

*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where
the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*

~2 Corinthians 3:17



**Happy 4th of July
from First United Methodist Church - DeRidder!**



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

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Pastor's Ponderings!

July is a fun month – albeit a very hot month! We are settled into summer enjoying the bounty of fresh gardens with tomatoes, green beans, corn-on-the-cob, squash and so much more. Swimming is the desire of hearts to cool off from the brutal heat and humidity and a cool spot to sit and relax is strongly desired.

We also celebrate our nations history with the festivities of the Fourth of July. Hopefully, we take the time to remember the great people who began the amazing process of forming this land into a new country where people would be called free – free to worship where they choose, free to work and move as they pleased, and people were willing to form a new government upon which this nation would stand. The people who gave their all through fighting the American Revolutionary War. I am thankful for my grandparents who have done research showing my family's heritage of fighting in the AMR war, who desired freedom for all, and one became a Methodist preacher being ordained by Francis Asbury. So many gave so much then and now so that we can live in the land of the free and the home of the brave. I am humbled by the things that people were willing to do and the sacrifices that they were willing to make for our nation.

In the month of July, we also for the last several years, have been celebrating Christmas in July. This year the closest Sunday to the 25th is July 24th. We will be worshiping in the Fellowship Hall. This is a time, in a non-commercialized way to remember that God gave so much to us by coming Emmanuel – God with us – and sending His Son to live amongst us. A gift that just wasn't for on person, one country, this was a gift given for the world! Again, I am humbled that God was willing to do so much that affected the world forever.

On this years Christmas in July, we are inviting you to participate in one of two ways – or both! Operation Christmas Child needs our help by bringing gifts for children that have so little around the world. Please check the list in the newsletter to learn about what items are needed. Secondly, bring school supplies for our children in need because the new school year is right around the corner, and we want them to go fully ready with the supplies they need! We look forward to the fun and generosity of this day. See you Sunday! Wear your red, white and blue to church to honor the Fourth of July!

Blessings,
Laraine

Annual Conference

Many of you have been asking how Annual Conference went in Baton Rouge. I am also thrilled that several of you watched some of the meetings and worship services on-line. The worship services were so powerful and wonderful. A lot of beautiful music and powerful preaching. We did some of the regular work of the conference including voting on the budget, nominations for conference committees and other needs. Sadly, we also had five congregations closed this year due to complications from Covid and hurricanes.

There were also nine smaller congregations that have chosen to leave the United Methodist Church even before General Conference has met. With grace and a lot of tears, we gracefully let them go and blessed them in their ministries.

There was also another sad time that also showed grace. The anti-racism committee gave a very powerful report. The Louisiana St legislature is in special session, and one of their tasks is re-draw district lines. They have been ordered by federal court to make more than one district in the Baton Rouge area to include a predominantly African American vote. The anti-racism committee brought a resolution that, if it passed, would be sent to the legislature supporting that there be fair district lines drawn that would give equal representation. This vote overwhelmingly passed. Sadly, what happened next was that there was a fair amount of people that voted against it. The gasp across the room was audible. It broke our hearts. A young African American man, in his twenties, stood up asking to speak, which the Bishop granted. He poured out his heart expressing how hurtful it was to see people from the United Methodist Church, his church of faith, voting against African Americans. He broke down in tears, a large group of us stood up with him to show our support as he gave his address to the floor. He spoke beautifully. The people of the conference stood up and applauded him and praised him when he was finished. Grace abounded when a moment of great hurt occurred. That is what Christ did in his ministry also. I am proud of what we did in that moment as a conference. For God so loves the WORLD....

On our last night, there was a beautiful ordination service that reminded us all that the United Methodist Church continues to move forward to proclaim the Gospel and to make disciples of all the world in Jesus' name.

Church Office Hours for Summer 2022!

**Monday - Thursday
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
(Closed for Lunch 12 PM - 1 PM)
Fridays 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM**

Independence Day!

The Church Office, MCLC, &
the Wesley Education Center will
be closed on Monday, July 4th.

Bible Study



We will be having a short-term Bible Study of four weeks beginning Wednesday, July 20th at 6 PM. We will do one chapter each night. This will be an in-depth study of the wonderful book of Philippians. We will look at the words, the culture and the history. All you need is your Bible each week. Read the introduction and Chapter 1 for the 20th. Please do call the church office or email Erin or me so we know how many to expect! Hope you can join us!

**Erin Tepley & Mary Allen
Church Office Administrators
Office: 337-463-4491
erin@fumcderidder.org**

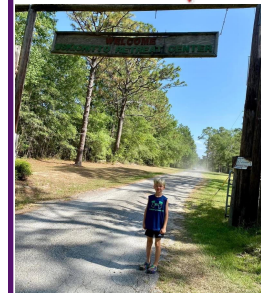
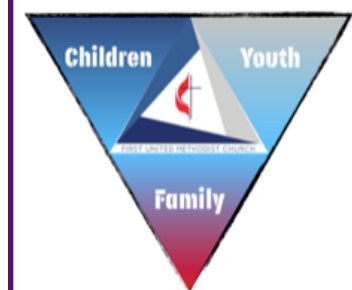
Follow all our online worship services on Facebook at First United Methodist Church - DeRidder, or on our YouTube page: DeridderFUMC

**Our mailing
address is
PO Box 965
DeRidder, LA
70634**

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



MINISTRIES



VBS Postponed

Hi Everyone,
As most of you know, Cathy was in a bad fall accident that shattered several vertebrae in her back. Her surgery on Monday was successful. Praise God! In talking with parents, several of the helpers for VBS, and the chair of SPR, the decision was made to postpone VBS that was scheduled for July 11th - 15th. Notice that this is only a postponement. We will make sure we have this event at a later date and that we give Cathy the time so she can heal and participate. The GREAT news is that the parents, and a number of church members, are rallying together to make sure that Children's Church continues to happen during worship on Sundays. Also, WEDNESDAY NIGHTS will continue through the month of July! So, please make plans to continue to participate in our regular activities. If you interested in volunteering your time, or your dinner/catering expertise, please call the Church Office. Erin will have an organized list of volunteer opportunities available for you to help our children and youth while Cathy is healing. Thank you all!

Love,
Rev. Laraine

Wednesday Evening Activities

This month, the children concluded their study of Saul/Paul. They have started to work on The Greatest Commandment and The Golden Rule and how to apply these to their daily lives. The children have continued achieving their memory verse challenges. This month, the children discovered a LOVE for Quiz Bowl. Kudo's to our parents!!! Despite busy summer schedules, we have had at least 12 children each Wednesday night in the month of June.



Church Camp!

There's still time if you are interested in registering your child for any of the camps! We do have a Church registration code. The code will require that the parent pay 20% of the camp fee at registration. The remaining portion will be paid out of the funds raised at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner fundraiser. Please visit this link to learn more and to register for the camps. Don't forget to contact the Church Office at this time to get your special discount code!

<https://campurc.com/summer-camp-registration>



Methodist Children's Learning Center!



Our children have enjoyed this past month by celebrating Father's Day and playing with bubbles. We have also been keeping cool and sharing laughs during weekly splash pad field trips. *Happy Summer!*

Best Wishes and Many Blessings,
Natalie Ruano, MCLC Director
natalie@fumcderidder.org



Wesley Education Center

The Wesley Education Center has been in full swing this summer. Hours are from 6:30 AM - 5:30 PM. There are four employees working in shifts throughout the weekdays and keeping the children busy. Water play, movie time, and fort building have become the new go-to activities at the center. Please let us know if you have any questions about the program. The center's phone number is 337-221-1343 *Happy Summer!*



FUMC - DeRidder Music Ministry Notes

The dog days of summer are here a bit early, but I hope and pray it is full of joy and relaxation. For the month of July, we will worship using *The Cokesbury Worship Hymnal*. The hymnal shares many hymns with the UMH we use most of the time. The music ministry is so blessed to have Mary Allen back with us, blessing us with beautiful music and her beautiful personality. Due to many bell ringers being out, our handbell ensemble is taking some time off until August. All our musical ensembles need more singers so please come! We have a place for you.

John Schwarze - Director of Music
schwarze@fumcderidder.org

Circles on a Mission 2022

Circles on a Mission was a blast! It was not just a bicycle ride event. It was a multitude of experiences. Extraordinary experiences!

We had so many people dedicating their time for meetings, food preparations, making contacts, and prayers.

And we had riders! Some were as young as 4, others were in their 60s. The children were so much fun to watch as they pedaled with great enthusiasm at the Wesley Campus. The comradery and laughter was supercharged. Parents: Thank you for sharing your children.

There were two riders that completed the **300 mile goal**. Several others put many, many hours on the saddle. The SAG drivers were extremely proficient, generous, and necessary. The fellowship was wonderful. Yes, an extraordinary experience. Our goal of raising **\$5,000.00** was met, and even exceeded. The final tally is yet to come. The generosity of our community and congregation is overwhelming. Thank you to everyone who gave their energy, their prayers, and their monetary contributions.



Circles on a Mission completed its 300 mile cycling route in Dulac. Including Boy Scouts and church members, there was a total of 28. We helped clean up some areas of the Community Center impacted by Hurricane Ida. The DeRidder VFW sent a flag with us to present to the Community Center to replace the one Ida took. The scouts helped clean up some debris from under the Community Center as well as in the men's dorm room.

Many of the participants are looking forward to returning to Dulac. If you are interested in helping with projects in Dulac, please contact Laura Schult, or Susan Hill.

Susan Hill
Missions Coordinator



Jace was able to attend his first church summer camp this year! He enjoyed swimming, hiking, archery, crafts, games, and Bible studies. We are so glad you had a wonderful time, Jace!



JULY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, July 3rd

Greeters: Yoon Family
Readers: Tim Kindler & John Marcello
Communion Servers: Catherine White,
Grant Beal, & Jarrett Tepley

Sunday, July 10th

Greeters: Sandra Wertz & Brenda Jones
Readers: Laura Schultz & Sam Jones
Communion Servers After Service:
Jo Blankenship & Barbara Haynes

Sunday, July 17th

Greeters: Jane Formby, Ted & Becky
Hammerschmidt
Readers: Frances Cole &
Ted Hammerschmidt
Communion Servers After Service:
Barbara Haynes & Lennie Hanchey

Sunday, July 24th

Greeters: Stephanie Chavez
Readers: David Hardesty & Van Allen
Communion Servers After Service:
MaryAlice Wisdom & Lennie Hanchey

Sunday, July 31st

Greeters: Bladen Family
Readers: Erin Tepley & Joyce Everett
Communion Servers After Service:
D. Lamar & Janet Oliver

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Shopping for **Operation Christmas Child** school supplies in July affords us the opportunity to take advantage of good sales in local stores. Listed below are the items needed to begin the school year for children around the world.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

(“...go and make disciples of all nations...”)

JULY SCHOOL SUPPLIES (age 5-9)

Pens and sharpeners (no pencils needed)
Erasers
Soft-back spiral notebooks
Round tip scissors
Coloring books, crayons, markers
Glue Sticks (no liquid glue)



*Dear Reverend Laraine,
We would like to send our heartfelt thanks for the lovely cards you sent to our church. We will share them with people in the community who have been affected by the tragedy. I know they will bring comfort to all who receive them.
On the dreadful day, our world was shattered and our hearts were broken, but in the days and weeks that have followed, our faith has sustained us. Please continue to pray for our community of Uvalde for strength and healing. Thank you!*

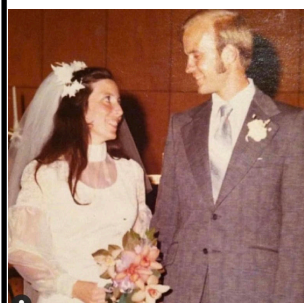
*Sincerely,
Sherry
Church Secretary, FUMC
Uvalde, TX*

What kind of marriage would I have had if Ted and I only talked to each other on Sundays and Wednesdays? Unthinkable!! Why, we would have lost five days a week of our 40 years together — 40 years that included sharing and loving and raising a family! That’s almost 70% of our time together empty or unused! When would our hearts have had time to meld into deep love and commitment? When would I have listened to all of his hopes and dreams or told him mine? When would we have even made day-to-day decisions and schedules or be an integral part of our daughters’ lives? I would’ve missed a thousand stories of his childhood and those he loved. I might not have taken time to tell him about the first time I saw him at college — tall, blonde and blue-eyed — and felt butterflies inside. Which one of those minutes would I have willfully given up? None! Not one!

But that’s what we do with Abba, our Heavenly Father. We often think to ourselves: God seems distant and far away. But how can we feel close to him if we only talk to him or think about him on Sundays and Wednesdays? And, believe me, I’m talking to myself, included. Time at MDAnderson gave me clearer vision about this. He knows my name. He knows your name. He gave us 66 amazing books and letters to us. His Word remains alive, providing comfort, peace, joy, healing — anything we need for ANY day of our life here.

Talk to Him. Read His Words. He loves and misses you.

~Mary Allen



“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. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.” Proverbs 3:5-8 ESV

Dear Faithful Friends,
On behalf of our children and staff at the Louisiana United Methodist Children & Family Services, thank you for your thoughtful gift of paint pallet, sidewalk chalk, stickers, and stationary for the Sulphur Campus. Donations such as yours are important to our orgnization. We are proud to partner with you in helping youth across the state of Louisiana. Again, I want to thank you for being part of the Children’s Home family. We ask for your continued prayers for our children and staff.

Kind regards,
Rick Wheat, President & CEO



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>Scouts – VAN reserved</div> <div>9:00 AM Sunday School</div> <div>10:00 AM Sunday Worship in Sanctuary & Online</div> <div>11:15 AM Safe Sanctuary Training in the Conference Room</div>	<div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div> <div>9:00 AM MCLC – VAN</div> <div>6:30 PM Cub Scouts – Gym</div> <div>7:00 PM Troop 30 – Education Building</div>	<div>8:00 AM Yoga Class in the Gym</div> <div>9:45 AM Chapel – MCLC</div>	<div>MCLC – Bus for movies in LC</div> <div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div> <div>8:00 AM Facebook Devotional w/Com-munion</div> <div>10:30 AM Prayer Shawl – LLL Room</div> <div>4:30 PM Praise Ensemble – Sanctuary</div> <div>5:00 PM Children & Youth – Conf.</div> <div>6:15 PM Chancel Choir – Choir Room</div>	<div>8:00 AM Yoga Class in the Gym</div> <div>9:00 AM Merry Mailers in the Church Office</div> <div>10:00 AM MCLC Story Time with Mary Launey in Fellowship Hall</div> <div>3:30 PM After School Activity Time with Cathy Scott at Wesley</div>	<div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div> <div>9:00 AM MCLC – VAN</div> <div>9:30 AM MCLC Activity Time with Cathy in Education Building</div> <div>6:00 PM TGIF – Youth in the Youth Building</div>	
<div>9:00 AM Sunday School</div> <div>10:00 AM Communion Sunday Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Online</div>	<div>July 4th–Office, MCLC, & WEC Closed</div>	<div>8:00 AM Yoga Class in the Gym</div> <div>9:45 AM Chapel – MCLC</div> <div>5:30 PM Guidance Team Meeting in the Choir Room</div> <div>5:30 PM MCLC Teacher Meeting – Aldersgate Room</div>	<div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div> <div>8:00 AM Facebook Devotional w/Com-munion</div> <div>10:30 AM Prayer Shawl – LLL Room</div> <div>4:30 PM Praise Ensemble – Sanctuary</div> <div>5:00 PM Children & Youth – Conf.</div> <div>6:15 PM Chancel Choir – Choir Room</div>	<div>8:00 AM Yoga Class in the Gym</div> <div>10:00 AM MCLC Story Time with Mary Launey in Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>Scouts in Houston – BUS or VAN</div> <div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div> <div>9:00 AM MCLC – VAN</div>	9
<div>Scouts in Houston – BUS or VAN</div> <div>9:00 AM Sunday School</div> <div>10:00 AM Sunday Worship in Sanctuary & Online</div>	<div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div> <div>9:00 AM MCLC – VAN</div> <div>7:00 PM Troop 30 – Education Building</div>	<div>8:00 AM Yoga Class in the Gym</div> <div>9:45 AM Chapel – MCLC</div> <div>6:00 PM Safe Sanctuary Refresher Course in the Conference Room</div>	<div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div> <div>8:00 AM Facebook Devotional w/Com-munion</div> <div>10:30 AM Prayer Shawl – LLL Room</div> <div>4:30 PM Praise Ensemble – Sanctuary</div> <div>5:00 PM Children & Youth – Conf.</div> <div>6:15 PM Chancel Choir – Choir Room</div>	<div>7:00 AM Bus reserved for Fire Preven-tion Field Trip</div> <div>8:00 AM Yoga Class in the Gym</div> <div>10:00 AM MCLC Story Time with Mary Launey in Fellowship Hall</div> <div>4:00 PM MCLC/WEC Meeting in Aldersgate Classroom</div>	<div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div> <div>9:00 AM MCLC – VAN</div>	16
<div>9:00 AM Sunday School</div> <div>10:00 AM Sunday Worship with Noisy Offering in Sanctuary & Online</div>	<div>Erin – vacation</div> <div>Vacation Bible School MCLC/Day</div> <div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div> <div>9:00 AM MCLC – VAN</div> <div>7:00 PM Troop 30 – Education Building</div>	<div>8:00 AM Yoga Class in the Gym</div> <div>9:45 AM Chapel – MCLC</div> <div>5:30 PM Trustees Meeting in the Choir Room & Zoom</div>	<div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div> <div>8:00 AM Facebook Devotional w/Com-munion</div> <div>10:30 AM Prayer Shawl – LLL Room</div> <div>4:30 PM Praise Ensemble – Sanctuary</div> <div>5:00 PM Children & Youth – Conf.</div> <div>6:00 PM Bible Study – Upper Room</div> <div>6:15 PM Chancel Choir – Choir Room</div>	<div>August Newsletter Deadline</div> <div>8:00 AM Yoga Class in the Gym</div> <div>10:00 AM MCLC Story Time with Mary Launey in Fellowship Hall</div> <div>3:30 PM After School Activity Time with Cathy Scott at Wesley</div> <div>6:30 PM Round Table District Scout Meeting in the Conference Room</div>	<div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div> <div>9:00 AM MCLC – VAN</div> <div>9:30 AM MCLC Activity Time with Cathy in Education Building</div>	23
<div>Erin – vacation</div>	<div>Erin – vacation</div> <div>25</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div> <div>2:00 PM Catherine White & Grant Beal's Wedding</div>
<div>9:00 AM Sunday School</div> <div>10:00 AM Sunday Worship in Fellow-ship Hall & Online</div>	<div>Vacation Bible School Wesley/Day</div> <div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div> <div>9:00 AM MCLC – VAN</div> <div>7:00 PM Troop 30 – Education Building</div>	<div>8:00 AM Yoga Class in the Gym</div> <div>9:45 AM Chapel – MCLC</div>	<div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div> <div>8:00 AM Facebook Devotional w/Com-munion</div> <div>10:30 AM Prayer Shawl – LLL Room</div> <div>4:30 PM Praise Ensemble – Sanctuary</div> <div>5:00 PM Children & Youth – Conf.</div> <div>6:00 PM Bible Study – Upper Room</div> <div>6:15 PM Chancel Choir – Choir Room</div>	<div>8:00 AM Yoga Class in the Gym</div> <div>10:00 AM Merry Mailers in the Church Office</div> <div>10:00 AM MCLC Story Time with Mary Launey in Fellowship Hall</div> <div>3:30 PM After School Activity Time with Cathy Scott at Wesley</div>	<div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div> <div>9:00 AM MCLC – VAN</div> <div>9:30 AM MCLC Activity Time with Cathy in Education Building</div> <div>5:00 PM Wedding rehearsal in the Sanctuary</div>	
<div>9:00 AM Sunday School</div> <div>10:00 AM Sunday Worship in Fellow-ship Hall & Online</div> <div>11:15 AM Fifth Sunday Potluck in the Gym!</div>	<div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div> <div>9:00 AM MCLC – VAN</div> <div>6:30 PM Cub Scouts – Gym</div> <div>7:00 PM Troop 30 – Education Building</div>	<div>8:00 AM Yoga Class in the Gym</div> <div>9:45 AM Chapel – MCLC</div> <div>5:00 PM National Night Out – Down-town Detritter</div> <div>5:30 PM Daisy/Brownie/Junior Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall Classrooms</div> <div>5:30 PM MCLC Teacher Meeting – Aldersgate Room</div> <div>6:15 PM Yoga in the Gym</div>	<div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div> <div>8:00 AM Facebook Devotional w/Com-munion</div> <div>10:30 AM Prayer Shawl – LLL Room</div> <div>4:30 PM Praise Ensemble – Sanctuary</div> <div>5:00 PM Children & Youth – Conf.</div> <div>6:00 PM Bible Study – Upper Room</div> <div>6:15 PM Chancel Choir – Choir Room</div>	<div>8:00 AM Yoga Class in the Gym</div> <div>10:00 AM MCLC Story Time with Mary Launey in Fellowship Hall</div> <div>3:30 PM After School Activity Time with Cathy Scott at Wesley</div> <div>5:30 PM Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts in the Youth Building</div> <div>6:15 PM Yoga in Fellowship Hall</div>	<div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div> <div>9:00 AM MCLC – VAN</div> <div>9:30 AM MCLC Activity Time with Cathy in Education Building</div> <div>6:00 PM TGIF – Youth in the Youth Building</div>	<div>6</div> <div>12:00 PM Baby Shower in Fellowship Hall</div>

BIRTHDAYS

- 3LeRoy Ades
- 5Barbara Haynes
- 6Michael Clanton
- 9Derek Nothnagel
- 10Kelley Allen
- 11Angie Thorne
- 16Elizabeth Vincent
- 17Mitch Launey
- 20Lilly Smith
- 23Gary Godair
- Caden Clanton
- 25Sam Jones
- 29W. E. Kilman
- David Jones, Jr.

ANNIVERSARIES

- 14Ray & Tammi Henderson
- Tim & DiAnne Kindler
- 28Charles & Mary Bell

July Memorials

- In Memory of Jerry Lewis
- Margie Morris
- Ken & Gayle Bailey
- In Memory of Reba Brister Collins
- John Marcello
- In Memory of Wayland Durham
- John Marcello
- In Memory of Eddie Garris
- John Marcello
- In Memory of Elizabeth Anne Jones
- Beauregard Parish Retired Teachers Association