

# 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

First Beginnings Child Development Center held their  
annual Thanksgiving Feast on Friday, November 21. Over  
200 friends and families enjoyed the time of fellowship.



During the Christmas season, if you would like to have a  
poinsettia placed in the Sanctuary in memory or in honor of  
family or friends, **please complete the form below or online  
at [firstshreveport.com/events](http://firstshreveport.com/events), and return to Anna Beth  
Crowson in the church office by Monday, December 8, 2025.**  
The cost is \$20 per plant. Checks should be made payable to  
First Methodist Church.

(Please Print)  
In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
From: \_\_\_\_\_



Connect With FMC Shreveport  
Visitor Information • Request Prayer • Give Online



## JOYS & CONCERNS

**HOSPITAL:** Lounelle Black, Frances Gilbert, Hutton Montgomery,  
Baby Lorraine Mae Smith

**RECOVERING:** Emily Claycomb, Pat Johnson, Aubrey Smith

**THE WHITE POINSETTIAS UNDER THE CROSS** are given in loving memory of  
Mary Edna Adams Brossette and Dianne Rose McCollum Brossette by their families.

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

## MEMORIALS

**Leu Frances Strange Wilder**  
from Amanda and Kirk LaVigne

**Dr. and Mrs. D. L. Dykes**  
from Louise Benoit

**Liffy Jones**  
from Mrs. Betty Smith

**Dr. and Mrs. Jim Crout**  
from Renee and Jim McGee

**Sylvia Turner Wright**  
from Lindsay and Cole Smith  
Kristen and Neil Wood

**Carobeth Richardz**  
from Mrs. Carolyn Dean  
Nancy and James Martin  
**Mary Sawyer**  
from Mr. and Mrs. David Holden  
**Linda Dupree Dowling**  
from Dr. and Mrs. Judd H. Chidlow

## HONORARIUM

**Laura Crawford**  
from Bob Richardz

## NEW MEMBERS OF FMC-S (OCTOBER-NOVEMBER)

Martha and Bill Foy  
Sybil Kelly  
Deborah Kincannon  
Stephen Logan

Leah Middlebrook  
Laura Wood  
*WE WELCOME YOU TO OUR  
WONDERFUL FAITH FAMILY!*

## VITAL SIGNS

*Due to the Thanksgiving holiday,  
Vital Signs will be updated next  
week.*

| ATTENDANCE: WEEK OF NOVEMBER 23, 2025          |             |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Traditional worship, 8:30 .....                | 197         |
| Traditional worship, 11:00 .....               | 331         |
| Faithlink worship .....                        | 275         |
| Palabra Viva Combined Services .....           | 121         |
| On-line Viewers .....                          | 89          |
| <b>Total worship attendance: .....</b>         | <b>1013</b> |
| Total Sunday School attendance, all ages ..... | 323         |
| Weekly Discipleship Activities .....           | 323         |
| TOTAL Discipleship .....                       | 646         |



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: Dr. 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.

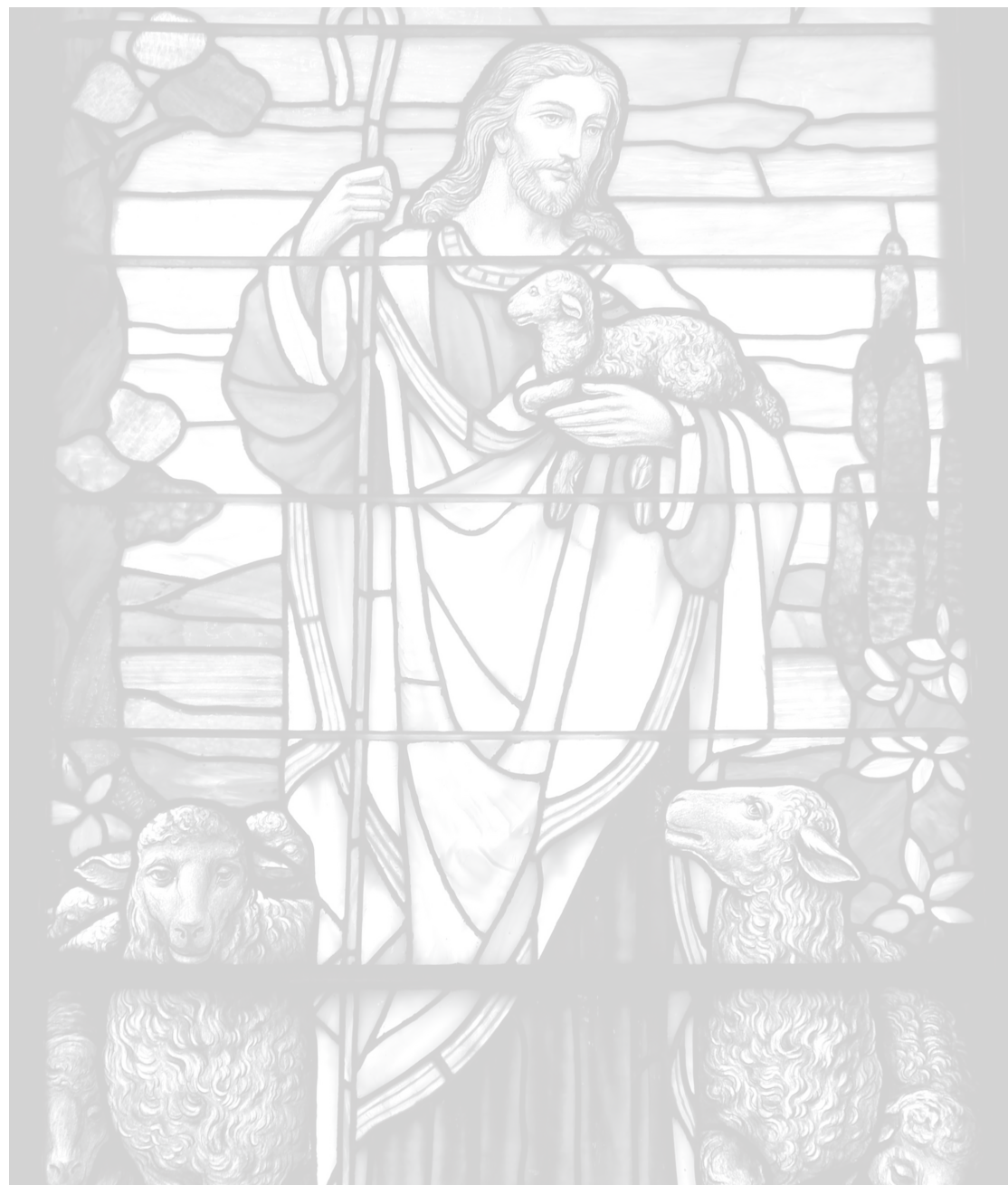
318.424.7771 office • 318.429.6888 fax • **PRAYER LINE:** 318.429.6898

[www.firstshreveport.com](http://www.firstshreveport.com)

# 1<sup>ST</sup> FIRST

## METHODIST CHURCH, SHREVEPORT

NOVEMBER 30, 2025 • FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



WORSHIP PASSIONATELY.  
LOVE EXTRAVAGANTLY.  
WITNESS BOLDLY.

Celebration of Worship  
First Sunday of Advent - November 30, 2025

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Lee DuCote

PRELUDE.....Prelude on VENI EMMANUEL.....E. Ray Peebles, organ  
[O Come, O Come, Emmanuel]  
Setting by Alec Wyton

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

† HYMN OF PRAISE.....“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”.....No. 169

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....No. 691.....Dr. Will Address

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE.....Hobson Family (8:30)  
Beck Family (11:00)

BAPTISM (11:00).....Jonathan Graham Young.....Dr. Steven Bell

The Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

**Pastor:** Brothers and sisters in Christ, we have witnessed this baptism. God requires that we be accountable for our part in the welcoming of this child into the household of faith. Therefore, I hereby commend him to your love and care.

**Congregation:** Jonathan Graham Young, we welcome you and receive you into the fellowship of the church. We promise to surround you in a community of love and forgiveness as you grow in Christ, so that you may confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in the royal priesthood of all his people, to the glory of his name. Amen and amen.

† SCRIPTURE READING.....Luke 1:5-25.....Eric Sullivan

† 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.....Erin Hogg

MORNING & OFFERTORY PRAYER.....Rev. Emily Blair

PRAYER RESPONSE.....No. 192, Stanza 4  
O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

MUSICAL OFFERING.....There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob.....Ensemble (8:30)  
[Numbers 24:17] Chancel Choir (11:00)  
Felix Mendelssohn

† DOXOLOGY.....VENI EMMANUEL  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him, above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

MESSAGE.....BROUGHT TO THE LIGHT:.....Dr. Steven Bell  
HOPE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING.....No. 731-732.....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.....I Wonder as I Wander.....Melonie Hilton, soprano  
[Appalachian Carol]  
John Jacob Niles

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

† HYMN OF INVITATION.....“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”.....No. 163  
(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.....Word of God, Come Down on Earth.....Ensemble (8:30)  
LIEBSTER JESU Chancel Choir (11:00)

POSTLUDE.....Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland.....E. Ray Peebles, organ  
[Now Come, Savior of the Nations]  
Johann Sebastian Bach



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

11:00: Banner Carrier – Asher Storer • Crucifer – Abram Storer  
Acolytes – Anna Claire Caudle and Audrey Storer

† 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  
BROUGHT TO THE LIGHT:  
HOPE  
LUKE 1:5-25

Faithfulness Does Not Protect Us from  
Disappointment.

Unmet Longings Can Become Places of Encounter.

God’s Answers to Our Prayers Often Look  
Different Than We Imagine.

Scripture Memory Verse  
“Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in  
turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise  
him, my salvation and my God.”  
Psalm 42:11