

Joys & Concerns:

HOSPITALIZED: Carl Futrell, Kitty Jo Boyd, Betty Kennedy

DISCHARGED: Jasper Lynn, Ann Walke

SYMPATHY is extended to Caroline Pumphrey & family in the death of her father, Ed Powell and to Marsha Wilson & family in the death of her mother, Helen Elliott.

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>.

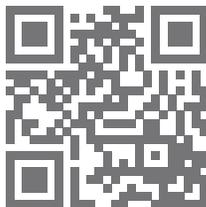
 318.424.7771

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



HEBREWS
MATURE

10 • 16 • 2016

 **FAITHlink**
contemporary
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Hebrews-Mature • Rev. Derek Joyce

Hebrews 5:11-6-12—About this we have much to say that is hard to explain, since you have become dull in understanding. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic elements of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food; for everyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is unskilled in the word of righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil. Therefore let us go on toward perfection, leaving behind the basic teaching about Christ, and not laying again the foundation: repentance from dead works and faith toward God, instruction about baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

The writer of Hebrews presses into the church community with a grand challenge to grow in maturity and understanding of their faith in Jesus. At some point, he argues, acceptance of the basic tenets of the claims of Jesus and the ensuing assurance of new life must take root and settle in our hearts and souls. For if we constantly return to questioning the basic truths about Jesus, then we are constantly trying to lay again the foundation for new life, and we are hindered in going on toward perfection in Christ. This great challenge might be hard to hear, as it was for the early church body, but it is still relevant today. We need to be reminded and challenged to not become dull in our understanding or sluggish in our faith, but to show diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope to the very end and be imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Order of Worship:

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| Welcome! | “No Longer Slaves” by Bethel |
| “Open Up the Heavens” by Vertical Church Band | “One Thing Remains” by Jesus Culture |
| Meet & Greet | Message |
| Children’s Message | Offertory |
| Scripture Reading - Psalm 92:12-15 | “Jesus Paid It All” by Passion |
| “Our Father” by Bethel | 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.
- 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.