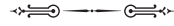


WELCOME

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

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: Dr. Eddie Dean, LaVerne Hitchcock

DISCHARGED: Marian Skerrett, Joe Snyder

SYMPATHY is extended to Stepahnie Lynn & family in the death of her mother, Carol Lotspeich

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.

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

Bill Lee Sutton

from Mrs. Tom Stagg

Christopher DeFatta

from Marianne Farmer

Ben E. Foster, Sr.

from Dr. and Mrs. Ben E. Foster, Jr.

Tressie and Ben N. Craton

from Cathey and Steve Sholar

Marguerite Anne Shaw Buckley

from Beth Hayes

Kathryn and Pat Beaird

Mr. and Mrs. George C. Walker

Katibel C. Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Meldrum, Jr.

Marguerite Anne Shaw Buckley

from Dr. and Mrs. A. Edward Dean

Dr. and Mrs. Seborn Woods

Mr. and Mrs. Grady C. Golden

Carole and Bill Laceyfield

Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Sale

Mr. and Mrs. George D. Nelson, Jr.

Elise Wheless Schmidt and Tracey E. Hogan

Mary Emily Hogan and W. Hobson Hogan

Vernan and Lynn Chance

Mr. C. Cody White, Jr.

ATTENDANCE: WEEK OF DECEMBER 9, 2018

Traditional worship (8:30)	211
Traditional worship (11:00)	556
FaithLink worship	220
Wesleyan Communion	n/a
Total worship attendance:	987
Total Sunday School attendance, all ages	540

VITAL SIGNS

Contributions	Week Ending 12.09.18	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date
Goal	\$153,865	\$307,730	\$3,827,904
Received	\$83,410	\$216,309	\$3,792,709
Over/(Under)	(\$70,455)	(\$91,421)	(\$35,195)

Year to Date - November 30, 2018 (in thousands)

	Budget	Actual	Variation
Cash Receipts	\$4,150	\$3,958	(\$192)
Cash Disbursements	\$4,605	\$4,386	\$219
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$455)	(\$428)	\$27

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



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 • Associate Pastor: Rev. Erik Rasmussen

Pastor of Senior Adult Ministry: Dr. Carl E. Rhoads • Bishop-in-Residence: William W. Hutchinson

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 16, 2018 • THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



CONNECT. GROW. SERVE. LEAD.

Celebration of Worship

Third Sunday of Advent - December 16, 2018

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

PRELUDE.....*He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child*.....String Ensemble
arr. Christina Harmon E. Ray Peebles, organ

WORDS OF WELCOME & GREETING Rev. Wilkinson

INTROIT.....*Angels from the Realms of Glory*.....Chancel Choir
REGENT SQUARE

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

† HYMN OF PRAISE“Angels We Have Heard on High”.....No. 238

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

BAPTISM (11:00).....Patrick Findley Vaughan.....No. 39, Dr. Day
Presented by his parents Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Christopher Vaughan

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLEJames & Emily Gemelli (8:30)
Sadie & Avery
Brad & Shelley Armstrong (11:00)
Tilley & Trinity

† SCRIPTURE READING.....Matthew 1:18-25.....Rev. Wilkinson
New Testament, Page 1 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 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. Goad

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*Fantasia on Christmas Carols*.....Richard Hemmings, baritone
Ralph Vaughan Williams Chancel Choir
String Ensemble

† DOXOLOGYSing to the tune of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below:
Praise God above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel.*

SCRIPTURE READING.....Luke 2:1-7.....Dr. Day
New Testament, Page 71 in your Pew Bible

MESSAGE.....**THE GIFT OF PROBLEMS**.....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.....Bishop William Hutchinson
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.

BENEDICTIONBishop William Hutchinson

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

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



Acolytes: Henry Peacock (8:30), Will Vance, Bennett Lewis (11:00)
Crucifer: Harper Hearn (8:30), Ben Vance (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:*

- 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

THE GIFT OF PROBLEMS

Luke 2:1-7

I. First, problems provide an exciting challenge or God ordained adventure.

II. Second, problems reveal and refine your true character.

III. Third, problems prepare you and provide you with better opportunities and larger responsibilities.

IV. Fourth, problems stretch your thinking and deepen your praying as you search for a solution or plan of action.

V. Finally, problems produce a greater reliance on God's grace, guidance, and power.