 First United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 965  
DeRidder, LA 70634

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### Pastor's Ponderings!

Hello everyone!  
I am so excited for fall! I love the fall season as the weather turns cooler, my dogs are filled with extra energy as the weather cools, leaves begin to change and holidays are on the horizon.  
One of my favorite things during any season is music. Whether it is me playing an instrument, listening to the music of nature, or listening to my favorite music. I like so many genres of music - Christian, country, oldies (even music going back to the 30's!), Big Band, piano, harp, symphonies, etc.  
One of the new songs I am now enjoying is by Cochren and Co.(a Christian band) called *Church (Take Me Back)*. When you look at the lyrics (or hear them) you think about the hunger that everyone has right now about being back at church. I also invite you to go to Youtube and listen to and watch the video. I want to invite you to look at these words in another way. Here are the words for you to read:

[Verse 1]  
There was a time that I swore I would never go back  
I was blind to the truth, didn't know what I had  
I was running, I was searching  
But every place I turned for healing  
Left me more broken than the last  
[Chorus]  
Take me back  
To the place that feels like home  
To the people I can depend on  
To the faith that's in my bones  
Take me back  
To a preacher and a verse  
Where they've seen me at my worst  
To the love I had at first  
Oh, I want to go to church  
[Verse 2]  
Tried to walk on my own but I wound up lost  
Now I'm making my way to the foot of the cross  
It's not a trophy for the winners  
It's a shelter for the sinners  
And it's right where I belong  
[Chorus]  
Oh, more than an obligation  
It's our foundation  
The family of God  
I know it's hard  
But we need each other  
We're sisters and brothers  
[Chorus]

Such a powerful song about how much we need church - we need God and each other. The chorus says, I want to go to church. I ask you, in this time of wanting to go to the church, what if instead we focus more on saying, "I want to be the church." When we get busy being the church, it is then that we actually feel like we are at church. We see the smile on someone face as you bring them an unexpected meal; the smiles and giggles when an unexpected card comes in the mail; when we offer to take someone to a doctors appointment; when you have learned how to get on Zoom or Facebook and then you show up to your friend's house and show them how to get on zoom or Facebook so they can worship or attend Bible Study on line; and when we participate in Operation Christmas Child, God's Foodbox, or school supplies for kids in need. When we DO these things, we are going to church and we are being the church. We are being the presence of God to another.  
I know and get people wanting to be back in the sanctuary (and I'm ready for everyone to be back!) and worshipping as a church family. Maybe this Sunday you can call a friend and you can talk to each other and watch the service together on line. Or, maybe Facetime each other as you watch church. There are all types of ways to connect. Get out of your comfort zone, think outside the box and may we all stay connected in these very different times. This really will not last forever. I too look forward to five years from now when we can all say, "Do you remember back in 2020 when there was a shortage of toilet paper and we all learned how to watch church on line and did Bible Study through Zoom?" One day this too will be a memory. Let's do the work now to make it a GOOD memory!

*Blessings and hugs,  
Laraine*

We were never able to get the newsletter out at the end of August due to lack of ink from the copier company and Hurricane Laura coming in. We decided to send it to everyone since there is a lot of good info here from articles written, memorials given and things happening. So, please just read it in the context of information. Stand by, October's newsletter will be out soon!

*Sunday, September 13, 2020*

Please submit pictures to share for Grandparent's Day this year. We will be making a collage of photos and displaying them on Facebook and during our worship service on September 13th!  
E-mail or bring your photos to the Church Office on or before FRIDAY, September 4th.  
*Thank you for your participation!*

*Happy Grandparent's Day!*



**Virtual learning childcare availability!**



The Methodist Learning Center has openings for all elementary-aged children using the virtual educational experience this school year. Scholarships and sibling discounts available. Hours 6:30 AM- 5:30 PM.

 **Please call the learning center for more information at 337-463-3750!**

**CONTACT US**

**Erin Tepley & Mary Allen**  
**Office Administrators**

**Office: 337-463-4491**  
**erin@fumcderdder.org**  
**mary.allen@fumcderidder.org**  
**fumcderidder.org**





## Children, Teen, & Family Ministries

Wow! September already?

School has started. Homework has begun. The days are getting shorter, but the fun never ends here at FUMC, DeRidder. In August we cooked our way through the Bible. We made some sweet, salty, sticky, and fruity snacks. We learned that when we look to Jesus and follow his recipe for success, we are always sure to cook up something amazing.

Join us as we virtually attend pirate church each week as we explain the Armor of God for Kids. Join us every Wednesday for fun lessons that will cover all of the parts of the Armor of God while having some swash-buckling fun!

Check out our Silly Wednesdays to come!!!

**Ye Olde Hat-** The helmet of salvation.

**Ye Olde Eyepatch-** The shield of faith and breastplate of righteousness.

**Ye Olde Hook-** The sword of the spirit.

**Ye Olde Buckle-** The belt of truth.

**Ye Olde Peg Leg-** We will learn about the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.



Look for our Teen/Tween devotions every Friday.

And don't forget on Sundays, a lesson is posted after service that will coincide with Pastor Laraine's Sermon. There may be a lesson, a coloring page, a craft, or maybe even a silly family game.

To close, I only hoped I had the time to read all the messages I received thanking the church for your generosity in helping to provide backpacks for our community. We stuffed 75 backpacks. As of the second week of school, we have handed out 67 of them from DeRidder to Merryville. I look forward to continuing this ministry in the years to come.



**\*\*All weekly lessons are posted to our Facebook page no later than 6:00 PM. My IT department may have homework!\*\***

Love,  
Ashley - Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries  
ashley@fumcderidder.org



## METHODIST CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER NEWS

Back to school and play time pictures! MCLC is excited to celebrate Grandparent's Day on Friday, September 11th. All activities will be outside, and the classes will be staggered in order to celebrate all our grandparents in a fun, but SAFE, social distancing way! We will follow all CDC guidelines. Please stay tuned for more information!

Love, Mary Launey & the MCLC Staff



## Children's Music Ministry

Happy Grandparents Day to all of you Grandmas & Grandpas, Meemaws & Papaws, Omas & Opas, Nannys & Gramps!

I was surfing the net and looked up messages to grandparents for Grandparents Day. The one that really caught my attention was "It's difficult to imagine what my life would be like without grandparents, but a lot of people aren't blessed with the chance to know their grandparents like I know you. I am very thankful to have you and be able to see you often."

What if this message was written differently? "It's difficult to imagine what my life would be like without God, but a lot of people choose not to take the chance to know Him, intimately, like me. I am very thankful to know and follow Him and be one of His children."

God is the creator and the author of our lives. He is the one tugging on the lead to show me the way to travel. He is the one who instilled a love of music in me. He is the one who has led me to be a teacher. He is the one who plants a song in my head for weeks, sometimes driving me to the brink of insanity, before I choose to prepare our children to sing it.

How has He influenced you and your life?

Your sister in Christ,  
Kelley Allen, FUMC Children's Music Director



## FUMC - DeRidder Music Ministry Notes

### MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM ANNOUNCES CONCERT SEASON

I am privileged to inform you all of something I am extremely excited about. Our music ministry team will be organizing and participating in concerts to be live streamed and/or recorded and posted on our social media platforms for your viewing pleasure. The first one will be in late September and feature our three outstanding accompanists, Mary Allen, DiAnne Kinlder, and Elizabeth Vincent, on our brand-new Kawai baby grand piano, that we have had in the sanctuary since March. The concert will be a "Hymns Concert". The pianists are choosing eight favorite hymns submitted by you. Mary and/or DiAnne may be calling you. Keep tuned in to our social media pages and Sunday announcements for details concerning the date for this concert.

On October 24, members of the music ministry will present a concert of classical music. This concert will be pre-recorded, not live-streamed. Mary Allen and Kelley Allen will present a Brahms sonata, and I will sing an Italian opera aria by an early

19<sup>th</sup> century composer named Gaetano Donizetti. Our music ministry vocal ensemble has really done some wonderful a cappella vocal music recently. They will present a few works by the famous Renaissance composer, Josquin Des Prez.

December 10 is the date for our annual Lessons and Carols service in the sanctuary. We will not let the pandemic interfere with this Christmas tradition. There will be a small choral ensemble and the Praise Ensemble will be involved. In the winter months, we will present a Jazz/Pops concert, and possibly a Gospel concert in February. Exciting times are ahead for the music ministry team. I ask that you keep all those involved in the planning and leading of our Sunday services foremost in your prayers.

John Schwarze - Director of Music  
schwarze@fumcderidder.org



### IN THE GARDEN By Charles A. Miles

I come to the garden alone  
While the dew is still on the roses  
And the voice I hear  
Falling on my ear  
This song of God discloses

And He walks with me  
And He talks with me  
And He tells me I am his own  
And the joy we share  
As we tarry there  
None other has ever known.

Recently, I found myself humming this beautiful hymn. I was immediately brought back to the memory of sitting at my piano in my living room when my daughters were little. You see, God had given us a precious daughter after years of praying and yearning. She was happy and calm; she even loved bedtime. When she was two, we welcomed our second daughter. What an unbelievable blessing! We found out soon, however, that this baby girl never - not once - not ever - welcomed bedtime.

One evening, after trying many different things, I sat down at the piano, put my sweet baby facing me on my lap and began to softly play "In The Garden". She quit crying so she could listen, and her little body began to relax. As I played the chorus, "And He walks with me And He talks with me ...", I realized that she was fast asleep. I laid her in her crib and we all had a peaceful night.

For months, this is how we ended our day. And, even though she was asleep after only one verse, I would often play it over and over. This song became my song of gratefulness to Abba, Father - the only One who loves my children more than I do.



## DAYCARE & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM OPENINGS!

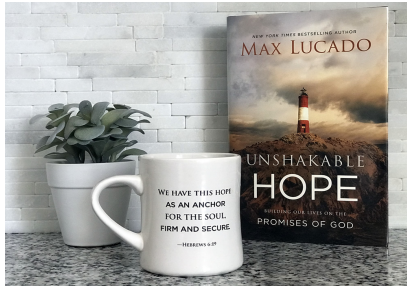


The Methodist Learning Center has openings for 1 year old to pre-k children. We offer 2-day, 3-day, or full-time programs. Hours 6:30 AM - 5:30PM. An after-school program with a scheduled bus stop is also open for all elementary-aged kids. Scholarships and sibling discounts available. Please contact the Learning Center directly at (337) 463-3750 for more details!

**METHODIST CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER**  
405 W. PORT ST., DERIDDER - 337-463-3750

## Bible Study!

By the time you get this newsletter, we will have already had one Bible Study session with our new book, *Unshakable Hope*, by Max Lucado. If you would like to participate, we did order some extra books. Please call the church office to make sure we still have them and jump into the class. We would love to have you!



## USHERS & GREETERS FOR SEPTEMBER

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO HELP KEEP SUNDAY MORNINGS RUNNING SMOOTHLY DURING THE CHALLENGES OF COVID-19. WE THANK YOU ALL. IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN USHER OR GREETER AT THIS TIME, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.

SEPTEMBER 6TH - SUSAN HILL & MORGAN TEPLY

SEPTEMBER 13TH - BETTY & SCOTTY NEASE

SEPTEMBER 20TH - CATHERINE WHITE & GRANT BEAL

SEPTEMBER 27TH - BETTY & SCOTTY NEASE

PLEASE USE  
HAND SANITIZER



THANK YOU



## Memorials & Honorariums

*When giving memorials or honoraria for persons other than church members, please provide the name and address of the person to be notified of the gift. Thank you.*

**In Memory of Jayne Stewart**  
Laura & Claude Moses

**In Memory of David Eaves**  
Laura & Claude Moses

**In Memory of Tanner Bruce Honea**  
Joyce & Jerry Lewis  
Dianne & Bill Penney  
Jerry & Jean McCaig  
Linda & Carl Rose

**In Memory of George LeRay**  
Joyce & Jerry Lewis  
Billy & Mary Brister  
James & Brigitte Booth  
Mary Alice Wisdom  
Susan Johnson & Glenna Luther  
Laura & Claude Moses  
Dianne & Bill Penney  
Billy Kilman  
Julie Porter  
June Brandt  
Martha Lou & Ron Roberts  
Brenda Bishop  
Jerry & Jean McCaig  
Melanie & John Marcello  
Gayle & Ken Bailey

**In Memory of Christina LaBue Flores**  
Joyce & Jerry Lewis

**In Memory of Belinda Farquhar Strittmatter**  
Dianne & Bill Penney  
Joyce & Jerry Lewis

**In Memory of Gordon Jenkins**  
Susan Johnson & Glenna Luther  
Dianne & Bill Penney

**In Memory of Jack & Juanita Thornton**  
Julie Porter



**OPERATION  
CHRISTMAS  
CHILD**  
("...go and make  
disciples of all  
nations...")

## SEPTEMBER Love Offering Month

Our congregation's response to the OCC global mission has been so tremendous that we are a month ahead of schedule with the exception of a few items that Erin will address separately. Therefore, September will wrap up our project with monetary love offerings for shipping, gospel material, and training of in-country leaders and teachers. Those expenses are covered through donations of \$9 per box. As stated before, our church mails 100 shoeboxes a year. Because of everyone's generosity, we will not need the full \$900. \$500 is what we are looking for to help us with what work is left to be done and to begin next year's process. If we have additional funds, they will be used for "seed" money next year that will enable us to buy many items in bulk at a reduced cost. Please annotate your checks with "OCC."

A sincere word of thanks to everyone who has contributed to the huge success of this year's effort to take Jesus to all nations throughout the world.



**Dear Faithful Members:**

**On behalf of our children and staff at the Louisiana United Methodist Children and Family Services, thank you for your thoughtful gift of 25 picnic blankets/picnic items for Methodist Foster Care Alexandria.**

**Donations such as yours are important to our organization. With your gift we can do more for the youth in our care. We are proud to partner with you in helping youth across the state of Louisiana. Our residential and community-based ministries positively impact the lives of children and families.**

**Again, I want to thank you for being part of the Children's Home family. We ask for your continued prayers for our children and staff.**

**Luke Allen**  
**Chief Operations Officer**

welcome, september!



BIRTHDAYS

- 1Matthew Brister
- 2Brenda Jones
- 3Sarah Wright
- 4David Wiggins
- 5Bob Dukes
- 6Gary Crowe
- 7Brigitte Booth
- 8Aimee Bennett
- 9Laura Coltharp
- 10David Prather
- 11Amber Taylor
- 12Patricia Limmer
- 13Bella Oldaker
- 14Mary Brister
- 15Howard Helms
- 16Claude Moses
- 17Pam Godair
- 18Britain Ann Prather
- 19Jane Rathburn
- 20Kaleb Luttrell
- 21Van Allen
- 22Seth McCullough
- 23Veronica Luttrell
- 24Debbie Clanton
- 25Rebecca Blankenship
- 26Richie Blankenship
- 27Martha Lou Roberts
- 28Richard Chavez
- 29Marcia Ades
- 30Gayle Bailey
- 31Michael Luttrell

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3Pam & Gary Godair
- 4Howard & Tannie Helms
- 5David & Rebecca Prather
- 6Roy & Marcia Ades

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>30</div> <div>10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service in Fellowship Hall &amp; Online</div> <div>6:00 PM Children's Church Lesson posted on Facebook by 6 PM</div>	<div>31</div> <div>8:00 AM Facebook Live Morning Devotional</div>	<div>1</div> <div>9:30 AM MCLC Chapel</div>	<div>2</div> <div>8:00 AM Facebook Live Morning Devotional with Communion</div> <div>4:30 PM Praise Ensemble Practice in the Sanctuary</div> <div>6:00 PM Online Bible Study - Zoom</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div> <div>12:00 PM Pictures for Grandparent's Day Deadline</div> <div>6:00 PM Teen/Tween Games &amp; Devotions - posted online by 6 PM</div>	<div>5</div>
<div>6</div> <div>10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service with Communion in Sanctuary &amp; Online</div> <div>6:00 PM Children's Church Lesson posted on Facebook by 6 PM</div>	<div>7</div> <div>Labor Day</div> <div>6:30 AM MCLC Closed All Day</div> <div>7:30 AM Church Office Closed All Day</div> <div>8:00 AM Facebook Live Morning Devotional</div>	<div>8</div> <div>9:30 AM MCLC Chapel</div>	<div>9</div> <div>8:00 AM Facebook Live Morning Devotional with Communion</div> <div>4:30 PM Praise Ensemble Practice in the Sanctuary</div> <div>6:00 PM Online Bible Study - Zoom</div>	<div>10</div>	<div>11</div> <div>6:00 PM Teen/Tween Games &amp; Devotions - posted online by 6 PM</div>	<div>12</div>
<div>13</div> <div>Grandparents Day</div> <div>10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service in Sanctuary &amp; On-line</div> <div>6:00 PM Children's Church Lesson posted on Facebook by 6 PM</div>	<div>14</div> <div>8:00 AM Facebook Live Morning Devotional</div>	<div>15</div> <div>9:30 AM MCLC Chapel</div> <div>5:00 PM Trustees Meeting in Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>16</div> <div>8:00 AM Facebook Live Morning Devotional with Communion</div> <div>4:30 PM Praise Ensemble Practice in the Sanctuary</div> <div>6:00 PM Online Bible Study - Zoom</div>	<div>17</div>	<div>18</div> <div>6:00 PM Teen/Tween Games &amp; Devotions - posted online by 6 PM</div>	<div>19</div>
<div>20</div> <div>10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service with Noisy Offering in Sanctuary &amp; Online</div> <div>11:15 AM Staff Meeting in the Church Office</div> <div>6:00 PM Children's Church Lesson posted on Facebook by 6 PM</div>	<div>21</div> <div>8:00 AM Facebook Live Morning Devotional</div>	<div>22</div> <div>9:30 AM MCLC Chapel</div> <div>1:00 PM Articles &amp; Photos due for October Newsletter</div>	<div>23</div> <div>8:00 AM Facebook Live Morning Devotional with Communion</div> <div>4:30 PM Praise Ensemble Practice in the Sanctuary</div> <div>6:00 PM Online Bible Study - Zoom</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div> <div>6:00 PM Teen/Tween Games &amp; Devotions - posted online by 6 PM</div>	<div>26</div>
<div>27</div> <div>10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service in Sanctuary &amp; On-line</div> <div>6:00 PM Children's Church Lesson posted on Facebook by 6 PM</div>	<div>28</div> <div>8:00 AM Facebook Live Morning Devotional</div>	<div>29</div> <div>9:30 AM MCLC Chapel</div>	<div>30</div> <div>8:00 AM Facebook Live Morning Devotional with Communion</div> <div>4:30 PM Praise Ensemble Practice in the Sanctuary</div> <div>6:00 PM Online Bible Study - Zoom</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div> <div>6:00 PM Teen/Tween Games &amp; Devotions - posted online by 6 PM</div>	<div>3</div>