

WELCOME

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU ARE JOINING US FOR WORSHIP TODAY! If you would like more information about how you can be involved in the life of First Methodist Church, Shreveport:

- Ask one of our wonderful servants in the Welcome Center, located on the ground floor of the Education & Administration (E&A) Building. 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.

OFFERTORY ANNOUNCEMENT:

When giving to the church, please make your checks payable to First Methodist Church {of Shreveport, Louisiana}. We remain a tax-exempt church through section 501c (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Thank you for your continued financial support of the church.

MINISTRY MOMENT

Circle One at work at the Food Bank! These amazing servants packed 2560 pounds of food into 80 boxes!



HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST?

We'd love to stand alongside you in prayer! Please share your prayer request with us by placing this form in either prayer box at the Sanctuary entrance.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Prayer Request: _____

Would you like our Director of Prayer Ministry to reach out to you about this request? Yes No

Connect With FMC Shreveport

Visitor Information • Request Prayer • Give Online



JOYS & CONCERNS

HOSPITAL: Linda Asszony

RECOVERING: Evelyn Quinn, Brian Terrell

CONGRATULATIONS to Bryleigh and Ashby Davis on the birth of their baby boy, *Everett Davis*, born April 22, 2026.

SYMPATHY is extended to Katie MacMurray in the death of her mother, *Dickie Erwin*.

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given to the glory of God from Amanda and Kirk LaVigne.

If you would like to give flowers, for use during the worship service, in memory or in honor of a loved one, please email Katie Weir at kcwerie@gmail.com. After worship services, flowers from the altar are arranged into small bouquets and delivered to members who are hospitalized.

THE RED ROSE near the altar honors those serving in the armed forces at home and abroad.

NEW MEMBERS OF FMC-S: (APRIL)

Jace Aaron

Nadia Anderson

Trinity Armstrong

Wesley Brawley

Charlotte Cypher

Sadie Gemelli

Caroline Hoss

Shelia Huckaby

Junia Hulbert

Alex Kiser

Grayson Magill

Claire Ray

Caroline Rhodes

Libby Claire Robinson

Jon Walker Scoggin

Asher Storer

Caroline Summers

Adelyn Grace Teague

Marlowe Williams

William Yokem

WE WELCOME YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL FAITH FAMILY!

VITAL SIGNS

Contributions	Week Ending 04.26.26	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date
Goal	\$70,865	\$283,460	\$1,146,148
Received	\$70,932	\$329,045	\$1,196,800
Over/(Under)	\$67	\$45,585	\$50,652

ATTENDANCE: WEEK OF APRIL 26, 2026

Traditional worship, 8:30	198
Traditional worship, 11:00	408
Faithlink worship	168
Palabra Viva Combined Services	197
On-line Viewers	48
Total worship attendance	1019
Total Sunday School attendance, all ages	316
Weekly Discipleship Activities	619
TOTAL Discipleship	935



WE ARE A STEPHEN MINISTRIES CARING CONGREGATION. A Stephen Minister will be to the left of the altar at the end of each service to listen and pray with you. If you are in need of a confidential Stephen Minister, call Ann Shocklee at 424-7771.

Senior Pastor: Dr. Steven Bell • Executive Pastor: Rev. Matthew Hulbert

Associate Pastor: Rev. Kathy Wafer • Associate Pastor: Rev. Stephanie Kidd • Associate Pastor: Rev. Emily Blair

Minister of Music: Dr. David Hobson • Associate Director of Music: Alison Beck • Organist: E. Ray Peebles

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

FAITHLINK CONTEMPORARY SERVICE: 11:00am • **SUNDAY SCHOOL:** 9:45am

COMMUNION SERVICES: First Sunday of each month at 8:30 & 11:00am in the Sanctuary during services;

Each additional Sunday at 9:30am in the Sanctuary & 12:00pm in Couch Chapel.

318.424.7771 office • 318.429.6888 fax • **PRAYER LINE:** 318.429.6898

www.firstshreveport.com

FIRST

METHODIST CHURCH, SHREVEPORT

MAY 3, 2026 • FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



WORSHIP PASSIONATELY.
LOVE EXTRAVAGANTLY.
WITNESS BOLDLY.

Celebration of Worship

Fifth Sunday of Easter - May 3, 2026

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Dr. Steven Bell

PRELUDE.....Communion.....E. Ray Peebles, organ
Eugene Gigout

INVITATION, CONFESSION, AND PARDON.....No. 730.....Dr. David Hobson

† HYMN OF PRAISE.....“The Day of Resurrection”.....No. 254

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....No. 691.....Rev. Kathy Wafer

† SCRIPTURE READING.....Romans 6:15-23.....Dr. Jeff Pearson

† GLORIA PATRI.....No.33

*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.....Caroline Cunningham

MORNING & OFFERTORY PRAYER.....Lee DuCote

PRAYER RESPONSENo. 674

*For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power,
and the Glory forever - Amen.*

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*Rejoice in the Risen Christ.....Ensemble (8:30)
Allen Pote Chancel Choir (11:00)

† DOXOLOGY682

*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!*

MESSAGE.....**THE ROMAN ROAD:**.....Dr. Steven Bell
CAN’T BE NEUTRAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING.....No. 732.....Dr. Steven Bell

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.

‡

MUSICAL OFFERING.....Communion Hymn.....Mia Moreno, alto
Mary Pickens Opie

WESLEYAN COVENANT PRAYER.....No. 710.....Rev. Kathy Wafer

† HYMN OF INVITATION.....“Make Me a Captive, Lord”.....No. 587

(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.....Dr. Steven Bell

We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ’s holy church and bid you welcome to the congregation of First Methodist Church. With you, we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

† BENEDICTIONDr. Steven Bell

† SENDING FORTH.....Amen.....Ensemble (8:30)
John Rutter Chancel Choir (11:00)

POSTLUDE.....“Final” from *Symphony #1*.....E. Ray Peebles, organ
Louis Vierne

* Given to the glory of God and in honor of Betsy Bailey by Fred Bailey.



8:30: Crucifer – Lila Holley-Lerchie • Acolyte – Evie Holley-Lerchie

11:00: Crucifer – Anna Claire Caudle
Acolytes – Ellie Caudle, Chloe Meyers, and Belle Shuey

† Those who are able may stand. ‡ Latecomers may be seated at these times.

* **IF YOU WISH TO JOIN** the First 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 Street.

Sermon Notes

**THE ROMAN ROAD:
CAN’T BE NEUTRAL
ROMANS 6:15-23**

For the Wages of Sin Is Death

But the Free Gift of God Is Eternal Life

In Christ Jesus Our Lord

Scripture Memory Verse

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

— Romans 6:23