

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.

MINISTRY MOMENT

Thankful for our youth ministry, prepping for VBS, July 14-18. Contact Billie or Staci to join in on the fun and volunteer!



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

RECOVERING: Joyce Hooper, Carobeth Richardz

CONGRATULATIONS to Sarah Bailey Peterson and Nate Peterson on the birth of their baby boy, Owen Walter, born July 9, 2025, in Martin City, Montana. Grandparents are Hugh and Amy Bailey.

WE CELEBRATE with Bobby Lyles and Albany Lyles who were baptized in a private ceremony this morning.

SYMPATHY is extended to Margaret Hargrove in the death of her husband, William R. Hargrove.

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given in honor of the wedding uniting Allison Grace Lary and Charles Geron Hargon III and to the glory of God in loving memory of their fathers Richard Alan Lary and Dr. Charles Geron Hargon, Jr. and grandparents Ronald Paul Free, Ann Elizabeth Booty and Alva Roy Lary.

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.

MEMORIALS

Kenneth Newton
from Eleanor Irvin
Jimmie "Jim" McGee
from Kathy Lamb
Allison & Jerry Montgomery
Claudia & David Oliver
Patricia & Gary Covington
Claire H. Gates
Katherine & William Dorroh
Doris C. Wilhite
Dr. & Mrs. J. Eric Bicknell
Connie & Tedford Williamson
Elaine & Kenneth Sanders
Buzz McCook & Shirley Lea McCook family
Judy & Ron Looney

HONORARIUM

Anne Wilson
from Linda Dowling

Year to Date – June 30, 2025 (in thousands)			
	Budget	Actual	Variation
Cash Receipts	\$2,054	\$1,993	(\$61)
Cash Disbursements	\$2,306	\$2,135	\$171
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$252)	(\$142)	\$110

ATTENDANCE: WEEK OF JULY 6, 2025			
Traditional worship, 8:30			180
Traditional worship, 11:00.....			295
Faithlink worship			163
Palabra Viva Combined Services			124
On-line Viewers			29
Total worship attendance:.....			791
Total Sunday School attendance, all ages.....			251
Weekly Discipleship Activities			105
TOTAL Discipleship			356

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

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METHODIST CHURCH, SHREVEPORT

JULY 13, 2025 • FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WORSHIP PASSIONATELY.
LOVE EXTRAVAGANTLY.
WITNESS BOLDLY.

Celebration of Worship	
Fifth Sunday After Pentecost - July 13, 2025	
TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE: 8:30 & 11:00 AM, LIVE TELECAST ON KTBS/ABC at 11:00 AM	
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	Lee DuCote
PRELUDE.....	Carillon.....E. Ray Peebles, organ Leo Sowerby
CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION.....	Dr. Will Address
† HYMN OF PRAISE.....	“I’ll Praise My Maker While I’ve Breath”No. 17
† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....	No. 693.....Rev. Kathy Wafer
MUSICAL OFFERING.....	O How Amiable.....Ensemble (8:30) Ralph Vaughan Williams Chancel Choir (11:00)
† SCRIPTURE READING.....	Esther 2:5-11..... Lee DuCote
† 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.....	Billie Tate
CELEBRATION OF LIFE.....	Prayer for Those Serving During VBS
MORNING & OFFERTORY PRAYER.....	Rev. Emily Blair
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. ‡
PRAYER RESPONSE.....	No. 299 Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

MUSICAL OFFERING.....	Widmung.....Warren Harper, piano [Dedication] Robert Schuman/Franz Liszt
† DOXOLOGY	Traditional 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.....	FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS:.....Dr. Steven Bell BEHIND THE SCENES
† HYMN OF INVITATION.....	“He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought”.....No. 73 (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.
† BENEDICTION	Dr. Steven Bell
† SENDING FORTH.....	On Eagle’s Wings.....Ensemble (8:30) arr. Mark Hayes Chancel Choir (11:00)
POSTLUDE.....	Fiat Lux.....E. Ray Peebles, organ [Let there be Light] Théodore Dubois
<div><div></div><div>8:30: Crucifer – Lila Holley-Lerchie • Acolyte – Evie Holley-Lerchie</div><div></div><div>11:00: Banner Carrier – Asher Storer • Crucifer – Mia White</div><div>Acolytes – Isabel Haggard and Sarah Kathryn Lewis</div><div></div></div>	
† 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.	

Sermon Notes	
OUR SOVEREIGN GOD: FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS: BEHIND THE SCENES ESTHER 2:5-11	
An Invitation to Look for God’s Activity in Our Lives	
Explaining Esther	
God’s Silent Sovereignty Never Stops	
Scripture Memory Verse “For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.” 1 Corinthians 13:12	