



DEVOTIONAL TIME WITH REV. LARAINÉ - LUNCH PROVIDED
12:10 PM - 12:50 PM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
MONDAY, MARCH, 29TH
TUESDAY, MARCH 30TH
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31ST

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 1ST
6:00 PM SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY & ONLINE

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2ND
7:15 AM - 1:00 PM MEDITATIVE PRAYER TIME
IN FELLOWSHIP HALL (COME AT YOUR CONVENIENCE)

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4TH
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 AM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL CLASSROOMS
10:00 AM SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY & ONLINE

JOIN US EARLY ON EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4TH!
6:40 AM SUNRISE SERVICE AT THE NEW FUMC -
DERIDDER WESLEY CAMPUS ON N. TEXAS STREET
(BRING YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIR AND/OR A BLANKET)

ALL ARE WELCOME!



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
Organization
Postage Paid
Permit #53

Pastor's Ponderings!

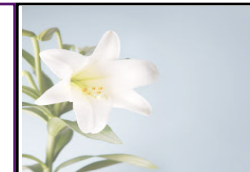
Happy April everyone! When you receive this newsletter though, we will be in the midst of Holy Week. A hard time as we face the reality of the price that Jesus was willing to pay for us so that our sins are forgiven! Think about what that week was like for the disciples. Jesus told them that he was coming to Jerusalem to die on the cross and be raised from the dead. They could not grasp it or comprehend it nor stop it! They had to trust. Imagine their state of mind and emotions when they realized he really was alive again! Imagine the relief, the joy, the celebration when they realized that he truly was alive and that it really did mean that our sins are forgiven and we have the gift of eternal life! In their gratitude and in their joy and in their love for God they were more than happy to share the good news, to challenge people to listen to the story and to grow in their faith.

So, that being said, have you ever pondered the question, "What price am I willing to pay, and what am I willing to do for Christ in gratitude for what Jesus has done for me?" Before I became a pastor, I did a lot of different things. I loved working with youth, with college students and going on mission trips - local and national. And then there were the unexpected conversations that friends and colleagues would ask me about my faith because they knew I truly believed. I always prayed hard that I could answer them well, and then I would have to trust that God would take care of the rest. And God always did take care of things.

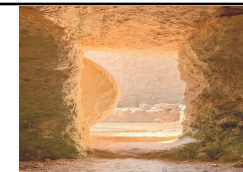
God's love for us is unconditional, all encompassing, unending, deeply passionate, wholly complete, and perfect. Most of you know that I have two dogs that are Lab mixes. Sisters from the same litter. One of the joys in my life is going home. Not just because it's home, it's because Autumn and Sage are always at the door wagging their tails like crazy, panting with excitement, wiggling their entire bodies so hard with excitement and joy that it makes me laugh. It doesn't matter if I have been gone five minutes or all day or even overnight, they are just as excited each time to welcome me home. That is how God feels about you. He loves you completely. And if you have been away from God for five minutes, all day, overnight or even for years, God is just as excited that you have decided to come back home to him!

Maybe your week has been hard, or your month or your year! Maybe you've been away from church for awhile because of Covid or because of wandering away from God. Here is the good news...the good news is Sunday is coming. Easter is coming. The resurrection is coming! Won't you join us online or in person for worship? Come home, not just for Easter Sunday, but for as many Sunday's and other days as possible, and let's show and share our love for Jesus in gratitude for all that he has done for us. See you Sunday! Happy Easter!
God bless you all,

Laraine



Easter Sunday
Want to **REALLY** celebrate
Easter?
Come to church *twice!*



Sunrise Service

At 6:40 a.m., April 4th, we will have a Sunrise Service for Easter morning at FUMC - Wesley Campus located at 701 N. Texas Street. Bring your lawn chairs and/or a blanket -- it may be cold or to use to sit on the ground. We will have a beautiful service of songs, a candle lighting, reading of God's Word and celebrating the resurrection of our Lord as the sun, the Son, comes up! This service will NOT be the same as the 10 a.m. service. So, you can come back at 9 a.m. for Sunday School and 10 a.m. for church. We hope you will come and share this beautiful early morning as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior!

10 a.m. Service

Our traditional Easter service will be at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Masks are still required. We will have a flowering of the cross. We will have flowers available as you enter, however, you are welcome to bring flowers from your own garden if you desire! When you arrive (please come early), please go down and put your flower on the cross before the service. You are invited to take family photos following the service. We will have a great celebration through music, an anthem, God's Word, Holy Communion and prayer. We will keep social distance seating on the left as you enter and for those who want to sit closer, you can sit in any pew on the right as you enter. We look forward to celebrating with you.



Maundy Thursday

Come at 6 pm for a service focused on Jesus' last night on this earth and the beautiful sacrament that He gives us through Holy Communion. Let us remember Jesus' last night on this earth as he prepared to give His life for each of us.

Good Friday

Have you ever wondered about the Stations of the Cross? Most people associate them with the Catholic Church however, protestants use them also. The stations are designed to help us remember what happened as he gave His life for us. This is a time to stop, remember and pray as Jesus took His journey to the Cross and gave His life for us. Come when you desire on Friday, from 7:30 a.m. - 1 pm, to the Fellowship Hall for a quiet time of prayer and reflection. We will have the Protestant Stations of the Cross (a couple of the pictures are different then the Catholic Church) set up around the room. When you enter into the Fellowship Hall area, there will be prayer booklets for you to pick up to help you with your time of reflection. As you move from station to station, your prayer booklet will give you a Scripture to read for that station, a reflection or point to ponder, and a prayer. You can always pray your own prayer. Please move quietly around the room, especially if others are present, and take your time to pray and remember that Christ gave His life for you on this day.

The Church Office & MCLC will be closed on Good Friday, April 2nd. The Church Office will be closed on Monday,



April 5th.
Thank you!



Erin Tepley
Church Office Administrator
Office: 337-463-4491
office@fumcderidder.org
fumcderidder.org

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First United Methodist Church -
DeRidder



Children, Teen, & Family Ministries

I am beyond ecstatic to see everyone back in church again!

We took no time jumping right in! The last couple of weeks have been getting back into a routine with the littles. I am so happy to be back in the classroom again.

Sunday school mornings I have my best chats with two very important young ladies. We are puzzling our way through the bible. With sleepy eye, and morning hungry bellies that are waiting for us to have coffee again, we have been finding a new way to learn the scripture. Reading bible verses and matching them to pictures, crosswords that guide us to special words in the bible and mazes that take us to special places through out the bible.

Children's Church we have been discussing lent. We made Easter egg soap when we learned of Jesus washing the disciples feet. We snacked on Lenten pretzels when we learned how to pray the special way the children did in 600 A.D. I am excited to read to the children a new book that has just hit the shelves, "Twas the Morning Before Easter." I look forward to using this story not only as a learning tool but also to show the children all the beauty that happened on Easter morning.

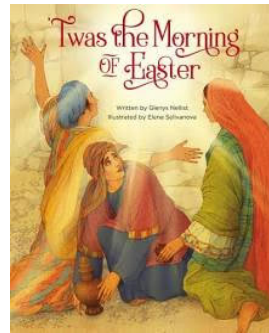
Wacky Wednesday Evening Children's ministry is crazier than ever. From evenings of slime making, cupcake munching, and hearing all about how school is, while learning and talking about Jesus. I can't ask for a better way to get over that midweek hump.

Again I would like to thank all of you for helping Mrs. Amy Gallien and the National Honor Society at DeRidder High School. Between Covid, 2 hurricanes, and a snow storm so many of these students are going without. What an amazing way we can help the teens of the community not have to worry about food, and other necessities, so that they can concentrate on their education. This will be an on going collection. At the end of each month I will take all collected items to the High School. We have also made FUMC a designated drop off for supplies donated from local business as well that can support the Blue Door Project.

Lots of things happening over the next couple of weeks. Please keep an eye on the FB page for all activities!



Have A Super Fantastic Smiley Day,
Ashley Carpenter
Director of Children and Family
Ministries
First United Methodist Church,
DeRidder



First United Methodist Youth

The youth will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings, from 6:00pm until 7:00pm in the Triple L Classroom. We began *The Basics*, Groove Bible Study series. This series invites teens to learn the essentials of their faith, to own their story, and to engage the world in serving Jesus. We are looking forward to adding to our activities calendar. Beginning in April we will be celebrating First Friday Fellowship in the Youth Building from 6:00-9:00pm. This will be a time for our youth to invite friends that may not have a church home to see what The Ark is all about. We will have some structured activities but the focus will be on fellowship. On Saturday, April 17th, the girls of The Ark will enjoy a girls only spa night. The boys decline to participate in the spa night so we will get something on the calendar for the guys in May.

Counting my blessings.
Cathy Scott



METHODIST CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER NEWS

Before you know it, little children grow up, become adults, and go on their way. You can't stop time. What you can do is take the time to enjoy the special things in your life. Today when a child smiles, take a few seconds to enjoy that smile even more.

If you hear a child, say something sweet, take time to savor the moment. These are precious gifts. They are your memories to last you forever.

Under His Wings,
Mary Launey
Director of Methodist Children's Learning Center
mclc_director@yahoo.com



FUMC - DeRidder Music Ministry Notes

THE MOZART OF HIS TIME

If you attend the Maundy Thursday service in person or attend by way of the internet, you will hear our vocal quartet perform a Latin Renaissance piece by an individual that, chances are, you have never heard of. Josquin des Prez was a musical genius respected and revered by his peers much the way Mozart was revered. As I have mentioned before, a piece was sure to sell if a piece of music was attached to him whether or not he really penned the work. Publishers took advantage of that. Everyone acknowledge that if a piece of music was written by Josquin, it was a work of the highest musical craftsmanship available, but who was this individual whose name conjured up such thoughts. Josquin was born sometime in the 1450's in present day Belgium or France.

Much of his early life is speculative, not unusual in 15th century Europe. We can assume he showed promise as a church musician at an early age and studied musical composition, probably with composer Johannes Ockeghem, and sang in a church choir. In the 1470's through the rest of his life, Josquin went from province to province in France and Italy as a composer/singer in the service of many courts, churning out complicated, brilliant, ingenious works for church choirs and gaining fame, if not fortune. In the 1500's, publication of his musical works began in earnest. He retired ten years or so before his death in 1521.

While employed in Rome, as a member of the choir of the Sistine Chapel, Josquin carved his name into the wall "singer's balcony" of the chapel. It was tradition during that time for members of the choir to do this. Of course, we wouldn't even think about inscribing graffiti to the walls of a church, especially a place as famous as the Sistine Chapel. During a restoration in the chapel in 1998, workers uncovered the long forgotten graffiti.

John Schwarze - Director of Music
schwarze@fumcderidder.org



Children's Music Ministry



If I were....

If you could be any other creature, besides human, what would you be and why? For me, I believe a cat

would be the way to go. I could be independent, cuddly, lazy, and sleep all day.

But it's not up to me.

The Lord, God, is my creator and maker. He is the one who decides on the vessel that my soul resides

in. And, as most artists, it may take Him a try or two to put the finishing touches to the canvas.

And, of course, like the butterfly, each one of us is unique and special.

One of the songs that we are working on in Children's Music is called The Butterfly Song.

Here is the first verse...

If I were a butterfly, I'd thank you Lord for giving me wings

If I were a robin in a tree, I'd thank you Lord that I could sing

If I were a fish in the sea, I'd wiggle my tail and I'd giggle with glee

But I just thank you, Father, for making me, me.

Written by Brian Howard, The Butterfly Song was based off of Psalms 139: 13-14. For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb (13). I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonder are your works; that I know very well (14). It is a popular children's hymn that has been sung and heard all around the world. I attempted to find out more about this song, the thoughts and the message behind the lyrics. No luck, but when I stopped and thought about it, God is giving me the message right there in each line of the song.

God made me special because He molded me the way He wants me to be as HE is MY Creator! So, if I could be anything what would I be? I would be Me! God created Me! He put His thoughts and artistic hands into shaping me into the person I am. Thank you, Lord, for making me, me!

I invite all children and youth to join us on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 for Children's Music Time in the Choir Room. We are in need of singers and children who want to play musical instruments. This is our time to make a joyful noise unto The Lord. Until next time....

Your sister in Christ,

Kelley Allen,
Children's Music Director



THE CROSS

"BUT AS FOR ME, I AM LIKE A GREEN OLIVE TREE IN THE HOUSE OF GOD; I TRUST IN THE LOVING KINDNESS OF GOD FOREVER AND EVER." -PSALM 52:8



I WAS RECENTLY GIVEN A SMALL CROSS MADE OF OLIVE WOOD. AS I HELD IT, I WAS STRUCK BY ITS BEAUTY AND SURPRISED BY ITS SHAPE, WHICH FIT PERFECTLY IN MY PALM. MY INTEREST WAS PIQUED WHEN I READ ON THE ACCOMPANYING CARD THAT THIS VERY CROSS WAS FOR TREE TRIMMINGS (THAT DID NOT HURT THE TREE) LOCATED AROUND BETHLEHEM, THE BIRTH PLACE OF JESUS! I LEARNED THAT OLIVE TREES ORIGINATED IN THE HOLY LAND. THERE ARE STILL OLIVE TREES IN ISRAEL ESTIMATED TO BE 2,000 YEARS OLD AND STILL BEARING FRUIT! THE OLIVE TREE IS THE MOST OFTEN NAMED TREE IN SCRIPTURE. THERE ARE OLIVE TREES IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE TODAY THAT WERE GROWN FROM OLIVE TREES PRESENT DURING THE TIME JESUS PRAYED BEFORE THE CRUCIFIXION. WE KNOW THESE TREES SURVIVED THE FLOOD, SHOWN TO US BY THE DOVE BRINGING AN OLIVE BRANCH BACK TO NOAH'S ARK IN GENESIS. THE OIL FROM THIS TREE HAS BEEN USED FOR CENTURIES IN WORSHIP.

I SUPPOSE WHAT I'M SAYING IS THIS: I CAN ADMIRE AND HOLD ON TO THE CROSS - OR I CAN LEARN ABOUT HOW IT AFFECTED JESUS IN HIS TIME ON EARTH AND NOW AFFECTS ME IN LIFE-CHANGING WAYS.

-MARY ALLEN



*Dear Faithful Friends:
Your investment in our ministry maintains the programs which are instrumental to healing the youth in our care. We simply could not do it so well without your help. Thank you for remembering our children with your gift of \$450.00. Every day gives us a new opportunity to help the children in our care begin a process of self-restoration by learning to love themselves and heal relationships with forgiveness so that they can have a successful future.*

Sincerely,
Rick Wheat
President & CEO
Louisiana United Methodist
Children & Family Services

Worship Leaders

April 4th

Greeters: Betty & Scotty Nease
Readers: Frances Cole & Van Allen
PowerPoint Runner: Laura Schultz
Camera & Sound Operators:
Jeff Carpenter & Lucas Carpenter

April 11th

Greeters: Tepley Family
Readers: Cathy Scott &
Donna McCullough
PowerPoint Runner: Erin Tepley
Camera & Sound Operators:
D. Lamar & Lucas Carpenter

April 18th

Greeter: Susan Hill
Readers: Betty Nease & Joe Ann Lillie
PowerPoint Runner: Erin Tepley
Camera & Sound Operators:
Laura Schultz & Lucas Carpenter

April 25th

Greeters: Catherine White & Grant Beal
Readers: Barbara Haynes &
John Marcello
PowerPoint Runner: Laura Schultz
Camera & Sound Operators:
Mitch Launey & Lucas Carpenter

April

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T E S S T W T F S S M T W T F S S M T W T F S S M T W T F

Please contact the Church Office if you need to make any changes to the dates above. If willing to volunteer, please call us and we will be more than happy to add you to our list of monthly volunteers! Thank you!



April 2021

Birthdays & Anniversaries									
2	Monica Bailey								
3	Lennie Hanchey								
4	LeAnn Carlson								
5	Jay Major	Beauregard Parish School Spring Vacation	Church Office Closed All Day	Beauregard Parish Schools Resume	8:00 AM Facebook Live Morning Devotional with Communion	5:30 PM Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts in the Youth Building	MCLC Closed All Day		
6	Paul Maddox	6:40 AM Easter Sunrise Service at FLMC - DeRidder Wesley Campus	5:00 PM OCC Crafting with Donna in the Youth Building	9:30 AM Chapel - MCLC	5:30 PM Children's Music Ministry in the Choir Room		Church Office Closed All Day		
7	Becky Major	9:00 AM Sunday School	6:30 PM Cub Scouts meet in the Gym	5:00 PM SPR subcommittee	5:30 PM Praise Ensemble Practice in the Sanctuary		Good Friday		
8	Sarah Reviel	10:00 AM Easter Sunday Worship Service in Sanctuary & Online	7:00 PM Boy Scouts Troop 30 meet on 3rd floor of MCLC Education Building	5:30 PM Daisy/Brownie/Junior Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall Building	6:00 PM Children & Youth Meet in LLL Room & Conference Room		7:15 AM Good Friday Meditative Prayer Time in Fellowship Hall		
11	Bambi Hardesty			7:00 PM Boy Scouts Troop 911 in the Youth Building	6:00 PM Cub/Boy Scouts Troop 911 in the Youth Building		6:00 PM Youth, First Friday Fellowship in the Youth Building		
12	Carolyn Jones								
13	Frances Cole								
20	Donna Marcello								
21	Trey Elliott								
24	Bryan Redler	9:00 AM Sunday School	5:00 PM OCC Crafting with Donna in the Youth Building	9:30 AM Chapel - MCLC	8:00 AM Facebook Live Morning Devotional with Communion	5:30 PM Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts in the Youth Building			
25	Geoffrey Kay	10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service in Sanctuary & Online	6:30 PM Cub Scouts meet in the Gym	10:00 AM Mary Martha Circle	5:30 PM Children's Music Ministry in the Choir Room				
26	Hunter Allen		7:00 PM Boy Scouts Troop 30 meet on 3rd floor of MCLC Education Building	5:30 PM Daisy/Brownie/Junior Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall Building	5:30 PM Praise Ensemble Practice in the Sanctuary				
27	Serena Prather			7:00 PM Boy Scouts Troop 911 in the Youth Building	6:00 PM Children & Youth Meet in LLL Room & Conference Room				
28	Eric Redler				6:00 PM Cub/Boy Scouts Troop 911 in the Youth Building				
29	David Hardesty								
30	Keagan LeBlanc								
31	Amanda Godair								
1	Matthew Bennett	9:00 AM Sunday School	5:00 PM OCC Crafting with Donna in the Youth Building	9:30 AM Chapel - MCLC	8:00 AM Facebook Live Morning Devotional with Communion	5:30 PM Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts in the Youth Building	MAY Newsletter Deadline		
2	Howard Thorne	10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service in Sanctuary & Online	6:30 PM Cub Scouts meet in the Gym	5:30 PM Trustees Meeting	10:00 AM Rosemary Cady Circle in the Conference Room				
3	Laura Moses	11:15 AM Staff Meeting in the Choir Room	7:00 PM Boy Scouts Troop 30 meet on 3rd floor of MCLC Education Building	5:30 PM Daisy/Brownie/Junior Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall Building	5:30 PM Children's Music Ministry in the Choir Room				
4	Carolyn Woodard			7:00 PM Boy Scouts Troop 911 in the Youth Building	5:30 PM Praise Ensemble Practice in the Sanctuary				
5					6:00 PM Children & Youth Meet in LLL Room & Conference Room				
6					6:00 PM Cub/Boy Scouts Troop 911 in the Youth Building				
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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Memorials & Honorariums



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

In Memory of
Bridget Gates
Billy Kilman

In Memory of
Ardis Alston
Gayle & Ken Bailey

In Memory of
Delores Bardin
Tracy & George
Winkley

In Memory of Pat
Plush
Laura & Claude
Moses

Anniversaries

- Joyce & Jerry Lewis
- Carl & Susan Slover
- Paul & Melissa Maddox
- Reggie & Susan Reed
- Erin & TJ Tepley

Our physical

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