

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

The Empower House Sunday School class hosted a Christmas party for the residents of VOA's Greenwood Lodge. They enjoyed a traditional Christmas meal, opened presents, and enjoyed fellowship and Christmas music with members from the class and their children.



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

HOSPITALIZED: Hutton Montgomery, Janet Burgess

REHAB: Jack Easterwood

RECOVERING: Lounelle Black, John Johnson, Rusty Palmer, Delena Thomas

SYMPATHY is extended to friends and family in the death of *Jeanmine Elston*; and to John Stewart in the death of his wife, *Ruby Stewart*.

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.

NEW MEMBERS OF FMC-S (Nov/DEC):

Martha and Bill Foy

Patty and Mark Garrett

Felix Gerard

Kristy Hunter

Sybil Kelly

Deborah Kincannon

Stephen Logan

WE WELCOME YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL FAITH FAMILY!

Year to Date - November 30, 2025 (in thousands)			
	Budget	Actual	Variation
Cash Receipts	\$3,754	\$3,825	\$71
Cash Disbursements	\$4,358	\$4,061	\$297
Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)	(\$604)	(\$236)	\$226

VITAL SIGNS

Contributions	Week Ending 12.07.25	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date
Goal	\$163,953	\$163,953	\$3,493,379
Received	\$83,071	\$83,071	\$3,547,555
Over/(Under)	(\$80,882)	(\$80,882)	\$54,176

ATTENDANCE: WEEK OF DECEMBER 07, 2025

Traditional worship, 8:30	197
Traditional worship, 11:00	394
Faithlink worship	294
Palabra Viva Combined Services	205
On-line Viewers	35
Total worship attendance	1125
Total Sunday School attendance, all ages	386
Weekly Discipleship Activities	756
TOTAL Discipleship	1142



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 318.424.7771.

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

Associate Pastors: Rev. Kathy Wafer, Rev. Stephanie Kidd, Rev. Emily Blair, Dr. Will Andress

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

DECEMBER 14, 2025 • THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



WORSHIP PASSIONATELY.
LOVE EXTRAVAGANTLY.
WITNESS BOLDLY.

Celebration of Worship

Third Sunday of Advent - December 14, 2025

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE: 11:00 AM, LIVE TELECAST ON KTBS/ABC AT 11:00 AM

ORCHESTRAL PRELUDE (10:45) *A Christmas Festival*.....FMC Orchestra
Leroy Anderson

Fantasia on Greensleeves
Ralph Vaughan Williams/arr. David Stone

March of the Kings
["Farandole" from *L'Arlésienne Suite No. 2*]
George Bizet

INTROIT *Gloria*FMC Choirs
[Mvt. 1 - Excerpt] FMC Brass
John Rutter

CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION Rev. Kathy Wafer

† HYMN OF PRAISE "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing".....No. 180
Stanzas 1-3
[Setting by John Rutter]

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 691.....Dr. David Hobson
(*Children may leave for Children's Chapel at this time.)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Jeff and Laura Pearson
Campbell, Vincent, Allen, and Odelle

MUSICAL OFFERING *What Child is This?*.....FMC Choirs
arr. Keith Christopher FMC Strings

MORNING PRAYER / THE LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Emily Blair
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. 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 *Hope of Israel*.....Dr. Alison Beck, piano
Michael W. Smith/arr. Matt Riley FMC Orchestra

† 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.*

† SCRIPTURE..... Luke 1:39-56 Dr. Steven Bell

MESSAGE **Brought to Light: JOY** Dr. Steven Bell

MUSICAL OFFERING *Mary Did You Know?* Nina Guerrero, soprano
arr. Craig Courtney FMC Choirs
FMC Orchestra

† HYMN..... "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" Text Below
[setting by Stuart Forster]

*God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;
Remember Christ, our Savior, was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.*

*From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.*

*The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding, in tempest, storm, and wind:
And went to Bethlehem straightway, this blessed babe to find.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.*

*But when to Bethlehem they came, where at this infant lay,
They found Him in a manger, where oxen feed on hay;
His Mother Mary kneeling, unto the Lord did pray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.*

*Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and charity each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth efface.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.*

(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..... *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*.....FMC Choirs
John Rutter FMC Orchestra

POSTLUDE..... *Sleigh Ride*.....FMC Orchestra
Leroy Anderson



*Banner Carrier – Albany Lyles • Crucifer – Mia White
Acolytes – Anna Claire and Ellie Caudle*

† Those who are able may stand.
**Children leaving the service for Children's Chapel may be picked up after the service.
3-4 years: Children's Ministry Center • K5-3RD graders: Dawson Building, Room 208
Childcare for infants through 4 years is available in the Children's Ministry Center.

FMC CHOIRS

Chancel Choir
Dr. David Hobson, director
E. Ray Peebles, organist

Texas Street Singers
Dr. Will Address, director
Dr. Alison Beck, pianist

FMC ORCHESTRA

Flute Tuba
Sally Horak Zack Palm
Rebecca Murphy

Oboe Timpani
Theresa Zale Bridges Chan Teague
Dan Howdeshell

Percussion
Anthony Robinson

Clarinet
Jake Hale Violin I
Luke Nelson Laura Crawford
Elizabeth Beck
Ivy Joseph

Bassoon
Kristoff Hairr Violin II
Amelia Natal Dan Santelices
Emily Owens
Mollie Rice

Horn
Thomas Hundemer
Halee Roberts
Suzanne Causey
Ned James
Viola
Michele Gunn
Adrienne Gabriel
Parker Hoffman

Trumpet
Mike Scarlato
Noah Rampmaier
Kevin Rabon
Cello
Ruth Drummond
Brett Andrews

Trombone
Jeremy Dowden
Todd Warren
John Mark Thompson
Bass
Eric Gardner

