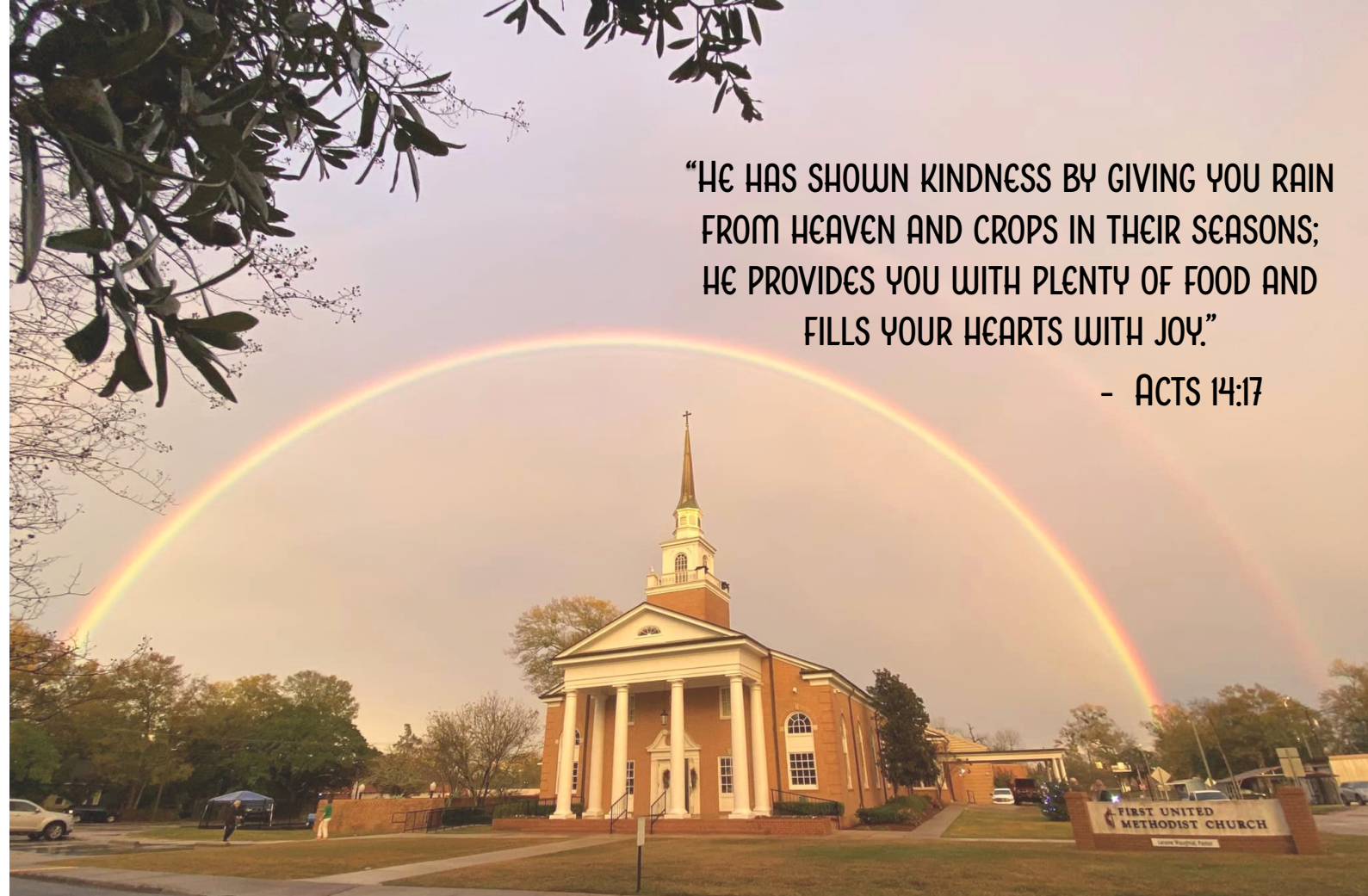



"HE HAS SHOWN KINDNESS BY GIVING YOU RAIN  
FROM HEAVEN AND CROPS IN THEIR SEASONS;  
HE PROVIDES YOU WITH PLENTY OF FOOD AND  
FILLS YOUR HEARTS WITH JOY."

- ACTS 14:17



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
Organization  
Postage Paid  
Permit #53



Mailing Address:  
PO Box 965  
DeRidder, LA 70634

Physical Address:  
406 W. Shirley Street  
DeRidder, LA 70634

Miranda Chapman,  
Admin / Bookkeeper  
Patty McCullough /  
Administrative Assistant  
Phone: 337-463-4491  
Email:  
[Office@fumcderidder.org](mailto:Office@fumcderidder.org)

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

## Pastor's Ponderings!



Seven and a half years ago I was deeply blessed to have been adopted by two half-lab mix puppies. They have filled my life with tons of laughter with their twins' antics, their adventuresome spirit, and their unconditional love. Autumn and Sage love their giant backyard, the squirrels to chase, keeping our house safe, and the people who come to visit. Most of all they love their "mom." They love it when I am home, and we spend time playing fetch, chase, and when I cook special treats for them. They love to snuggle and to occasionally get to sit in my lap. They are ecstatic and overjoyed when I come home - even if I am only gone for ten minutes. They love to travel in the car, go camping and to watch over me when I sit outside. The main thing is they want to be with and close to their "parent." We bring each other a lot of joy. They trust I will feed them, give them water, exercise,

and take care of their medical needs. If they get hurt playing, they literally come and show me what hurts. They alert me if one of them is hurt and needs help. We are very loyal to each other and wouldn't want it any other way.

As great as all that is, God's love for us is even greater! God loves us and always wants the best for us. He loves us unconditionally. God wants time with us in prayer, sharing with Him our day, joys and concerns. God wants to love on us through signs and wonders and others sharing with us. God longs to be our comforter and is with us wherever we go, whereas my dogs can only go where I take them, or they are allowed. God loves it when we play and enjoy this world He gifted us. God is our parent who is always ready to love, guide, teach, feed, comfort, forgive and redeem. Just as God has fulfilled all of his covenants through Noah, Abraham, David, and Jeremiah, God has fulfilled his greatest covenant and love through Jesus. We have just celebrated Easter, the greatest gift of all celebrating Jesus' sacrificial love and the gift of God's redeeming grace giving us eternal life with Him! God's infinite generosity is always before us providing for our needs.

How might you, during this Easter season and beyond, reciprocate that love back to God and Jesus? How might we learn how to acknowledge God's love and presence in our lives each and every day? How might we show our gratitude for his incredible sacrificial and covenant love toward us?

As much as I know my puppies give me unconditional love, and God uses them to teach me a lot about love, God's love is still far greater and provides for all of my needs. I am eternally grateful that God has blessed me with Autumn and Sage, and for gifting me with being in ministry with you! May we love as God loves and forgive as God forgives and serve as God serves! Thanks be to God our Savior through Jesus the Son!

See you Sunday if not before! Laraine

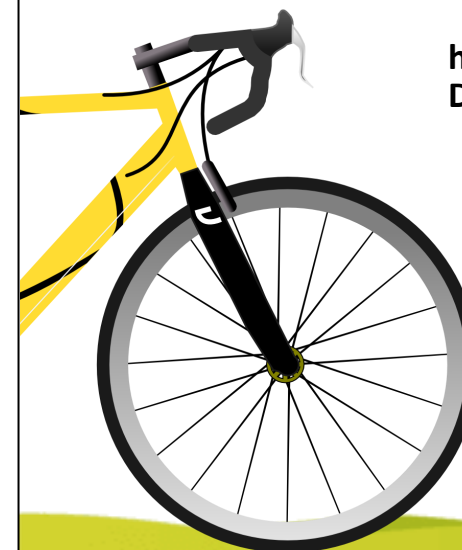


## CIRCLES ON A MISSION BICYCLE RIDE

**May 18, 2024**

Registration is Open!

<https://www.bikesignup.com/Race/LA/DeRidder/CirclesonaMissionBicycleRide>



All funds benefit Methodist  
Children's Home of  
Southwest Louisiana  
in Sulphur, LA.  
For more information  
visit [www.lumcfs.org](http://www.lumcfs.org)



# CHILD, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES



VBS Cannot happen without YOU!

Vacation Bible School 2024  
Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 8:30am – 12:00pm  
Wesley Education Center



This year's Mega Sports Camp, Vacation Bible School needs volunteers. If you are interested in any of the following positions, please reach out to me (Cathy Scott) immediately. Lead Soccer Coach, Lead Basketball Coach, Lead Volleyball Coach, Lead Cheerleading Coach, 2-3 Huddle Coaches for each sport, Nurse/Safety Coach, Registration Coach, Refreshment Coach, Rally Coach, Media/Music Coach (Technical Assistant), Clean-up Crew. All these positions must be filled by an adult. **All adults must attend Safe Sanctuary Training.**

Youth Positions (6<sup>th</sup> grade and up) are still available, including Soccer Assistant, Cheerleading Assistant, Volleyball Assistant, Refreshment Assistant, Rally Assistant, and MEGA Fan. All youth will be considered a part of the Clean-up Crew.

The target age group for participation is Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Multiple groups will be considered for each sport depending on the number of volunteers we have. Please consider giving your time to this adventure! The average number of children for each Lead Sports Coach is Soccer 24, Cheerleading 18, Volleyball 12, and Basketball 16. **To volunteer, please reach out to Cathy at (337) 396-9610.**



## Yard Sale Fundraiser

The Children and Youth Ministries will be hosting a Yard Sale on Saturday, May 4th from 7:30am-11:00am. Items will be set up in the FUMC large parking lot near the Bus Barn. In the event of inclement weather, we will move under the Bus Barn Canopy. If you have items that you would like to donate, they can be dropped off during regular business hours by getting a key to the bus barn from the church office, or you can call me, and I can meet you after hours. We are requesting that all items be dropped off prior to May 1st to allow for time to be prepared for the sale. All monies raised at this event will be used to further the mission of our children and youth programs.

We are expanding our yard sale and will be offering our church members, friends, and small businesses the opportunity to sell personal business products or crafts items at this event for a small donation to the children's programs. All items sold must be aligned with the values of the FUMC DeRidder. If you are interested in having a table, please call or text me at (337) 396-9610.

## Sunday Nursery and Preschool Services

Nursery and Preschool care is available on Sunday mornings during Early Church and Worship in the Methodist Childrens Learning Center (MCLC) Building. Children from 6 months to 2-years will enjoy social interaction and children 3-years to Kindergarten age will be taken to a separate classroom to enjoy a Bible story and lessons with Ms. Darla. Please remember that all children attending Children's Church must be attending Kindergarten through 5th.

Children can be dropped off as early as 8:30 for Early Church and 9:30 for Worship. However, they can also be brought over anytime during the worship service if the need presents itself. Please spread the word. If you have any questions, please contact me at 337-396-9610 or email [cathy@fumcderidder.org](mailto:cathy@fumcderidder.org).

## WESLEY EDUCATION CENTER

The American Red Cross paid a visit to Wesley Campus' After School program earlier this spring to educate the children on fire safety and other protocols. The kids participated in crafts, including designing pillowcases. Spots are available to all youth aged K - 5th Grade. Call 337-221-1343 and leave a message.



# Methodist Children's Learning Center



Spring is here! Our children have been excited for the months of March and April! Our days are busy learning and playing with our friends. We had our Easter Celebration on March 28th at the center, and Pre-K graduation will be on May 21st. Teachers are also excited about spring and have been decorating their doors to reflect as we celebrate our Lord and Savior.

Liz Maricle, MCLC Director



## 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. No practice during Spring Break.

Come join us!!

## Music Ministry Notes

### "When We All Get to Heaven" in C minor

We as a music ministry hope and pray that our efforts have blessed you richly during the Lenten/Easter season. One of the hymns you heard on Maundy Thursday was an arrangement I wrote of "When We All Get to Heaven." I was inspired one day in early March by the hymn and how hauntingly beautiful it would be to set it in a minor key and slow it down, giving it a Lenten twist. I began tinkering with it, composing it with mixed success on a break between classes at Pine Wood Elementary. Unable to focus (elementary school is a noisy place with lots of distractions), I abandoned the task and tried to let it simmer in my brain a bit longer before attempting it again on Tuesday, the 12th. That evening at home the music poured out of me, and three hours later the song was finished. Wednesday, I made copies for our choir, and we rehearsed it for the first time. It went well, but today (the 14th), I made a few minor changes to the music right before writing this article for the newsletter. I'll have to make new copies for the choir. I'm sure they'll love that. Hopefully through reading this little story, you'll get an idea of the process any artist goes through to create something worthwhile, whether it be a painting, a novel, or turning unfinished wood into a beautiful piece of furniture.

John Schwarze, Director of Music Ministries

**THANK YOU!**  
We received so many candy and other donations for Easter; THANK YOU for investing in our children's ministries, including Wesley and MCLC!

*Women's Prayer Breakfast*  
Thursday, April 4th at 8:30 AM  
in the Conference Room



## Memorials & Honorariums

**In Memory of Margie Labby**  
Dianne Penney

**In Memory of Huey Bailey, Sr.**  
Gayle & Kenneth Bailey

**In Memory of Charlotte Butler**  
Brenda Bishop  
Susan Johnson  
Grant & Catherine Beal  
Catalyst Sunday School Class

## Pew Bibles

Contact the Church Office at 337-463-4491 for more information on dedicating a pew Bible.

## To The Ends of the Earth

In remote jungles and dense urban centers around the world are vast communities of people who have never heard the name of Jesus, including millions of children. Through simple gift-filled shoeboxes and The Greatest Journey curriculum, we are blessed with tremendous opportunities to introduce these children to Jesus Christ. In 2022, teams took the Gospel to **99 "Ends of the Earth" communities across 38 countries in places where there are few, if any, Christian believers or churches.** They desperately need the Gospel. **Thousands of these children** enrolled in The Greatest Journey and embarked on the exciting expedition of learning to follow Jesus Christ in their daily lives. Samaritan's Purse and the Operation Christmas Child project continues to proclaim the Gospel to children wherever they are, to the Ends of the Earth!



## April Worship Assistants

### Sunday, April 7th

Greeters - Frances & Raymond Cole  
Readers - John Marcello & Cameron Craig  
1st Sunday Communion Servers (During Service) -  
Grant & Catherine Beal, Jo Blankenship

### Sunday, April 14th

Greeters - Jimmy Hicks & Susan Hill  
Readers - Van Allen & Hunter Oldaker  
After-Service Communion Server -  
Tim Kindler

### Sunday, April 21st

Greeters - Miranda & Hayden Chapman  
Readers - Gayle Bailey & Kelley Allen  
After-Service Communion Server -  
Mary Alice Wisdom

### Sunday, April 28th

Greeters - Betty & Scotty Nease  
Readers - Ted Hammerschmidt & Betty Nease  
After-Service Communion Server -  
David Hardesty



## From Southwest Louisiana Veterans' Home

On behalf of the Veterans at Southwest Louisiana Veterans' Home, please accept our sincere thank you for your kind donation of toiletries, snacks, clothes, and blankets for our veterans. Your donation is very much appreciated, and was most kind of you to remember these very special people.

For your information, the Home now has 136 Veterans that consider the 156 bed, long-term facility "Home", and we have the very best employees, and support staff to care for their medical, physical, and spiritual needs.

Our Reflections Unit (Alzheimer) is home to 16 Veterans. We have qualified staff on board to assist these Veterans. They are able to be involved in activity programs designed for their unit as well as participate in larger group activities organized by the Recreations Department.

We would like to thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,  
Darla Price, Administrator

*This article has been shared before, but the message is just as powerful as ever! Thank you, Mary, for always blessing us with insightful thoughts and heartfelt messages.*

## From the Heart by Mary Allen

What kind of marriage would I have had if Ted and I only talked to each other on Sundays and Wednesdays? Un-thinkable!! 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 MD Anderson 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



*"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

# April 2024



## Birthdays

- 2 Monica Bailey
- 3 Lennie Hanchey
- 5 LeAnn Carlson
- 7 Paul Maddox
- 7 Sarah Reviel
- 8 Bambi Hardesty
- 11 Carolyn Jones
- 12 Frances Cole
- 13 Donna Marcello
- 20 Trey Elliott
- 21 Bryan Redler
- 21 Geoffrey Kay
- 24 Hunter Allen
- 25 Serena Prather
- 25 Eric Redler
- 26 David Hardesty
- Keagan LeBlanc
- 27 Amanda Godair
- 28 Matthew Bennett
- 29 Carolyn Woodard

## Anniversaries

- 15 Carl & Susan Slover
- 17 Paul & Melissa Maddox
- 28 Reggie & Susan Reed
- Erin & TJ Tepley

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
<div>Easter Sunday</div> <div><div>6:45 AM Easter Sunrise Service with Communion at Wesley</div><div>9:00 AM Sunday School</div><div>10:00 AM Easter Worship in Sanctuary with Communion</div><div>2:30 PM Bicycle Riders at Bus Barn</div><div>4:00 PM Handbell Practice in the Sanctuary</div></div>	<div>Beauregard Parish School Spring Break</div> <div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div><div>11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym</div><div>5:30 PM Zumba Class at the Wesley Campus</div></div>	<div><div>8:00 AM Yoga Class – Gym</div><div>9:45 AM Chapel – MCLC</div><div>11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym</div><div>3:00 PM K-2nd Grade Activity Time at Wesley</div><div>5:30 PM Girl Scouts in LLL &amp; Children's Classroom</div><div>5:30 PM Zumba Class – Wesley Campus</div></div>	<div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div><div>8:00 AM Morning devotional</div><div>10:00 AM MCLC Story Time in Fellowship Hall</div><div>11:30 AM Prayer Shawl – LLL Room</div><div>11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym</div><div>6:00 PM Praise &amp; Chancel Choir in Sanctuary</div></div>	<div><div>8:00 AM Yoga Class – Gym</div><div>8:00 AM Women's Prayer Breakfast in the Conference Room</div><div>9:00 AM Homeschool Fellowship Group</div><div>11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym</div><div>3:00 PM 3rd–5th Grade Activity Time at Wesley</div><div>5:30 PM Zumba Class – Wesley Campus</div></div>	<div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div><div>9:15 AM MCLC Activity Time with Cathy in Children's Classroom</div><div>11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym</div><div>5:45 PM Erika's Zumba at Wesley</div></div>	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<div>9:00 AM Sunday School</div> <div>10:00 AM Communion Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary and Online</div> <div>11:15 AM Circles on a Mission Mtg in Choir Room</div> <div>2:30 PM Bicycle Riders at Bus Barn</div> <div>4:00 PM Handbell Practice in the Sanctuary</div>	<div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div><div>11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym</div><div>5:30 PM Zumba Class at the Wesley Campus</div></div>	<div><div>8:00 AM Yoga Class – Gym</div><div>9:45 AM Chapel – MCLC</div><div>10:00 AM Mary Martha Circle at Pat Limmer's House</div><div>11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym</div><div>3:00 PM K-2nd Grade Activity Time at Wesley</div><div>5:30 PM Zumba Class – Wesley Campus</div><div>5:30 PM Girl Scouts in LLL &amp; Children's Classroom</div></div>	<div><div>8:00 AM Morning devotional</div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div><div>10:00 AM MCLC Story Time in Fellowship Hall</div><div>10:30 AM Prayer Shawl – LLL Room</div><div>11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym</div><div>4:45 PM Children's Choir – Choir Room</div><div>5:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper in Fellowship Hall</div><div>5:15 PM Children &amp; Youth – Conf. Room &amp; Gym</div><div>5:15 PM Confirmation Class in Conference Room</div><div>6:00 PM Praise &amp; Chancel Choir in</div></div>	<div>Timesheets Duel</div> <div><div>8:00 AM Yoga Class – Gym</div><div>10:00 AM Beauregard Retired Teachers Spring Luncheon in Fellowship Hall</div><div>11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym</div><div>3:00 PM 3rd–5th Grade Activity Time at Wesley</div><div>5:30 PM Zumba Class – Wesley Campus</div></div>	<div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div><div>9:15 AM MCLC Activity Time with Cathy in Children's Classroom</div><div>11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym</div><div>5:45 PM Erika's Zumba at Wesley</div></div>	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<div>Volunteer Appreciation Sunday</div> <div><div>9:00 AM Sunday School</div><div>10:00 AM Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary &amp; Online</div><div>11:15 AM Staff Meeting in Choir Room</div><div>2:30 PM Bicycle Riders at Bus Barn</div><div>4:00 PM Handbell Practice in the Sanctuary</div></div>	<div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div><div>11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym</div><div>5:30 PM Zumba Class at the Wesley Campus</div><div>5:45 PM Trustees Meeting in the Choir Room</div></div>	<div><div>8:00 AM Yoga Class – Gym</div><div>9:45 AM Chapel – MCLC</div><div>11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym</div><div>3:00 PM K-2nd Grade Activity Time at Wesley</div><div>5:30 PM Zumba Class – Wesley Campus</div><div>5:30 PM Girl Scouts in LLL &amp; Children's Classroom</div></div>	<div><div>8:00 AM Morning devotional</div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div><div>10:00 AM Rosemary Cady Circle in the Conference Room</div><div>10:00 AM MCLC Story Time in Fellowship Hall</div><div>10:30 AM Prayer Shawl – LLL Room</div><div>11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym</div><div>4:45 PM Children's Choir – Choir Room</div><div>5:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper in Fellowship Hall</div><div>5:15 PM Children &amp; Youth – Conf. Room</div><div>5:15 PM Confirmation Class in Conference Room</div><div>6:00 PM Praise &amp; Chancel Choir in</div></div>	<div>Newsletter Deadline</div> <div><div>8:00 AM Yoga Class – Gym</div><div>10:00 AM Homeschool Group</div><div>11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym</div><div>3:00 PM 3rd–5th Grade Activity Time at Wesley</div><div>5:30 PM Zumba Class – Wesley Campus</div><div>6:30 PM Scout Meeting – Conference Room</div></div>	<div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div><div>9:15 AM MCLC Activity Time with Cathy in Children's Classroom</div><div>11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym</div><div>5:45 PM Erika's Zumba at Wesley</div></div>	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<div>9:00 AM Sunday School</div> <div>10:00 AM Sunday Worship with Noisy Offering in Sanctuary &amp; Online</div> <div>2:30 PM Bicycle Riders at Bus Barn</div> <div>4:00 PM Handbell Practice in the Sanctuary</div>	<div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div><div>11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym</div><div>5:30 PM Zumba Class at the Wesley Campus</div></div>	<div><div>8:00 AM Yoga Class – Gym</div><div>9:45 AM Chapel – MCLC</div><div>11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym</div><div>3:00 PM K-2nd Grade Activity Time at Wesley</div><div>5:30 PM Zumba Class – Wesley Campus</div><div>5:30 PM Girl Scouts in LLL &amp; Children's Classroom</div></div>	<div><div>8:00 AM Morning devotional</div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div><div>9:00 AM Merry Mailers in the Choir Room</div><div>10:00 AM MCLC Story Time in Fellowship Hall</div><div>10:30 AM Prayer Shawl – LLL Room</div><div>11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym</div><div>4:45 PM Children's Choir – Choir Room</div><div>5:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper in Fellowship Hall</div><div>5:15 PM Children &amp; Youth – Conf. Room</div><div>5:15 PM Confirmation Class in Conference Room</div><div>6:00 PM Praise &amp; Chancel Choir in</div></div>	<div><div>8:00 AM Yoga Class – Gym</div><div>11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym</div><div>3:00 PM 3rd–5th Grade Activity Time at Wesley</div><div>5:30 PM Zumba Class – Wesley Campus</div></div>	<div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div><div>9:15 AM MCLC Activity Time with Cathy in Children's Classroom</div><div>11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym</div><div>5:45 PM Erika's Zumba at Wesley</div></div>	
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
<div>9:00 AM Sunday School</div> <div>10:00 AM Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary &amp; Online</div> <div>2:30 PM Bicycle Riders at Bus Barn</div> <div>4:00 PM Handbell Practice in the Sanctuary</div>	<div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div><div>11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym</div><div>5:30 PM Zumba Class at the Wesley Campus</div><div>5:45 PM Guidance Team in Conference Room</div></div>	<div><div>8:00 AM Yoga Class – Gym</div><div>9:45 AM Chapel – MCLC</div><div>11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym</div><div>3:00 PM K-2nd Grade Activity Time at Wesley</div><div>5:30 PM Zumba Class – Wesley Campus</div><div>5:30 PM Girl Scouts in LLL &amp; Children's Classroom</div></div>	<div><div>8:00 AM Morning devotional</div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div><div>10:00 AM MCLC Story Time in Fellowship Hall</div><div>10:30 AM Prayer Shawl – LLL Room</div><div>11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym</div><div>4:45 PM Children's Choir – Choir Room</div><div>5:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper in Fellowship Hall</div><div>5:15 PM Children &amp; Youth – Conf. Room &amp; Gym</div><div>5:15 PM Confirmation Class in Conference Room</div><div>6:00 PM Praise &amp; Chancel Choir in</div></div>	<div><div>8:00 AM Yoga Class – Gym</div><div>8:30 AM Women's Prayer Breakfast in the Conference Room</div><div>9:00 AM Homeschool Fellowship Group</div><div>11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym</div><div>3:00 PM 3rd–5th Grade Activity Time at Wesley</div><div>5:30 PM Zumba Class – Wesley Campus</div></div>	<div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class – Gym</div><div>9:15 AM MCLC Activity Time with Cathy in Children's Classroom</div><div>11:30 AM Walking Group– Gym</div><div>5:45 PM Erika's Zumba at Wesley</div></div>	