

# 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, Jane Drake

**DISCHARGED:** Brittney Horn, Barbara Sue Jackson, Jerry Webb

**SYMPATHY** is extended to Stephen Vekovius & family in the death of his mother, Joann Vekovius.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Brittney & Travis Horn on the birth of their daughter, Harper Elizabeth Horn on December 15, 2017.

**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

**Mary Bamburg on her Birthday**

from Mr. Don M. Bamburg and Mr. Don Davis Bamburg

**Dr. Chad Hargon**

from Betsy C. Peatross and Family

**Frances Fox**

Diane and Scott Lawrence

**H. E. "Bud" Storer**

from Martha Storer

Mary Cochran

**Tressie and Ben Craton**

from Cathey and Steve Sholar

**Travis E. Schermerhorn, Jr.**

from Dottie Schermerhorn

**Billie Vic Van Hoose**

from Gordon Van Hoose

**Dave, Leslie and Elizabeth Jones**

from The Jones Family

**L. Wayne Hennigan**

from Carobeth and Bob Richardz

**Brenda Hall Lazarus**

from Shirley and Billy Giles

Mary Cochran

Frances and Richard Jones

Carobeth and Bob Richardz

~Honorariums~

**Virginia Harman Lamb**

from Mr. Spencer Lamb

**Martha Storer**

from Mary Cochran

## VITAL SIGNS

Contributions	Week Ending 12.17.17	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date
Goal	\$164,638	\$493,914	\$3,892,225
Received	\$205,619	\$461,360	\$3,924,984
Over/(Under)	\$40,981	(\$32,554)	\$32,759

ATTENDANCE: WEEK OF DECEMBER 17, 2017	
Traditional worship (8:30)	275
Traditional worship (11:00)	625
FaithLink worship	184
Wesleyan Communion	n/a
<b>Total worship attendance:</b>	<b>1084</b>
Total Sunday School attendance, all ages	439

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 24, 2017 • FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



CONNECT. GROW. SERVE. LEAD.

# Celebration of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 24, 2017

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

PRELUDE.....“Gloria” from *Christmas Cantata*.....E. Ray Peebles  
Daniel Pinkham Brass Ensemble  
[Glory to God in the Highest! Peace on earth and goodwill to all!]

WORDS OF WELCOME & GREETING ..... Rev. Wilkinson

INTROIT.....*Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*.....Chancel Choir  
arr. Sir David Willcocks Brass Ensemble

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

† HYMN OF PRAISE .....“New Creation”  
[adapted from three Charles Wesley hymns, sing to the tune of  
“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”]

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace\_\_! Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings\_\_, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by\_\_, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth\_\_, born to give us second birth.

Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;  
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder love and praise.

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....No. 885.....Rev. Wilkinson

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE .....Drs. Cynthia & Keith Payne  
John Payne

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*I Wonder As I Wander*.....Kay Hutchinson, alto  
John Jacob Niles

† SCRIPTURE READING.....Matthew 2:1-12.....Dr. Goad  
New Testament, Page 2 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 BLESSING ..... Billie Beck

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.....“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”.....No. 224

† OFFERTORY PRAYER.....Dr. Goad

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*.....Chancel Choir  
arr. Dan Forrest Brass Ensemble

† 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.....II Corinthians 5:17.....Dr. Day  
New Testament, Page 221 in your Pew Bible

MESSAGE.....**THE POWER OF HOPE**.....Dr. Day

† \*HYMN OF INVITATION.....“Joy to the World”.....No. 246  
*(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.....Rev. Wilkinson

*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*.....Chancel Choir  
FOREST GREEN

POSTLUDE.....*Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella*.....E. Ray Peebles  
arr. Keith Chapman



**Banner Carrier:** Carter Cox; **Acolytes:** Trevor Cox, Will Brady; **Crucifer:** Mason Brady

† *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:*

- 3–4 years (8:30 & 11:00): Children’s Ministry Center
- K5–3RD graders (11:00): Dawson Building, Room 208, behind the Sanctuary

# Sermon Notes

THE POWER OF HOPE

II Corinthians 5:17

I. First, enter into a divine partnership with God.

II. Second, admit you need to change.

III. Third, ask for the power and believe you have been given the power to change - dare to change.

IV. Fourth, try giving yourself and all your problems to God - let go and let God.

V. Finally, practice love and good will towards others, because the power to change your life responds to love.