




HAPPY NEW YEAR!
from First United Methodist Church

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

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Pastor's Ponderings!

Happy New Year everyone!

Another year has flown by, and we have a whole year ahead of us to enjoy the generosity of God and to share our generosity with others!

I look forward to 2024 knowing that we have so much ministry ahead of us. In January, we are planning a trip to Dulac to do more recovery work from Hurricane Ida. There will be several things for people with all skills to participate in. Please check the newsletter for an article from Susan giving more details!

Also, come and celebrate with us the ministry of DiAnne Kindler! DiAnne has played for the church for over 20 years. Her music, her ministry, and just who she is makes her such an amazing woman who has blessed us all. In worship, with the choir, the children's choir, funerals, weddings, concerts, and more – she has touched thousands of lives over the years.

We will have a time of celebration in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the worship service on Sunday, January 14th. Come and express your love and appreciation for her. The best news of all is that she and Tim will remain in the church participating in so many ways! Thank you DiAnne. Well done good and faithful servant.

We have so many special services planned at the first of the year, starting off with Epiphany – the celebration of the wisemen arriving to meet Jesus — on January 7th. We hope you can come and be a part of worship and all the many different places of ministry with our church. There is a place for everyone to participate and make a difference to impact not only your own life, but the lives of others!

Bible Study

Due to mission trips and other activities, we will not have another study start until the end of January. Keep an eye on your email for more information to come. Because Lent starts on February 14th this year, I am going to do a short 2-week class on John Wesley January 31st and February 7th. Come and learn about the history of John Wesley and how he began the Methodist Church without meaning to! We will meet on Wednesdays in the Upper Room, and you will have your choice of coming at 11 a.m. or 6 p.m.

Christmas Baskets 2023

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." Matthew 25:35

Friday and Saturday, December 15-16th, 19 people gathered in the conference room under the leadership of the Missions Team, and helped box up food for 25 families in the Beauregard Parish. Some of these names came from the Council on Aging, and some came through our own Hope Network program that helps those in need. Lots of laughter, fellowship, and love was shared with each other as we prepared the boxes, and even more love was shared with the families in need. All of the food was prayed over for God's blessings to be known in the breaking of the bread and to be experienced through us as we loaded the boxes in their cars. Time was taken to visit with each family and to invite them to church. A few boxes were delivered by our volunteers to those who could not come and pick them up themselves. Thank you to those who donated, Susan Hill for doing all the shopping, and to all of God's servants who served so faithfully in this great ministry!



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Follow our livestream on Facebook at First United Methodist Church - DeRidder, or on YouTube at DeridderFUMC

Church Office Closed
Monday, January 15, 2024
In Observance of
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Women's & Men's Luncheon in December

Thanks to all who attended and made this event possible. Women's Prayer Breakfast begins again January 4th at 8:30 AM in the Conference Room.



Midweek Meals For January

Let us make your Wednesday nights easier—continuing into the New Year, FUMC will host its Wednesday night meal to fellowship with one another. Dinner will be served starting at 5 and serving until 5:45 PM, which is plenty of time to get everyone fed and on to Bible Study or choir practice. Takeouts are also available.

CHILD, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Wednesday Evenings

Come join us each week for fun and fellowship! On Wednesday evenings we play in the gym from 5:15 to 5:45 PM, and then dinner is provided free of charge to children and youth, with a shared meal time from 5:45 to 6:15 PM. Finally, we have a variety of lessons and learning activities that concludes by 7:00 PM.

Early Worshipers on Sundays at 9 AM

Every Sunday from 9:00 to 9:45 our Early Worshipers meet. All children in grades K-12 are invited to attend. We provide light breakfast foods and juice to get the morning started. This time helps your child prepare for Worship and the lessons that they will learn during Children's Church. You can drop off as early as 8:45 if you are attending one of the adult morning classes. Nursery is also provided starting at 8:45 AM.

Children's Church on Sundays at 10 AM

All children in grades K-5 are welcome to attend. Many volunteer opportunities are available within the children's programs. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Cathy Scott
(337) 396-9610

Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries



Honduras Mission Trip & Meal Fundraiser

ATTENTION: You are invited to join in on Sunday, January 21st, 2024, for a meal / fundraiser for the Honduras 2024 Mission. Chef Ben Herrera of 121 Artisan Bistro in Lake Charles will provide a fine dining experience for \$150/plate. Proceeds will go to dental, as well as VBS materials, eye glasses, and a construction project.

Share the love of Christ through service to the people of Potrerillos, Honduras. Join this team from February 24th to March 2nd, 2024, and assist with children's ministry, dental, construction projects, Bible stories, and more!

Contact Dean Sawyer at 337-274-9238



Children's Choir

The children had a great year performing for the church congregation, and we look forward to 2024 being another wonderful year. All are welcome to join on Wednesday afternoons at 4:45 PM



Methodist Children's Learning Center



We had a wonderful month of December to celebrate at MCLC! Miss Mary read to our children and Miss Cathy made art projects with them too! We celebrated The Polar Express and wore our pajamas to school! We drank cocoa and chocolate milk, and had the BEST time in our pajamas! Santa came to visit us and we gave him some slippers so his feet would be warm on Christmas. Our Bible focus for the month was "Happy Birthday Jesus!"



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we bring the curtain down on 2023, I come to the uncomfortable realization that every year seems to pass quicker and quicker. I suppose this happens as we get older. It's been another trying year in our sinful world. Wars continue to rage in eastern Europe. Israel and God's chosen people are once again being oppressed by an ancient and evil hatred. In late July, I distributed to the choir one of our first anthems to be used during the Advent and Christmas season. It is called A Bluegrass Magnificat. At the time, the Hamas terrorist attack was several months in the future. Suddenly, after the attack, one of the verses to this song became hauntingly accurate. It reads, "God protects servant Israel, showing mercy, giving grace. God remembers the children. God has done great things for me." I encourage all to pray for Israel and everyone involved, as Jesus has commanded us in Matthew 5:44, "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." I pray God's blessing on our church for the upcoming year. I know through you, that God will do wonderful things at First United Methodist Church. I continue to pray constantly that our choir loft will fill with folks who want to serve. In closing, I want to thank DiAnne Kindler for her many years of service to our music ministry. Her job has not been easy, of course. She has had to put up with me for several years. Seriously though, she is a gem, and it has been an honor to work with her.

John Schwarze, Music Director

Centenary COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA

This year First United Methodist Church will be one of the stops on the Centenary College Choir's winter tour! We are looking forward to this special performance that will take place on Sunday, January 7th, at 6 PM in our Sanctuary. Invite your friends & neighbors. Free admission!



Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory of Bill Blansett
Luther & Roberta Scott

In Honor of Ellis James Baggett
Susan Hill

Pew Bibles

In Memory of Dick Myers
Susan Myers

Pew Bibles are available for \$10 and can be dedicated in honor or in memory of a loved one. Please contact the Church Office at 337-463-4491 for more information.

Thank you to all of our 2023 volunteers! From greeting and reading on Sunday mornings, to folding newsletters, to every service opportunity in between. We appreciate all that our volunteers do for First United Methodist Church of DeRidder!

January Worship Assistants

Sunday, January 7th

Greeters - Taylor Drake & Brenda Bishop
Readers - John Marcello & Jane Rathburn
1st Sunday Communion Servers (During Service) -
Becky & Ted Hammerschmidt

Sunday, January 14th

Greeters - Ryne & Lizzie Robinson
Readers - Dianne Penney & Barbara Haynes
After-Service Communion Server -
Susan Hill

Sunday, January 21st

Greeters - Grant & Catherine Beal
Readers - Van Allen & Donna McCullough
After-Service Communion Server -
Lennie Hanchey

Sunday, January 28th

Readers - David Hardesty & Betty Nease
After-Service Communion Server -
Miranda Chapman

Beauregard's Courtesy Performing on Sunday, February 11th

When: Sunday, February 11th

Where: Sanctuary during Sunday Service

Contact the Church Office at 337-463-4491 for more information about this annual performance!

Dulac Mission Trip 2024

Come discover Dulac. Meet the history, culture, and charm of this shrimping and fishing community situated on the waterways of Terrebonne Parish.

We will have a Mini Mission Trip on January 24-27. The team will do light construction/painting work for some residents that suffered hurricane damage, and also help with projects at the Dulac Community Center. Most of the tools and materials will be provided, but we will likely take several items with us.

Transportation will be available, and details determined by the size of our team. Sleeping accommodations are provided by the Dulac Community Center on site. We will rest in the beds that our team assembled this past Spring! We will use the bathrooms that our team worked on! The Center has a full kitchen that will allow us to prepare the team meals. Our team was fed extraordinarily well during our last trip.

Who is invited? What skills are required? We need people who are ready to discover the amazing opportunities to serve others with a Christian joy. There are many ways to serve! We need people who can paint and follow instructions for light construction. We need people who can make coffee and hug necks. We need people who can wash dishes and tell jokes. We need people who can take photos and lead us in a devotional. We need you, your cousin, your friend.

The cost is \$30 per person to cover food and transportation. Registration will open on January 2, 2024. Pray for this Mission Trip, and please ask the Hammerschmidts, the Beals, Laraine, and the many others who have been there for more information and encouragement.

Shalom, Susan Hill and the Missions Team

*Women's Prayer Breakfast
January 4th at 8:30 AM
Conference Room*

"Many thanks for the opportunity to be your pianist for the last twenty years! Although retiring is bittersweet, I have been overwhelmed with your kind comments, words of encouragement, and hugs. Even though I will no longer be at the piano, I will continue to be part of the other activities of the church and look forward to seeing you and working with you there."

- DiAnne Kindler

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Sunday Worship in Sanctuary & Online	1 New Year's Day – Office Closed	2 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 Cam-pus	3 8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym 9:00 AM Morning devotional 10:00 AM MCLC Story Time in Fellowship Hall 10:30 AM Prayer Shawl – LLL Room 11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym 3:15 PM Clubs Night – Conf. Room & Gym 5:15 PM Praise Ensemble – Sanctuary 6:00 PM Chancel Choir – Choir Room	4 8:00 AM Yoga Class – Gym 8:30 AM Women's Prayer Breakfast in the Conference Room 9:00 AM Homeschool Fellowship Group 11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym 3:00 PM After School Activity – WEC – 3rd–5th Grades 5:30 PM Zumba Class – Wesley Cam-pus	5 8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym 9:15 AM MCLC Activity Time with Cathy in Children's Classroom 11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym	6
7 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Communion Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary and Online 11:15 AM Circles on a Mission Meeting in the Choir Room 4:00 PM Handbell Practice in the Sanctuary 6:00 PM Centenary Choir Performance in Sanctuary	8 8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym 11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym 5:30 PM Zumba Class at the Wesley Campus	9 8:00 AM Yoga Class – Gym 9:45 AM Chapel – MCLC 10:00 AM Mary Martha Circle at Pat Linmer's House 11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym 3:00 PM K-2nd Grade Activity Time at Wesley 5:30 PM Zumba Class – Wesley Cam-pus 5:30 PM Girl Scouts in LLL & Children's Classroom 5:30 PM Dulac Planning Mtg in Choir Room	10 8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym 9:00 AM Morning devotional 10:00 AM MCLC Story Time in Fellowship Hall 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 6:00 PM Chancel Choir – Choir Room	11 time sheets due 8:30 am 8:00 AM Yoga Class – Gym 11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym 3:00 PM After School Activity – WEC – 3rd–5th Grades 5:30 PM Zumba Class – Wesley Cam-pus	12 8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym 9:15 AM MCLC Activity Time with Cathy in Children's Classroom 11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym	13
14 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary & Online 11:15 AM Retirement Party for DiAnne Kindler in Fellowship Hall 4:00 PM Handbell Practice in the Sanctuary	15 Office Closed – MLK Jr. Day	16 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 Zumba Class – Wesley Cam-pus 5:30 PM Girl Scouts in LLL & Children's Classroom	17 8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym 9:00 AM Morning devotional 10:00 AM Rosemary Cady Circle in the Conference Room 10:00 AM MCLC Story Time in Fellowship Hall 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 5:15 PM Praise Ensemble – Sanctuary 6:00 PM Chancel Choir – Choir Room	18 8:00 AM Yoga Class – Gym 9:00 AM Homeschool Group 11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym 3:00 PM After School Activity – WEC – 3rd–5th Grades 5:30 PM Zumba Class – Wesley Cam-pus 6:00 PM Beauregard Cattleman's Association in Fellowship Hall 6:30 PM Scout Meeting – Conference Room	19 February Newsletter Deadline 8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym 9:15 AM MCLC Activity Time with Cathy in Children's Classroom 11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym	20
21 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	22 8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym 11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym 5:30 PM Zumba Class at the Wesley Room	23 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 Zumba Class – Wesley Cam-pus 5:30 PM Girl Scouts in LLL & Children's Classroom	24 8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym 9:00 AM Merry Mailers in the Choir Room 9:00 AM Morning devotional 10:00 AM MCLC Story Time in Fellowship Hall 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 5:15 PM Praise Ensemble – Sanctuary 6:00 PM Chancel Choir – Choir Room	25 8:00 AM Yoga Class – Gym 11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym .. Missions to Dulac 3:00 PM After School Activity – WEC – 3rd–5th Grades 5:30 PM Zumba Class – Wesley Cam-pus	26 8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym 9:15 AM MCLC Activity Time with Cathy in Children's Classroom 11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym .. Missions to Dulac	27 ... Missions to Dulac
28 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary & Online 4:00 PM Handbell Practice in the Sanctuary	29 time sheets due 8:30 am 8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym 11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym 5:30 PM Zumba Class at the Wesley Campus	30 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 Guidance Team in Conference Room 5:30 PM Zumba Class – Wesley Cam-pus 5:30 PM Girl Scouts in LLL & Children's Classroom	31 8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym 9:00 AM Morning devotional 10:00 AM MCLC Story Time in Fellowship Hall 10:30 AM Prayer Shawl – LLL Room 11:00 AM John Wesley Class in Upper 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 5:15 PM Praise Ensemble – Sanctuary 6:00 PM Chancel Choir – Choir Room 6:00 PM John Wesley Class in Upper	1 8:00 AM Yoga Class – Gym 8:30 AM Women's Prayer Breakfast in the Conference Room 9:00 AM Homeschool Fellowship Group 11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym 3:00 PM After School Activity – WEC – 3rd–5th Grades 5:30 PM Zumba Class – Wesley Cam-pus	2 8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym 9:15 AM MCLC Activity Time with Cathy in Children's Classroom 11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym	3

Birthdays

- 1 TJ Tepley
- 2 Jo Blankenship
- 5 Kelly Jones
- Ryne Robinson
- Betty Nease
- 6 Catherine Beal
- 7 Blake Hammerschmidt
- 10 Tyler White
- 11 Cathy Lockwood
- Ricky Iles
- 12 Frank Chapman
- 13 Tannie Helms
- Dominique Prather
- 14 Jimmy Hicks
- 16 Don Savant
- 18 Maegan Loupe
- 19 Julie Porter
- 20 Tim Kindler
- 24 Mike Nothnagel
- 25 Brenda Vaughn
- 26 Vincent Labue
- 30 Phyllis Blanton
- Morgan Tepley

Anniversaries

- 2 Aaron & Jill Cooper
- 22 David & Carolyn Burton
- 24 John & Dana Delborn
- 28 Dale & Elizabeth Vincent
- 29 Rick & Lynn Erpelding