

Season's Greetings from First United Methodist Church - DeRidder



Christmas Newsletter 2020



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

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Pastor's Ponderings!

I have been marveling over the last month at how ready everyone seems to be for Christmas. Some of it is because people are ready for 2020 to be over with for good. Others, because they are just ready for something joyful! I really like that answer! We do have so much to celebrate because we are celebrating the birth of our blessed Savior. God with us! And we need him with us!

Please be sure to look over the calendar carefully because there is still a lot there and some of it may look a little different. Keep an eye on your email also for updates and information about any of our Christmas activities. Flexibility is still needed during these times.

Our first Sunday of Advent will actually be in the Fellowship Hall for worship because it is the fifth Sunday in November (the 29th)! No potluck is still allowed though. It will be good to be back in the Fellowship Hall again to worship. And, I look forward to being back and worshipping with y'all again also. My healing from surgery is going well. Our Sunday worship services will be back in the Sanctuary for the remainder of the Advent season.

We will be doing something different, because of Covid19, for Christmas Eve. Don't worry, we will still have candlelight and communion (in the new way for communion). However, in order to keep everyone safe we will be having two services and everyone will need to make reservations. The 5:30 pm service will be in the Sanctuary with social distancing and masks. The 8 pm service will be in the Fellowship Hall with social distancing and masks. After Thanksgiving, we will send out a link to everyone so that you can reserve the number of seats for your family for the Christmas Eve service. Please try not to over reserve so that we have space for everyone. We will give everyone about ten days to make reservations and then we will put out word to the public. We will also, if we need to, make an overflow area in the gym for people to be able to participate from there while watching via screens. Both services will also be live-streamed on Facebook and our YouTube station. If you end up in the overflow area, we will let you know. By having the two services, we are hoping to avoid an overflow area.

There was no room in the Inn for Jesus when he came into this world. However, no matter where we are, no matter where we worship, we always have room in our hearts for Jesus to be born anew if we keep our hearts and minds open to Him. How blessed we are to have God who loves us so much that He became - Emmanuel.

*God be with us,
Laraine*

FUMC of DeRidder will be having their charge conference on **Sunday, December 6th at 2:30 PM at Saint Luke-Simpson UMC in Lake Charles.**

If you cannot attend in person, or are not comfortable because of Covid19, a Zoom option will be available for you to attend.

Please watch your email for more details about this meeting. It is expected to last one hour. Thank you to all of our Church Council members, who are part of this meeting, for attending.

MAKING
Disciples
TRANSFORMING
—THE—
WORLD



Church Office & MCLC Holiday Hours

**Christmas Eve
Thursday, December 24th
Closes at 12:00 PM**

**Christmas Friday, December
25th
Closed All Day**

**New Year's Eve Thursday,
December 31st
Church Office Closes at 12
PM
MCLC Open All Day**

**New Year's Day Friday,
January 1, 2021
Closed All Day**

Lessons & Carols

**Thursday,
December 10th
6:30 PM
FUMC Sanctuary**

**Children's Christmas Service!
Sunday, December 13th
10:00 AM
Sanctuary**

*Blue Christmas Service
Sunday, December 13th
4:30 PM
Fellowship Hall*

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
with Communion
Thursday, December 24th
5:30 PM in the Sanctuary
8:00 PM in Fellowship Hall
*both services are identical**

*Please make a reservation online at
fumcderidder.org*

ALL ARE WELCOME!

*christmas
poinsettia
orders*



All poinsettia orders are due **Monday, December 6th**. They are \$11 each. Please contact the Church Office to reserve your poinsettia(s) and if you are interested in donating your order to a shut-in this year.
Thank you!

CONTACT US

Erin Tepley & Mary Allen
Church Office Administrators

337-463-4491
erin@fumcderidder.org
mary.allen@fumcderidder.org
Visit us online! fumcderidder.org





Children, Teen, & Family Ministries

November has already been quite the month. Children's Church is busy, Youth Group is having amazing discussions, and Children's Church is growing. We finished off October with an amazing Trunk or Treat. Parents were very excited to be able to bring their children to a safe place to Trunk or Treat. Thank You to all the families that decorated a trunk and to all the families that donated candy for this event.

As the holidays approach I have quite a few surprises planned. Christmas season may look a little different this year, but boy it will not disappoint. The children and teens have been practicing to bring you "The Birth of Christ," Children's Christmas Service on December 13.

Between Covid, and not one, but two hurricanes, our community has been deeply impacted. There are many people in our home town of DeRidder who need our help. With organizing help from a dear friend at God's Food Box, Angie and I have organized a Christmas Dinner Angel Tree. This Christmas we can bring the light and hope of Christmas to a family in need because no family should go without on Christmas. However, many will simply do without this holiday season. But, through an amazing effort by many in our congregation, so many will have that Hope. Your thoughtful gifts of hope will help bring a smile to the faces of these deserving families so that they too can enjoy a Family Christmas dinner. Please remember all groceries will need to be packed in a box or a brown grocery bag labeled with the family tag, and delivered to the church office no later than December 17, 2020. Jeff and I will pick up the turkeys for each family and deliver to God's Food Box to complete the package.

As I always say....

Alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much. ~Author unknown

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



METHODIST CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER NEWS



Happy Thanksgiving!

Love,
Mary Launey
Director of Methodist Children's Learning Center



FUMC - DeRidder Music Ministry Notes

The music ministry team is working hard to present meaningful, worshipful music for our services in these troubled times. We miss all our absent voices and look forward to those voices joining us again in 2021. Until then, the annual Lessons and Carols service is on Thursday, December 10 at 6:30 PM. We will be presenting many of the selections from last years' service, necessarily adjusting some pieces for our "mini-choir" consisting of six voices instead of our usual large choir. I hope everyone enjoyed the English Renaissance anthem, *Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy's Sake*. Coming up for our Renaissance Quartet are gorgeous a cappella choral pieces by two giants of the European Renaissance, Josquin Des Prèz and William Byrd. It is such a blessing to have Tyler Cobb, Barbara Haynes, and Cameron Craig who is in town for a while, singing with us again. 2020, good riddance. Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year to all.

John Schwarze - Director of Music
schwarze@fumcderidder.org

From Mary Allen

Can you imagine? What must Mary have thought when she was told the astounding news? "Breath of Heaven", also called "Mary's Song" sung by Amy Grant, says she might have thought this:
I have traveled many moonless nights
Cold and weary with a babe inside
And I wonder what I've done
Holy father you have come
And chosen me now to carry your son.
As God's Plan plays out, Mary is afraid. She knows how people will react. She knows even her closest family will question her integrity. But SHE knows the truth. SHE knows she's been chosen. Read how she responds in the face of fright in the next verse.

*Do you wonder as you watch my face
If a wiser one should have had my place?
But I offer all I am
For the mercy of your plan
Help me be strong
Help me be
Help me
Then, accepting God's gift, despite every
aspect of her life changing dramatically, she
whispers this prayer to God, our Breath of
Heaven.*

*Breath of heaven
Hold me together
Be forever near me
Breath of heaven
Breath of heaven
Lighten my darkness
Pour over me your holiness
For you are holy
Breath of heaven
Breath of heaven*

Mary walks through all her days as the mother of our Savior, when He was newborn, as a toddler, as a child, a teen and an adult. When you hear this song sung during one of our Sunday morning services, worship the newborn King. Let your heart be tender. Love Jesus even more than you did when you entered. Offer all that you are. He is worthy!





DECEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

December 6th:

Readers
Mary Alice Wisdom & Van Allen
Ushers/Greeters
Scotty & Betty Nease
Acolytes
Grace Carpenter &
Morgan Tepley
Lighting of the Advent Wreath:
The Carpenter Family

December 13th:

Readers
Janet & D. Lamar Oliver
Ushers/Greeters
The Tepley Family
Acolytes
Scott & Blake Hammerschmidt
Lighting of the Advent Wreath:
The Hammerschmidt Family

December 20th:

Readers
Laura Schultz &
Charlotte McGee
Ushers/Greeters
Catherine White & Grant Beal
Acolytes
Garrett Oldaker & Jarrett Tepley
Lighting of the Advent Wreath:
The Tepley Family

Christmas Eve Service on Thursday, December 24th at 5:30 PM in the Sanctuary:

Readers
Gayle Bailey & Rev. Laraine
Waughtal
Ushers/Greeters
Grace & Ashley Carpenter
Lighting of the Advent Wreath:
The Oldaker Family

Christmas Eve Service on Thursday, December 24th at 8:00 PM in Fellowship Hall:

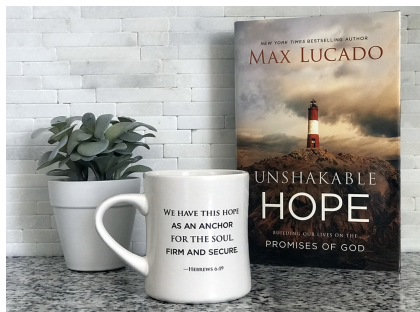
Readers
Laura Schultz & Rev. Laraine
Waughtal
Ushers/Greeters
Catherine White & Grant Beal
Lighting of the Advent Wreath:
Tanya & Cameron Craig

December 27th:

Readers
Donna McCullough, Claude
Moses, & Joe Ann Lillie
Ushers/Greeters
*volunteers needed
Acolytes
Grace Carpenter &
Terra Rembert



Sometimes the holidays are difficult for us because we have suffered tremendous loss during the year of a loved one, our home, a job or something else. We will be having a special service on Sunday, December 13th at 4:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall to honor these losses and to find our hope in Christ. This is going to be a very experiential service that will take into account all we have been through with our losses - including Covid19 and the hurricanes. I hope you will take time to be a part of this special Sunday service.



BIBLE STUDY

WE WILL BE MEETING EACH WEEK IN DECEMBER UNTIL DECEMBER 16TH AS WE WRAP UP OUR BIBLE STUDY, UNSHAKEABLE HOPE. IT HAS BEEN A GREAT BOOK REMINDING US THAT GOD'S PROMISES ARE REAL AND TRUE AND THAT WE CAN HAVE UNSHAKEABLE HOPE IN OUR SAVIOR THAT HE IS AND WILL ALWAYS BE WITH US. WE ARE TRULY BLESSED.

Aldersgate Christmas Tree Lighting Project!



Advent is that special time of year on the church calendar when we look forward to the birth of the Christ child. It is also the season when Aldersgate Sunday School Class affords our congregation the opportunity to remember and honor special people in our lives with lights on the church Christmas tree located on the south lawn.

The proceeds from this project are dedicated to the Ehren Bennett Scholarship Fund which offers financial support (or a scholarship) to a student in Christian Education.

All requests must be turned in prior to **Friday, December 18th** so that recipients can be notified prior to Christmas.

You may visit Erin & Mary in the Church Office to complete the form and purchase the lights. They are \$3 each. Thanks again!

United Methodist Women: JELLIES FOR SALE!

Please visit the Church Office if you are in need of early Christmas gifts, or if you would like to gift yourself these delicious treats!!!

Proceeds benefit the Louisiana United Methodist Children's Home.

We have mayhaw jelly and pear honey jelly in stock! \$3.50 for 1/2 pint, \$7.00/pint.

The Church Office hours are Mon-Thurs 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM, & 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM.

We are also open Friday from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. Thank you!



Church Office & MCLC Holiday Hours

Christmas Eve
Thursday, December 24th
Closes at 12:00 PM

Christmas Friday, December 25th
Closed All Day

New Year's Eve Thursday, December
31st

Church Office Closes at 12 PM
MCLC Open All Day

New Year's Day Friday, January 1,
2021
Closed All Day

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services with Communion

Thursday, December 24th

5:30 PM in the Sanctuary
8:00 PM in Fellowship Hall

*both services are identical

Please make a reservation online at fumcderidder.org

ALL ARE WELCOME!



BIRTHDAYS

- 1Raymond Marcello
- 4Mary Alice Wisdom
- 10Kade Bardin
- 12Eleanor M. Jones
- 13Bill Penney
- 14Allen Hauser
- 15Melanie Marcello
- 15Vic Perry
- 20Will Hagood
- 23Jacob Cobb
- 23Patricia Launey
- 25Jesus!
- 26Belinda Green
- 29John Morrow
- 30Kenneth Bailey
- 30Colton Bailey
- 31Kody Ingram

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1Will & Joanna Hagood
- 19Billy & Mary Brister
- 28Ray & Joanna Hauser
- 31Bill & Dianne Penney
- 31Vic & Nell Perry
- 31Scotty & Betty Nease

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>29</div> <div>9:00 AM Sunday School</div> <div>10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service in Fellowship Hall & Online</div>	<div>30</div> <div>6:30 PM Cub Scouts meet in the Gym</div> <div>7:00 PM Boy Scouts Troop 30 meet on 3rd floor of MCLC Education Building</div>	<div>1</div> <div>9:30 AM MCLC Chapel</div> <div>5:30 PM Daisy/Brownie/Junior Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall Building</div> <div>7:00 PM Boy Scouts Troop 911 in the Youth Building</div>	<div>2</div> <div>8:00 AM Facebook Live Morning Devotional with Communion</div> <div>5:30 PM Praise Ensemble Practice in the Sanctuary</div> <div>6:00 PM Children & Youth Meet in LLL Room & Conference Room</div> <div>6:00 PM Cub/Boy Scouts Troop 911 in the Youth Building</div> <div>6:00 PM Bible Study – Fellowship Hall & Zoom</div>	<div>3</div> <div>5:30 PM Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts in the Youth Building</div>	<div>4</div> <div>8:00 AM Girl Scout Cadette/Senior Event in the Youth Building</div>	<div>5</div> <div>8:00 AM Browne Girl Scout Journey in the Youth Building</div>
<div>6</div> <div>9:00 AM Sunday School</div> <div>10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service with Communion in Sanctuary & Online</div> <div>2:30 PM Charge Conference at Saint Luke-Simpson</div>	<div>7</div> <div>6:30 PM Cub Scouts meet in the Gym</div> <div>7:00 PM Boy Scouts Troop 30 meet on 3rd floor of MCLC Education Building</div>	<div>8</div> <div>9:30 AM MCLC Chapel</div> <div>5:30 PM Daisy/Brownie/Junior Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall Building</div> <div>7:00 PM Boy Scouts Troop 911 in the Youth Building</div>	<div>9</div> <div>8:00 AM Facebook Live Morning Devotional with Communion</div> <div>5:30 PM Praise Ensemble Practice in the Sanctuary</div> <div>6:00 PM Children & Youth Meet in LLL Room & Conference Room</div> <div>6:00 PM Cub/Boy Scouts Troop 911 in the Youth Building</div> <div>6:00 PM Bible Study – Fellowship Hall & Zoom</div>	<div>10</div> <div>4:00 PM MCLC Meeting in Aldersgate Classroom</div> <div>5:30 PM Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts in the Youth Building</div> <div>6:30 PM Lessons & Carols in the Sanctuary</div>	<div>11</div> <div>8:00 AM Girl Scout Cadette/Senior Event in the Youth Building</div>	<div>12</div> <div>8:00 AM Junior Girl Scout Journey in the Youth Building</div>
<div>13</div> <div>9:00 AM Sunday School</div> <div>10:00 AM Children's Christmas Service in Sanctuary & Online</div> <div>4:30 PM Blue Christmas Service in Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>14</div> <div>6:30 PM Cub Scouts meet in the Gym</div> <div>7:00 PM Boy Scouts Troop 30 meet on 3rd floor of MCLC Education Building</div>	<div>15</div> <div>9:30 AM MCLC Chapel</div> <div>5:30 PM Daisy/Brownie/Junior Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall Building</div> <div>7:00 PM Boy Scouts Troop 911 in the Youth Building</div>	<div>16</div> <div>8:00 AM Facebook Live Morning Devotional with Communion</div> <div>10:00 AM Rosemary Cady Circle in the Conference Room</div> <div>5:30 PM Praise Ensemble Practice in the Sanctuary</div> <div>6:00 PM Children & Youth Meet in LLL Room & Conference Room</div> <div>6:00 PM Cub/Boy Scouts Troop 911 in the Youth Building</div> <div>6:00 PM Bible Study in Fellowship Hall & on Zoom</div>	<div>17</div> <div>5:30 PM Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts in the Youth Building</div>	<div>18</div>	<div>19</div>
<div>20</div>						
<div>21</div> <div>9:00 AM Sunday School</div> <div>10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service in Sanctuary & Online</div> <div>11:15 AM Staff Meeting in the Church Office</div>	<div>22</div> <div>9:30 AM MCLC Chapel</div> <div>12:00 PM Articles & Prayers due for January 2021 Newsletter</div>	<div>23</div> <div>8:00 AM Facebook Live Morning Devotional with Communion</div> <div>5:30 PM Praise Ensemble Practice in the Sanctuary</div>	<div>24</div> <div>12:00 PM Church Office & MCLC Close at 12 PM</div> <div>4:12 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion in Sanctuary & Online</div> <div>5:30 PM Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts in the Youth Building</div> <div>8:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion in Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Christmas</div> <div>6:30 AM MCLC Closed All Day</div> <div>8:30 AM Church Office Closed All Day</div>	<div>26</div>	
<div>27</div> <div>9:00 AM Sunday School</div> <div>10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service in Sanctuary & Online</div>	<div>28</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>5:30 PM Praise Ensemble Practice in the Sanctuary</div>	<div>31</div> <div>New Year's Eve</div> <div>12:00 PM Church Office Closes at 12 PM</div>	<div>1</div> <div>New Year's Day</div> <div>6:30 AM MCLC Closed All Day</div> <div>8:30 AM Church Office Closed All Day</div>	<div>2</div>

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



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
Jim Hamilton
Susan Johnson
Dianne & Bill Penney

In Memory of
Willie Bea Moses
Dianne & Bill Penney
Brenda Jones

In Memory of
Cala Sue Atteberry
Gayle & Ken Bailey

In Memory of
Betty Henderson
Becky & Ted
Hammerschmidt

In Memory of
Vicki Beal
Grant Beal

In Memory of H.O.
“Deece” Lestage
Billy Kilman

In Honor of
Mary & Charles Bell
Daisy Geiger