



HAPPY GRANDPARENT'S DAY

Sunday, September 10th



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

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Pastor's Ponderings!

Hi Church Family,

Well, August is almost in the books as I write this. I do sincerely hope that the hottest days will be soon behind us. Also praying that we all start receiving some much needed rain soon. Only an inch or two at a time, of course!

Last month we placed an announcement about the Bible Study in September. There is one significant change! We will be back to meeting on Wednesdays instead of Tuesdays. Still having opportunities to participate at 11 a.m. or 6 p.m. The move is necessary for two reasons. One is my being back in school. The second is that we are bringing back Wednesday night meals as so many have requested! Beginning Wednesday, September 6th, dinner will be served between 5 and 5:45 p.m. The cost is \$7 per person or a cap of \$25. The exception is the children and youth who are participating in Wednesday night activities. We have always fed them for free, and we will continue to do so. People will have the opportunity to eat and then go to children's activities, Bible Study, or go home. To go plates will also be available. Please register that you are attending with a form that will be available on Sundays or call the office by noon on Monday. We need to have an idea so they know how much to cook! You can sign up for one Wednesday at a time or register for the month!

Your first readings for Bible Study will be related to the Jordan River and the Israelites. We will be meeting in the Upper Room. There will be pictures from my trip to Israel plus maps. Please try to read these before you come to class on the 6th:

- ◇ Deuteronomy 3:23-29 Moses is not allowed to cross the Jordan
- ◇ Joshua 3:1-17 Joshua crosses the Jordan
- ◇ 2 Kings 2:4-14 Elisha and Elijah at the Jordan
- ◇ Matthew 3:1-6 John baptizes people in the Jordan
- ◇ Matthew 3:13-17 Jesus is baptized

Keep Being the Church! Laraine

Don't forget Grandparents Day on Sunday, September 10th! The grandparents will be recognized and our children and youth will have a special surprise for y'all at church. Please come and join us!

Tiger Island Fire

I want to share a few words with you about the last couple of weeks. This church, YOU, have been the Body of Christ to this community, to each other and to this parish. You opened the building doors and welcomed 75 evacuees into our building and provided them a safe place to be, running water, AC, bathrooms, love, hugs, snacks, games, DVDs to watch, hygiene items and your prayers. You blessed them in church on Sunday beyond measure, and I think you have been blessed by them. This is what being in ministry is about.

As I write this, UMCOR is on the way in the morning to deliver cleaning buckets that we will be taking immediately to Merryville for a start, because people are going home to find their homes being filled with the smell of smoke and covered in ash dust. We are working on some special cleaning supplies to help with the smell of smoke. There may be more supplies down the road for others. We will be interviewing them about their needs, including AC filters to help filter out the smoke particles.

Matthew 25 says, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." There has been, and continues to be a need, and you have and are responding! God bless you for living out who Jesus calls us to be. You have lived out your mission statement also, "Central to DeRidder, Centered in Christ. Our Mission is to grow and serve in Christ." Well done, well done! Keep it going Church!!!

- Laraine

Our mailing
address is
PO Box 965
DeRidder, LA
70634

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



Miranda Chapman
Admin. Assistant / Bookkeeper
Office: 337-463-4491
Miranda@fumcderidder.org

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

**YOUNG ADULT
SUNDAY SCHOOL
CLASS STARTING
SEPTEMBER 3RD
(SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS)**



Wednesday Meals Are Back!

Let us make your Wednesday nights easier—starting September 6th, we'll be hosting a Wednesday night meal to fellowship with one another. Dinner will be served starting at 5 and running to 5:45 PM, which is plenty of time to get everyone fed and then on to choir practice or Bible study! Takeouts will also be available. The cost per person will be \$7, and no more than \$25 for each family. As always, youth and children will continue to enjoy their Wednesday meals free of charge. Reservations are much appreciated so we can get a headcount, and forms will be available Sunday mornings in the pews. You can drop off a check in the offering plate, or stop by the church office to sign up and pay ahead of time. Reserve by the week or the month, whatever is easiest for you! We hope to see you there!

Missions Team News

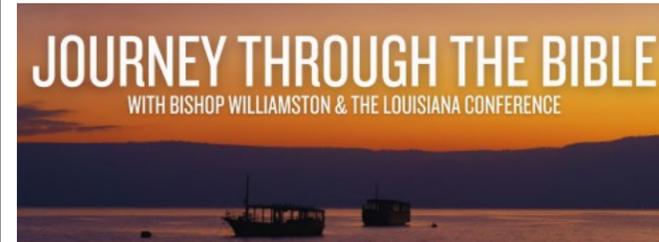
Check out the Summer 2023 edition of Louisiana United Methodist Children & Family Services' Pathways Magazine to find a nice spread about Circles on a Mission! Go to <https://fumcderidder.org/ministry/circles-on-a-mission> to see it on our website!

Israel in 2024!

Join Bishop Williamston & the Louisiana Annual Conference for a trip to Israel called "Journey Through the Bible" starting at \$3,696* from New Orleans or \$3,896* from Baton Rouge, departing on January 23, 2024.

You will see Qasr el Yahud, Jericho, Qumran, the Dead Sea, Herodion, Bethlehem, Church of the Nativity, Shepherds' Field, Caesarea, Mount Carmel, Tel Megiddo, Mount of Beatitudes, Sea of Galilee, Chapel of the Primacy, Magdala, Caesarea Philippi, Nazareth, Tel Dothan, Samaria, Mount Ebal, Mount Gerizim, Nablus, Jacob's Well, Mount of Olives, Garden Tomb and much more!

This trip is almost all-inclusive. You will have to pay for your lunches each day. Please look in the Narthex of the church or the office for a brochure with more information. You can also call the church office or talk to Laraine.



Methodist Children's Learning Center



Vacation Bible School

MCLC had a blast at VBS with Ms. Cathy last month! The upstairs classrooms were able to learn through games and activities with the Keepers of the Kingdom lessons.



I want to thank the members of First United Methodist Church for your generosity in donating school supplies for this upcoming year. We still need 13 small booster seats for field trips in the fall.

Natalie Ruano, MCLC Director
natalie@fumcderidder.org



Being a part of the Children and Youth ministry at FUMC has never been more exciting! We will be starting Clubs Night in September to coincide with the start of Wednesday Meals, and we'll continue it on the first Wednesday of every month. We already have several exciting clubs for kids to choose from! If your child is interested in praise dance, Lego, or drama / skits, then don't miss the chance to sign them up ASAP! Spots may be limited for some clubs, so don't wait! Call the church office or contact Cathy directly at 337-396-9610.

Children and Youth



Children's Music



NOTES

Children's Choir is back in full swing. The children will sing on Sunday, September 17. There are bells to ring, chimes to play, and drums to drum. Come join us on Wednesday evenings from 4:45-5:15 in the choir room.



Reminder About FUMC's New Homeschooling Group

The Children's Program is hosting a new Homeschooled Family Fellowship on the first and third Thursday of each month, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Wesley Education Center. Parents are invited to bring their children for fun activities and unstructured play. For more information, please contact Cathy at 337-396-9610.

The Beauregard's Courtesy Band will be performing on September 27th during our Wednesday night meal time. Make sure you sign up ahead of time so you can witness this wonderful local band's talents at our church!



New Volunteers For Technical Team Welcome

We have many ways to learn and grow at FUMC! If your talents or interests include A/V or technology, give our Technical Team a try! Contact the church office for more information or to sign up to volunteer!



Young Adult Sunday School Class



Join us this month as we begin a brand new Sunday School class that will meet at 9 AM in the Upper Room classroom (in the Fellowship Hall building). This group will focus on learning to love like Jesus, becoming a good neighbor to those around us, and exploring some of the important issues that young adults face today. As we continue in community with one another, we will learn about the history of Sunday School and find ways to reach beyond the walls of the church to meet the needs of those in our own community and the world. No matter what obstacles you may be facing—from child-rearing to infertility, from career struggles to unemployment, from family stress to feeling alone in the world—let us go through it together. Join us Sunday mornings, and stay tuned for even more opportunities for the young adults at First United Methodist Church to learn and grow!

September Worship Assistants

Sunday, September 3rd

Greeters - Susan Hill, Betty & Scotty Nease
 Readers - John Marcello & Barbara Haynes
 1st Sunday Communion Servers (During Service) -
 Lennie Hanchey, Mary Wisdom, and Youth

Sunday, September 10th

Greeters - Tepley Family
 Readers - David Hardesty & Gayle Bailey
 After-Service Communion Server -
 David Hardesty

Sunday, September 17th

Greeters - Becky & Ted Hammerschmidt
 Readers - Van Allen & Lexi
 After-Service Communion Server -
 Betty Nease

Sunday, September 24th

Greeters - Raymond & Tammy Henderson
 Readers - Tammy Henderson & John Schwarze
 After-Service Communion Server -
 Miranda Chapman



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD ("...go and make disciples of all nations.")

SEPTEMBER

We're ready to top off our shoeboxes with hygiene items. Due to someone's generous gift, we won't need any additional toothbrushes this year. One of the primary goals of Operation Christmas Child in 2023 is to reach 6,000 of the 10,000 "unreachable" regions in the world. This is our opportunity to do our part spreading the Word of Christ "to the ends of the earth." The United Women in Faith thank you for your support of this important global mission.

HYGIENE ITEMS



**Combs & Small Brushes
 Washcloths & Mild Bar Soap**

**Band-Aids
 Chapstick**



Dear Rev. Waughtal & Congregation First UMC,

We want to thank you for your unwavering support of the CASA Program and the children we serve. The children we serve have experienced abuse and/or neglect due to no fault of their own. Child abuse and/or neglect has the potential to leave a scar that may never heal. It is incumbent upon us as a community to make every effort to show love and kindness as often as possible...

We truly appreciate you and your service to the community. We believe that our actions should always overshadow our words.

Sincerely,
 Tommy Edwards
 Executive Director, CASA of West CenLA



Geared for Support

Bus Barn Riders are a group of cyclists that meet at our church's Bus Barn on Thursday evenings. The group welcomes riders of all ages and abilities. They were recently asked about helping a person who needed help getting a bicycle to ride to work. Within minutes they had a plan and quickly purchased the necessary gear. This group likes to pray together, and often stops to pray with others while riding. If you're interested in riding with the group or would like them to visit you, please contact the church office or Susan Hill.

From the Heart by Mary Allen

I have a good friend who checks on me often. She is the "safe friend", meaning I can share anything with her. This was our text exchange yesterday:

Friend: How are you doing? For real?

Me: Pretty good. This week has some long days in it. So... this old(er) Piano Lady is hearing a strong call from my recliner to sit down and put my feet up. I end up in the recliner several times in between spending mornings with the grandkids, then going to work, along with sitting in line at the pharmacy, going to get the grocery pick-up, playing for choir practices and church services, feeding Pete-the-Horse and scratching his back (which I purposefully take time to do because being outside with any of my fur-babies fills me up when I'm on empty), and viewing every new 1st-Day-of-School shoes-supplies-backpacks-lunchboxes-socks, shirts and shorts, plus sundry other things!

Friend: Gosh...that IS a lot!

At this point I can read the living Word of God in Matthew 11:28: "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest." But I must, then, consider verse 30: "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." I must acknowledge that "His yoke" means sharing Jesus, reading His Word, staying in prayer & waiting to hear what His answer is. I am to be like Him and do His work. Perhaps not everything in my text above falls under that description. Therefore, my heart constantly asks God to shine through me. In every daily action, I want to represent Him with truth and

*may Jesus be
 seen in me in
 spite of me.*

love. I leave you with the hope and expectation that each of us becomes more like Him while we wait in line, while we work, while we serve Him and while we are around our spouses, children and grandchildren. Let people be drawn to Him through our actions.

Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory of Jo Calhoun

Dianne Penney
 Brigitte Booth

In Memory of Eleanor Ree Webb

Ken & Gayle Bailey

In Memory of Roy Lea Johnson

Joyce Lewis

In Memory of Eleanor Marcello Jones

LeRoy & Marcia Ades
 Brigitte Booth

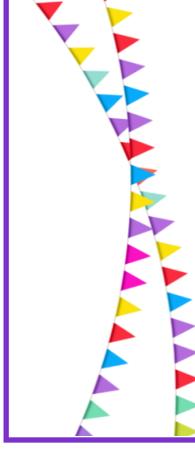
In Memory of Marty Smith

Joyce Lewis
 Raymond & Frances Cole
 Tim & DiAnne Kindler

In Honor of Nell Perry

Raymond & Frances Cole
 Jean Jennings Brown
 Brigitte Booth
 LeRoy & Marcia Ades

September 2023



Birthdays

- 1 Matthew Brister
 - 2 Brenda Jones
 - 3 Sarah Wright
 - 3 David Wiggins
 - 4 Bob Dukes
 - 5 Gary Crowe
 - 5 Brigitte Booth
 - 8 Aimee Bennett
 - 9 Laura Coltharp
 - 10 David Prather
 - 10 Amber Taylor
 - 12 Patricia Limmer
 - 14 Bella Oldaker
 - 15 Mary Brister
 - 15 Howard Helms
 - 17 Pam Godair
 - 17 Britain Ann Prather
 - Jane Rathburn
 - Kaleb Luttrell
 - 19 Van Allen
 - Seth McCullough
 - Veronica Luttrell
 - 20 Debbie Clanton
 - 23 Rebecca Blankenship
 - 25 Richie Blankenship
 - Martha Lou Roberts
 - 26 Richard Chavez
 - 28 Marcia Ades
 - 29 Gayle Bailey
 - Michael Luttrell
- ## Anniversaries
- 3 Pam & Gary Godair
 - Howard & Tannie Helms
 - David & Rebecca Prather
 - 24 Roy & Marcia Ades

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary & Online 4:00 PM Handbell Practice in the Sanctuary	28 8:00 AM Aerobics Class - Gym 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym 5:30 PM Zumba Class at the Wesley Campus	29 time sheets due 8:30 am 8:00 AM Yoga Class - Gym 9:45 AM Chapel - MCLC 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym 3:00 PM K-2nd Grade Activity Time at Wesley 5:30 PM Girl Scouts in LLL & Children's Classroom 5:30 PM Zumba Class - Wesley Campus 5:30 PM Guidance Team in Conference Room	30 8:00 AM Facebook Devotional w/Com-munion 8:00 AM Aerobics Class - Gym 10:30 AM Prayer Shawl - LLL Room 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym 4:45 PM Children's Choir - Choir Room 5:15 PM Children & Youth - Conf. Room & Gym 5:15 PM Praise Ensemble - Sanctuary 6:15 PM Chancel Choir - Choir Room	31 8:00 AM Yoga Class - Gym 10:00 AM MCLC Story Time in Fellowship Hall 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym 5:30 PM Zumba Class - Wesley Campus 6:00 PM Bike Riders at Bus Barn	1 8:00 AM Aerobics Class - Gym 10:00 AM MCLC Activity Time with Cathy in Children's Classroom 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym	2
3 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Communion Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary and Online 4:00 PM Handbell Practice in the Sanctuary	4 Labor Day - Church Campus Closed 8:00 AM Aerobics Class - Gym 5:30 PM Zumba Class at the Wesley Campus	5 8:00 AM Yoga Class - Gym 9:45 AM Chapel - MCLC 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym 3:00 PM K-2nd Grade Activity Time at Wesley 5:30 PM Girl Scouts in LLL & Children's Classroom 5:30 PM Zumba Class - Wesley Campus	6 8:00 AM Facebook Devotional w/Com-munion 8:00 AM Aerobics Class - Gym 10:30 AM Prayer Shawl - LLL Room 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym 4:45 PM Children's Choir - Choir Room 5:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper in Fellowship Hall 5:15 PM Clubs Night - Conf. Room & Gym 5:15 PM Praise Ensemble - Sanctuary 6:15 PM Chancel Choir - Choir Room	7 8:00 AM Yoga Class - Gym 10:00 AM MCLC Story Time in Fellowship Hall 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym 5:30 PM Zumba Class - Wesley Campus 6:00 PM Bike Riders at Bus Barn	8 8:00 AM Aerobics Class - Gym 8:00 AM MCLC Grandparents Luncheon - FH 10:00 AM MCLC Activity Time with Cathy in Children's Classroom 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym	9
10 Grandparent's Day 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary & Online 11:15 AM Missions Team Meeting 4:00 PM Handbell Practice in the Sanctuary	11 8:00 AM Aerobics Class - Gym 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym 5:30 PM Zumba Class at the Wesley Campus 5:45 PM Nominations Meeting in the Conference Room	12 8:00 AM Yoga Class - Gym 9:45 AM Chapel - MCLC 10:00 AM Mary Martha Circle at Pat Limmer's House 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym 3:00 PM K-2nd Grade Activity Time at Wesley 5:30 PM Girl Scouts in LLL & Children's Classroom 5:30 PM Zumba Class - Wesley Campus	13 time sheets due 8:30 am 8:00 AM Facebook Devotional w/Com-munion 8:00 AM Aerobics Class - Gym 10:30 AM Prayer Shawl - LLL Room 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym 4:45 PM Children's Choir - Choir Room 5:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper in Fellowship Hall 5:15 PM Children & Youth - Conf. Room & Gym 5:15 PM Praise Ensemble - Sanctuary 6:15 PM Chancel Choir - Choir Room	14 8:00 AM Yoga Class - Gym 10:00 AM MCLC Story Time in Fellowship Hall 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym 5:30 PM Zumba Class - Wesley Campus 6:00 PM Bike Riders at Bus Barn	15 8:00 AM Aerobics Class - Gym 10:00 AM MCLC Activity Time with Cathy in Children's Classroom 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym	16
17 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Sunday Worship with Noisy Offering in Sanctuary & Online 11:15 AM Staff Meeting - Choir Room 4:00 PM Handbell Practice in the Sanctuary	18 8:00 AM Aerobics Class - Gym 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym 5:30 PM Zumba Class at the Wesley Campus 6:00 PM SPR Meeting in Choir Room	19 8:00 AM Yoga Class - Gym 9:45 AM Chapel - MCLC 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym 3:00 PM K-2nd Grade Activity Time at Wesley 5:30 PM Girl Scouts in LLL & Children's Classroom 5:30 PM Zumba Class - Wesley Campus	20 8:00 AM Facebook Devotional w/Com-munion 8:00 AM Aerobics Class - Gym 10:00 AM Rosemary Cady: Conference Room 10:30 AM Prayer Shawl - LLL Room 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym 4:45 PM Children's Choir - Choir Room 5:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper in Fellowship Hall 5:15 PM Children & Youth - Conf. Room & Gym 5:15 PM Praise Ensemble - Sanctuary 6:15 PM Chancel Choir - Choir Room	21 8:00 AM Yoga Class - Gym 10:00 AM MCLC Story Time in Fellowship Hall 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym 5:30 PM Zumba Class - Wesley Campus 6:00 PM Bike Riders at Bus Barn	22 October Newsletter Deadline 8:00 AM Aerobics Class - Gym 10:00 AM MCLC Activity Time with Cathy in Children's Classroom 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym 4:30 PM Wedding Rehearsal in Sanctuary	23 12:00 PM Wedding in Sanctuary for Alex
24 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary & Online 4:00 PM Handbell Practice in the Sanctuary	25 8:00 AM Aerobics Class - Gym 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym 5:30 PM Zumba Class at the Wesley Campus	26 8:00 AM Yoga Class - Gym 9:45 AM Chapel - MCLC 11:30 AM K-2nd Grade Activity Time at Wesley 5:30 PM Girl Scouts in LLL & Children's Classroom 5:30 PM Zumba Class - Wesley Campus 6:00 PM Guidance Team - Conference Room	27 time sheets due 8:30 am 8:00 AM Facebook Devotional w/Com-munion 8:00 AM Aerobics Class - Gym 10:30 AM Prayer Shawl - LLL Room 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym 4:45 PM Children's Choir - Choir Room 5:15 PM Children & Youth - Conf. Room & Gym 5:15 PM Praise Ensemble - Sanctuary 6:00 PM Beauregard's Courtesy - Music & Dinner 6:15 PM Chancel Choir - Choir Room	28 8:00 AM Yoga Class - Gym 10:00 AM MCLC Story Time in Fellowship Hall 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym 5:30 PM Zumba Class - Wesley Campus 6:00 PM Bike Riders at Bus Barn	29 8:00 AM Aerobics Class - Gym 10:00 AM MCLC Activity Time with Cathy in Children's Classroom 11:30 AM Walking Group - Gym	30