



First Church of Lucedale

A Global Methodist Congregation

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Notes From the Pastor's Desk . . . *October, 2023*

A church in Boston cancelled worship services this month and posted the sign "Due to the Global Warming crisis, worship in Sanctuary 9-17-23 Cancelled" (NY Post 09-25-2023). Hurricane Lee had been predicted to hit Boston by some, but not most models. Thankfully, the storm veered out to sea.

We live in an age of manufactured crisis and the North American church has been complicit in supporting instead of contending for the truth. The culture in which we live has defined the Gospel as ignorant, arrogant, bigoted, and naive. We have largely been intimidated into silence.

Could it be that we are being used? Oliver Anthony's ballad "Rich Men North of Richmond" has struck a chord in our Country. I remember listening to it before it made headlines at the recommendation of a post on X (formerly Twitter). Despite the bad language, the song made sense much like "Try that in a Small Town." It has been misinterpreted by liberals and conservatives alike. He describes how powerful forces in the power brokers centered around Washington, D.C. do not have the best interests of our Nation in mind.

While elections matter, the forces working against God-ordained freedom are so entrenched as to render them less effective than they should be. Vote, but do not expect the election to change everything.

God has an answer to a culture embracing falsehood, promoting racial and gender conflict, allowing children to determine their gender during formative years, sexual exploitation, attacking the sanctity of marriage, promoting ending life before birth, conspicuous consumption, decadent hedonism and much, much more. Truth!

The morning devotion "Wake-Up Call" is free via email (to subscribe visit <https://seedbed.com/wakeupcall/>). Seedbed publishing produces the devotion. They hosted the New Room Conference that I and two others from our congregation attended late September. Their mission statement and morning devotional advocate praying for a Great Awakening. Praying is where we begin. We do not stop with prayers, but neither do they cease.

Prayer continues to permeate our work as believers. Last month, many visited homes and invited people to Christ. I was struck by how few have a connection to a local congregation. We have much work to do! What a way to spend the rest of our lives together! We pray for this Great Awakening and invite as many as God allows us to reach into the Kingdom!

The Truth will set us free! The Truth is a voice of reason in a culture that has lost its mind. The Truth is God's Righteousness, love, mercy, and judgement upon all that hates its Creator. **Praying for a Great Awakening to sow!**

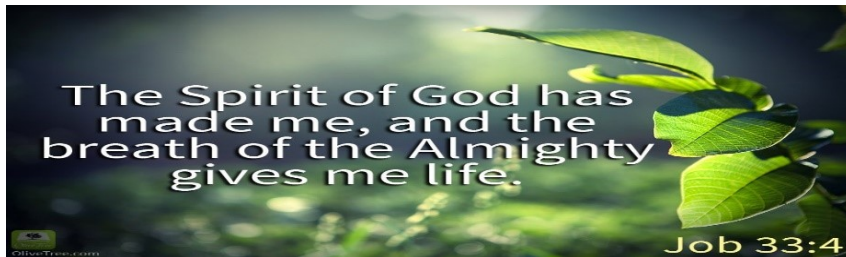
Your fellow servant in Christ Jesus,

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

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Children Ministry, Youth Ministry . . .

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Did you know that breath is mentioned 42 times and talked about in 13 books of the Bible? Breath in the Bible is not only talking about the physical taking in of air and letting go of air. Breath is the Greek's New Testament and the Hebrew's Old Testament word for God's Spirit. So literally, breath is God's Spirit. It is amazing how when God chose to form man, He literally picked up dirt, formed it and then BREATHED into that form. Then man became man, not because of the dirt, the form, the placement or even the atmosphere but because of the breath God breathed into Him. God's breath gave Adam life. Adam was once a lump of dirt and the next, a child of the King. God created Adam to know Him, to walk with Him in the cool of the day, to fellowship with Him. Without that breath, there would be no Adam.

Then generations later, a man called Job, filled his life with the intimacy of knowing God. He prayed, he sought, he sacrificed and he worshipped. He found the secret God wants us all to know - being filled with God's Spirit and with His breath. When Job was tested, he stated it is God that formed him. It is God that gave him life.

Knowing God makes the difference in this crazy, mixed-up world. Knowing that His breath is what keeps us and changes us. God's Spirit gives us the reason to live. His breath in our lungs gives us our very life. Ask God to breath fresh and new in you. Breath on us oh God. Give us Your Spirit...give us Your Life.

Thank you to EVERY PERSON that has helped, donated, served and baked to raise money for our new van!!!

Happenings. . .

OCTOBER 4: NO WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASSES
OCTOBER 22: CHILDREN'S SABBATH

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

Greetings,
I am so excited to have so many students interested in going to Snowbird again this year. There will be a meeting on Wednesday, October 11, at 5:00 PM with the parents to discuss the trip and other information. I am looking forward to the trip and I know the Youth are too!

-Annie Hillman

6 Reasons Why You Should Trust God:

- He knows you by name.
Isaiah 43:1
- He will fight for you.
Exodus 14:14
- He thinks about you
Psalms 139:17
- He has plans for you
Jeremiah 29:11
- He is your refuge
Psalms 62:6-8
- He is always with you
Mathew 28:20

Kids & Youth Wednesday

Snack Supper in October:

- 4 No Classes
- 11 DeWanda Platt
- 18 Beth Smith
- 25 Mike and Terri Nyman

Thanks for serving our Kids & Youth!

Music Ministry, Announcements . . .

This came across on my Face Book page a few weeks ago; I thought I would share it with all of you: "Look what I found in today's Washington Post- an article about the benefit of church choirs, the physical and mental health benefits of singing with others. Choirs are large families, said the paper. Singing in them promotes social bonding and joy. Choir members are more optimistic, less lonely, and more likely to contribute positively to community. A sense of achievement comes from creating notes with the body and working together to master a work. The text is often inspiring and beautiful, so despite the day's travails, choir members leave rehearsals feeling "This is a very positive thing that I can be a part of."

The Bible knew that all along. Choirs are a Biblical part of God's scheme of worship! Don't miss it in your church! The media isn't right about everything these days but this is very true! Come join us in choir at 5:00 on Sunday afternoons. We are already working on our Christmas music, **"The Gift Goes On"**, and there is a place for you! Come and be blessed! --Donna



FALL MISSION FAIR

Coming soon-

Nov. 3rd-4th

8 AM-12 PM

**START SAVING THOSE HOUSEHOLD
ITEMS FOR OUR "TRASH TO
TREASURE" GARAGE SALE**

9:30 -10 AM CHAPEL FELLOWSHIP

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

Thanks for serving!

197th SALEM CAMP MEETING

October 1-8

26900 Salem Campground Road, Lucedale
(One mile west of Hwy. 63 near the
George-Jackson County line)

- ♦ Worship 10:30 AM & 7:00 PM
 - ♦ Evangelist: Rev. Stan Key
 - ♦ Minister of Music: Mr. Chris Smith
- ♦ Sunday, October 1 at 6 PM: University of Mobile
"Deliverance Singers" (Southern Gospel)
- ♦ Tuesday, October 3 at 7:30 AM: Brother David's Devotional
 - ♦ Wednesday night, October 4, you're invited to come and bring a side dish for the Fish Fry at the Brantley Tent at 5 PM. There will be no Wednesday Classes here at the church that night. So come, bring your side dish and fellowship together!!!
 - ♦ Friday night, October 6, Big Blessin' will be singing



Come Worship With Us!

New yard signs are available near the office and the back of the Sanctuary. Please place one at your home and place of business to make the community aware of the changes our congregation has made. There are also hand-outs at the back of the Sanctuary to give to those we encounter during our day-to-day contacts. Please use these as an invitation to visit and participate with our church family.

Memorials ♦ Announcements ♦ Missions . . .

In Loving Memory gifts have been given...

To First Church of Lucedale in **Memory of Curtis Hebert**
by Marshall and Gail Havard, Faye McNeill

To First Church of Lucedale in **Memory of Barbara Massey, Sue Stevens, Erik Ward, Curtis Hebert** by Tamera Luce

To First Church of Lucedale in **Memory of Barbara Massey** by Roland and Carmon Cochran, Lee and Tonya Harbison, Marshall and Gail Havard, Jeff and Melinda Howell, Jessie and Brenda Underwood

To First Church of Lucedale in **Memory of Stanley "Butch" Eubanks** by Jim and Carol Clawson

To First Church of Lucedale in **Memory of Curtis Hebert, Barbara Massey, Ed Evans, Stanley "Butch" Eubanks, Liz Simpson** by Jean Brantley

To First Church of Lucedale in **Memory of Ed Evans, Barbara Massey, Butch Eubanks** by Mavis Dungan

To First Church of Lucedale in **Memory of Barbara Massey, Bill Scitzs** by Lee and Lisa Hedegaard

To First Church of Lucedale in **Memory of Bonnie Holland, Ricky Josey, Stanley "Butch" Eubanks**
by Mary Sue Dudley

In Memory of George McNeill

a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale for
"Our Great Redeemer's Praise Hymnals" Fund
by Faye McNeill

In Memory of Frances Carter

a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale for
"Our Great Redeemer's Praise Hymnals" Fund
by Jackie Praytor

In Memory of Curtis Hebert, Barbara Massey, Bill Scitzs a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale for "Our Great Redeemer's Praise Hymnals" Fund by Mike and Donna Bragg

In Memory of Vernon and Choicy Henderson
a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale for
"Our Great Redeemer's Praise Hymnals" Fund
by Betty Henderson

In Memory of James Tipton

a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale for
"Our Great Redeemer's Praise Hymnals" Fund
by Steve and Kelly Tipton

In Memory of George Dungan, Ann Dungan Morris a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale for "Our Great Redeemer's Praise Hymnals" Fund by Mavis Dungan

In Honor of Gayle Gill

a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale for
"Our Great Redeemer's Praise Hymnals" Fund
by Ronnie and Janice Miller

In Honor of Brother David and Amanda Newton
a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale for
"Our Great Redeemer's Praise Hymnals" Fund
by Mavis Dungan

Thank You for Serving in October

8:30 AM Scripture Readers:

1 Jeff Howell
8 Jennifer Mathis
15 Andy Brantley
22 10 AM Combined Service: Children's Sabbath
29 Kayla Broome

11 AM Scripture Readers:

1 Lisa Hedegaard
8 Teena Mitchell
15 Walt Stubblefield
22 9 AM Sunday School
10 AM Combined Service: Children's Sabbath
29 Sarah Stubblefield

Communion Servers: 8:30 AM Jason & Kelli
Ardoyn, Annie Hillman -- 11 AM Mark & Nancy Jo
Maples, Amanda Newton

Doorstep Visitation: Jeff and Melinda Howell

Money Counters: Suzanne McKay, Betty Henderson

Money Collectors: Ushers

8:30 AM: Jeff Howell, David Miller, Valerie Carr,
Noah Alexander 11 AM: Don Berry, Danny Moore,
Eddie Burgess and Mike Nyman



—Shoebbox Ministry:

Our church will again serve as a Drop-Off location for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. If you are interested in volunteering for a two-hour shift during the week of **November 13 - 20**, please contact **Kim Dees** at 601-508-3363. And as always, thank you for your support! Also, if you are interested in going to Atlanta, GA for the **Operation Christmas Child Shoebox** packing, see **Beth Smith or Kim Dees** - date is **November 28-30, 2023**.

--Food Pantry: Thanksgiving Boxes:

Thanksgiving will be here before we know it so it's time to start collecting food items for our Pantry Thanksgiving Boxes. Because we serve a family once a month, we start giving out Thanksgiving boxes the first week in **November** so every family will get their box. So please start bringing in your donations so we will be ready to help those in need in our community. Thanks! **--DeWanda Platt**

Items needed are:

___ Boxed Stuffing Mix	___ Cranberry Sauce
___ Chicken Broth	___ Canned Yams
___ Gravy Packets	___ Instant Potatoes
	___ Boxed Desserts



First Church of Lucedale *Seek ✧ Disciple ✧ Serve*



2023

Regular Sunday Schedule:

8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service
8:30 AM Children's Church
9:50 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1st - 8th Salem Camp Meeting 3 - 5 PM 90th Birthday Party for Voncile Lamb, CLC	2 12 Noon WSCS Luncheon/Meeting, Chapel 6:30 - 8 PM Gideon's Meeting, Chapel	3 7:30 AM Bro. David's Devotional at Camp Meeting 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry 1 PM Ladies' Bible Study, Room 103 6 - 7 PM Brownies, Juniors, Cadets, CLC 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel	4 5 PM Fish Fry at the Brantley's Tent - Bring side dish and enjoy! No Classes here at the Church	5 - 8 SMMC #91 6:30 AM Prayer & Praise, Chapel	6	7
8	9 Columbus Day Church Office Closed	10 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry 1 PM Ladies' Bible Study, Room 103 6 - 7 PM Brownies, Juniors, Cadets, CLC 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel	11 1:30 PM Staff Meeting, Chapel 5 PM Christmas Program Practice 5 PM Youth Parents Snowbird Meeting 5:30 Kids /Youth Meal, CLC 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study	12 6:30 AM Prayer & Praise, Chapel 5:30 PM Scouts, Upstairs	13 3 - 5:15 PM Violin Group, Stinson House	14
15	16 6 PM NOW Committee Meeting, Chapel	17 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry 1 PM Ladies' Bible Study, Room 103 6 - 7 PM Brownies, Juniors, Cadets, CLC 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel	18 5 PM Christmas Program Practice 5:15 PM Finance Meeting, Room 123 5:30 Kids /Youth Meal, CLC 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study	19 6:30 AM Prayer & Praise, Chapel	20	21
22 Children's Sabbath 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Combined Service 6 PM Church Council, Chapel	23	24 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry 9:30 AM Esther Kirkwood Circle, Room 103 1 PM Ladies' Bible Study, Room 103 6 - 7 PM Brownies, Juniors, Cadets, CLC 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel	25 5 PM Christmas Program Practice 5:30 Kids /Youth Meal, CLC 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study	26 6:30 AM Prayer & Praise, Chapel	27	28
29	30	31 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry 1 PM Ladies' Bible Study, Room 103 6 - 7 PM Brownies, Juniors, Cadets, CLC 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel				