




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

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Organization
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Welcome Back, Tepley Family!

We are so happy to welcome Erin and TJ back to DeRidder, along with Jarrett, Morgan, and Abbott! Make sure to say hello if you see them at church, or visit the church office to visit with Erin as she resumes her position at the front desk.

Photo credit: John Marcello



Erin Tepley
Administrative Assistant
Office: 337-463-4491
office@fumcderidder.org

Follow us on Facebook at DeRidder First United Methodist Church, where we post our worship services & share upcoming events!

We're also on YouTube at DeridderFUMC



Our mailing
 address is
 PO Box 965
 DeRidder, LA
 70634

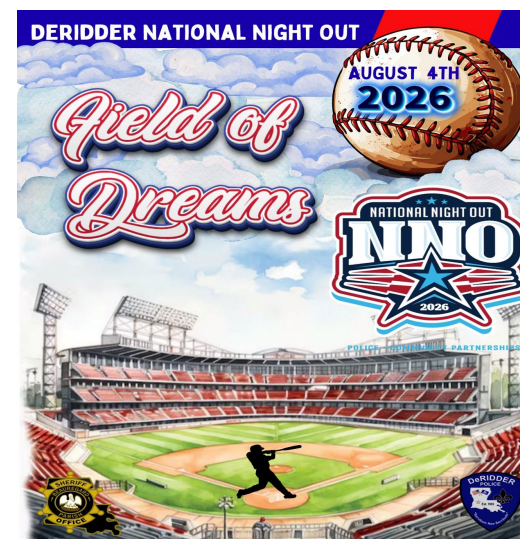
Our physical
 address is
 406 W. Shirley St.
 DeRidder, LA
 70634

Pastor's Ponderings

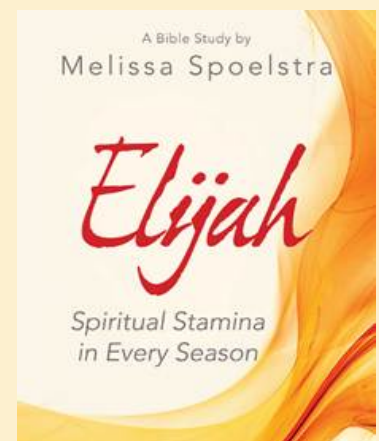
August?! Yes, it is already here. And, honestly, I wish someone would turn down the oven! As a kid, we rarely thought twice about going outside, even in the hottest months. Summertime meant playing baseball, riding our bikes, playing in the sprinkler, going swimming, going to the park, playing in the creek, and catching frogs! Heat was just a part of it. Now, I'm either outside early in the morning, late in the evening, or swimming in the pool. I still have plenty of adventures. When there is an opportunity to do something outdoors in the heat, I am still all in. However, I'm just not as fond of the heat as I used to be. One of the things I do love about Louisiana summers is the rain showers that we often get late in the afternoon. Not only do they cool things down a bit, but I love that the result of rain is all the beautiful green grass, green trees, and the flowers. Even in the summertime, my Dad would go out and cut fresh flowers for "his girls" to wear on a Sunday morning! My Mom, sister, and I loved it, and he was proud. Look around you! Look out your window! See the many blessings God has for us in every corner of our lives.

Of course, August now brings a very early start to school. I hope everyone will plan on being in Church on Sunday, August 2nd for worship. We will celebrate Holy Communion; we will bless all the children, teachers, staff, and bus drivers for the school year, AND the United Methodist Children's Home staff will be with us for a BIG check presentation. We raised \$12,000 for the Children's Home, and we will be presenting them with this HUGE check on Sunday morning. There is so much to celebrate. Kids (of all ages!), bring your backpacks, wear your uniform or your school colors or shirts, and let's pray for and celebrate the new school year!

See you soon!
Laraine



LIZIE ROBINSON WILL BE REPRESENTING THE CHURCH IN THE MAIN BUILDING SPOT 13 WITH GAMES AND HANDOUTS! ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN HER AND CELEBRATE NNO WITH OUR COMMUNITY!



August Bible Study

Bible study will be starting soon! We will be studying Elijah! He is one of my favorite Old Testament people. I can relate to him in several ways, and I think you will too. The cost of the Bible Study book will be \$20. Everything is going up in price, but I think you will find it to be worth it. The books are here! August 12th is the big day! You can pick up your book in the Church Office, or in worship on Sunday in the Sanctuary. The class will be for six weeks with Scripture readings from 1st and 2nd Kings. The subjects will include prayer, choices, soul care, surrendering, mentoring, and legacy! We will meet in the Upper Room of the Fellowship Hall with two times available – 11 am or 6 pm. Come and join us. There is room for everyone!

THE ARK NEWS

WE ARE READY TO WELCOME EVERYONE BACK TO WEDNESDAY NIGHTS! BUT BEFORE WE CAN DO THAT WE WILL BE KICKING OFF OUR YEAR WITH NATIONAL NIGHT OUT ON AUGUST 4TH FROM 5:30PM TILL 8:30PM AT THE FAIR GROUNDS! WE WILL BE IN THE MAIN BUILDING IN SPOT 13! COME SEE US & ENJOY THE COMMUNITY!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS:

- 8/12: PIZZA & BIBLE TRIVIA AT 5PM
- 8/19: POTLUCK NIGHT AT 5PM
- 8/26: POTLUCK NIGHT AT 5 PM
- WE ARE STARTING TO COLLECT HARD CANDIES AND THROWS FOR THE FAIR PARADE!

GRAHAM R.
REECE R.
JARRETT T.



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Children's Choir begins

Wednesday, August 19

4:45 - 5:15

Come Make a joyful noise with us!

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES

FEW HYMNS CAPTURE THE CHRISTIAN JOURNEY AS POWERFULLY AS "GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH." WRITTEN IN THE 18TH CENTURY BY WELSH HYMN WRITER WILLIAM WILLIAMS PANTYCELYN. THIS BELOVED HYMN DRAWS INSPIRATION FROM GOD'S GUIDANCE OF THE ISRAELITES THROUGH THE WILDERNESS. IT REMINDS BELIEVERS THAT JUST AS GOD FAITHFULLY LED HIS PEOPLE TO THE PROMISED LAND, HE CONTINUES TO GUIDE AND SUSTAIN US TODAY.

EACH VERSE POINTS TO OUR DEPENDENCE ON THE LORD. FROM ASKING FOR DAILY STRENGTH—"BREAD OF HEAVEN, FEED ME TILL I WANT NO MORE"—TO EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S POWER THROUGH LIFE'S CHALLENGES—"BE THOUGH STILL MY STRENGTH AND SHIELD"—THE HYMN IS BOTH A PRAYER AND A DECLARATION OF FAITH. ITS TRIUMPHANT FINAL VERSE LOOKS AHEAD WITH HOPE, TRUSTING GOD TO LEAD US SAFELY INTO HIS ETERNAL KINGDOM. "WHEN I TREAD THE VERGE OF JORDAN, BID MY ANXIOUS FEARS SUBSIDE". THE BEAUTIFUL TEXT AND POWERFUL MUSIC HAVE INSPIRED COUNTLESS CHRISTIANS FOR ALMOST 300 YEARS AND IT CONTINUES TO DO SO TO THIS DAY.

THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU,
CAMERON CRAIG, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



MCLC

Methodist Children's Learning Center

MCLC IS HIRING!
FULL TIME
TEACHER SPOTS
AVAILABLE

Why
Parents
Choose
MCLC

"We feel comfortable leaving our children there and walk away knowing they are in good hands!"
Rachel Peterson
MCLC Parent

AUGUST IS OPEN ENROLLMENT
FOR 3, 4, & 5 YEAR OLDS!



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/
FUMCLC



CHECK OUT
OUR NEW
WEBSITE!

HOMESCHOOL HANGOUT



A FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH PROGRAM

9:30AM TO
1:00PM

WESLEY CENTER
701 N. TEXAS ST.
QUESTIONS?
CALL PATTY @
337-375-3796

ACTIVITIES
AVAILABLE
BIBLE STUDY TIME
GAMES
CRAFTS
INSIDE & OUTSIDE
TOYS

BRING SHACKS
OR LUNCH

UPCOMING DATES

AUGUST
Monday 17th

SEPTEMBER
Monday 3rd
Thursday 14th



After School Hours begin the
first week of August at Wesley Kids

Monday - Thursday

After School 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Fridays All Day 6:30 AM - 5:30 PM

337-221-1343

701 N. Texas Street DeRidder, LA 70634

https://www.facebook.com/wesleykidsderidder

Let's do LUNCH!



Join us on AUGUST 30TH!

Fifth Sunday Luncheon After Church in
Fellowship Hall

All proceeds go toward Wesley Kids!

2027 Honduras Mission Trip
February 27 - March 6, 2027

Mission Projects

- Medical
- Pharmacy
- Children's VBS
- Reading Glasses
- Construction

Professionals & Volunteers Needed

Fundraisers & Donations Accepted



Contact Dean Sawyer at 337-274-9238



Estimated Cost Per Team Member
\$1,700
Includes airfare, lodging, food, insurance, and some mission supplies



First United Methodist Church DeRidder
Blood Mobile
Sunday, August 9th | 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

SIGN UP TODAY!



Discover how God used an Operation Christmas Child shoebox in my life ...



Sunday, August 9th

Unity BC, 19373 LC Hwy, DeRidder 9:30 AM
FBC Anacoco, 4813 Port Arthur Ave 11:00 AM
E. Leesville BC, 266 Alex. Hwy 2:00 PM

Tradition

It just so happened to be bedtime when I dropped in at my daughter's house. They were beginning their nightly routine, which played out like this: teeth brushed, hair brushed, lunch boxes in place, books read, hugs and kisses given, then the grandchildren were off to sleep.

As I waited for their mom and dad to get back from tucking them in, I was given an amazing gift! My daughter and grandson, who was 7, began to sing:

*I awake to the day on a mountain high; The sun is bright in a perfect sky;
The pines like arrows are pointing above; My world is peaceful because of God's love.
This day is my own. I must use it with care. So, when night comes, and I say my prayers,
I'll thank you God for a beautiful day! This is my morning song.*

I am blindsided by their beautiful duet. They are singing a song taught to my HUSBAND by HIS MOM when he was 2, which became their nightly routine. My HUSBAND taught this song to our DAUGHTER when she was 2, and it became their nightly routine. The sweet tradition has been carried on.

As a parent, I hope Ted and I have raised our children right. Seeing my girls raising their own children, beautifully, is such a joy. This song is also a reassurance to me. God's Word says,

"Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle." - 2 Thess. 2:15

With love,
Mary Allen

AUGUST WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

August 2, 2026 - Backpack Blessing

Greeters: The Oldaker Family
Readers: Addy Robinson (RR) & Garrett Oldaker (S)
Communion Servers: Jarrett & Morgan Tepley, and Phyllis Blanton

August 9, 2026

Greeters: Susan Myers & John Marcello
Readers: Ted Hammerschmidt (RR) & John Marcello (S)
Communion Server After Service: Susan Myers

August 16, 2026

Greeters: The Romero Family
Readers: Jane Rathburn (RR) & Graham Romero (S)
Communion Server After Service: Mary Alice Wisdom

August 23, 2026

Greeters: Betty & Scotty Nease
Readers: Betty Nease (RR) & Raymond Henderson (S)
Communion Server After Service: Jo Blankenship

August 30, 2026

Greeters: The Tepley Family
Readers: Erin Tepley (RR) & Sam Jones (S)
Communion Server After Service: Jo Blankenship

RR - Responsive Reading; S - Scripture



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:
LET'S GO SHOPPING!

Finding items on sale is so rewarding, especially when it's for Operation Christmas Child. Every year the United Women in Faith spearheads filling 100+ shoeboxes for delivery at Christmas. Team Nease builds the shoeboxes, and then many loving hands from our church family fill them to the brim during the second week of November. Our special helpers are the children. IT'S SOMETHING TO SEE!

AUGUST:

- Flashlights with extra batteries
- Jump Ropes
- Sidewalk Chalk
- Water Bottles
- Sunglasses
- Bungee Cords
- Fishing Kits
- Beach Balls
- Undergarments
- Socks
- YoYos

ANY School Supplies* that are on sale

So many great things happen for us all when we give to the children, so please join us as we fill these shoeboxes. Thank you for supporting Operation Christmas Child for all of these years.

* 24 pack of crayons

* one subject spiral notebooks

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

In Memory of Glenita McCain
Helen Warring

In Honor of Tammi & Ray Henderson
Joyce Lewis
John Marcello

26	Laraine on Vacation 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Children's Church (K-5th grades) 10:00 AM Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary & Online 2:30 PM Bus Barn Riders at Bus Barn 5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC	27	8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym 5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley 5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC	28	8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym 5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley 5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC	29	8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym 8:00 AM Morning Devotional 9:00 AM Merry Mailers - Choir Room 9:45 AM MCLC Crafts with Patty 11:30 AM Walking Group in Gym 7:00 PM Praise Ensemble & Chancel Choir Practice in Sanctuary	30	8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym 5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley 5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC	31	Fridays - Office Closed 8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym	1
2	9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Communion Sunday Worship with Back to School Blessing in the Sanctuary and Online 2:30 PM Bus Barn Riders at Bus Barn 5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC	3	8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym 9:00 AM Homeschool Fellowship (WEC) 5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley 5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC	4	8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym 9:45 AM MCLC Chapel in Sanctuary 5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley 5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC 5:30 PM NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AT THE FAIR GROUNDS - main building SPOT #13	5	8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym 8:00 AM Morning Devotional 9:45 AM MCLC Crafts with Patty 11:30 AM Walking Group in Gym 7:00 PM Praise Ensemble & Chancel Choir Practice in Sanctuary	6	8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym 9:30 AM MCLC Library Readings & Crafts 5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley 5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC	7	Fridays - Office Closed 8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym	8
9	9:00 AM Blood Drive in Church Parking Lot (Shirley St.) 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary & Online 11:15 AM Handbell Practice 2:30 PM Bus Barn Riders at Bus Barn 5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC	10	8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym 5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC 5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley	11	8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym 9:45 AM MCLC Chapel in Sanctuary 11:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC 5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley	12	8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym 8:00 AM Morning Devotional 9:45 AM MCLC Crafts with Patty 11:00 AM Bible Study - Upper Room 11:30 AM Walking Group in Gym 4:45 PM Nursery Open 5:00 PM Wednesday Night Dinner 6:00 PM Bible Study Upper Room 6:00 PM Children & Youth Lesson 7:00 PM Praise Ensemble & Chancel Choir Practice in Sanctuary	13	8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym 5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC 5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley	14	Fridays - Office Closed 8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym	15
16	9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Noisy Offering Worship in the Sanctuary & Online 11:15 AM Handbell Practice 2:30 PM Bus Barn Riders at Bus Barn 5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC	17	8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym 5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC 5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley 5:45 PM MCLC/Wesley Board Meeting	18	8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym 9:45 AM MCLC Chapel in Sanctuary 12:00 PM Newsletter Deadline 12:00 PM 5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC 5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley	19	8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym 8:00 AM Morning Devotional 9:45 AM MCLC Crafts with Patty 11:00 AM Bible Study - Upper Room 11:30 AM Walking Group in Gym 4:45 PM Children's Choir - Choir Room 4:45 PM Nursery Open 5:00 PM Wednesday Night Dinner 6:00 PM Bible Study Upper Room 6:00 PM Children & Youth Lesson 7:00 PM Praise Ensemble & Chancel Choir Practice in Sanctuary	20	Newsletter Deadline 12:00 PM 8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym 9:00 AM Homeschool Fellowship (WEC) 5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC 5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley	21	Fridays - Office Closed 8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym	22
23	9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Children's Church (K-5th grades) 10:00 AM Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary & Online 11:15 AM Handbell Practice 2:30 PM Bus Barn Riders at Bus Barn 5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC	24	8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym 5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC 5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley	25	8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym 9:45 AM MCLC Chapel in Sanctuary 5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC 5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley	26	8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym 8:00 AM Morning Devotional 9:45 AM MCLC Crafts with Patty 11:00 AM Bible Study - Upper Room 11:30 AM Walking Group in Gym 4:45 PM Children's Choir - Choir Room 4:45 PM Nursery Open 5:00 PM Wednesday Night Dinner 6:00 PM Bible Study Upper Room 6:00 PM Children & Youth Lesson 7:00 PM Praise Ensemble & Chancel Choir Practice in Sanctuary	27	8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym 5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC 5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley	28	Fridays - Office Closed 8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym	29
30	9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary & Online 11:15 AM Handbell Practice 11:15 AM 5th Sunday Meal for Wesley in FH 1:00 PM Safe Sanctuary Training - Conference Room 2:30 PM Bus Barn Riders at Bus Barn 5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC	31	8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym 5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC 5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley	1	8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym 9:45 AM MCLC Chapel in Sanctuary 5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC 5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley	2	8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym 8:00 AM Morning Devotional 9:45 AM MCLC Crafts with Patty 11:00 AM Bible Study - Upper Room 11:30 AM Walking Group in Gym 4:45 PM Children's Choir - Choir Room 4:45 PM Nursery Open 5:00 PM Wednesday Night Dinner 6:00 PM Bible Study Upper Room 6:00 PM Children & Youth Lesson 7:00 PM Praise Ensemble & Chancel Choir Practice in Sanctuary	3	8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym 9:30 AM MCLC Library Readings & Crafts 5:30 PM God Made Basketball Production LLC 5:30 PM Kasey Zumba Class at Wesley	4	Fridays - Office Closed 8:00 AM Aerobics/Yoga Class in Gym	5