



➡➡➡➡ Sunday, August 2nd in the Sanctuary at 10 AM

AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DERIDDER

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Non-Profit
Organization
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Permit #53**



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70634**

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Follow us on Facebook
at DeRidder First United
Methodist Church, where
we post our worship
services, share
upcoming events, and
more! We're also on
YouTube at
DeridderFUMC



Pastor's Ponderings

Next to Thanksgiving, the 4th of July is my favorite national holiday. We have such great memories in our family from that holiday. We went to parades and festivals. From fireworks shows at Lake Travis in Austin, to the Cotton Bowl in Dallas, to the 25 years of our family farm. We had fun with everything from firecrackers, bottle rockets, fountains, sparklers, “snakes,” and all kinds of beautiful explosions in the sky at the lake cabin or on the farm. And, the weekend always included hamburgers on the grill, shucking corn, and HOMEMADE ICE CREAM! So many fun memories and laughter with hand-cranking that ice cream. Mom would also decorate the house in red, white, and blue. She hand-made firecrackers bursting with colorful red, white, and blue, with cellophane covering up toilet paper rolls! A copy of the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights was always out. The time would also include different things like swimming or playing in the sprinkler, going fishing, cooling off with some lemonade, and an afternoon movie, and just lots of love and laughter. If you needed any ideas for your fourth, I hope you wrote some down!

Not only did we enjoy celebrating our nation’s birthday, but we also enjoyed each other. Having a celebration was always a great reason to get together.

Every Sunday in the church is like a miniature Easter. We celebrate God and Jesus – his forgiveness and resurrection, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Worship is a time to honor and celebrate God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. It is a time to do so with each other in the Body of Christ and rejoice that it is through Jesus that we are brought together in the body of Christ. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we had a time of great celebration in the worship service like fireworks? Although maybe without all the loud noise. 😊

We are a blessed people. We are a blessed people with a Savior who loves us unconditionally, living in a country celebrating 250 years of freedom – including the freedom to worship where and when we choose! So, let us worship on Sunday, July 5th, celebrating our Savior’s gift of love and forgiveness to us through the gift of Holy Communion, and the celebration of our free nation by dressing in red, white, and blue! Oh, “come let us adore Him” in “the land that we love!”

See you Sunday!

Laraine

PS – We will continue to worship in the Fellowship Hall (the original sanctuary) through July 12th, and then we will return to the big Sanctuary on July 19th.



Wesley Kids!
Summer

Groovy

Retro

Music Ministry at FUMC

“The Old Rugged Cross” is one of the most beloved Christian hymns in American history. It was written in 1912 by George Bennard, a Methodist minister, evangelist, and songwriter who was inspired by his reflections on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Bennard composed the hymn while conducting revival meetings. He was very bothered by many people’s lack of faith. He turned to the scripture and found himself moved by the passion of Christ’s death, so he drew his inspiration from it. The hymn’s message of faith, redemption, and devotion quickly resonated with congregations across the United States. First introduced at a church revival in Michigan, soon it became widely known among numerous Protestant churches.

Over the years, “The Old Rugged Cross” has remained a favorite hymn because of its simple yet powerful lyrics and memorable melody. It emphasizes the significance of the cross as a symbol of Christ’s suffering and the hope of salvation. The song has been recorded by numerous artists and performed in churches around the world, making it one of the most enduring hymns of the twentieth century. Its message of love, sacrifice, and eternal hope continues to inspire believers to this day.

This summer we invite you to come sing old American classics like “The Old Rugged Cross” while we’re in the fellowship hall!

Then Lord Bless You And Keep You,
Cameron Craig

MCLC
Methodist Children's Learning Center

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED:
BABY WIPES
TEMPERA PAINT
WASHABLE MARKERS
PAPER PLATES
GLUE STICKS

July Events

FRIDAY, JULY 3RD
MCLC Closed for Fourth of July

THURSDAY, JULY 16TH
Downstairs Classes' Lunch Bunch

THURSDAY, JULY 23RD
Upstairs Classes' Lunch Bunch

337-463-3750
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FUMCLC

YOU CAN STILL DONATE
TO OUR FUNDRAISER BY
SCANNING THE QR CODE!

Thank You!
FOR MAKING OUR INAUGURAL
DASH AND BASH FUN RUN A HUGE SUCCESS

THE ARK NEWS

WE WANT TO SAY A BIG THANK YOU TO THE CHURCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT DURING VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL! WE HAD MORE THAN 100 CHILDREN ATTEND, WHICH IS A HUGE OUTREACH FOR OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY! THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS & Y'ALLS COUNTLESS HOURS OF WORK! WE CAN'T WAIT TO DO IT AGAIN NEXT YEAR!



UPCOMING EVENTS:

JULY 15TH AT 6PM CHILDREN & YOUTH PARENT MEETING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL PARENT/PARENTS TO ATTEND.

AUG. 4TH AT 5:30PM DERIDDER NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AT THE FAIRGROUNDS! THIS YEARS THEME IS 'FIELD OF DREAMS'!

Christmas
in July!

Bring School Supplies
Donations on July 26th!

Back-To-School Supplies and Blessings

We have two big Sundays coming up at the end of July and the beginning of August:

Sunday, July 26th, is **Christmas in July**, and we want you to bring your school supplies donations up to the altar rails to be blessed. This year we will provide necessary items to FOUR different children’s programs and missions:

- Methodist Children’s Home in Sulphur
- Wesley Kids (elementary-age)
- MCLC Pre-K class
- DeRidder School District

The **Back-To-School Blessing** will be on Sunday, August 2nd, during Worship. We will be praying for all of our children, teachers, administration, bus drivers, and other staff, so we encourage you to be present and bring your backpacks to be blessed, as well!

Summer may still be in full swing, but we are eager and excited to look ahead to a wonderful new school year! And don’t forget — you can still bring school supplies to be blessed on August 2nd!

Susan Hill Memorial Circles on a Mission
Bicycle Ride - Check Presentation to MCH

Representatives of the Methodist Children’s Home will join us for worship on Sunday, August 2nd, for Back-To-School Sunday, where we will present Back-To-School supplies, as well as the proceeds from our Susan Hill Memorial COM Bicycle Ride event! This year’s event brought in more than \$12,000 for the Children’s Home. For more information on the Methodist Children’s Home, go to lumcfs.org.

ATTENTION: We still have Circles T-Shirts! The cost is \$20—proceeds go to the Children’s Home.

From The Heart by Mary Allen



You see this picture? That is me on picture day in the second grade. I wasn't a difficult child to raise. I was respectful and minded Mom and Dad most of the time. However, each year as picture day approached, I begged Mom to let me sleep with pink rollers PLUS fix my own hair the next morning. She patiently explained the things that could go wrong. Yet, when I

confidently reassured her I could do it, she bravely gave me permission.

The morning arrives, I am groggy. It seems that, even though pink rollers are soft, they still poke into your head and pull your hair 100 different ways. I take the rollers out of my hair and brush through and through. I stand on my tiptoes to look in the mirror. Oh no! Curls are sticking up at odd angles everywhere, including my bangs! The result is an eight-year-old's worst nightmare.

"Mama. Help!" I run to her and say, "What are we going to do?" She comes to my rescue. She doesn't look surprised; she doesn't say, 'I told you so'. She just reassures me that, together, we can fix it.

With combs and brushes and spritzes of water, we wrangle the curls into control. The curls springing from the top of my head are mostly pinned down with a well-placed rubber band. Hairspray on my bangs made them acceptable, although noticeably uneven. I finally breathe. The child you see in this picture is a very happy girl thankful for a Mother who helped her avoid disaster.

When I think about this life lesson, I am struck by my complete confidence when telling Mama my plans. Every bit of the conversation was full of sentences that began with "I". But when I saw the result, my question was "What will WE do now?" Think about it. We do the same thing sometimes. We make a plan without asking our Heavenly Father for guidance. Then, when disaster is upon us, we say, "What do WE do now, Lord?" God says we can avoid these situations:

James 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives (wisdom) generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him

Proverbs 3:6

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Dear Lord, I recommit to reading Your Word, praying for guidance, and listening for answers. You never change. You never fail. Thank you for your love.

~~~~~  
From the heart,  
Mary Allen

Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory of Tannie Helms

Joyce Lewis  
DiAnne & Tim Kindler  
Jo & Richie Blankenship  
Mary & Billy Brister

In Honor of Raymond & Tammi Henderson

Frances Cole

In Honor of Rev. Laraine Waughtal

Dianne Penney

July Worship Assistants

Sunday, July 5, 2026

Greeters: Monica & James Bailey  
Readers: Donna McCullough (RR) & LiAna Gray (S)  
Communion During Service: Susan Myers, Joyce Lewis, and Graham Romero

Sunday, July 12, 2026

Greeters: Susan Myers & Jimmy Hicks  
Readers: Lexi Bohms (RR) & Catherine Beal (S)  
Communion After Service: Susan Myers

Sunday, July 19, 2026

Greeters: The Tepley Family  
Readers: Jo Blankenship (RR) & Shannon Kindle (S)  
Communion After Service: David Hardesty

Sunday, July 26, 2026

Greeters: Charlotte McGee & Eddie Smith  
Readers: Kelley Allen (RR) & Lilly Smith (S)  
Communion After Service: Cameron Craig

RR-Responsive Reading, S-Scripture,  
TBD-To Be Determined



Operation Christmas Child 2026

THE GREATEST JOURNEY: Many boys and girls who receive OCC shoebox gifts are invited to participate in a follow-up discipleship program that teaches them how to faithfully follow Christ and share Him with others.



JULY COLLECTION:  
SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND CRAFTS

- Paper / Notebooks
- Pens / Pencils
- Erasers
- Glue Sticks (no liquid glue)
- Crayons / Markers
- Rulers
- Scissors
- Coloring Books
- Beads and Yarn

Just a reminder that FUMC DeRidder will fill 100+ shoeboxes by November 2026! Our church heart is huge when it comes to all children. Please be in prayer so we can be a blessing to the children who receive shoeboxes. In addition please support Rosemary Cady Circle fundraisers.

# July 2026



| Sunday |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Monday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                           |  | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  | Friday                                                                        |  | Saturday                                              |  |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 28     | 9:00 AM Sunday School<br>10:00 AM Children's Church (K-5th grades)<br>10:00 AM Sunday Worship in the Fellowship Hall & Online<br>11:15 AM Handbell Practice<br>2:30 PM Bus Barn Riders at Bus Barn<br>5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC                  | 29<br>Camp Uskichitto Elementary Camp #2<br>8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym<br>9:45 AM MCLC Chapel in Sanctuary<br>5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley<br>5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC<br>6:40 PM Rebecca Rathel Dance Aerobics Class @ Wesley |  | 30<br>8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym<br>9:45 AM MCLC Chapel in Sanctuary<br>5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley<br>5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC |  | 1<br>8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym<br>8:00 AM Morning Devotional<br>9:45 AM MCLC Crafts with Patty<br>11:30 AM Walking Group in Gym<br>7:00 PM Praise Ensemble & Chancel Choir Practice in Sanctuary                                                                        |  | 2<br>8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym<br>9:30 AM MCLC Library Readings & Crafts<br>3:30 PM MCLC Afternoon Activity Time<br>5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley<br>5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC<br>6:40 PM Rebecca Rathel Dance Aerobics Class @ Wesley                              |  | 3<br>FUMC Office, MCLC, & Wesley Closed<br>8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym |  | 4                                                     |  |
|        | 5<br>9:00 AM Sunday School<br>10:00 AM Communion Sunday Worship in the Fellowship Hall and Online<br>2:30 PM Bus Barn Riders at Bus Barn<br>5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC                                                                            | 6<br>8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym<br>5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley<br>5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC<br>6:40 PM Rebecca Rathel Dance Aerobics Class @ Wesley                                                                            |  | 7<br>8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym<br>9:45 AM MCLC Chapel in Sanctuary<br>5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley<br>5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC  |  | 8<br>8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym<br>8:00 AM Morning Devotional<br>9:45 AM MCLC Crafts with Patty<br>11:30 AM Walking Group in Gym<br>7:00 PM Praise Ensemble & Chancel Choir Practice in Sanctuary                                                                        |  | 9<br>8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym<br>3:30 PM MCLC Afternoon Activity Time<br>5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley<br>5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC<br>6:40 PM Rebecca Rathel Dance Aerobics Class @ Wesley                                                                        |  | 10<br>Fridays – Office Closed<br>8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym           |  | 11                                                    |  |
| 12     | 9:00 AM Sunday School Report on Annual Conference<br>10:00 AM Sunday Worship in the Fellowship Hall & Online<br>11:15 AM Handbell Practice<br>2:30 PM Bus Barn Riders at Bus Barn<br>5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC                                   | 13<br>8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym<br>5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley<br>5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC<br>6:40 PM Rebecca Rathel Dance Aerobics Class @ Wesley                                                                           |  | 14<br>8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym<br>9:45 AM MCLC Chapel in Sanctuary<br>5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley<br>5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC |  | 15<br>Newsletter Deadline<br>8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym<br>8:00 AM Morning Devotional<br>9:45 AM MCLC Crafts with Patty<br>11:30 AM Walking Group in Gym<br>6:00 PM Parent Meeting for Children & Youth<br>7:00 PM Praise Ensemble & Chancel Choir Practice in Sanctuary |  | 16<br>8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym<br>9:00 AM MCLC Splash Pad Day<br>9:00 AM Homeschool Fellowship (WEC)<br>3:30 PM MCLC Afternoon Activity Time<br>5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley<br>5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC<br>6:40 PM Rebecca Rathel Dance Aerobics Class @ Wesley |  | 17<br>Fridays – Office Closed<br>8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym           |  | 18<br>3:00 PM Renewal of vows Tammy and Ray Henderson |  |
|        | 19<br>9:00 AM Sunday School<br>10:00 AM Noisy Offering Worship in the Sanctuary & Online<br>11:15 AM Handbell Practice<br>2:30 PM Bus Barn Riders at Bus Barn<br>5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC                                                       | 20<br>Laraine on Vacation<br>8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym<br>5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley<br>5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC<br>6:40 PM Rebecca Rathel Dance Aerobics Class @ Wesley                                                    |  | 21<br>8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym<br>9:45 AM MCLC Chapel in Sanctuary<br>5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley<br>5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC |  | 22<br>8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym<br>9:00 AM Merry Mailers in the Church Office<br>9:45 AM MCLC Crafts with Patty<br>11:30 AM Walking Group in Gym<br>7:00 PM Praise Ensemble & Chancel Choir Practice in Sanctuary                                                       |  | 23<br>8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym<br>3:30 PM MCLC Afternoon Activity Time<br>5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley<br>5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC<br>6:40 PM Rebecca Rathel Dance Aerobics Class @ Wesley                                                                       |  | 24<br>Fridays – Office Closed<br>8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym           |  | 25                                                    |  |
| 26     | Laraine on Vacation<br>9:00 AM Sunday School<br>10:00 AM Children's Church (K-5th grades)<br>10:00 AM Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary & Online<br>11:15 AM Handbell Practice<br>2:30 PM Bus Barn Riders at Bus Barn<br>5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC | 27<br>8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym<br>5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley<br>5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC<br>6:40 PM Rebecca Rathel Dance Aerobics Class @ Wesley                                                                           |  | 28<br>8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym<br>9:45 AM MCLC Chapel in Sanctuary<br>5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley<br>5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC |  | 29<br>8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym<br>8:00 AM Morning Devotional<br>9:45 AM MCLC Crafts with Patty<br>11:30 AM Walking Group in Gym<br>7:00 PM Praise Ensemble & Chancel Choir Practice in Sanctuary                                                                       |  | 30<br>8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym<br>3:30 PM MCLC Afternoon Activity Time<br>5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley<br>5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC<br>6:40 PM Rebecca Rathel Dance Aerobics Class @ Wesley                                                                       |  | 31<br>Fridays – Office Closed<br>8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym           |  | 1                                                     |  |

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 5
- Barbara Haynes  
Grant Beal
- 6
- Michael Clanton
- 9
- Derek Nothnagel
- 10
- Kelley Allen
- 11
- Angie Thorne
- 16
- Elizabeth Vincent
- 17
- Mitch Launey
- 20
- Lilly Smith
- 23
- Gary Godair
- Caden Clanton
- 25
- Sam Jones
- 29
- David Jones, Jr.

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 14
- Ray & Tammi Henderson  
Tim & DiAnne Kindler