



First Church of Lucedale

A Global Methodist Congregation



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

May is a month of holidays and milestones.

The first Thursday in May is National Day of Prayer held on the front lawn of the George County Courthouse. In the event of rain, the event will be held at First Baptist Church. I have been asked to lead prayer for the National and Local Economy.

May 12 is Mother's Day.

May 19 is our observance of High School and College Graduates.

May 19 is Pentecost Sunday. We remember the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the disciples gathered in prayer.

May 27 is Memorial Day. We remember those who have died in service to our Nation.

Each of these days is important; there is one more to add. May 24, 1738 is the day John Wesley attended a Moravian Society Meeting not long after his disastrous missionary journey to the colony of Georgia. John Wesley was, according to most observers, a failure at this point in his life.

Two years earlier, Wesley was on board a ship bound for America with a group of Moravian Christians. They encountered a terrible storm. The Moravians were at peace. John Wesley was amazed at the calmness of the women and children who were not afraid to die. Their witness moved him to write in his diary: "There was now an opportunity of trying whether they were delivered from the Spirit of fear, as well as from that of pride, anger, and revenge. In the midst of the psalm wherewith their service began, the sea broke over, split the main-sail in pieces, covered the ship, and poured in between the decks, as if the great deep had already swallowed us up. A terrible screaming began among the English. The Germans calmly sung on. I asked one of them afterwards, "Was you not afraid?" He answered, "I thank God, no." I asked, "But were not your women and children afraid?" He replied, mildly, "No; our women and children are not afraid to die." From them I went to their crying, trembling neighbors, and pointed out to them the difference in the hour of trial, between him that feareth God, and him that feareth him not. At twelve the wind fell. This was the most glorious day which I have hitherto seen."

John Wesley returned to England on Wednesday, May 10, 1738. He wrote: "I was sorrowful and very heavy" (in spirit). Early in the day on May 24 he remembers the storm at sea on the way to Georgia. He reflects on his fear and acknowledges that unbelief was the root of his lack of the peace he witnessed among the Moravian Christians.

When we are humbled, the Lord is able to reach us. He wrote: "In the evening I went very unwillingly to a Society in Aldersgate-Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation: And an assurance was given me, that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

Yours in Christ Jesus, our Salvation,

Brother David

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Children and Youth News . . .

Chrissy Jordan, Children's Pastor
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children@firstchurchoflucedale.com

What do your hands look like? Are your hands old, young, stained, dirty, clean, open, closed, clenched, or loose? Do you have trouble letting things go? Do you hold on to things too tightly? Do you serve with your hands? Do you vise grip material things too tightly with your hands? Do you hold on to your money tightly with your hands? Do you work with your hands? Do you make a difference with your hands?

My grandmother who raised me passed away recently. The last picture I have of us is just our hands. One set of hands is very worn, the other set of hands is getting more worn every day. In the photo, her hands were releasing this world while my hands were holding on tightly to her grasp. When we both finally let go, the reward for both of us was sweet - her's a Heavenly Home and mine a perfect peace. We just had to loosen our grip.

The first time the word Worship (which means to profoundly love or adore) was mentioned in the Bible, it came from a man who was called a friend of God, Abraham. God had given him his heart's desire, a son. Yet, God also asked Abraham to give him back. The verses that describe God talking to him, have many commas in them. Some Bible scholars say these commas represent when Abraham would speak back to God - push back at God. He was holding on tightly, with clenched fist, to Isaac - and rightly so. God was asking the most unbelievable thing. But God wasn't asking Abraham to give but to loosen - to let God have Isaac; to loosen his grip on his plans for his son. Even though Abraham did not know what God was going to do, he still said in verse 5, we will go and we will WORSHIP. Abraham was God's friend; Abraham had seen God move too many times. Abraham KNEW the Lord. **So, he had to loosen his hands so he could WORSHIP.** Truly worship. Abraham had to let go of himself, of Isaac, of promises, of his own desires, his own wants...Abraham had to open his clenched hands to truly worship God. Abraham had to trust, which was the highest form of worship. Abraham had to let go of what he WANTED so that he could WORSHIP.

He had to decide and then focus on WHO he loved the most. Then with loose hands, he could truly WORSHIP. IT WAS ABOUT THE FATHER. So, I will ask my question again.... what do your hands look like? Are they loose in great WORSHIP or CLENCHED in great fear holding on to what you want? Give me loose hands, God; loose hands to WORSHIP YOU.

Hold everything in your hands lightly, otherwise it hurts when God pries your fingers open." Corrie Ten Boom

- ◆ Water Balloon Toss - Wednesday, May 1 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Painting with Kids Sunday, May 5th from 3 to 5 PM
- ◆ 4th 5th and 6th Grades TIME OUT coming this month
- ◆ VBS JUNE STARTS JUNE 18TH

Thank you to everyone who prayed with and for me in my recent health scare. I am so grateful for my church family. God bless you.

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



High School:
Jordan Newton
Mikel Sumrall

College:
Annie Hillman

Grad School:
Lydia Newton

Our Youth will be going again this Summer May 27th through June 1st to Snowbird Retreat. Last Summer was a very spiritual experience for our group, and they are looking forward to this experience again. We have 11 Youth and 6 Chaperones going. If you would like to donate to help sponsor this trip, it would be greatly appreciated.

We have had fundraisers to raise money for each of these to go on this trip and we would like to thank the church as a whole for supporting us. On Saturday, May 18th, we will be at the Fairgrounds for the "Run for the Roses" Event doing concessions again as our last fundraiser. the Youth and Parents did an excellent job last time. We are looking forward to this again. If you are in town or just want to stop by and eat a meal with us, we will be there beginning 9 AM till around 8 PM - or till food runs out. We will have jambalaya, corndogs, hamburgers, pulled pork, nachos and all the fixin's.

Thank you for supporting our Youth in any way you are able - all donations are greatly appreciated. If anyone would like to volunteer helping that day, please see Linda Roberts - 601-551-1887 or Annie Hillman - 601-508-9988.

Thank you from Youth and Parents

VBS and Baby Bottles. . .



**Diving Into Friendship
With God!**



**Mon. - Thurs.
June 17 - 20, 2024
8 AM to 12 Noon**

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VBS

**Volunteer
Meeting**

Wed. - May 8

5 PM

Room 103

**Please don't
miss this
very**

**important
meeting!!!**

**Kelly Tipton
601-770-
0027**

**BABY
BOTTLE
Blessing**

Your loose change can make
a *Life Giving* difference!

Pick up on Mother's Day --- Return on Father's Day

Baby Bottle Blessing to support PROMISS in Gautier and Lucedale will begin next **Sunday, May 12** (*Mother's Day*). Baby bottles will be available for you to pick up at the Sanctuary doors. Please fill the bottle(s) with coin, cash, or check and return it to the same location on **Sunday, June 16** (*Father's Day*). Your donation helps PROMISS save lives by ministering to those unprepared for pregnancy. For more info., call PROMISS at 228-297-6477.

--Terri Nyman

Memorials, Missions, Thank You!, Announcements . . .

In Loving Memory, gifts have been given. . .

In Memory of Jett Dorsett, Betty Knight Stringer
a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale by
Jessie and Brenda Underwood



Mr. Jimmy's Fish Fry was a SUCCESS!!!
You gave \$2,940.00 for the Shoebox Fund!
Thanks to ALL who brought food, those who served, men who cooked and Youth that kept fish coming to the kitchen plus all who donated.
May Shoebox Ministry Needs: sewing kits, needles, spools of thread, safety pins and monetary gifts to the Shoebox Fund are very helpful. Thank you!!! --Beth Smith

A Message from Samaritan's Purse . . .

On behalf of Franklin Graham and Samaritan's Purse, thank you so much for participating in Operation Christmas Child! We want to thank you for your faithful partnership with us in ministry.

With your help, Operation Christmas Child collected over 11.3 million shoeboxes in 2023 to distribute to children around the world. More than 5.1 million of these children enrolled in The Greatest Journey, our follow-up discipleship program, and over 2.9 million reported making the decision to trust Jesus as their Savior. On average, each disciplined child shares the Gospel with six friends and family members, meaning these programs have an exponential impact on families, friends, and entire communities.

Food Pantry. . .

We have been made aware of a need for women's clothing and shoes for Angie's House. This is a rehab center for women here in George County. These ladies come in with only the clothes on their back. New underwear would be appreciated too. Also, we can take men's clothing and give them to City of Refuge. Your donations can be brought to the church during **Food Pantry hours, 9 AM to 11 AM on Tuesdays**, and we will see that they get delivered. Thank you for your help.

We also need cloth or canvas tote bags for "walkers" that come on Tuesdays. Thanks! --DeWanda Platt

Carey Dinner Theatre celebrates
50th Anniversary Season - July 11 - 27th
"Waffle House, the Musical"
More details to come.
--Faye McNeill

We will continue with a combined 10 AM service through the second Sunday in May. The Church Council will meet Sunday, May 5, to consider continuing with one 10 AM blended service. Please keep this in your prayers. --**Brother David**

Communion Servers - May 5:

Robert and DeWanda Platt, Judy Vosburg

Scripture Readers:

May 5 - Marla Howell

May 12 - Kathy Hudson

May 19 - Danny Moore

May Ushers: Andy Brantley, Karson Tolbert, Jeffrey Tolbert, Karl Smith

May Money Counters: Melinda Howell, Eileen Ward

May Doorstep Ministry: Marshall & Gail Havard

May Kids/Youth Wednesday Snack Supper:

1st Mike & Donna Bragg

8th Carmen Johnson

15th Nancy Berry

22nd Karl and Beth Smith

29th Robert and DeWanda Platt

Thank you for serving!!!

8:30 AM CHAPEL FELLOWSHIP

May 5: Annie Hillman: Youth Class

May 12: Jeff Howell: Adult Class

May 19: Andy Brantley: Contemporary

May 26: Mitchel Dixon: Discovery



Thank you, First Church of Lucedale, for the donation for the family of Nick Bufkin. Your kindness is so very much appreciated. --Janice Bufkin

To the WSCS,

Sending you a big thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your thoughtfulness in creating a Prayer Shawl for me while I'm recovering means so much. It's being used and reminds me to pray for a special group of ladies and your sweet ministry. May God continue to bless you. Your friend in Christ,

Mickie McCoy



We welcome the newest members into our Congregation. They are:
Michael F. Dossett,
William (Billy) and Elaine Rogers!!!



Schedule: Currently - May 12 (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
			1 5:30 Kids /Youth Snack Supper, CLC 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages 7 PM Water Balloon Toss	2 6:30 AM Prayer & Praise, Chapel  12 - 1 PM George County Courthouse Bring a lawn chair!	3	4
5 3 - 5 PM Painting with Kids Party, CLC 6 PM Church Council, Chapel	6 12 Noon WSCS Luncheon, Chapel 5 PM Weight Watchers Meeting, CLC 6:30 - 8 PM Gideon's Meeting, Stinson House	7 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry 5:30 - 6:30 PM Scouts, Upstairs 6 - 7 PM Brownies, Cadets, CLC 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel	8 1:30 PM Staff Meeting, Chapel 5 PM VBS Volun- teer Meeting - Room 103 5:30 Kids /Youth Snack Supper, CLC 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages	9 6:30 AM Prayer & Praise, Chapel 6:30 PM Ultreya Meeting, Chapel	10	11
12 Baby Bottle Campaign begins today! 	13 5 PM Weight Watchers Meeting, CLC 5:15 PM Trustees Meeting, Chapel	14 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry 5:30 - 6:30 PM Scouts Party, CLC 6 - 7 PM Brownies, Cadets, Upstairs 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel	15 5:30 Kids /Youth Snack Supper, CLC 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages	16 6:30 AM Prayer & Praise, Chapel	17	18 Youth Fundraiser
19 Pentecost Sunday 	20 5 PM Weight Watchers Meeting, CLC	21 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry 6 - 7 PM - Brownies, Cadets, CLC 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel	22 5:30 Kids /Youth Snack Supper, CLC 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages	23 6:30 AM Prayer & Praise, Chapel GEORGE COUNTY LAST DAY OF SCHOOL	24	25
26	27  Memorial Day Church Office Closed Youth Snowbird Retreat thru June 1	28 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry 9:30 AM Esther Kirkwood Circle, Room 103 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel	29 5:30 Kids /Youth Snack Supper, CLC 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages	30 6:30 AM Prayer & Praise, Chapel	31	