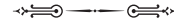


# WELCOME

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, Pat Tenney, Jane Drake, Bob King

**DISCHARGED:** Jerry Webb

**SYMPATHY** is extended to LaVerne and Staley Hitchcock in the death of her husband and his father, Bill Hitchcock.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Corley Elizabeth Hayes on the birth of her daughter, Addie Leigh Elizabeth Hayes on December 13th. Her maternal grandmother is Leslie Elizabeth Hayes and her maternal great-grandparents are Ken and Beth Hayes.

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

**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

### Leta Ann Eaves

from Diane and Chuck Chesley  
Linda and David Strickland  
Peggy O. Bennett  
Debbie and Zonsius Lane  
Katie and Don Weir  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert A. Palmer, Jr.

**Brenda and Harry Lazarus**  
from Helen Sloan

**Dr. Michael R. Moore, Sr.**  
from Shirley and Billy Giles

### Robert S. "Bobby" Cochran

from Carobeth and Bob Richardz  
**Joe T. Sepulvado**  
from Pattie and Larry Russo

**Molly Nell Edwards**  
from Mary Cochran  
Mr. and Mrs. David Hardin  
Co Wed Sunday School Class  
Frances and Richard Jones  
Tucker Smathers

### William Tom Head

from Carobeth and Bob Richardz

**Betty Jane Smith**  
from Mr. and Mrs. Taylor F. Moore

**Sandy Ferguson**  
from Joyce Hooper

**Tom Davis**  
from Kay and Don Olson

### ATTENDANCE: WEEK OF DECEMBER 24, 2017

Traditional worship (8:30).....n/a
Traditional worship (11:00).....863
FaithLink Candlelight Christmas Eve (11:00).....335
Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve (5:30).....1100
Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve (7:30).....700
Wesleyan Communion.....n/a
<b>Total worship attendance:.....2998</b>
Total Sunday School attendance, all ages.....n/a

### VITAL SIGNS

*Due to year-end closing, final 2017 Vital Signs will be posted in the bulletin at a future date.*

*We wish you a Happy New Year!*

*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 31, 2017 · FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY



CONNECT. GROW. SERVE. LEAD.

# Celebration of Worship

First Sunday after Christmas Day - December 31, 2017

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

PRELUDE.....“Andante Tranquillo” from Sonata III.....Robert Roberge, organ  
Felix Mendelsohn

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

INTROIT.....*Joy to the World!*.....Chancel Choir  
arr. John Rutter

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

† HYMN OF PRAISE .....“Angels from the Realms of Glory”..... No. 220

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....No. 889.....Dr. Rhoads

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*In the Bleak Midwinter*.....Elizabeth Beck, violin  
arr. Alison Beck Alison Beck, piano

† SCRIPTURE READING.....Luke 2:25-32.....Rev. Wilkinson  
New Testament, Page 71 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..... Staci Zeagler

JOYS & CONCERNS ..... Rev. Joyce

MORNING PRAYER ..... Bishop William Hutchinson

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.....“Away in a Manger”.....No. 217

† OFFERTORY PRAYER.....Dr. Rhoads

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*Scarborough Carol*.....Sarah Wilkerson, soprano  
arr. Kirby Shaw Chancel Choir

† 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.....Revelation 22:1-5.....Rev. Joyce  
New Testament, Page 316 in your Pew Bible

MESSAGE.....**JOY TO THE WORLD**.....Rev. Joyce

† \*HYMN OF INVITATION.....“The First Noel”.....No. 245  
*(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 .....Bishop William Hutchinson

SENDING FORTH.....*O Holy Child of Bethlehem*.....Chancel Choir  
FOREST GREEN

POSTLUDE.....*Carillon on “Come, All Ye Shepherds”*.....Robert Roberge, organ  
Gordon Young



**Acolytes:** Avery Adams, Charlie Adams

**Crucifer:** Garland Barrett

† *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

Childcare for infants through 4 years is available from 8:15 to 12:15 in the Children’s Ministry Center. From the sanctuary, follow the sign located in the hallway between the sanctuary and the Dawson Building. Outdoor access is located on the corner of Douglas and Milam Streets.

# Sermon Notes

JOY TO THE WORLD

Revelation 22:1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of life-giving water, shining like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and the Lamb through the middle of the city’s main street. On each side of the river is the tree of life, which produces twelve crops of fruit, bearing its fruit each month. The tree’s leaves are for the healing of the nations. There will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. Night will be no more. They won’t need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine on them, and they will rule forever and always.

This stunning image of the New Jerusalem, the heavenly city that reflects God’s coming kingdom, captures the reality of what it means to proclaim “Joy to the World.” Our song is not merely about wishful thinking, but about the assurance of the redemption and restoration of all creation! The birth of Jesus, our Savior, is the beginning of the world’s longed for hope, and his death and resurrection are the culmination of blessing that actually reverses the curse of sin and death. And the joy that follows is realized in all of creation. So let heaven and nature sing for joy, and the wonders of his love, because the Lord is come!