



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 . . . January, 2025

Happy New Year!

I give God thanks for a most remarkable year in the life of our congregation. The Lord has been faithful and led us to a deeper walk as disciples of the Most High God! As significant as this year has been for us, full of life and death, despair and hope, love and brokenness, it is a brief moment in eternity.

God is preparing His Church for the return of Christ! We must be ready for the call of our Lord receiving His beloved.

Yours in Christ,

Brother David

Brother David

Cell: (228) 216-6567

Email: pastor@firstchurchoflucedale.com

Announcement:

It has been almost three years since our last Confirmation Class. I am ready to start a new class in **February**. If you have a child who is at least 11 years old or ready, if younger, to embark on this journey of faith, please let me know. Also if your child would be willing to be an acolyte and commit to a month or part of a month at a time - please let me know as soon as possible.

We will have Lenten gatherings beginning the Wednesday following **Ash Wednesday** in March at 11 AM in the Chapel with either a simple lunch or the opportunity to join for a meal out.

--Brother David

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

Children Ministry . . .

Chrissy Jordan, Children's Pastor - 251-377-5838
children@firstchurchoflucedale.com

Colossians 3:23 – Work with all your heart, for God is your true audience

As you read this, we are going into January 2025. As I write this it is December 2024. I have just celebrated Christmas with my two babies and 6 fur animals. This year has been a bit different with sickness stealing most of the ending of our year. Usually, totally immersed in holiday events right up into the new year, this year was spent in quiet reflection. This year was mostly in the audience of One. My true Love, My Heavenly Father, the true star of Christmas, the real birthday boy. As Christmas Eve came, I reflected under the Christmas lights the true reason for the season. Mary, I am sure, saw it too. The simplistic arrival of a King, not in majestic applause but in simple adoration. Mary saw the audience of One wrapped in swaddling clothes and knew the real reason for the season. Mary saw all the love that she could possibly know in those big eyes of Jesus as a baby and she found greater purpose than she had ever known. Her audience of One changed her whole life, her whole perspective, and everything she had ever needed. Life didn't miraculously become more simple for Mary and Joseph. It actually became harder. There were harder decisions to be made, living arrangements to find, food to acquire, jobs to hold, people to meet, and oh yes the job of rearing the Son of God. Yet, as Mary pondered the new things that God had given her and God had entrusted her with, she now saw things in the perspective of an audience of ONE. Life wasn't about Mary any more, or Joseph or even what it once was...it was about serving God in the best and most real way they could. It was realizing life isn't about doing what we want, or even about working for ourselves - life is about pleasing the Master even in the solitude of one simple life or the grand scheme of a million little things. Life is about the true audience of One. The audience that matters the most. It is about pleasing the One who gave us life in the first place. The ONE who makes life worth living. So, as the New Year approaches, let us not focus on what more we can achieve in this life but in Who we can please in this life. In the grand scheme of life, let us remember who the true audience is. The one who is applauding us and cheering us on to the Higher calling. So, as we celebrate the New Year, let us push forward to not more on our calendars but more for the One who made our days. Christ is calling us to spend more time with Him. Christ is calling us to focus more on Him. Christ is calling us to let His life pour out of us. Christ is calling us to live not for ourselves but for the ONE who lives for us. Whatever we do, in word or deed let us do it for the ONE WHO DIED FOR ME. My true audience of ONE.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.” – Colossians 3:23

CHILDRENS CHURCH IS BACK JANUARY 5TH
KIDS GO TO THE NURSING HOME JANUARY 15TH

Memorials, Missions, Youth, Announcements . . .

In Loving Memory, gifts have been given. . .

**In Memory of Mildred Maxine McCulloch, Ricky Josey,
Mitchel Dixon, Voncile Lamb, Kay Grafe, Ronald Cochran,
Camryn Hobby**

a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale by Dimple Lollis



**Tuesdays
9 - 11AM**

As we close out this year and reflect back on all the families that have been served, because of your generosity, on behalf of the Food Pantry Team we would like to take a moment to thank you for your continued support. As our numbers have increased, so has your faithfulness. It's a privilege to be part of such a loving and giving church and be a part of this ministry.

“Proverbs 14:31 - Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him.”

Thank you for helping us honor HIM by being the hands and feet of Christ. If you feel led to help in this ministry on Tuesday mornings, please feel free to contact me. Christmas blessings to all as we celebrate our Savior's birthday and Happy New Year!

--Dewanda Platt

Dear Church Family: Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the lovely retirement luncheon given in my honor. I am overwhelmed by the love you have shown to me and appreciate all of the sweet cards, encouraging words, and gifts. What a blessing to be a part of and to serve in this church! If I could give you all a word of advice, it would be this: If the Lord gives you an opportunity to serve, grab it and give it your best. He is so faithful and you will be truly blessed!

With much love,
Donna Bragg

Thanks for serving in January:

Communion Servers:

Robert and Kathy Hudson, Andy Brantley

Scripture Readers:

5: Lydia Newton

12: Jase Mathis

19: Kayla Broome

26: Noah Alexander

Ushers: Walt Stubblefield, Jeff Howell,
Ronnie Miller, Andy Brantley

Money Counters:

Valerie Carr, George McIntosh

Doorstep Ministry: Jack & Judy Vosburg

8:30 AM Chapel Fellowship - Coffee only

Kids/Youth Wednesday Snack Supper:

8: Lee & Lisa Hedegaard

15: Steve & Kelly Tipton

22: Danny & Marie Moore

29: Paula Hinton, Lisa Hedegaard

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

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and are having a wonderful New Year! I am looking forward to what this year has in store for the youth.

There will be a lot of new changes taking place this year as well as new adventures.

Last year was a successful year for the youth with many activities, parties, and trips, and I hope this year will bring many more and will improve on the last as the youth program continues to grow and thrive. **--Annie Hillman**



Schedule: (Nursery provided) . . .

JANUARY

2025

8:30 AM Coffee 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
			1 Happy New Year!	2 6:30 AM Praise & Prayer, Chapel	3	4
5 Epiphany Sunday	6 5 PM <i>Weight Watchers Meeting, Chapel</i> 6:30 - 8:30 PM <i>Gideon's, Stinson House</i>	7 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry 5:30 - 6:30 PM <i>Scouts, Upstairs</i> 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel	8 4:30 PM Youth Bible Quiz 5:30 PM Kids / Youth Snack Supper 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages	9 6:30 AM Praise & Prayer, Chapel 6:30 PM <i>Ultreya Meeting, Chapel</i> 7 PM <i>9th Regiment MS Cavalry Meeting, Stinson House</i>	10	11
12	13 5 PM <i>Weight Watchers Meeting, Chapel</i>	14 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry 5:30 - 6:30 PM <i>Scouts, Upstairs</i> 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel	15 1:30 PM <i>Staff Meeting</i> 4:30 PM Youth Bible Quiz 5:30 PM Kids / Youth Snack Supper KIDS VISITING NURSING HOME 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages	16 6:30 AM Praise & Prayer, Chapel	17	18
19	20 Church Office Closed in Observance of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday 5 PM <i>Weight Watchers Meeting, Chapel</i> 5:30 PM Trustees Meeting, Room 123	21 5:30 - 6:30 PM <i>Scouts, Upstairs</i> 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel	22 4:30 PM Youth Bible Quiz 5:30 PM Kids / Youth Snack Supper 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages	23 6:30 AM Praise & Prayer, Chapel	24	25
26	27 5 PM <i>Weight Watchers Meeting, Chapel</i>	28 5:30 - 6:30 PM <i>Scouts, Upstairs</i> 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel	29 4:30 PM Youth Bible Quiz 5:30 PM Kids / Youth Snack Supper 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages	30 6:30 AM Praise & Prayer, Chapel	31	