



First Church of Lucedale

A Global Methodist Congregation



5101 Main Street ♦ P.O. Box 845 ♦ Lucedale, MS 39452
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Notes From the Pastor's Desk . . . August 2025

The Christian faith is one of beginnings. Many congregations have “beginning” in their names. Our congregation is called First Church of Lucedale. We were the first protestant congregation established in the city limits of Lucedale. Antioch Methodist, the oldest surviving congregation in George County, just celebrated its 200th Anniversary.

There is something about beginnings. This week marks the beginning of a new school year. Both teachers and children hope this year will be productive and happy.

We see the optimism and joy of weddings and the birth of a child. Life changing events mark time as before and after. We will know joy and sorrow in marriage and child rearing. The fairy tale ending “they lived happily ever after” has a cruel sting for some.

A couple “as good as dead” were promised a son and led to a new place called the Promised Land. When the people God chose to be a new nation rebelled against Him, our Lord disciplined them and offered a fresh start. God renewed the covenant and added promises over time including the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

The Christian faith proclaims the newness of God’s mercies every day! A new believer is called “born again.” Jesus spoke of putting new wine into new wineskins.

We await the New Heaven and New Earth when Jesus returns for His Church!

Come Lord Jesus!

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

Thank you!

Both Buck and Jordan Newton express their heartfelt thanks for July's "Puppy Shower!" God bless you all for your prayers over these past months and welcome home! We love you!!!

Brother David and Amanda Newton

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

Children's Ministry . . .

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



Don't you just love children? The way they smile. The way they light up a room when they walk in. The way the noise level changes when they come around. Children are definitely treasures from the Lord. God puts it another way, they are gifts. What is the definition of a gift? A gift is defined as a thing given willingly without payment. The definition of a child is person who has little or no experience in a particular area. WOW! So, Father God, when He gave us children, He gave us a (child) person with little or no experience (gift) willingly without payment for us to (train) teach a particular skill or behavior through practice and instruction over a period of time. That is a mouthful and a huge responsibility. God knew that when He placed a child in our care it was serious. He wanted to establish with us, as parents, as extended family members, as educators, as Pastors, and as a church that children are important to God - after all, they are made in His image. Children are unique and versatile. Children are sponges. Whatever we place before them they often absorb. And, usually it is the sight example they reflect more than the hearing one. God calls us in His word to be presenters of the gospel. God calls us to be a role model. Children hear us but most often reflect us. Jesus knew this when He said in Romans 12:1 for us to be a living sacrifice, holy unto Him. Jesus wants us to represent Him because there are so many eyes and ears watching us. That is a tremendous responsibility. In the next few weeks and months, we will again watch our children enter school and then grow up even more before our very eyes. That growing just will not stop! We blink and they are grown. God wants us to feed their spiritual hearts as well as their spiritual bodies. He wants them to have extracurricular activities but also spiritual ones too. God needs us to fill their lives with His Word, His love, and model what a relationship with the Lord is. We are ambassadors of Christ, not only to the world, but to the young lives He has placed in our church and in our lives.

I have placed in our chapel a board full of beautiful faces. They are children of our church. They need a prayer covering. Kids are facing much more than we did and especially in school. There are all kinds of different Satanic attacks our kids face every day. They need us to stand in the gap and pray for them. If you received a prayer card, please pray fervently for your prayer child. If you did not receive a card, just take time to pray over our children every day. Jesus called the children to Him. He invested Himself in them. We as His people are called to do the same. So, please join me in praying for our precious kids and youth. It might be just your prayer that changes their life and yours.

They are counting on us and so is the Lord.

PSALMS 127:3 Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him.

Youth & Music Ministry + Peru Mission Trip Report . . .

Charlie Bufkin, Music / Youth Leader
601-530-5088
music@firstchurchoflucedale.com

First Church of Lucedale Student Activities for August 2025

- ♦ Sunday, August 10 in the 10 AM Service . . . Our Youth will be sharing about their time at Youth Camp.
- ♦ Sunday, August 10 . . . Youth: Spanish Trails Bowling Trip - Gautier, MS (Depart from the Church @ 2:30 PM)



**5-5:45 PM Choir Practice on Wednesdays -
August 13 starts our Christmas Cantata practice**

Peru Missions Trip Report: Thanks to all who contributed to the Peru Mission trip. There were a total of 37 who traveled there. Most of us were from Mississippi, and there were a few from Fairhope.

Thanks so much for all the supplies you donated. The people of Peru are always so thankful for the items we bring. We were fortunate enough to collect enough funds to build 16 shanties. We weren't sure we'd be able to build so many in five days, but we did it. With the money our church donated, we were able to buy some bunkbeds, mattresses, pillows, and blankets. Some of the widows who received a home had never had beds before. We were also able to supply the widows with a chair, tableware, utensils, cookware, a portable cooktop, and a gas tank to put in the shanties. They were so appreciative!

There were three medical clinics held during the week. There were two doctors, three nurse practitioners, and two nurses who provided care and supplied them with vitamins, pain relievers, and eye drops. We were also able to give away eyeglasses, donated shoes and clothes, toys, and hygiene items. Bible School was always held in the area where the medical clinics were being held, and the children enjoyed hearing about Jesus and learning songs.



We traveled to a mountain village and gave out 100 blankets. We visited a rehab center for men, and we also visited a boy's prison that held boys who were 12 - 18 years old. There isn't a juvenile system there for this age.

We prepared a meal for 1,200 students at an elementary school. Some of our missionaries spoke to them and gave their testimonies. Bethany and I cooked chopped wieners, scrambled eggs, and chopped vegetables for the meal.

We had the privilege of giving out Bibles in their language at every event we held. These Bibles were donated and delivered to the children's home last year in a tractor trailer container.

Thank you again for all your support and prayers while we traveled and worked there. We felt that we had a successful trip where we served the people of Peru and showed them the love of Jesus Christ.

Ray and Bethany Dees



Memorials, Missions, Announcements . . .

In Loving Memory, gifts have been given...

In Memory of Willie Phillips a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale by Lee and Tonya Harbison

In Memory of Glenn Lowery a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale by Sheila Sellers

In Memory of Ruffin Graham a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale by Jeff and Melinda Howell

In Memory of Cathy Epps a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale by Larry W. Richardson

In Memory of Cathy Epps a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale by Jeff and Melinda Howell

In Memory of Mike Steede a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale by Jessie and Brenda Underwood

In Memory of Leavy Aline Mathis a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale by Marla Ford Howell

In Memory of Mike Steede and Susan Pater gifts have been given to First Church of Lucedale by Jim and Carol Clawson

In Memory of Charlie Howell a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale by Lee and Tonya Harbison

Our Christian Sympathies are extended to the family of:

Leavy Mathis. (mother of Angie Hobbie) who passed away Friday, July 4. Her Funeral Service was held Monday, July 7, at Winborn Chapel. Please keep Angie and the family in your prayers.

Cathy Epps who passed away Thursday, July 3. A Memorial Service was held here at First Church of Lucedale on Thursday, July 17. Please keep David and the family in your prayers.

Nominations Committee Meeting

6 PM - Chapel
Mon. - Aug. 11

Committee: Brother David, Marilyn Bounds, Jim Fleming, Lee Harbison, Marla Howell, Beth Smith, Walt Stubblefield, Kristin Tolbert, Eileen Ward, Jessica Welford

Announcing the birth of

Addie Carol Bexley

Born: July 9, 2025

5 pound, 12 ounces - 19 inches

Congratulations to proud parents,

William & Paulina Bexley

and grandparents, Keith & Paula Hinton!

Thanks for serving in August:

Communion Servers: Jessica Welford, Larry and Misty McDonald

Scripture Readers:

3: Marilyn Bounds

10: Grayson Ardoin

17: Donna Bragg

24: Kaydei Whisenant

31: Andy Brantley

Ushers: Donnie Barry, Robert Hudson, Jack Vosburg, Danny Moore

Money Counters:

Elaine Rogers, Brenda Underwood

Doorstep Ministry:

Mike and Terri Nyman

Kids/Youth Wednesday Snack Supper:

6: Ray and Kim Dees

13: Tim and Jennifer Stringer

20: Jack and Judy Vosburg

27: Pastor Chrissy

MISSIONS
across the street & around the world



August Shoebox Needs:
school supplies: pens, pencils, notebook, paper, erasers, pencil sharpeners, crayons, colored pencils, solar calculator and always monetary gifts are appreciated
- Thanks! --Beth Smith



We still need your empty egg cartons and empty plastic bags. Thanks! --DeWanda Platt

"Backpack Buddies" . . . Thank you for ALL your help with this ministry!
--DeWanda Platt

PROMISS extends their thanks and appreciation to everyone who has participated in the **Baby Bottle Blessing Campaign** . . . you gave \$1,380.07.

Ladies' Prayer Breakfast

8 AM - 10 AM . . . Chapel

Sat. - Aug. 16

Bring a breakfast dish to share and a friend!

A Look at September thru December of 2025 . . .

September

Mon. - Sept. 1: Labor Day Holiday

Wed. - Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24: 4:30-5:30 PM

Girls' Guide to Becoming a Lady

Mon. - Sept. 8: 12 Noon WSCS Lunch/
Meeting, Chapel

Mon. - Sept. 15: 5:30 Trustees Meeting

Tues. - Sept. 23: 9:30 AM Esther Kirkwood
Circle, Room 103

October

Thurs. - Sun. - Oct. 2 - 5: Cursillo Weekend

Fri. & Sat. - Oct. 3 & 4: Missions Fair

Mon. - Oct. 6: 12 Noon WSCS Lunch/
Meeting, Chapel

Mon. - Oct. 13: Columbus Day/Church Office Closed

Mon. - Oct. 15: 5:30 Trustees Meeting

Thurs - Oct. 16: Red Cross Blood Drive, CLC

Sun. - Oct. 19: Children's Sabbath

Tues. - Oct. 28: 9:30 AM Esther Kirkwood
Circle, Room 103



COME ONE, COME ALL!!!

FELLOWSHIP FOR ALL!!! You

can bring a potential member, shut-in
or guest! We are having our first . . . **5th Sunday**

Evening (5:00) Potluck / Talent Show

August 31 in the CLC /Special Surprise /

Famous Girls Singing Group (no autographs or pic-
tures, please) Potluck means exactly as specified -

whatever you want to bring . . . can be something
tested and true or something we might be taking a

chance eating . . . it's up to you! Talent can be any-
thing to showcase your hidden skills and talents . . .

can be singing or lip singing, dancing, comedy,
drama, playing spoons . . . or calling hogs - we

want to experience it! This is for ALL ages - no
limit. Let's have fun and fellowship. We will have

a special MC also. Sign-up sheets will be available
so we can have ready your music or any thing

needed for your particular talent. First Church of
Lucedale is doing great things in our Community!

Come, celebrate with us and have fun! Looking
forward to seeing everyone! Thank you!!! --The

N O W Committee

November

Sun. - Nov. 2: All-Saints Sunday / Day
light Saving Time ends

Mon. - Nov. 3: 2 Noon WSCS Lunch/
Meeting, Chapel

Sun. - Nov. 9: Veterans Observance /
Luncheon to follow

Tues. - Nov. 11: Veterans Day

Sun. - Nov. 16: Thanksgiving Homecom-
ing Potluck Meal after Church Service,
CLC

Mon. - Nov. 17 - 24: Angel Tree Ministry
& Operation Christmas Child, CLC

Mon. - Nov. 17: 5:30 Trustees Meeting

Sun. - Nov. 23: Christ the King Sunday /
Decorating the Church for Christmas

Wed. - Nov. 26 - 27: Thanksgiving Holiday

Sun. - Nov. 30: First Sunday of Advent /
Hanging of the Greens

December

Sat. - Dec. 6: 9 AM Santa Breakfast, CLC

Sun. - Dec. 7: 10 AM Children's Christmas
Program

Wed. - Dec. 10: Ladies' Night Out, S.H.

Fri. - Dec. 12: Live Nativity

Mon. - Dec. 15: 5:30 Trustees Meeting

Sun. - Dec. 21: 10 AM Choir Christmas
Cantata and 5-6 PM Candlelight Service

Wed. - Dec. 24: 5-6 PM Come-and-go
Communion

Thurs. - Dec. 25: Christmas Day!

5 PM - Monday, August 4

Breakfast with Santa & LIVE NATIVITY

Planning Meeting, Room 123

All are welcome to attend!!!

Kelli Ardoin - 601-770-1898



First Church of Lucedale

Seek ✧ Disciple ✧ Serve



2025

Sunday Schedule: (Nursery provided) . . .

8:30 AM Coffee Fellowship, Chapel

9:00 AM Sunday School

10:00 AM Worship Service

10:00 AM Children's Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 George County Kids - Back to School	2 June Josey, S, H.
3 	4 5 PM Breakfast with Santa / Live Nativity Planning Meeting, Room 123 5 PM Weight Watchers Meeting, Chapel 6:30 PM Gideon's Meeting, Stinson House	5 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel	6 5-5:45 PM Adult Choir Practice 5:30 PM Kids / Youth Snack Supper 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages	7 6:30 AM Praise & Prayer, Chapel	8	9
10 10 AM Service: Students sharing about Youth Camp 2:30 PM Youth depart from the Church for Bowling Trip (4-6 PM) in Gautier	11 5 PM Weight Watchers Meeting, CLC 6 PM Nominations Committee Meeting, Chapel	12 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel	13 5-5:45 PM Adult Choir Practice 5:30 PM Kids / Youth Snack Supper 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages	14 6:30 AM Praise & Prayer, Chapel 11 AM - 2 PM Singing River Retiree Luncheon, CLC 6:30 PM Ultreya Meeting, Chapel 7 PM 9th Regiment MS Cavalry Meeting, Stinson House	15	16 8 AM - 10 AM Ladies' Prayer Breakfast, Chapel
17	18 5 PM Weight Watchers Meeting, Chapel 5:30 PM Trustees Meeting, Room 123	19 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel	20 5-5:45 PM Adult Choir Practice 5:30 PM Kids / Youth Snack Supper 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages	21 6:30 AM Praise & Prayer, Chapel	22	23
24 10 AM - 1 PM "Kids Day" Sunday 5 PM - CLC 5th Sunday Night Church Family Homecoming Potluck & Talent Show	25 5 PM Weight Watchers Meeting, Chapel	26 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel	27 5-5:45 PM Adult Choir Practice 5:30 PM Kids / Youth Snack Supper 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages	28 6:30 AM Praise & Prayer, Chapel	29	30
31						