.firstserves.org) or email Ashley Goad (Global) at [agoad@fumcshreveport.org](mailto:agoad@fumcshreveport.org) or Michelle Osborn (Local) at [mosborn@fumcshreveport.org](mailto: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](http://firstshreveport.org).

## Our Heritage in Stained Glass

*"Virgin with lamp"— "Be Ye Also Ready" Matthew 24:44*

*In loving memory of Our Idolized Daughter, Maude Lucile Atkins" August 10, 1886 - October 13, 1910. The center panel in this second window from the front on the right depicts a virgin with a lighted lamp. This beautiful window takes on deeper meaning when one realizes that in the central figure the artist has incorporated the face of the lovely young woman for whom the memorial was given in 1913.*

## JOYS & CONCERNS

**HOSPITALIZED:** Eleanor Higgs, Dr. Bill Tenney, Barbara Sue Jackson  
**SYMPATHY** is extended to Mark Humphries & family in the death of his father, Jack Humphries and to Dianne Mason & family in the death of her father, George Cockerham.-

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

**THE ALTAR WREATH AND FLOWERS** are presented each Sunday in Advent to the Glory of God and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hamiter and Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Andress by their family.

**THE WHITE POINSETTIAS UNDER THE CROSS** are given in memory of Mary Edna Adams Brossette and Dianne Rose McCollum Brossette by their families.

**THE LITURGICAL BANNER FOR ADVENT** is given to the glory of God and in honor of Will and Julia Ann Andress by the Margaret Hooper Smith Family.

## MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

**L. Wayne Hennigan**  
from Clydie and Ray Mitchell

**Leta Ann Eaves**  
from Ginger and Glenn Flournoy  
Mary Anna and Bill Adams  
Dr. and Mrs. B.J. Hollingsworth  
Carol and Steve McKenzie

**~Honorariums~**  
**Edward B. Shaw**  
from Tommy Williams & the staff of  
Williams Financial Advisors, LLC

**Acolytes:** Henry Peacock (8:30), Caroline Wood, Sophie Lee (11:00)

**Crucifer:** William Peacock (8:30), Benjamin Foreman (11:00)

### VITAL SIGNS

Contributions	Week Ending 12.10.17	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date
Goal	\$164,638	\$329,276	\$3,727,587
Received	\$129,095	\$255,741	\$3,719,365
Over/(Under)	(\$35,543)	(\$73,535)	(\$8,222)

ATTENDANCE: WEEK OF DECEMBER 10, 2017	
Traditional worship (8:30)	282
Traditional worship (11:00)	783
FaithLink worship	173
Wesleyan Communion	n/a
<b>Total worship attendance:</b>	<b>1238</b>
Total Sunday School attendance, all ages	558

Please remember that in order to receive credit for 2017, gifts to the church must be dated and postmarked no later than December 31, 2017. Thank you - Your Finance Committee



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.

Senior Pastor: Dr. R. Pat Day • Executive Pastor: Rev. Derek Joyce • Associate Pastor: Rev. Caroline Wilkinson  
Associate Pastor, Global Missions & Women's Ministry: Dr. Ashley Goad • Pastor of Senior Adult Ministry: Dr. Carl E. Rhoads  
Director of Music: Dr. David Hobson • Director of Fine Arts: Dr. Will K. Andress • Principal Organist: E. Ray Peebles  
Bishop-in-Residence: William W. Hutchinson

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:30am & 11:00am, LIVE TELECAST ON KTBS/ABC at 11:00am  
FAITHLINK CONTEMPORARY SERVICE: 11:00am • SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45am  
WESLEYAN COMMUNION SERVICE: 9:45 - 10:30am, 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](http://www.firstshreveport.org) • [fumc@fumcshreveport.org](mailto:fumc@fumcshreveport.org)

# FIRST

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, SHREVEPORT

DECEMBER 17, 2017 • THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



CONNECT. GROW. SERVE. LEAD.

# Celebration of Worship

Third Sunday of Advent - December 17, 2017

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM, LIVE TELECAST ON KTBS/ABC at 11:00 AM

PRELUDE..... "Movement 4: Chorale".....E. Ray Peebles  
from *Cantata No.140: Wachet Auf*  
Johann Sebastian Bach

[Zion hears the watchmen singing... Ah come, thou blessed One, God's own beloved Son]

WORDS OF WELCOME & GREETING ..... Dr. Goad

INTROIT.....*In the Bleak Midwinter*.....Ensemble (8:30)  
CRANHAM Chancel Choir (11:00)  
String Quartet

CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION.....Dr. Goad

† HYMN OF PRAISE ..... "O Come, O Come Emmanuel".....No. 211  
Stanzas 1-4

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....No. 881.....Dr. Goad

BAPTISM (11:00).....Evangeline Lily Kinnebrew.....No. 39, Dr. Day  
Presented by her parents, Mr. & Mrs. William Philip Kinnebrew, Jr.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE ..... Dave & Carla Anderson (8:30)  
Sasha & Nadia, Wilna Sepulvado  
Taylor & Rachel Caudle (11:00)  
Anna Claire & Ellie, Lounelle Black

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*Huron Carol*.....Women's Ensemble  
arr. Paul Halley Wesley Bells  
E. Ray Peebles, organ

† CONGREGATIONAL READING.....No. 208.....Rev. Wilkinson

‡

† 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 BLESSING..... Staci Zeagler

JOYS & CONCERNS ..... Dr. Day

MORNING PRAYER ..... Dr. Rhoads

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..... "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"  
God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day;  
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.

### Refrain

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.

### Refrain

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,  
And left their flocks a-feeding in tempest, storm and wind,  
And went to Bethlehem straight-way this blessed Babe to find.

### Refrain

† OFFERTORY PRAYER .....Rev. Wilkinson

MUSICAL OFFERING..... "Kyrie".....David Westbrook, tenor  
from *Messe de Minuit pour Noël* Dr. Will Address, tenor  
Marc-Antoine Charpentier Richard Hemmings, bass  
[Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy] Ensemble (8:30)  
\*melody based on the French Christmas Carol Chancel Choir (11:00)  
"Joseph and his wife Mary" String Quartet

† DOXOLOGY .....No. 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.....Romans 5:1-5.....Dr. Day  
New Testament, Page 188 in your Pew Bible

MESSAGE.....THE GIFT OF HOPE IN THE MIDST OF HARD TIMES.....Dr. Day

† \*HYMN OF INVITATION..... "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear".....No. 218  
(During the singing of this hymn, those who wish to join the First Methodist family  
are invited to come to the front of the church for reception and recognition.)

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS.....Dr. Rhoads

*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. Rhoads

SENDING FORTH.....O Holy Child of Bethlehem.....Ensemble (8:30)  
FOREST GREEN Chancel Choir (11:00)

POSTLUDE.....*Good Christian Men, Rejoice!*.....E. Ray Peebles  
arr. Gordon Young

# Sermon Notes

THE GIFT OF HOPE  
IN THE MIDST OF HARD TIMES

Romans 1:1-5

I. First, you will find hope in the midst of hard times when you expect and prepare for adversity, suffering, and testing.

II. Second, you will find hope in the midst of hard times when you choose an attitude of gratitude and rejoicing rather than resentment.

III. Third, you will find hope in the midst of hard times when you realize that without adversity and testing that there would be no preparation for service or spiritual maturity.

IV. Fourth, you will find hope in the midst of hard times when you believe God is faithful, even when things don't make sense.

V. Finally, you will find hope in the midst of hard times when you believe in the promise of eternal life.