

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'll 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.
- 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.

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: Jere Saur

DISCHARGED: James Crout, Bart McDonald, JoAnn McFerren

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

THE ALTAR WREATH AND FLOWERS have been 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.

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

H. E. (Bud) Storer

from Leah and Chris Rea and Emma

Bobby Hughes

from Leah and Chris Rea and Emma

Lois B. Jackson

from Leah and Chris Rea and Emma

James Huggins

from Leah and Chris Rea and Emma

R. E. Woodard

from Leah and Chris Rea and Emma

Georgiann Lamb

from Lynne Holladay

from Christopher E. Dykes

from Beverly Furgason

Charles Dillman

from Dr. and Mrs. Seborn Woods

from Lynne Holladay

Betty Kennedy

from Mr. and Mrs. T. Haller Jackson, III

Betty Kennedy

from Mary and Jim Bolin

Ms. Joan Gresham

Evelyn H. Quinn

Kay and Joe Paine

Ann and Frank Green

John M. Shuey, Jr.

Leighton Tilley

from Billy and Shirley Giles

Bill Davis

from Dr. and Mrs. Seborn Woods

Todd Davis

~ Honorariums ~

Dr. and Mrs. Robert A. Palmer, Jr.

from Betsy and Fred Bailey

Elaine King

from Four Square Bible Class

VITAL SIGNS

Contributions	Week Ending 12.11.16	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date
Goal	\$207,791	\$415,582	\$3,990,921
Received	\$160,827	\$306,376	\$3,698,193
Over/(Under)	(\$46,964)	(\$109,206)	(\$292,728)

ATTENDANCE: WEEK OF DECEMBER 11, 2016

Traditional worship (8:30)	217
Traditional worship (11:00)	550
FaithLink worship	239
Wesleyan Communion	n/a
Total worship attendance:	1006
Total Sunday School attendance, all ages	528

Funds from advanced pledge giving and the Hunter Foundation are moved to the operating account each month on a prorated basis to help fund the deficit that we always experience through the year. We pray that members will consider their individual pledges as a floor to giving and not a ceiling, and that those in a position to do so, will move ahead to help fund God's 365-day-a-year work through our church. - Your Finance Team

Please remember that in order to receive credit for 2016, gifts to the church must be dated and postmarked no later than December 31, 2016. 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

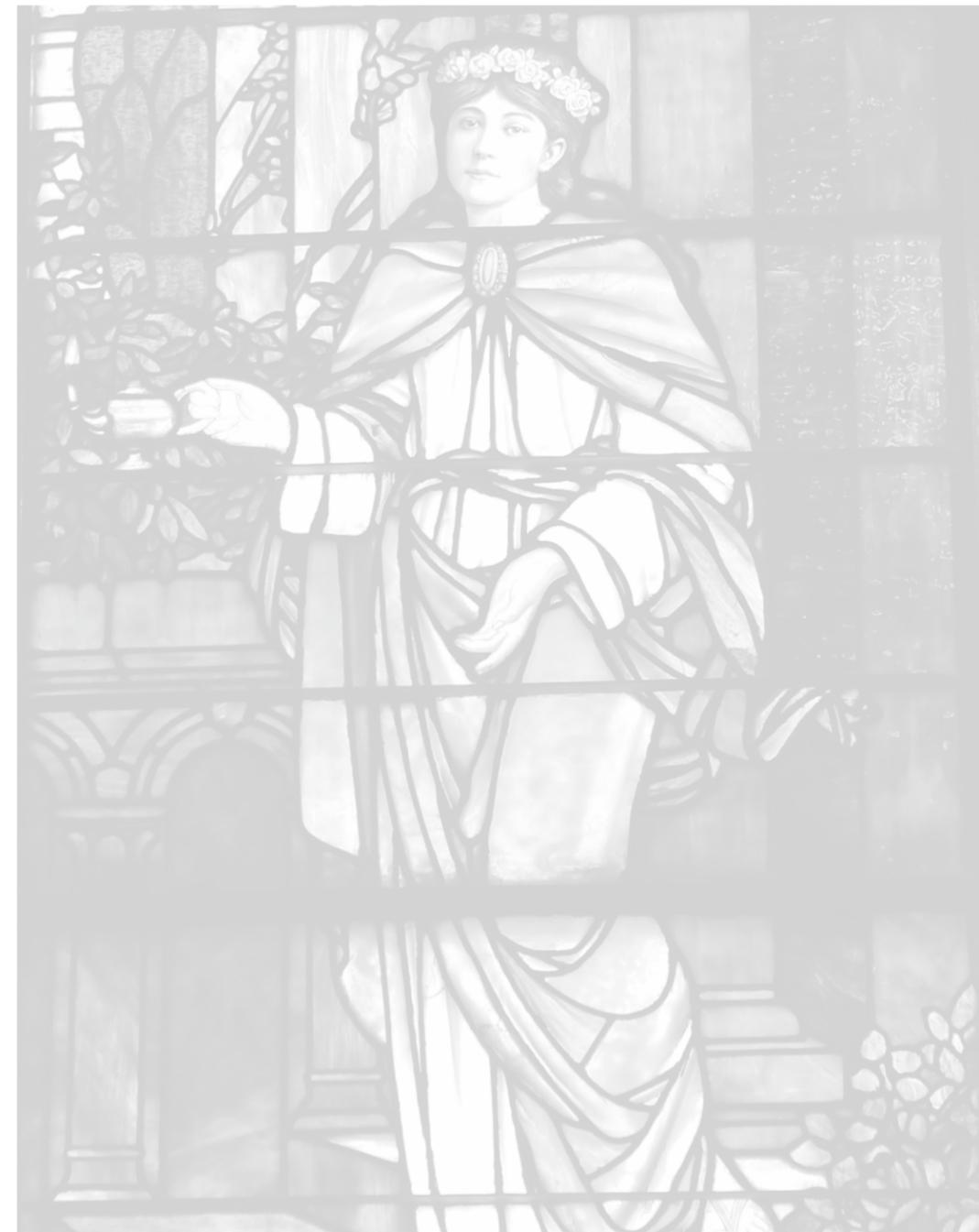
TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:30am & 11:00am, LIVE TELECAST ON KTBS/ABC at 11:00am
FAITHLINK CONTEMPORARY SERVICE: 11:00am • SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45am
WESLEYAN COMMUNION SERVICE: 9:45 - 10:30am, FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH IN COUCH CHAPEL

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

FIRST

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, SHREVEPORT

DECEMBER 18, 2016 • FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



CONNECT. GROW. SERVE. LEAD.

Celebration of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 18, 2016

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

PRELUDE *Variation on a Medieval Carol* E. Ray Peebles
(Puer Nobis Nascitur)
Cyriakis Spangenberg/Robert Hebble

WORDS OF WELCOME & GREETING Rev. Wilkinson

INTROIT.....*Come and Worship*.....Ensemble (8:30)
REGENT SQUARE Chancel Choir (11:00)

CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION Rev. Wilkinson

† HYMN OF PRAISE “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” No. 240

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....No. 881 Rev. Wilkinson

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLEBarrow & Melanie Peacock (8:30)
Russell, William & Henry
Greg & Candy Watkins (11:00)
Garrett, Megan & Mollie

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*Noël: Joseph est bien Marié* Rebecca Vacha
with organ variations Meredith Ball
Cameron Hughes
Benjamin McDonald
E. Ray Peebles, organ

Translation: *Joseph is well betrothed to the daughter of Jesse: this thing was very recent, that she would be mother and maiden, God has done well. Joseph is well betrothed. When Joseph heard that his woman had conceived: he was not contented at all, he was pained against Mary, and he wished to go from her. Joseph is well betrothed. But the Angel also told him, “Joseph,” he said to him, “your holy wife, Mary, is great with the fruit of life; she has conceived without sin.” Joseph is well betrothed. “Change therefore your thinking, and approach in your insolence, for by all his strength you shall endure his infancy and serve him with dedication.” Joseph is well betrothed.*

† CONGREGATIONAL READING.....No. 212 Dr. Goad

† 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.....“Emmanuel, Emmanuel” No. 204

OFFERTORY PRAYER Dr. Goad

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*God So Loved the World*..... Ensemble (8:30)
John Stainer Chancel Choir (11:00)

† 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 READINGMatthew 1:18-25..... Dr. Day
New Testament, Page 1 in your Pew Bible

MESSAGE**KEEPING CHRISTMAS EVERY DAY**Dr. Day

† *HYMN OF INVITATION.....“What Child Is This”.....No. 219
*(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.....*Amen*Ensemble (8:30)
John Rutter Chancel Choir (11:00)

POSTLUDE.....*Noel Parisien*.....E. Ray Peebles
Charles Quef

Acolytes: Harper Hearron, Ellen Douglas (8:30), Rowan Miller, Caroline Wood (11:00)

Crucifer: Hutson Hearron(8:30), Alayna Millican (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.

* IF YOU WISH TO JOIN the First United Methodist Church family, please come forward at this time.

**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

Sermon Notes

KEEPING CHRISTMAS EVERY DAY

Matthew 1:18-25

- I. First, keeping Christmas every day involves forgetting what you have done for others and remembering what others have done for you.
- II. Second, keeping Christmas involves realizing that the reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but rather what you are going to give to life and others.
- III. Third, keeping Christmas involves considering the needs and dreams of others, especially children and the elderly.
- IV. Fourth, keeping Christmas involves being willing to make a grave for your negative thoughts and feelings and a garden for your positive ones.
- V. Finally, keeping Christmas involves believing that love is the most powerful thing in the world.