



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

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<u> Pastor's Ponderings!</u>

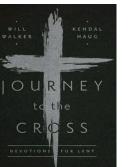
As we enter into the month of February, it is usually a month that people focus on romantic love. If you watch TV, the commercials have already begun about Valentine's Day and jewelry shops saying, "Just buy her a diamond." We know that Jesus attended a wedding in Cana and performed his first miracle there turning the water into wine. Both times I have gone to Israel, I have been blessed with going to Cana. There is a beautiful church there that honors Jesus first miracle, and each time we had a ceremony for anyone that wanted to renew their weddings vows. The second time we went, I had the blessing of performing that service, and it involved 16 couples renewing their wedding vows at the same time! It was so beautiful and wonderful. Everyone loved it. Now, I know we are not in Cana; however, I will be preaching on the miracle that occurred in Cana on February 12th. I would love to extend the opportunity for anyone that wants to renew their wedding vows that day to do so during the worship service. If you would like to do so, please call or email me at revlaraine@fumcderidder.org to let me know. This will be ONLY if you are renewing your wedding vows. It will be about ten minutes long and a part of the service. Everyone will say their vows together. We will be sure and get someone to take pictures and you can always share the church video! I hope everyone comes and enjoys this beautiful service.

> Blessings! Laraine

Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent will soon be upon us. Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness where he fasted and where Satan tempted him. Lent asks believers to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection. All of this begins with the worship service of Ash Wednesday on February 22nd. We will have two opportunities for you to participate in this service. The first service will be at 7 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall with a shortened service that will last about 25 minutes. Plenty of time to hopefully get you to work. The evening service will be in the main sanctuary at 6 p.m.. Please come for this very beautiful and meaningful service as we begin the journey of Jesus heading to Jerusalem for our redemption.

Bible Study



I am really excited about our Bible Study for Lent. We are going to have a book that includes a daily Bible reading about Jesus' journey to the cross. I hope you will come and join us on Tuesday mornings at 11:15 a.m. or evenings at 6 pm. All meetings will be in the conference room. To get a book from the church is \$18 (includes tax). You can go on Amazon and order a Kindle version for \$10 if you prefer. Please order your book in February from Erin. The first class will be on March 7th.

Journey to the Cross moves us closer to the heart of Easter through forty days of Bible readings, prayers of confession and thanksgiving, and a short daily devotional reading. This forty-day devotional takes a deeper look into six central themes of the Christian life: repentance, humility, suffering, lament, sacrifice, and death. Journey

to the Cross moves beyond "doing penance" and helps Christians focus on Christ's sacrifice for us—the real meaning of Easter and the reason we celebrate.

Journey to the Cross serves as a combined liturgical guide and devotional—presenting a call to worship, confessional, gospel reading, and daily devotional with application. This compact devotional guide meets the needs of Christians who want to prepare their hearts for Easter but don't know how, and it answers the growing desire of many to be connected to the broader history of the church.

At its heart, Lent is all about Jesus—his suffering and sacrifice, all powered by his love for his people. Taking the time to meditate on the cross will give readers the opportunity to recenter their hearts, reframe their lives, and rekindle their love for Christ this Easter. Come and join us for some great Biblical and faith discussions!





DeRidder Mardi Gras Parade! Saturday, February 18th

Meet and join in on the fun at our Youth Building!

Beauregard Parish Schools

Mardi Gras Holiday Break February 20th February 24th



Church Office Closed All Day

Shrove Tuesday February 21st Pancake Dinner! Fellowship Hall 5:30 PM

*proceeds go to help our youth attend summer camps!

Ash Wedensday Services February 22nd 7:00 AM & 6:00 PM Fellowship Hall

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

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





First United Methodist Church, DeRidder Children & Youth Programs

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner Fundraiser!

Tuesday, February 21, 2023 Serving 5:30-6:30

Donations
Accepted

First United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall Building

All donations will help send kids to Summer Camp at the Uskichitto Retreat Center in LeBlanc, LA.

For more information please call (337) 463-4463 or text (337) 396-9610











Camp Uskichittio Summer 2023

Uskichitto Retreat Center 590 Retreat Road Leblanc, LA 70651 337-738-4218

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

Younger Elementary - (Entering 2nd-4th Grades)

This session is one day shorter to allow our younger campers to dip their toes in before making a big splash with a full week! Activities include bible lessons, swimming, archery, climbing tower, crafts, teambuilding, hiking, and so much more! June 12-15, 2023 (Cost \$280.00)

Older Elementary - (Entering 4th-6th Grades)

A week-long adventure, filled with exciting challenges, engaging Bible studies, and opportunities to make new friends. We have fun and talk about Jesus! Activities include swimming, archery, climbing tower, crafts, teambuilding, hiking, and so much more! Session #1 May 29 – June 2, 2023 (Cost \$325.00)
Session #2 June 19-23, 2023 (Cost \$325.00)

Junior High Camp - (Entering 6th-9th Grades)

A week-long adventure, filled with exciting challenges, engaging Bible studies, and opportunities to make new friends. We have fun and talk about Jesus! Activities include swimming, archery, climbing tower, crafts, teambuilding, hiking, and so much more! Session #1 June 5-9, 2023 (Cost \$325.00)
Session #2 July 10-14, 2023 (Cost \$325.00)

Senior High Camp - (Entering 9th-12th Grades)

A week-long adventure, filled with exciting challenges, engaging Bible studies, and opportunities to make new friends. We have fun and talk about Jesus! Activities include swimming, archery, climbing tower, crafts, teambuilding, hiking, and so much more! June 26-30, 2023 (Cost \$325.00)

Drop-off is at 9am @ the Dining Hall on first day of session. Pick-up is at 10am @ the Dining Hall on last day of session.

Please contact Cathy Scott for more information (337) 396-9610. Financial Assistance is available through the FUMC DeRidder.





Methodist Children's Learning Center!

















We had our annual Teddy Bear Parade on Friday, January 13th. The children were very creative in decorating their shoeboxes this year! Many parents and grandparents showed up to ecourage their kids to walk the parade route in the gym. Valentine Parties and more to come later this month. Check our Facebook page regularly, as we are adding more pictures of what we are up to each week at the learning

Natalie Ruano, MCLC Director natalie@fumcderidder.org



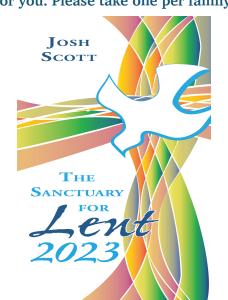
Thank you!

Our church would like to thank Linda and Ron Kern, who donated loads and loads of ice cream, hot fudge, and every single topping you can think of, for the Christmas Day Meal in the Fellowship Hall. They gave so much that the Children's Program has been using it weekly on Wednesday evenings. We will also be able to utilize the ice cream as a dessert for the Fifth Sunday Potato Bar and Talent Show after church! Thnak you, Linda and Ron, for blessing our church, and helping us put smiles on

the faces of others. We love you both!

All Families and Friends:

Beginning Sunday, February 19th, we will have copies of our Lent Devotions in the Sanctuary or the Church Office for you. Please take one per family.





Children's Music



NOTES

We have a FUN time at Children's Choir. Come see what all the joy is about. Wednesday evenings 4:45 - 5:15 in the choir room.

Come join us!!

come and worship!

FEBRUARY ASSISTANTS

February 5th:
Greeters: Tepley Family
Readers: Joe Ann Lillie & John Schwarze
Communion Server After Service: Barbara Haynes

February 12th: Greeters: Becky & Ted Hammerschmidt Readers: Tammi & Raymond Henderson Communion Servers After Service: TBD

Feruary 19th:
Greeter: Sandra Wertz
Readers: Charlotte McGee & David Hardesty
Communion Servers After Service: TBD

February 26th: Greeters: Bladen Family Readers: Mary Alice Wisdom & Ted Hammerschmidt Communion Server After Service: Mary Alice Wisdom



Life is either like a daring adventure or nothing at all. ~Helen Keller

First United Methodist Church of DeRidder has embraced a marvelous, daring adventure. In addition to our annual week long Circles on a Mission Bicycle Ride, we will host a one-day extravaganza on Saturday, May 20, 2023. It will be a Bicycle Ride with three routes offered. For those who prefer to keep

their feet on the ground, a 1 mile Guided Walking tour of Historical Downtown DeRidder is also available. All proceeds benefit the Methodist Children's Home of Southwest Lousiana.

Many hours of preparation have already occurred to lay the groundwork for this special event. Many prayers have been expressed with appeals for God's guidance. This adventure is a wonderful opportunity for people of all faiths and backgrounds to participate as organziers, sponsors, volunteers, and participants. We welcome your ideas and thoughts.

Much anticipation has already been shared, and information is always evolving as we roll forward. Keep reading the monthly newsletter. Click onto our church website. Click the share icon on our Facebook posts. Invite everyone! And invite me to talk to your servcie organizations, your neighbor's church, your mother's Birthday Party, etc.

Our annual week-long 300 mile Circles on a Mission Bicycle Ride will now be referred to as Circles on a Mission Bicycle <u>Journey</u>. We hope it will distinguish this event from the one-day event. It will continue to benefit FUMC DeRidder's many ongoing donations through the Rosemary Cady Circle and the Mary Martha Circle.

Back by popular demand...the Last Day of School bicycle ride will be on...the last day of school, Thursday, May 25, 2023. We will open the doors of the Wesley Campus for free food and fellowship. The 1/2 mile route, and a new 5 mile route will be offered. Make sure those helmets fit! All Are Welcome! Children of all ages, 1-99, can participate.

For information about sponsorships, you may ask Catherine Beal, Pastor Laraine, or contact the Church Office. Online registration and more information about the Methodist Children's Home is available at www.fumcderidder.org under "Ministries."

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you, push you, and help you reach beyond your comfortable routines. Be part of the adventure.

Peace & Love, Susan Hill



Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory of Anna Wiggins

John Marcello
Joyce Lewis
Debbie & Van Allen
Brenda Bishop
DiAnne & Tim Kindler
Phyllis Blanton
Frances & Raymond Cole
Betty & Scotty Nease
Stephanie & Richard Chavez
Julie Porter
Mary Alice Wisdom
Bobbye Gehron
Tepley Family

In Memory of Billy Penney

Phyllis Blanton Stephanie & Richard Chavez Mary Alice Wisdom

In Memory of Dinky Douglas

Betty & Scotty Nease Stephanie & Richard Chavez

In Memory of Melanie Marcello

Mary Alice Wisdom Bobbye Gehron

In Memory of Bob Holland

Brenda Bishop

In Memory of Naomi "Sis" Glass LaRue Luttrell

In Honor of Rev. Laraine Waughtal

Brigitte & Jim Booth

In Honor of Erin TepleyBrigitte & Jim Booth

The Wild Mustang

Shortly after college, my daughter became the owner of a Mustang - one of the wild horses captured by the Bureau of Land Management. Though he was trained and ridden, Veronica would only learn his temperament and ability when she, herself, rode him. As she leads him around and saddles him, the big question is Will he be the best horse ever? Or will growing up wild still be in him? Riding on the trail near the edge of the water, Veronica begins to think, "This is a great horse!" Suddenly, he rears up with a loud squeal. His feet come back down stomping wildly. Veronica immediately thinks, "He's still wild. I won't be able to trust him!" The Mustang calms down, backs up a few steps and stands calmly. Only now can Veronica see that in the middle of the trail is a venomous water snake — stomped flat! She was being protected, even though it didn't feel like it. This story applies to my own life and maybe yours. Here we are, just living our lives every day, when upheaval suddenly occurs. It's easy to think our lives will never get any better. However, once that hard situation has passed, God's protection becomes evident. Did you notice that God was protecting Veronica even as she thought things were going great? Did you see that God was protecting Veronica even when she thought things were terrible? He is our Protector. He tells us, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight" Proverbs 3:5-6. Join me in being determined to pray for God's wisdom and trust Him. For He is the ONLY One who knows the whole story.

> With love, Mary Allen

February 2023

Tuesd 30 payday	Tuesd	31	Wednesday Second Second Second Second Second Second MA Second Second Second Macana W/Com-	Thursday 2 8:00 AM Yoga Class – Cym 8:30 AM Women's Prayer Breakfast in	Friday 8-00 AM Aerobics Class – Cym 10:00 AM MCLC Activity Time with	Saturday 10:00 AM Freezin' for a Reason at West Park
8.00 AM Aerobics Class - Cym 8.00 AM Wigned Sroup- Cym 8.30 PM Zumba Class at the Wesley Campus 6.30 PM Cub Scouts - Cym 7:00 PM Troop 30 - Education Building 8.30 PM Cirl Scouts in LLL & Children's Classroom 6.33 PM Zumba Class - Wesley Campus 7:00 PM Troop 30 - Education Building 8.30 PM Zumba Class - Wesley Campus 6.15 PM Yoga - Cym		C Cym CLC C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C		the Conference Room in the Conference Room is 11:00 AM MCLC Story Time in Fellowship Hall 33:00 PM 34 – Sth Grade Activity Time at Wesley 5:30 PM Zumba Class – Wesley Cambar Office and Senior Girl Scours 5:30 PM Cadette and Senior Girl Scours 5:30 PM Cadette and Senior Girl Scours 5:30 PM MCLC Baby Shower in Alders 5:30 PM MCLC Baby Shower in Alders 5:30 PM Softball Training – Gym 6:15 PM Yoga – Fellowship Hall	Cathy in Children's Classroom — 11:30 AM Walking Group- Cym — 6:00 PM TGFF - Youth in the Youth Building	
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BIRTHDAYS

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Jenny Hammerschmidt **Ted Hammerschmidt** Robert Blankenship **Bobbye Nothnagel** Patty McCullough Rachel Robinson Amanda Oldaker Darrien Siddall Richard Prather Dr. David Jones Dianne Penney D. Lamar Oliver Hunter Oldaker Carolyn Burton Quentin Reed Tyler Cobb Mikey Clanton James Bailey Chris Godair Cynthia lles Mark Allen Carl Slover Susan Hill Judy Kay 9 10 12 14 16 17 22 23 26 27 13

ANNIVERSARIES

Dana Bennett Liz Savant

David & Julie Robinson Steve & Tina Parris John & Dana Morrow

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