

Joys & Concerns:

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.

Sign up now!

Each week, we'll send you an informative, interactive bulletin packed full of upcoming events and opportunities to help keep you connected to all the wonderful things going on here at First Shreveport. You'll find band member spotlights, a word from our pastor, encouraging scriptures, noteworthy articles, and links to that worship song from Sunday that you just can't get out of your head! Best of all, you can receive this weekly bulletin through an easy-to-use app on your smart phone or by email. To sign up simply scan the QR code with your phone, or email Heather at hgunter@fumcshreveport.org, or go to <http://pixelark.com/faithlink>.

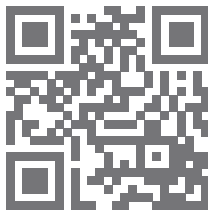
 318.424.7771

 www.faithlinkfumc.org

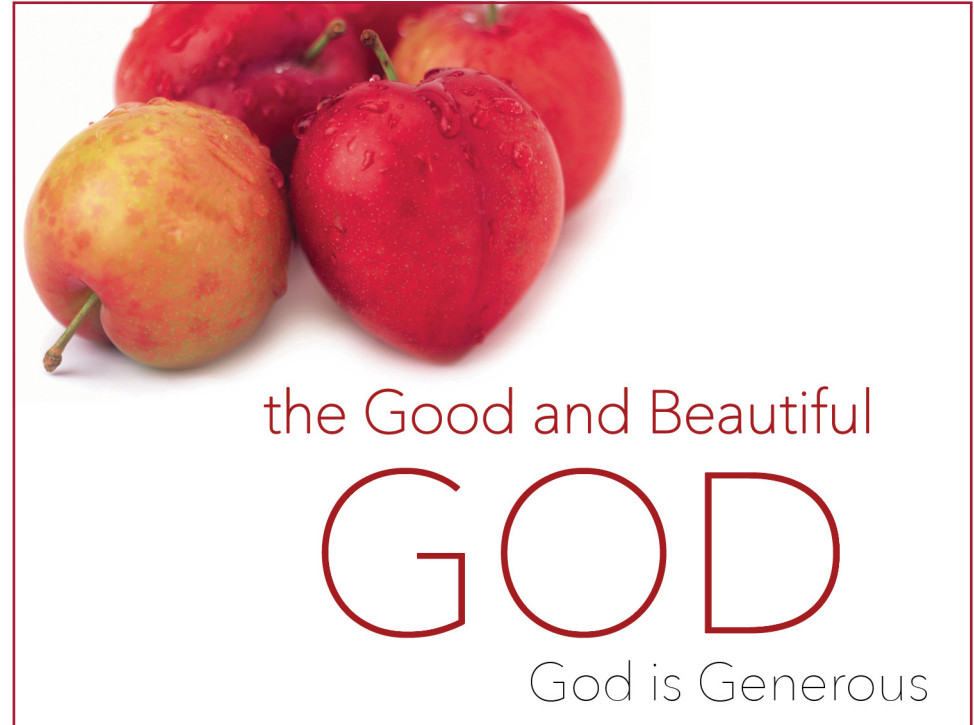
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Rev. Derek Joyce, Associate Pastor • Heather Gunter, Director of Contemporary Worship
Dr. R. Pat Day, Senior Pastor



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

05 • 08 • 2016

 **FAITHlink**
contemporary
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

God is Generous • Rev. Derek Joyce

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life.

Matthew 20:1-16 - Don't I have the right to do what I want with what belongs to me? Or are you resentful because I'm generous? (v. 15)

The generosity of God is more extravagant than we can possibly imagine. Part of the problem of the broken condition of humanity is that we have become unable to see how much the Father has lavished his love upon us. Our world has largely conditioned us to believe that our worth is singularly connected to what we can do, and any value we have must be earned. While there is truth here with regards to the workplace contribution, this mindset is faulty when it comes to understanding our identity in Christ, and it distorts the truth of the Good and Beautiful God. God's love, grace and presence are freely given to all. Jesus is God's great gift to the world, and exemplifies the generous nature of God, who delights in blessing, healing, restoring, forgiving, and strengthening those who freely receive God's love. God is the one who pursues, coming again and again to invite all into his kingdom. Are we able to perceive the generosity of God's open and repeated invitation as a blessing? Take some time to reflect on your relationship with Jesus. How have you known the generosity of God in your life? Have you received forgiveness? Have you experienced healing? Are you being made whole and holy by the grace of God? Have you known the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit to guide you and give you strength through a challenging situation? If you can identify the presence of God in your life, then give thanks today that God is generous!

Order of Worship:

Welcome!

"Today is the Day" by Lincoln Brewster

Meet & Greet

Children's Message

Celebration of Life - Mother's Day Prayer

Scripture Reading

"Hosanna" by Hillsong

"Closer" by Bethel

"God and King" by Gateway Worship

Message

Offertory

"God and God Alone" by Passion

Prayer/Lord's Prayer

Benediction

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.