



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

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Pastor's Ponderings!

Laraine

Well, it's hard to believe, but summer is here already! It has been a great spring with beautiful flowers and trees, the temperatures have not been too bad, we have been back in church and Sunday School(!), the children and youth are having their activities again, some of you are finally getting contractors to work on your homes and we have a host of activities going on for the summer! I know it has had its challenges too, and we will help pray you through this. It sure is great to be seeing so many of you again! It's even more beautiful that despite Covid, despite hurricanes, despite deep freezes we have never stopped "being" the church and continued our ministries and worship. You are faithful disciples of Christ! I hope and pray that as we continue to transition from our isolation due to Covid that, as you are able, that you can make it back to church, you can enjoy some travel during this summer vacation time – even if it is just day trips or day rides in the car across the countryside. We need those Sabbath times. We need changes of scenery; we need to allow our minds and bodies to rest. I will be doing that myself. My great-niece will be graduating High School on June 3rd and having a family celebration on June 5th. It will be the first time I have seen my family in a year and a half, and I can't wait to see them. Following that I will be taking a trip to enjoy the countryside and to spend some time in the quiet.

As you enjoy your summer, here is my prayer for you – relax, enjoy, and do not take a vacation from God or worship and fellowship with church! God never takes a vacation from us. Thank goodness, because I need Him all the time and in the most unexpected times and places. We still need to worship, no matter where we are! I love to visit and worship in other places as I travel and see their sanctuaries and hear about their ministries and be blessed by the message of God. Also, please do not forget your congregation back home. First, we would love for you to email or call us and let us know where you attended church. We would love to gather a list of all the places people worshipped this summer whether it was close by or far away. Including if you worship with us on-line! It will be fun to see all the places we attended over the summer. Secondly, please don't take a vacation from worshipping with us while you are home or from your giving either! Our giving is about first, our faithfulness to God and spiritual strength as we praise God for His many blessings and gifts that He has given us. Your gifts, in turn, help empower the ministry that we do both as clergy and laity to be in ministry with our children and youth, adults, community and beyond. I love, that in the United Methodist Church, our commitment when we join the church is about giving through our prayer, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. It's not all about money, it's only a part. It is about praying for our church; it's about being present and sharing your gifts and talents and witness to our community that we are the light of Christ. It is a humbling and beautiful privilege that Jesus has called us to DeRidder and beyond. This church does this in so many great ways! We have many exciting events coming up with worship, including celebrating Father's Day, the Fourth of July. And other events including VBS for our MCLC school and church community (two VBS opportunities this summer!), Bible Study for adults (check this newsletter for more information), our children and youth going to summer camp and so much more! We will continue to offer almost everything in person and on Facebook, YouTube, and or Zoom. Come, whether it is in person or through Zoom, Facebook, or YouTube, and be a part of this great church. I look forward to starting my third year of serving with you. I am honored and privileged to be here and to call DeRidder and this church home! Blessings, Laraine

I am so excited to be announcing our new Bible Study! At the group's request, they want to look at what it means to give up control and trust in God. The name of the book is *It's All Under Control*, what a great topic! This Bible Study is going to involve more reading than most - and it is very good. So, in order to allow everyone time to read the material, we are going to meet every other week. (Don't wait until the last minute to read this study). Please know that the examples are from a woman (the author is Jennifer Dukes Lee), but she uses examples and Scripture involving men too, so I think everyone will receive great learning and insight from this study. There are two books you will need. The regular book and the workbook. Like before, the church is willing to pick up the price for the second book. Your cost is: \$15. Please sign up by Monday, June 7th. Our first Bible Study will be on Wednesday, June 23rd at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall of the Wesley Campus! Note the location! There will be a total of six classes.

Our Schedule will be:

June 23 chapters 1,2 and 3

July 7th chapters 4,5 and 6

July 21st chapters 7 and 8

August 4 chapters 9 and 10

August 18th chapters 11,12 and 13

September 1 Chapter 14



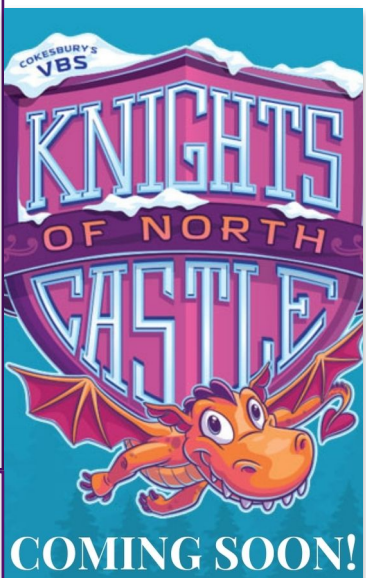
Join us for

Morning Devotional

With Rev. Laraine
Every Wednesday

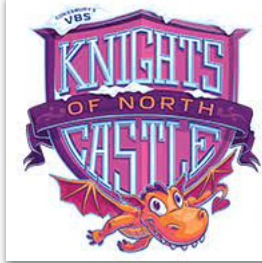
@ 8:00AM on

Facebook Live





Children, Teen, & Family Ministries



My Dearest Church Family,

As many of you know, I have accepted a new position at Beauregard Parish School Board as their new Director of Business and Finance. Please do not worry. I plan to stay and teach Sunday School and Children's Church as long as the church will have me with my new availability.

VBS will have to look a little different though. VBS will be on Saturdays in July instead of the previously discussed Wednesday evenings. Please keep an eye on Facebook as we will be opening the registration soon. Parents are welcome to stay, but it will not be a requirement. We will open the registration up to about 45 children. Smaller groups allow for closer relationships to be made. We had some great people let me know they would love to volunteer to assist with this great program to bring stories of the Bible to our community children. Many of the youth have also voiced they would love to take a leadership role during VBS. Please follow us on Facebook for more information to come.

Have A Super Fantastic Smiley Day,
Ashley Carpenter
Director of Children and Family Ministries



Circles On A Mission

June 6-12

The First United Methodist Church is happy to announce their 3rd annual bike ride to raise money for United Methodist Women mission projects. The ride will be 300 miles over a 7-day period. Your donation will help UMW support different projects in our community. Check Facebook and your email for more information. Please contact the Church Office for additional details.

METHODIST CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER NEWS



PreK Graduation, always a joy and a sadness! We have prepared our children for Kindergarten and they are well ready for a new adventure. Thank you to Ms. Shaina, Shelton, and Kerrigan for all their hard work. Our Summer Program begins May 27 - We are a chock-a-block!



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

CASA

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) makes a life-changing difference for children who have experienced abuse or neglect. For those children who have been removed from their homes by the courts, the casa volunteers assist the children in adjusting to their new environment and attending court with them. The mission committee has a desire to provide needed supplies to the organization. CASA reported that journals, pens, pencils, socks, panties and gift cards from the fast food businesses to be used for birthdays are important items needed.

A box will be located in the church office in which these needed items can be placed. With your help, the missions committee and church family will help a local organization improve the lives of our young children.

If you have any questions, please call missions chairman, Susan Hill.



Children's Music Ministry

The Children's Choir has done a wonderful job this past semester! It has been a delight to hear their voices singing praises to the Lord. With school winding down, the Children's Choir will be taking a break in the months of June and July. We are excited to start back up singing in the fall!



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



Homes Needing Help

As you may know by now we have a team coming in mid June, of 60 people, who are wanting to work on your property or the exterior of your home. They have received a lot of referrals from the Council on Aging, however, they still need about 15 homes to work on.

This work can be exterior painting, building wheelchair ramps, hand rails, porches, windows and doors, yard work and yard-work clean-up. Even if you have insurance and there is work you want help with, they would like to hear from you and come work and see your home to see if they can do the work.

Please call the church office as soon as possible and let us know. They will be in contact with you about your needs.



First United Methodist Youth

In an effort to bring our youth closer to the Word of God, they have all been challenged to read through their Bible in a year. The goal is to instill the value of God's Word in them so they will work to grow their knowledge and relationship with God for a lifetime. We have been tracking their progress weekly on posters, in the Fellowship Hall Building near the conference room. It is a hard challenge and they are struggling to make their commitment. I am challenging the adults of the church to join in the challenge, I would like to pair an adult with a youth so that they can be mentored and encouraged to keep going. The saying goes that it takes a village to raise a child, and in this world today our youth have more competing activities than ever before. Learning at a young age to put God first is a lesson they will treasure for their lifetime. You can be a part of that lesson; they need every adult to show support!

The youth will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings, beginning in June we are expanding the time from 5:30pm until 7:30pm. We will be meeting in the Youth Building. As the school year has ended and Covid restrictions are loosening, I think this is a good time for us to resume providing the youth a hot meal on Wednesday nights. If you would like to provide a meal, please reach out to me and I will give you the details. They really are very easy to please.

TGIFF YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

FUMC Youth Building

6:00PM-9:00PM

June 4th & July 2nd

The youth have renamed our First Friday Fellowship. It is now TGIFF Youth Fellowship (thank goodness it's the first Friday). We meet in the Youth Building each first Friday of the month from 6:00pm until 9:00pm. Encourage your youth to keep inviting their friends so we can continue to grow. Remember that we have some structured activities but the focus is on fellowship. Currently, the girls well outnumber the boys in our group - so guys, bring your friends!



Summer Camp time is near. Junior High camp (6th-9th grades) session 1 is from June 14-18, session 2 is July 26-30. Camp Uskichitto is a beautiful place and several of our youth have already committed to attending session 1. If your youth is interested in attending, please don't delay, register today there is still space available. We have a number of children attending camp, if you would like to sponsor a child to attend camp, please make out a check to the church and put the word "camp" in the memo line. For more information, please reach out to me or visit <https://campurc.com>. My contact information for any of the youth activities is at (337) 396-9610 or cathy@fumcderidder.org

Counting my blessings.
Cathy Scott