



First Church of Lucedale

A Global Methodist Congregation



5101 Main Street ♦ P.O. Box 845 ♦ Lucedale, MS 39452
(601) 947-8132 ♦ Email: secretary@firstchurchoflucedale.com
Website: www.firstchurchoflucedale.com

Notes From the Pastor's Desk . . . September, 2024

Service

1 Samuel records the beautiful story of a woman named Hannah who poured her heart and soul out to God. She prayed so fervently at the Temple that the priest Eli thought she might be drunk. Hannah bore the pain of being unable to conceive a child in a culture where one's worth as a woman was measured by her fertility. She promised the Lord to dedicate her child, if so blessed, to the Lord. This child would be set aside for service to God. Samuel would go on to be a great man of God, replacing the corrupt sons of the priest, Eli.

We each made promises when we gave our lives to Jesus. As members of the church, we affirmed a commitment to be faithful with our tithes, gifts, offerings, prayers, and service.

Why would we ever go back on a promise made to the One who kept His Word in sending His only begotten Son to live and die for our salvation? Are we disappointed in God? Has God let us down? Have we fallen out of love with our Creator? Is He not enough?

Ask the Lord to look deeply within you. Are you keeping the commitments made to Him or has the first love grown cold? Take heart, Scripture is full of those who have fallen out of love with the Lord. King David was a man after God's own heart, yet he betrayed the trust God placed in him as a king over the Chosen People. The disciples were infamous for being fickle in their affections. One of the best known parables of Jesus tells of a "Prodigal Son" who had once known the best his father could offer. The son "came to his senses" and returned home to a joyful welcome.

When some of us strayed and returned, there was rejoicing in Heaven. Don't stray; if we have returned to our first love or fall in love with the Lover of our souls for the first time. Stay in love. Nurture the faith of Christ planted in our soul.

Your brother in Christ,
Brother David

Cell: (228) 216-6567 Email: pastor@firstchurchoflucedale.com

Giving of your tithes and offerings has never been easier! Checks payable to First Church of Lucedale and/or cash can be placed in the offering plates passed around during the Worship Service. Checks can be mailed or dropped off at the church office. If you are homebound, just call the church office, 601-947-8132, and a pickup can be arranged. Tithes and offerings can also be remitted using the church website. Just click on the donate tab and then click on donate. You can use a credit/debit card or PayPal account to donate. God loves a cheerful giver!

(2 Corinthians 9:7) *Marilyn Bounds, Treasurer*

Walt Stubblefield, Lay Leader ♦ 251-648-0973 ♦ walt4856@gmail.com

Children and Youth Ministries . . .

Chrissy Jordan, Children's Pastor - 251-377-5838
chrissyjordanlovesjesus@yahoo.com



What makes you get up in the morning? The smell of coffee in the air? The joy of seeing your kids smile? The anticipation of another day? The knowing that someone depends on you? The fact that you are the bread winner in the family?

The desire to see another day unfold? Or do you just dread hearing that alarm clock go off? Hate the sound of another day waiting for you to enter it? Perhaps you dread the sun coming up in your eyes and blinding you? Whatever makes you get up in the morning is still not your purpose.

Every morning, Peter, James, John, and Andrew got up. They donned their clothes. They prepared their nets. They readied their boats for the haul. The haul of smelly, scaly, jumpy little fish. They worked all day cleaning, throwing, hauling, swimming, and jostling to get every little fish they could into that boat. How ever many fish they got...that is how many more coins would be in their pocket, how many more spoonful's of goodness would be placed on their tables...how many more bills they could pay. Fish were their good mornings and their good nights. They ate fish, smelled like fish, cleaned fish, baited fish, bartered fish and lived for fish. Their nets had to be sturdy, there couldn't be one hole in their nets, they had to know the sea. They had to ignore every ache and pain. They had to fish. Just fish.

Then one day when they least expected it, this long haired, gentle, kind-spoken man with this different Spirit asked them to leave it all and follow Him. WHAT...leave these fish? Leave all I have ever known to follow YOU? To fish for MEN? Jesus, are you kidding? Give up all I know? Lay down my nets? Jesus, is this for real? Jesus, you asked me to do what? YES...immediately, no question, I will follow you! And just like that, with total abandonment. They walked away from the boat, the nets, the fish, their livelihood to follow Him.

They didn't know what that truly meant. Following Him? No place to lay their head, hungry bellies, tired feet, unsaved people, uncharted roads and too frequent reviling's, but the face, the eyes, the love in Jesus' heart was their wake-up call. He became their purpose. How could they not follow Him? He had more love in His eyes than they had ever seen. He had more compassion than any person they had ever known.... He was the reason to wake up in the morning. He was the reason to live. He became their purpose. He was life. So, they dropped everything they knew to find everything they had ever wanted, and they got everything they could possibly desire.

It wasn't gold or silver. It wasn't accolades or applause ...it was Jesus! That intimate, close friendship, that love that makes life worth living, that passion that makes you fish for men. That hunger that can only be quenched by Him. Even though life wasn't the easiest it became the best because they found their purpose. They met Jesus. It was life-changing and out of that answer to the call, they turned the world upside down.

So, will you GO AFTER JESUS and be a fisher of men? It might just give you a reason to get up in the morning. And IT might just change your life. It might just change the world. YOUR WORLD.

Wednesday Nights: September 4th: Elementary Kids Visitation Night
September 11th: Fun night
September 18th: Shoebox Stuffing and Christmas Night
September 25th: Kids Scavenger Hunt (outside)
September 29th: Fifth Sunday Kids sing and stay in Church Service

Annie Hillman, Youth Leader
601-508-9988
youth@firstchurchoflucedale.com

Greetings,

The month of August was so much fun and the youth had a great time at a pool party on the 18th after church. I want to say a great thank you to everyone who made the pool party a success, especially to the Ardoin Family, who hosted the youth. The youth seemed to enjoy themselves immensely!

The youth program has been growing a lot lately and I hope to continue to see it grow.

The coming month the youth will be going to Top Golf for some golfing fun. If anyone would like to help or have some fun ideas for the youth, just let me know.

-Annie Hillman

September Kids/Youth
Wednesday Snack Supper:

7: Steve and Kelly Tipton
11: Kayla Broome
18: Ronnie & Janice Miller
25: Patrick & Melissa Sumrall
Thank you for serving!!!

Music, Missions . . .

Donna Bragg, Music Leader
601-770-0616

music@firstchurchoflucedale.com

**Choir will resume weekly rehearsals
Sunday, September 8, at 5:00 PM**



MISSIONS
across the street & around the world



OCC WORKSHOP
9 AM - 12 Noon
CLC
Sat. - Sept. 7

**Singing River
HOSPICE of
LIGHT**
*HospiceOf-
Light.com*

*Individuals dealing
with loss of a loved
one have the opportunity
to share with
others who are living
the same experience.*

**LUCEDALE
MEETINGS
10 AM - 11 AM
Lucedale Senior
Center**

7103 Hwy. 198 E.
All groups are open
to the public, participants
may join at
any point in the
series.

To register, call **228-
818-2160**. There is no
cost to attend this
Group.

Food Pantry Ministry-Prayer Warriors Needed!!!

What an amazing opportunity it is to be a part of this Ministry. With the rising cost of living, people throughout the community come to our Food Pantry to get help to make ends meet. Our numbers are growing every month.

There are so many different situations: Grandparents raising grandchildren, becoming disabled early in life, elderly that have many doctor appointments throughout the month making gas a priority to get there, unforeseen job loss, single mothers, and the list goes on. With so many coming for food, it gives us an opportunity to share God's love with our clients and pray with each one. What a blessing it is many times to hear them say, "That's the main thing I come for". If you would like to be a part of the Prayer Ministry, come join us. We are in need of some more prayer warriors. Even if you can only give 30 minutes each week or just come when you can. The time most needed is at 8:30 AM each Tuesday. If you are interested in sharing God's love with our clients, please let us know.

--Food Pantry Team

You are invited . . .
Sunday, September 1st
3:00 - 4:30 PM

IGO
Brian & Charity Scott
8201 Wards Lane

Join us as we celebrate the
goodness of our God!
Adoption is complete!

Please RSVP
251-709-9838

and . . .

IGO
Harvest Barn Ministry
(All men and their sons
are invited)

Tuesday, September 3rd
6 PM

Watson Farms
11535 Weaver Road
Wilmer, AL

FREE STEAK

*Matt. 9:37-38 He said
to His disciples, "The
harvest is great, but the
workers are few. So
pray to the Lord who is
in charge of the har-
vest; ask Him to send
more workers into His
fields."*



Thank You
FOR
GIVING
GENEROUSLY

Memorials, Thank You!, Announcements . . .

In Loving Memory, gifts have been given...

In Memory of Inez Coaker Elmore, Erik Ward
gifts have been given to First Church of Lucedale by Eugene Elmore

In Memory of Syble McBay Bryan
a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale by Carole Bryan

In Memory of Mitchel Dixon
gifts have been given to First Church of Lucedale by
Jean Brantley, Roland Cochran, Doris Johnson Cook, Mavis Dungan,
Lee and Tonya Harbison, Jeff and Melinda Howell, Marla Howell,
Walt and Sarah Stubblefield, Jessie and Brenda Underwood

In Memory of Mitchel Dixon, James Black
a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale by Sheila Sellers

Our Christian Sympathies are extended to the following families of:

Mitchel Dixon whose Funeral Service was Wednesday, August 7, here at First Church of Lucedale. Please keep Margaret and her family in your prayers.

Ronald Cochran (Roland Cochran's dad) whose Funeral Service was Thursday, August 15 at Moments Funeral Home. Please keep Roland, Carmon and the rest of the family in your prayers.

On behalf of my family, thank you to our Church Family for all the prayers, thoughts and cards in the passing of my dad, Ronald Cochran. God bless each of you.

--Roland Cochran

Welcome

Lauren and Gus Maples welcomed the arrival of Windsor Freeland Maples

August 23, 2024

Welcomed also by big brother, Atticus.

Proud Grandparents: Nancy Jo and Mark Maples



We welcome the newest member, Wanda Golden, into our Congregation!!!

TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN HONOR OF

Dr. Karl Smith

a gift has been presented to First Church of Lucedale for the Shoebox Fund by Jessie and Brenda Underwood.

Thank you for serving in September:

Communion Servers:

Lee and Lisa Hedegaard, Eileen Ward

Scripture Readers:

1: Kelly Massey **8:** Karen Scott
15: Jenna Mathis **22:** Tanya Beech
29: Bennett Woodruff

Ushers: Jeffrey Tolbert, Karson Tolbert, Jeff Mathis, Jase Mathis

Money Counters:

Richmond McKay, Ronnie Miller

Doorstep Ministry:

Lee and Lisa Hedegaard

8:30 AM Chapel Fellowship:

1: Andy Brantley: Contemporary
8: Mitchel Dixon: Discovery I
15: Marilyn Bounds: Fellowship
22: Jeff Howell: Adult Class
29: Annie Hillman: Youth

Kids/Youth Wednesday Snack Supper:

4: Steve and Kelly Tipton
11: Kayla Broome
18: Ronnie & Janice Miller
25: Patrick & Melissa Sumrall

To all of our dear friends at First Church, Scott and I are both so grateful to you all for your kind words, thoughts and prayers as we go through a very difficult season of life. God is faithful and will see us through yet this valley as well. We are thankful to have you all as friends and we look forward to the day that we can testify of His healing power.

Together with you for His Kingdom,

Shannon Rogers

Welcome

Caroline Neill Howell

August 12, 2024

4 pounds, 15 ounces

Congratulations!

Parents: Jeffry & Caitlin Howell

Grandparents: Jeff & Melinda Howell

Great Grandparent: Faye McNeill

Highlighting Our Families . . .



Fen and Dan Lin: Chef and Owners of Best Wok in Lucedale
Children: Allan - 6 years old and Ariel - 1 year old
Interests/Hobbies: Chess



Scott and Dixie Stradtner:
Scott: Director of Sales for Highside Chem and Owner of Y'all Come Back RV Park
Interests/Hobbies: Umpire/Referee, Songwriter
Dixie: Songwriter, Painting, Crafts

Instead of a Pictorial Directory we are including family pictures in our Newsletter each month. Please respond so we can include as many as possible.



Marilyn Bounds: Retired Bank Officer
Interests/Hobbies: Quilting and Gardening
Serving First Church: Church Treasurer and Fellowship Sunday School Class Teacher

Missions . . .



FIRST CHURCH OF LUCEDALE 2024 MISSIONS FAIR



TRASH

To
Treasures

SALE



Come shop with us!

Friday, October 4
8 AM - 12 Noon

&

Saturday, October 5
8 AM - 12 Noon

**ALL PROCEEDS
GO TO
MISSIONS!!!**

**Household Items,
Jewelry, Purses,
Puzzles, Holiday
Items & MORE!**

Keep saving your garage sale items for Missions! **No CLOTHES, PLEASE!** You can start bringing your items the week of the Fair.
Please call Kelly Tipton at 601-770-0027 if you have ???'s.



First Church of Lucedale *Seek ✧ Disciple ✧ Serve*



2024

Schedule: (Nursery provided) . . .

8:30 AM Chapel Fellowship 10:00 AM Children's Church
9:00 AM Sunday School 5:00 PM Adult Choir Practice
10:00 AM Worship Service

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>Join us! 5 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>2</p> <p>HAPPY LABOR DAY Church Office Closed</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry</p> <p>5:30 - 6:30 PM Scouts, Upstairs 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:30 Kids /Youth Snack Supper, CLC Elementary Kids Visitation Night 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages</p>	<p>5 6:30 AM Praise & Prayer, Chapel</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9 AM - 12 Noon OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD Workshop in CLC</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Join us! 5 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>9</p> <p>12 Noon WSCS Luncheon/Meeting, Chapel 5 PM Weight Watchers Meeting, Chapel 6 PM Scouts, BSA, CLC 6:30 - 8 PM Gideon's Meeting /Stinson House</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry</p> <p>12 Noon Hospital Auxiliary Meeting, Chapel 5:30 - 6:30 PM Scouts, Upstairs 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel</p>	<p>11</p> <p>1:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 Kids /Youth Snack Supper, CLC Kids Fun Night 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages</p>	<p>12 6:30 AM Praise & Prayer, Chapel</p> <p>6:30 PM Ultreya Meeting, Chapel</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>GOLF Youth Top Golf Outing</p> <p>Join us! 5 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5 PM Weight Watchers Meeting, Chapel 6 PM Nomination Committee Meeting, Room 123</p>	<p>17- 20th New Room Conference, Woodlands, TX</p> <p>9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry</p> <p>5:30 - 6:30 PM Scouts, Upstairs 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:30 Kids /Youth Snack Supper, CLC Kids Shoebox Stuffing/Christmas Night 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages</p>	<p>19 6:30 AM Praise & Prayer, Chapel</p>	<p>20th - 26th Global Methodist General Conference</p>	<p>21</p> <p>2-4 PM CLC Carrie & Co</p>
<p>22 Flowers: Carolyn Cochran</p> <p>Join us! 5 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5 PM Weight Watchers Meeting, Chapel</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry</p> <p>★ 9:30 AM Esther Kirkwood Circle, Room 123</p> <p>5:30 - 6:30 PM Scouts, Upstairs 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5:30 Kids /Youth Snack Supper, CLC Kids Outside Scavenger Hunt 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages</p>	<p>26 6:30 AM Praise & Prayer, Chapel</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 No Children's Church Kids sing in Morning Worship Service 11:15 AM Church Council Planning Meeting</p> <p>Join us! 5 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5 PM Weight Watchers Meeting, Chapel</p>			<p>★ All Ladies are invited to join the Esther Kirkwood Circle on Tuesday, September 24, at 9:30 AM in Room 103 as we begin a study from the book <u>The Great Disappearance</u> written by Dr. David Jeremiah.</p>		