



First Church of Lucedale

A Global Methodist Congregation



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Notes From the Pastor's Desk . . . February, 2025

We are in the season known as Epiphany. Epiphany is a visible manifestation of the Lord. Where do you see God at work in the world, your church, your family and your life? At times, it is difficult to see God or know His presence. I spent some time this week in prayer crying out to God for someone I love who is suffering. I felt nothing: no sense of God's presence or pleasure in my asking, no guidance in how to pray.... nothing. And then the Lord guided me to change the physical location of my praying. I cannot say why. But the Lord suddenly appeared in my praying. I felt His presence and knew that my petitions were being heard. Epiphany is an assurance of the presence of God even when He seems absent.

A Christian known as John of the Cross spoke of the dark night of the soul. There are times when God does not seem real, and we doubt or believe in faith but wonder why. He concluded after a time of darkness in his soul that the absence of God quickened his hunger.

These last several months have been a time of the real presence of God in our Congregation. We have been through much. Some fellowships would have broken apart, turned on one another, or walked away. This Congregation did not. We were faithful in waiting on the Lord and crying out for His wisdom to guide us. He did!!! Praise God, the Creator and Preserve of our souls was present in our time of darkness. Remember this time. We will know other struggles and experience the presence of God in these and the triumph over sin and death. Use the next month leading to the beginning of Lent in March to look for the presence of God. Seek Him. Love and be loved by your Creator.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Brother David

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Children Ministry . . .

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Clap your hands, STOMP your feet and cry out over all the sins of the people.

Ezekiel 6:11

If you walk back into the Christian Life Center (CLC), you will see the stage decorated with a graffiti wall. There is one large word posted on that wall...**STOMP!** The children and I have been learning about stomping on sin, fears, worries, bullying, hurts and all the things that the enemy tries to attack us with. In Ezekiel 6:11, there is a prophecy of God's judgment on Israel for their sins and abominations. The verse instructs Ezekiel to call for mourning and anger over Israel's sins and to use strong gestures to get their attention. As the Lord led me to this verse, He spoke to me about the strong gestures that we should take today over things that hurt the Father. In this day and age, we often water down things so we don't offend people or hurt their feelings. Yet, God wants us to cry out over those things that hurt Him and maybe even make some noise and stomp our feet. God wants us to look at those things as garbage and cast them aside so we can serve the Lord with total abandonment.

The children have been having fun "throwing away" their garbage every week and giving God their little hearts completely. They want to STOMP out what hurts our God. We should not be silent when the Enemy tries to creep up on us; we should make some Heavenly noise. Like Ezekiel who wailed and Paul who caused a stir in the jail cell. Jesus overthrew some tables, Joshua caused some shouting even had some walls to fall, Moses threw down tablets and Solomon cried out for forgiveness. In all of this God showed Himself victorious when they made some noise.

This month is where we proclaim love to those we care about. We often do it with a lot of noise or fluff. This February, let us make it a month of making noise - noise about God's love, noise about God loving people and noise about being holy!!

Let's STOMP !!!

February Opportunities:

Sunday, February 2nd: Parents and Students Luncheon

Wednesday, February 5th: Learning for Jesus

Wednesday, February 12th: Kids Valentine Party

Wednesday, February 19th: Visiting for Jesus

Wednesday, February 26th: Learning About Jesus

Memorials, Missions, Announcements . . .

In Loving Memory, gifts have been given. . .

In Memory of Payton Carrington Dudley, Sr.

a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale by Mary Sue, Payton, Jr. and Tuffy Dudley

In Memory of Voncile Lamb, Van Edward Howell, Herman “Dooney” Weaver, Joyce Welford

a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale by Mary Sue Dudley

In Memory of Steve Leggett

a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale by Lee and Tonya Harbison



The **Food Pantry** needs toothbrushes, toothpaste, men's deodorant, shaving cream or anything else you would like to donate. Thank you for your generosity!

**Tuesdays
9 - 11AM**

SOUPER/SALAD BOWL FUNDRAISER - CLC

Please join us **Sunday, February 9th** for lunch after our church service to help raise money for our **Food Pantry** to purchase an awning for the back door to protect our volunteers and clients from the weather. We look forward to seeing you and thank you for your attendance and donations.

Esther “Daring Faith for Such a Time As This” by Kelly Minter

Ladies, if you are not already involved in a small group on Wednesday nights, please join us for our new Bible study on Esther. We will see the daring faith modeled by Esther and her cousin Mordecai - a faith rooted in the goodness of God, lived out through extraordinary circumstances, and used to change the world. God has called us to such a time as this in a current world today. If you have any questions, please contact Terri Nyman.

COMING UP . . .

February 5th

**5:15 PM
Finance
Meeting,
Room 123**

February 16th

**6 PM
Church
Council
Meeting,
Chapel**

Thanks for serving in February:

Communion Servers:

Billy and Elaine Rogers, Danny Moore

Scripture Readers:

2: Eddie Burgess
9: Jenna Mathis
16: Jennifer Mathis
23: Karson Tolbert

Ushers: Steve Tipton, Derrick Scott, Jordan Newton, Lee Roberts

Money Counters:

Glenn Lowery, Brenda Underwood

Doorstep Ministry: Ronnie & Janice Miller

Kids/Youth Wednesday Snack Supper:

5: Jeff and Jennifer Mathis
12: Jason and Stacy Woodruff
19: Lee and Linda Roberts
26: Ernest and Eileen Ward

Ladies' Prayer Breakfast

Ladies,

Bring a breakfast dish and join us for a time of food, fellowship, and prayer on **Saturday, February 15** at 8:00 AM in the Chapel. We will have a special speaker who will share her testimony and her thoughts on prayers.



**Senior Valentine
Luncheon**

Friday, February 14

11 AM - 1 PM / Chapel

Because you are deeply loved, we at First Church of Lucedale cordially invite all

Seniors on **Valentine's Day** for Italian food, fun and fellowship. Join us and help us celebrate YOU!!!

Please sign up where Sunday Bulletins are located.



Schedule: (Nursery provided) . . .

FEBRUARY 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
2 Parent/Student Lunch & Meeting, CLC	3 - 4 <i>Pastor/Madison/Presiding Elder</i> 5 PM <i>Weight Watchers Meeting, Chapel</i> 6:30 - 8:30 PM <i>Gideon's, Stinson House</i>	4 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry <i>No Scouts Upstairs</i> 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel	5 4:30 PM Youth Bible Quiz 5:15 PM Finance Meeting, Room 123 5:30 PM Kids / Youth Snack Supper 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages	6 6:30 AM Praise & Prayer, Chapel 5:30 PM <i>Waterboard Meeting, Chapel</i>	7	8
9 Following 10 AM Service Souper/Salad Bowl Fundraiser for Food Pantry, CLC	10 5 PM <i>Weight Watchers Meeting, Chapel</i>	11 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry 5:30 - 6:30 PM <i>Scouts, Upstairs</i> 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel	12 1:30 PM <i>Staff Meeting</i> 4:30 PM Youth Bible Quiz 5:30 - 7 PM Kids Valentine Party 5:30 PM Youth Snack Supper 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages	13 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>	14  11 AM - 1 PM Senior Valentine Luncheon, Chapel	15 8 AM - 12 Noon <i>CLC / Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby</i> 8 AM - 10 AM Ladies' Prayer Breakfast, Chapel
16 6 PM Church Council Meeting, Chapel	17 Church Office Closed in Observance of Presidents' Day 5 PM <i>Weight Watchers Meeting, Chapel</i> 5:30 PM Trustees Meeting	18 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry 5:30 - 6:30 PM <i>Scouts, Upstairs</i> 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel	19 4:30 PM Youth Bible Quiz 5:30 PM Kids / Youth Snack Supper Kids Visiting for Jesus 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages	20 6:30 AM Praise & Prayer, Chapel 5:30 PM <i>Waterboard Meeting, Chapel</i> 6 PM <i>Arts Committee, S.H.</i>	21	22
23	24 5 PM <i>Weight Watchers Meeting, Chapel</i>	25 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry 9:30 AM Esther Kirkwood Circle, Room 103 5:30 - 6:30 PM <i>Scouts, Upstairs</i> 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel	26 4:30 PM Youth Bible Quiz 5:30 PM Kids / Youth Snack Supper 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages	27 6:30 AM Praise & Prayer, Chapel	28	