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### Pastor's Ponderings!

Greetings in the name of Christ! I hope and pray that your Lent season is going well. I hope you are taking time to reflect on your faith and what Christ has done for you during this Lent season. Maybe you are a part of our Lent Bible Study with the book *Remembrance*. A great look at God's covenants with humans through the Old Testament and, of course, the covenant of Christ through his death and resurrection. Maybe you have become involved with a Sunday School class or are coming to worship more. There is nothing more that God wants than to be in a deep, loving, grace-filled relationship with each of us. I pray you have those "close" moments with Christ this Lent and deepen your faith.

You may be someone who hasn't quite gotten there yet in reflecting on this Lenten season. One of the things I asked my staff to share with each other during our meeting was, "What wins have you had in your faith walk since the first of the year?" The second question was, "What are three priorities that you have in your ministry between now and Easter?" I think that these are great questions that each of us can ask ourselves. I hope and pray that as you go through this Lent season you can find wonderful experiences that inspire you in your faith and your ministry, because ALL of us, as followers of Christ, are in ministry each and every day of our lives.

I also hope that you take a close look at the section in the newsletter that gives you the details of Holy Week between March 24th and 31st. There are so many events that are happening that week to help us go through the incredible highs of Jesus' ministry, to the betrayal, his death, and the joy of resurrection. Mark your calendar now to walk with Christ through these days as he gives so much for you and for me. And don't forget to invite someone to come and be a part of all that this great congregation is doing in the name of Christ!

See you soon, Laraine



Mailing Address: PO Box 965 DeRidder, LA 70634

Physical Address: 406 W. Shirley Street DeRidder, LA 70634

#### Miranda Chapman, Admin / Bookkeeper Phone: 337-463-4491 Email: Office@fumcderidder.org

Follow our livestream on Facebook at First United Methodist Church - DeRidder, or on YouTube at DeridderFUMC

Beauregard Parish Schools
Spring Break Holiday
Friday, March 29th Friday, April 5, 2024

#### **Dulac Presentation**

The Dulac Mission Team will be hosting a presentation on Sunday, March 3rd at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall, and everyone is invited to attend! This team recently served in Dulac, and there is still so much that we can do to help! Special guests Vickie and Mark Bollinger will share information, insights, and needs of the Dulac Community Center. Vickie is an active member of Houma FUMC, a board member of the Dulac Community Center, and serves in numerous capacities for the United Women in Faith on the state level.

We will share photos, testimonials, information, and laughter with all, so bring a friend and come learn how your local church joins other Christians to inspire people through the powerful love of Jesus Christ.

We'll have so much fun that we won't want to leave! Therefore, we will remain in the Fellowship Hall for worship at 10:00 AM. See you there!



Shalom, Dulac Mission Team

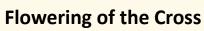
#### Welcome Patty McCullough!

We are happy to have Patty help us in the front office Mondays to Fridays in the mornings. Make sure to stop by and give her a warm welcome!



#### **Easter Lily Orders**

Pick up an order form in the church office or in your Sunday bulletin! \$15 per plant



He is Risen! On Easter Sunday, bring flowers from your garden or use the carnations provided to flower the cross in the Sanctuary!

#### **Camp Uskichittio Summer 2024**

A week-long adventure, filled with exciting challenges, engaging Bible studies, and opportunities to make new friends. We have fun and talk about Jesus! Activities include swimming, archery, climbing tower, crafts, teambuilding, hiking, and so much more!

#### Elementary Camp - (Entering 2nd-5th Grades)

A week-long adventure, filled with exciting challenges, engaging Bible studies, and opportunities to make new friends. We have fun and talk about Jesus!

Camp #1 May 27-31, 2024 (Cost \$325.00) Camp #2 June 24-28, 2024

#### Middle/High School Camp - (Entering 6th-12th Grades)

Camp #1 June 3-7, 2024 (Cost \$325,00) Camp #2 July 17-21, 2024 (Cost \$325.00)

Uskichitto Retreat Center 590 Retreat Road Leblanc, LA 70651

#### 337-738-4218

https:// campurc.com/ summer-campregistration







## Methodist Children's Learning Center



February was the month of LOVE! The teachers and kids decorated doors, and we experienced cold mornings and warm afternoons! On Valentines Day we celebrated love for our friends with pizza and treats! Spring and Easter are just around the corner. Watch us grow as we add

> a class to our center and increase our capacity!









#### **CHILD, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES**





#### **Nursery on Sunday Mornings**

Nursey and Preschool care is available on Sunday mornings during Sunday School and Worship. Children aged from 6 months up to Kindergarten are eligible for this service. Parents can drop off their cherubs as early as 8:45 AM for Sunday School, and 9:30 for Worship. Please spread the word. If you have any questions, please contact me at 337-396-9610 or email cathy@fumcderidder.org.



#### **SAVE THE DATE**

**Vacation Bible School 2024** Monday June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Friday June 7<sup>th</sup> Time: TBD

In an effort to meet the needs of the children in our community we will be hosting a Mega Sports Camp for our Vacation Bible School this year. It will be held at the Wesley Education Center. The target age group of participation is Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grades; however, we will be needing many youths (6<sup>th</sup> grade and up) to assist with the events. Proposed sports are soccer, volleyball, cheerleading, and basketball. We are open to other sports as well. We need adult volunteers that will take the lead on each of the sports activities as well as refreshment preparation, registration staff, on site nurse and many more. Please consider giving your time to this adventure. To volunteer, please reach out to Cathy at (337) 396-9610.

## Women's Prayer Breakfast Thursday, March 7th at 8:30 AM in the Conference Room

## Circles on a Mission Meeting Sunday, March 3rd at 11:15 AM in the Choir Room

#### **Music Ministry Notes**

Lent is upon us, and the music ministry ensembles are hard at work learning new music to present. We are praying it will be a blessing to you. Going forward, I am going to be singing solos more frequently as many of you have requested. How about that Children's Choir!! They bless us again and again. They are singing so well right now and putting a smile on everyone's face. The hand bell ensemble is working hard on a very difficult piece of music for Easter Sunday. You will not want to miss that. Lastly, the choir has been blessed with another singer. Thank you, Lizie Robinson, for joining us. If you would like to join the choir too, or any of our musical ensembles, we would love to have you. All you must do is show up to rehearsal, and you are in. Easy peasy, lemon squeezy! God Bless:)

John Schwarze, Director of Music Ministries



Wednesdays at 11:00 AM & 6:15 PM

## Children's Music



Children's Choir will be singing on Palm Sunday. Come be a part of the children's music program. We meet on Wednesdays at 4:45 in the Choir Room.. Hope to see you there.



#### **Donations Needed:**

The Church Office is collecting items for several organizations, including Blue Cupboard that partners with DeRidder High School, CASA, and the Veterans Home. For more information contact us at 337-463-4491

## Join us for Holy Week Activities and Easter Worship at First United Methodist Church DeRidder!

#### Sunday, March 24th

Palm Sunday Service
10 AM in the Sanctuary and Online
5th Sunday Meal
11:15 AM in the Fellowship Hall

#### **Monday - Wednesday**

UNF Luncheons with Devotional Time
12 PM in the Fellowship Hall

#### Thursday, March 28th

Maundy Thursday Worship
6 PM in the Fellowship Hall and Online

#### Friday, March 29th

Good Friday Meditative Prayer Time Come and go at your convenience 7:15 AM - 1 PM in the Fellowship Hall

#### Sunday, March 31st

Easter Sunrise Worship Service with Communion 6:45 AM at the Wesley Campus Bring your own lawn chair and/or a blanket

Sunday School
9 AM in the Fellowship Hall building
Easter Worship with Communion

10 AM in the Sanctuary and Online

#### Thank You!

We want to give a great big thank you to Laura Schultz as both a fill-in and as a part-time office staff member off and on over the last few years. She has been such a wonderful support to the office and church! Laura has moved to Leesville and now has a full-time job with benefits. Congratulations, Laura!

Please stop by and welcome Patty McCullough as our new part-time employee in the office. She is working 8-noon Monday through Friday. Patty is a great person and brings many great talents to our office. Miranda, of course, is still with us and is full-time.

## Memorials

In Memory of Margie Labby

From Tim & DiAnne Kindler From Brigitte Booth

## March Worship Assistants

#### Sunday, March 3rd

Readers - Charlotte McGee & Sandra Wertz 1st Sunday Communion Servers (During Service) -Mary Wisdom, Julie Porter, and Barbara Haynes

#### Sunday, March 10th

Readers - Van Allen & Erin Tepley

#### Sunday, March 17th - UWF Sunday

Greeters - Frances & Raymond Cole
Readers - Donna McCullough & Betty Nease

Ushers - Susan Hill, Diane Hennigan, & Phyllis Blanton

#### Sunday, March 24th - Palm Sunday

Readers - Gayle Bailey & Barbara Haynes After-Service Communion Server -Tim Kindler

#### Sunday, March 31st - Sunrise Service

Readers - John Schwarze

#### Sunday, March 31st - Easter Sunday

Readers - John Schwarze & David Hardesty

# It's Time to Spring Forward! DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024

## From the Heart by Mary Allen

#### Through The Eyes of a Child

NOTHING can describe your love for the first grandchild. I sang Happy Birthday to her as she was making an entrance into this world, to her mom's mortification! Becoming grandparents surprised Ted and I by its grandeur, splendor, and sense of new beginnings. Our hearts were captured by her eyes, her smile, her baby skin, ten tiny toes, her curiosity, head full of dark hair, and how she looked like



an angel when sleeping. Everything she did amazed us.

From the beginning, I loved her sweet voice. She was quiet, not one to speak all the time (as opposed to myself, her grandmother). I encouraged her by asking, "What color is this?", "Which letter is this?", or "Which animal says 'moo'?"

I guess I didn't realize how relentless I must have seemed, because one day when she was about three years old, I was asking her 1000 questions about a book we were reading. She closes the book, faces me eye-to-eye and asks with grave concern, "Grandma, did you GO to SCHOOL??"

This still makes me laugh! My Baby Girl thought I didn't know my ABC's and 1,2,3's even though she had told me the answers dozens of times. I have loved this child from her first breath to her recent 20th Birthday —And it's just the beginning! God's Word is true:

Proverbs 17:6 - "Grandchildren are the crown of grandparents, and parents are the glory of their children."

# **March 2024**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Sunday Worship in the Sanc- tuary & Online 4:00 PM Handbell Practice in the Sanc- tuary	8:00 AM Aerobics Class - Cym 11:30 AM Walking Group- Cym 5:30 PM Zumba Class at the Wesley Campus	8:00 AM Yoga Class – Cym 9:45 AM Chapel – MCLC 11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym 3:00 PM K-2nd Grade Activity Time at Wesley 5:30 PM Girl Scouts in LLL & Children's Classroom 5:30 PM Zumba Class – Wesley Campus	2 8  8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym 8:00 AM Morning devotional 9:00 AM New Event 10:00 AM MCLC Story Time in Fellow- 10:30 AM Prayer Shawl – LLL Room 11:15 AM Lenten Bible Study in the 11:15 AM Lenten Bible Study in the 11:15 AM Wednesday Night Supper in 5:15 PM Children's Choir – Choir Room 5:10 PM Wednesday Night Supper in 5:15 PM Children & Youth – Conf. 6:00 PM Praise & Chancel Choir in 6:00 PM Lenten Bible Study in the Up-	29  8:00 AM Yoga Class - Cym  11:30 AM Walking Group- Gym  3:00 PM 3:d-5th Grade Activity Time at Wesley 5:30 PM Zumba Class - Wesley Campus	= 8:00 AM Aerobics Class - Gym = 9:15 AM MCLC Activity Time with Cathy in Children's Classroom = 11:30 AM Walking Group- Cym	5
3  10:00 AM Dulac Presentation 10:00 AM Communion Sunday Worship in the Fellowship Hall and Online 11.15 AM Circles on a Mission Meeting in the Choir Room 4:00 PM Handbell Practice in the Sanctuary	4 = 8:00 AM Aerobics Class - Cym = 11:30 AM Walking Group- Cym = 5:30 PM Zumba Class at the Wesley Campus	8:00 AM Yoga Class - Gym 9:45 AM Chapel - MCLC 11:30 AM Walking Group- Gym 11:30 AM Walking Group- Gym 3:00 PM K-2nd Grade Activity Time at Wesley 5:30 PM Girl Scouts in LLL & Children's Glassroom Classroom Pus	8:00 AM Aerobics Class - Cym 8:00 AM Morning devotional 10:00 AM MCLC Story Time in Fellow- 10:30 AM Prayer Shaw - LLL Room 11:03 AM Prayer Shaw - LLL Room 11:00 AM Lenten Bible Study in the 11:30 AM Walking Group- Cym 6:15 PM Children's Choir - Choir Room 5:15 PM Children's Choir - Choir Room 5:15 PM Children's Choir - Choir Room 6:15 PM Children & Youth - Conf. 6:10 PM Praise & Chancel Choir in 6:00 PM Praise & Chancel Choir in 6:10 FM Lenten Bible Study in the Up-	8:00 AM Yoga Class - Cym  8:30 AM Women's Prayer Breakfast in the Conference Room the Conference Room Group  11:30 AM Homeschool Fellowship  11:30 AM Walking Group- Cym an Wesley  5:30 PM Zumba Class - Wesley Campus	8  = 8:00 AM Aerobics Class - Gym = 9:15 AM MCLC Activity Time with Cathy in Children's Classroom = 11:30 AM Walking Group- Gym	on and the second secon
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31 6:45 AM Easter Sunrise Service with 6:45 AM Easter Sunrise Service with 6:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Sunday Worship in Sanctuary with Communion	8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym 11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym 5:30 PM Zumba Class at the Wesley Campus	8:00 AM Yoga Class - Gym 9:45 AM Chapel - MCLC 11:30 AM Walking Group- Gym 3:30 PM K-2nd Grade Activity Time at Wesley 5:30 PM Girl Scouts in LLL & Children's Classroom 5:30 PM Zumba Class - Wesley Campus	8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Cym 8:00 AM Morning devotional 10:00 AM Morning devotional 10:00 AM MCLC Story Time in Fellow– ship Hall 10:30 AM Prayer Shawl – LLI. Room 10:30 AM Walking Group – Cym 5:10 PM Weldersday Night Supper in Fellowship Hall 7:15 PM Children & Youth – Conf. 8:00 & Gym Confirmation Class in Conference of Cym 8:00 & Cym Confirmation Class in Conference of Cym 8:00 & Cym Confirmation Class in Conference of Cym Cym Confirmation Class in Conference of Cym	8:00 AM Yoga Class – Cym 8:30 AM Women's Prayer Breakfast in the Conference Room 9:00 AM Homeschool Fellowship Group 3:00 PM 3Ad–5th Grade Activity Time at Wesley 5:30 PM Zumba Class – Wesley Campus	8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym 9:15 AM MCLC Activity Time with Cathy in Children's Classroom 11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym	9



- Dana Morrow Bill Sweikert
- Robert Bennett III
  - Tyler Husak Tripp Clanton David Robinson
    - 7 6

- Sandra Wertz Shelton Chavez 10 12 14
- Lauren Blankenship Dustin Nothnagel
  - **Terra Rembert** 19 21
- **Bobbye Gehron** Zach Major
- Marcie Hauser Billy Brister 23
- LaRue Luttrell 24 26
- James Buxton Patrick Wertz

## Anniversaries

15 Raymond & Gloria Marcello