



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

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Pastor's Londerings!

When I was young girl growing up in Girl Scouts, one of the songs we used to sing A LOT was "When E'er You Make a Promise." It was a song that was very short, very beautiful and could be sung in a round. The words were: When E'er you make a promise, Consider well it's importance, And when made, Engrave it upon your heart! It was a great lesson to learn in a song that taught us that if we gave our word about something, it was a promise, our "word" was important, and we needed to fulfill and do what we said we would do. Also, growing up in the Texas culture (I know this is true elsewhere too), that if you gave someone your "word," and especially if you shook hands on it, then that was as good as a written contract and, again, you had to fulfill what you said you would do. I can also remember, as a girl, that if someone said they were going to do something and they didn't, you heard the words, "But you told me you would do that!" You knew someone had broken their word. Sometimes, the break of the promise, their word, would feel devastating. Humans, unfortunately, will sometimes break their word. Sometimes we make promises we never should have made to begin with in our conversations. Here is the good news though. God fulfills his promises. "I will never leave you nor forsake you," Deuteronomy 31:8 and Hebrews 13:5. The greatest promise that God gave the people is that he would send a Savior to the world! "Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God with us')" (Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:23). The prophet Isaiah lived 700 years before Jesus was even born! Yet, the people knew that God's Word is true and so they began to pray for that day to come. They had no idea when he was coming, only that the prophecy had been made and God's Word is good. Generations upon generations were born, lived and died and yet they continued to pray for the Son of God to come because they knew God's Word was true. And He did come - almost 2000 years ago. And we have the great joy and honor of God's greatest gift to celebrate each and every year. This is that season to celebrate Jesus coming into this world – Immanuel, God with us. No greater gift can be given then God's love that came down to be with us. pray that during this holiday season, you are able to keep Jesus at the center of your thoughts and celebration. May we daily say thank you to God for loving us so much to give himself to us through Jesus. May we say thank you AND pray for his coming again! Be sure to check out all the great events to be a part of during this season of Advent as we

Love, prayers and peace, *Laraine*



emier Event & Conference Cente 115 West 1st Street - Downtown DeRidder

Volunteers needed! Please call Cathy Scott at 337-396-9610

Christmas Tree **Lighting Project!**

The Aldersgate Sunday School Class of First United Methodist Church is now receiving requests for lights to be placed on the **NEW** Christmas tree which is located on the Church's south lawn. The lights will remain lit for the entire Christmas season. Deadline is Friday, December 16th. Please look in your bulletin insert on

Sundays for more information!

Poinsettias!

Poinsettias can be ordered at \$12 each. Please see your bulletin insert or contact the Church Office. Deadline for purchase is **Sunday**. December 18th. Thank you!



Church Office Holiday Schedule

prepare for Jesus' birth! See you Sunday (if not before!).

The Church Office will close on Thursday, December 23rd, and reopen on Tuesday, December 27th.

The Church Office will be open only in the morning the last week of December from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

The office will re-open on Tuesday, January 3rd with regular office hours.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service Saturday, December 24th 6:00 PM Sanctuary & Online Christmas Day Service Sunday School Classes will not be **meeting** Christmas Day. Sunday, December 25th

10:00 AM

Sanctuary & Online

Women's aver Breakfast Thursday, December 1st Conference Room 8:30 AM 11:15 AM







Blue Christmas Service Sunday, December 18th **Fellowship Hall** 4:30 PM



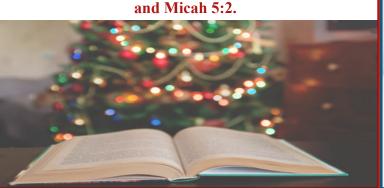


, or on our



Bible Study

Our Advent Bible Study will begin Monday, November 28th at 11 AM or 6 PM in the Conference room. We will meet November 28th, December 5th, 12th, and 19th. We will be following the stories of Jesus being prophesied, the angels speaking to Zechariah, Mary, and Joseph, as well as their travels to Bethlehem, the birth, and the many visitors that came to celebrate. Each week you will receive Scriptures to read, and you will see the layout and the story being told through each of the Gospels. Come and join us for this in-depth study and help keep Jesus at the center of your Christmas season! Our first evening will include the following readings: Isaiah 7:13-14; Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 11:1-6, 2 Samuel 7:12-13,



Blue Christmas

Christmas is such a wonderful season that is filled with so many great memories for most people. A time with family, a time of joy, a time of gathering, and a season of love. However, it can also be such a difficult season because we no longer have different loved ones with us to help celebrate that season and it sometimes leaves us feeling sad, empty, and lonely. Each year, we offer a special worship service where we can honor and remember those loved ones who are no longer here. I, for one, miss my parents a lot this time of the year. They always made Christmas such a fun and wonderful time. I also remember my grandmother, Dado, who died over 40 years ago. She would sneak into our rooms at night and bring us milk and cookies. We would giggle and talk until my dad would call out to her and tell us to go to sleep. And we would giggle some more! This Blue Christmas service is a beautiful time where we come and remember, maybe shed a tear or two, and honor them for how they have blessed our lives. It's good to remember and to continue to make them part of our lives this Christmas season. So, please come Sunday evening, December 18th at 4:30 in the Fellowship Hall. And, if possible, bring a picture of each of the people you would like to honor and remember. Bring a friend, too!

MINISTRIES



A lot of fun to be had at the Halloween party this year. We also celebrated November birthdays, and we are preparing to volunteer for the Breakfast With Santa on Saturday, December 3rd. Please contact me if you would like to participate and help during this annual community-wide



















Please continue to donate to the DeRidder High School's Blue Cupboard Project. We have received a thank you note from the National Honor Society who leads the program. Many children and youth here in town are needing hygiene items and snacks they can use throughout the school year. We thank you for the continual support of this project!



Children's Music





During December, the children will sing with the adult choir for Lessons in Carols on December 8. They also plan to sing on Sunday, December 18. Come join us on Wednesdays 4:45-5:15 in the choir room. There will be no children's choir during Christmas break; we will resume again on Wednesday, January 4.

A Calendar of Devotions

All Families and Friends:

We have copies of our Advent Devotions in the Sanctuary or the Church Office for you. Please take one per family. We hope this may help you celebrate advent season this year!

Missions Team Report!

Christmas Baskets -Prep and Distribution

The Missions Team in looking forward to giving the annual Christmas Food Baskets. We have an opportunity to provide 25-30 families with a lot of good food for the holidays. We provide everything from fresh fruit to ham to eggs. Erin gets many calls requesting families to be put on the list. Brenda gets names from the Council on Aging. Word spreads quickly. Y'all, it is a big deal for so many people! Thank you, church family, for helping feed our friends for Christmas.

The food will be purchased and sorted on Friday, December 16th. Meet at the Fellowship Hall from 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM. On Saturday, the 17th, we will distribute the baskets from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM from the Conference Room. Helpers and huggers are needed!

> Peace and Love, Susan Hill Missions Coordinator





Methodist Children's Learning Center!



















This past month we have had Halloween parties, a trip to Anderson Farms, and many, many smiles. Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family! Best Wishes and Many Blessings,

> Natalie Ruano, MCLC Director natalie@fumcderidder.org



FUMC - DeRidder Music Ministry Notes

On Thursday, December 8, the chancel choir will be joined by our hand bell ensemble and our children's choir in the yearly Festival of Lessons and Carols service at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. There are some new faces in this year's seasonal choir, along with some old. The "Festival of Lessons and Carols" service has its origins in 19th century England. Prior to 1875, carols were not sung in worship. They were considered secular and only sung in the manner we refer to as caroling – groups of singers going door to door, but attitudes changed and an increasing interest in hymn singing resulted in the desire to have access to suitable carols. Composers and publishers capitalized on this. Anglican bishops began adding these carols to services on Christmas Eve. Then in 1880, Reverend Edward White Benson, Bishop of Truro, thought of a way to discourage the excessive use of alcohol on Christmas Eve in Cornish pubs by luring parishioners into church by offering a Christmas worship service. The order of service was simple. Nine passages from Genesis, the prophetic books, and the Gospels were reading. After each reading, a carol, hymn, or anthem was sung. Four hundred people attended the service. Bishop Benson was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury in 1883, and the Lessons and Carols service rose in popularity across the Church of England and across denominational boundaries. We use the same order of worship as the one used in services at King's College, Cambridge since 1919.

> John Schwarze - Director of Music schwarze@fumcderidder.org



DECEMBER ASSISTANTS

Sunday, December 4th:

Greeters: Sandra Wertz & Brenda Jones Lighting of the Advent Candle: Hammerschmidt Family Readers: Tim Kindler & Sam Jones Communion Servers: Jarrett Tepley, Lennie Hanchey, & One More Volunteer!

Sunday, December 11th:

Greeters: Oldaker Family Lighting of the Advent Candle: Oldaker Family Readers: Joyce Everett & Van Allen Communion Servers After Service: TBA

Sunday, December 18th:

Greeters: Tepley Family Lighting of the Advent Candle: Tepley Family

Readers: Barbara Haynes & Gayle Bailey Communion Servers After Service: Barbara Haynes

Sunday, December 25th: Merry Christmas! Greeters: Rodney Fowler

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Betty & Scotty Nease Readers: Laura Schultz & John Schwarze Communion Servers After Service: TBA

On a dark silent night, a baby boy is born. The world doesn't know He's our Savior; but the angels do! God's innumerable choir fills the skies with singing. A star forms above His head, leading shepherds and kings to bow before Him. That moment begins our joy to the world. 2000 years later, we still worship this baby...born on a dark silent night.

Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; ... and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

~Love, Mary Allen







In Memory of Billy Penney John Marcello

Carolyn & David Burton Brenda Bishop Jones Darrell McDonald Jimmy Hicks Tresa Ábramson Gayle & Ken Bailey Billy Kilman Harriette Bishop Thursday Study Club
Debbie & Van Allen
Mary & Billy Brister
Scotty & Betty Nease
Luther & Linda Kennedy
Maxine Cely Jean Jennings Brown Bill Westbrook John, Jerol, & Danna Morrow Mr. & Mrs. Roger Morris Mr. & Mrs. Tommy LeBlanc DiAnne & Tim Kindler Frances & Raymond Cole Martha Lou & Ron Roberts Julie Porter Susan Johnson Marcia & Roy Ades

In Memory of Melanie Marcello Mary & Billy Brister Brenda Bishop Dianne Penney Tepley Family
Frances & Raymond Cole Harriette Bishop Debbie & Van Allen Phyllis Blanton DiAnne & Tim Kindler
Gayle & Ken Bailey
Julie Porter John, Jerol, & Danna Morrow Margaret & Alfred Palma Mr. & Mrs. Fred Murphy Jimmy Hicks Susan Johnson Marcia & Roy Ades Janet & D. Lamar Oliver

In Memory of John Ducet Susan Hill

In Memory of Gary Laramore Gayle & Ken Bailey

In Memory of Wilbert Curtis Frances & Raymond Cole

Re: 2022 Louisiana Conference **Apportionments**

Dear Rev. Waughtal,

I would like to personally thank the congregation of First United Methodist Church - DeRidder for their faithfulness, and you for your leadership, paying 100% of the 2022 Louisiana Conference Apportionments in September. The prompt payment of apportionments enables us, through our connectional structure, to do ministry in Jesus name in all areas of the world. The high level of commitment to responsible financial stewardship that has been shown by First United Methodist Church - DeRidder is appreciated by the Louisiana Conference and the United Methodist Church.

Again, I would like to thank you and the entire congregation for your dedication and service as we strive to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

In Christ's love and service, Sandy O'Brien

Executive Director, Administrative Services



December 2022

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Saturday	S:00 AM Breakfast with Santa at Premiere Event & Conf. Center & AM & 10 AM	10	9:00 AM Christmas Basket pick-up in the Conference Room Christmas Eve 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary New Year's Eve	
Friday	8.00 AM Aerobics Class - Gym 10:00 AM MCLC Activity Time with Cathy in Children's Classroom 11:30 AM Walking Group- Gym 6:00 PM TGIFF - Youth in the Youth Building	9 = 8:00 AM Aerobics Class - Gym = 10:00 AM MCLC Activity Time with Cathy in Children's Classroom = 11:30 AM Walking Group- Gym	January Newsletter Deadline	
Thursday	8:00 AM Yoga Class - Gym 8:30 AM Women's Prayer Breakfast in the Conference Room 10:00 AM MCL Story Time in Fellowship Hall 11:30 AM Walking Group- Gym 3:30 PM After School Activity Time at Wesley 5:30 PM Softball Training - Gym 5:30 PM Softball Training - Gym 5:30 PM Cumba Class - Wesley Campis M Chamba Class - Wesley Chamba Chamba Class - Wesley Chamba Class - Wesley Chamba Class - Wesley Chamba Class - Wesley Chamba Cham	8 8.00 AM Yoga Class - Cym 9.00 AM Retired Beauregard Teacher's Assoc. Banquet in Fellowship Hall 1:30 AM Walking Group - Cym 9.3:00 PM After School Activity Time at Wesley 9.3:00 PM Softball Training - Gym 5:30 PM Softball Training - Gym 5:30 PM Cadette and Senior Cirl Scouts - Youth Building 6:30 PM Lessons and Carols in the Sanctuary		5:30 PM Softball Training - Gym 6:15 PM Yoga - Fellowship Hall
Wednesday	payday = 8:00 AM Facebook Devotional w/Communion = 8:00 AM Payer Shawl - LLL Room = 11:30 AM Payer Shawl - LLL Room = 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym = 4:59 PM Clididen's Choir - Choir Room = 5:00 PM Children's Choir - Choir Room = 5:15 PM Praise Ensemble - Sanctuary = 6:15 PM Charcel Choir - Choir Room	8:00 AM Facebook Devotional w/Communion 8:00 AM Aerobics Class - Gym 10:30 AM Payere Shawh - LLL Room 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym 4:35 PM Children's Choir - Choir Room 5:00 PM Children's Choir - Choir Room 6:15 PM Children & Youth - Conf. Room & Gym 8:15 PM Charcel Choir - Choir Room 6:15 PM Charcel Choir - Choir Room	## Stock A Marabics Class - Gymmunion ## 8:00 AM Aerobics Class - Gymmunion ## 8:00 AM Ratebook Devotional w/Communion ## 8:00 AM Rayers Shaw! - LLL Room ## 9 Mc Children's Choir - Choir Room ## 9:00 AM Children's Choir - Choir Room ## 9:00 AM Paise Ensemble - Sanctuary ## 9:00 AM Poinsettias Delivered to Sanctuary ## 9:00 AM Prayer Shaw! - LLL Room ## 9:00 AM Children's Youth - Conf. ## Room & Gym ## 8:00 AM Paise Ensemble - Sanctuary ## 9:00 AM Children's Choir Room ## 9:00 AM Children's Choir Room ## 9:00 AM Aerobics Class - Gym ## 8:00 AM Aerobics Class - Gym ## 9:00 AM Aerobics Class - Gym ## 11:30 AM Walking Group - Cym ## 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym ## 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym ## 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym ## 11:30 AM Walking Group - Cym ## 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym	
l uesday	8:00 AM Yoga Class - Gym 9:00 AM Merry Mailers in the Church Office 9:45 AM Chapel - MCLC 11:30 AM Walking Group- Gym 5:30 PM Cirl Scouts in LLL & Children's Classroom 6:30 PM Zumba Class - Wesley Campus Pus 6:15 PM Yoga - Gym	6 8:00 AM Yoga Class - Gym 9.45 AM Chapel - MCLC 11:30 AM Walking Group- Gym 5:30 PM Glif Scouts in LLL & Children's Classroom 12:30 PM Zumba Class - Wesley Campus 13:30 PM Yoga - Gym	8:00 AM Yoga Class - Gym 9:45 AM Chapel - MCLC 10:00 AM Mary Martha Circle in the Conference Room 11:30 AM Walking Group- Gym 5:30 PM Zumba Class - Wesley Campus 6:30 PM Zumba Class - Wesley Campus 6:30 PM Zumba Class - Gym 6:15 PM Culdance Team Meeting in 6:15 PM Yoga - Gym 6:15 PM Zumba Class - Gym 6:15 PM Zumba Class - Wesley Campus 730 PM Zumba Class - Wesley Campus 6:15 PM Yoga - Gym	
Monday	time sheets due 8:30 am 8:00 AM Aerobics Class - Cym 11:00 AM Bible Study - Conf. Room 11:30 AM Walking Group - Cym 5:30 PM Zumba Class at the Wesley Campus 6:00 PM Blub Study - Conf. Room 6:30 PM Blub Study - Conf. Room 6:30 PM Troop 30 - Education Building	8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Cym 11:00 AM Bible Study – Conf. Room 11:30 AM Walking Group – Cym 6:30 PM Zunba Class at the Wesley Campus 6:00 PM Bible Study – Conf. Room 6:30 PM Cub Scouts – Cym 7:00 PM Troop 30 – Education Building	BP School Christmas Break BR School Christmas B	
Sunday	First Day of Advent 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Sunday Worship in Sanctuary Q Online 11:00 AM Missions Team in the Choir Room 11:13 AM Family Advent Workshop in Fellowship Hall 2:30 PM Softball Training in the Cym 4:00 PM Handbell Practice in the Sanctuary	9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Communion Sunday Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Online 1:15 AM Culli Cafe in Fellowship Hall 2:30 PM Softball Training in the Cym 4:00 PM Handbell Practice in the Sanctuary	10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Sunday Worship in Sanctuary & Online Room 1:15 AM Staff Meeting in the Choir Room 1:15 AM Softball Training in the Cym. 2:30 PM Softball Training in the Cym. 4:00 PM Handbell Practice in the Sanctuary Online Room Room Room Room Room Room Room Roo	



BIRTHDAYS

Raymond Marcello Mary Alice Wisdom Kade Bardin Eleanor M. Jones Allen Hauser Vic Perry Will Hagood Jacob Cobb Patricia Launey John Morrow Kenneth Bailey Belinda Green Jesus! 23 26 29 30

Colton Bailey Kody Ingram

ANNIVERSARIES

- Will & JoAnn
 Hagood
 Billy & Mary Brister
 Ray & Joanna
 Hauser
 Vic & Nell Perry
 Scotty & Betty
 Nease 19 28
 - 31