



**First Church of Lucedale**  
*A Global Methodist Congregation*

5101 Main Street ♦ P.O. Box 845 ♦ Lucedale, MS 39452  
(601) 947-8132 ♦ Email: [Info@firstchurchoflucedale.com](mailto:Info@firstchurchoflucedale.com)  
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**Notes From the Pastor's Desk . . . July, 2024**

**Happy Independence Day!**

There is no way we can speak these words and not smile. You may be thinking of family Fourth of July picnics, grilling, being on the beach, joining with a mass of people to watch fireworks.

I think of the freedom we have to gather in peace. We gather without thinking about the possibility of an explosion ending our lives, stray bullets, being arrested for worshipping God, or simply speaking our mind about the political landscape.

Most of the time we give little thought to what goes on behind the scenes. Our nation's military is constantly vigilant defending our freedom from enemies who seek to take it away. More than one person serving in military intelligence has told me that I would have trouble sleeping if I knew "what almost happened."

Law enforcement breaks up a criminal gang and we are saved from violence or theft. We never know that the one taken off the streets would cause irreparable harm to someone we love. From the very beginning our freedom has been purchased with the blood of men and women willing to lay down their lives for a cause greater than themselves. We need to be reminded of their sacrifice and be grateful.

Those held in bondage to the Evil One can be free in Christ. We too can know a greater freedom in our Lord as we grow in faith! As we gather with family and friends speak of this freedom. Give thanks for those who have given theirs for your salvation. God's grace gives us freedom over sin and death. We are able to enjoy what God has given us and no longer be held captive to the enemy of our souls.

**Free in Christ!**

***Brother David***

**Cell: (228) 216-6567    Email: [pastor@firstchurchoflucedale.com](mailto:pastor@firstchurchoflucedale.com)**

**Walt Stubblefield, Lay Leader ♦ 251-648-0973 ♦ [walt4856@gmail.com](mailto:walt4856@gmail.com)**

## Children News . . .

"Bring up your children in the training and instruction of the Lord."

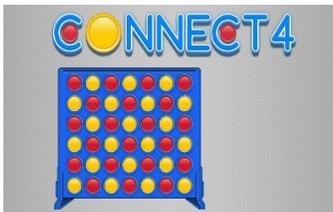


- Ephesians 6:4

**Chrissy Jordan, Children's Pastor**  
251-377-5838  
[children@firstchurchofluceale.com](mailto:children@firstchurchofluceale.com)

Do you ever stop and gaze at your children, it doesn't matter the age? If your heart is like mine, it goes back to the moment you first laid eyes on them. The memories of how scared you were, how in awe you were that God would hand you this small beautiful creation for you to raise and love. Were you in complete awe? Do you ever ask yourself the question "Where did time go?" My Granny used to tell me that one day life would absolutely feel like it was flying by. She was so right. One day they are babies, the next day they are graduating.

At the beginning of the year the Lord laid on my heart to do a "Family Crusade". I immediately began praying about what God wanted me to do. God begin to deal with me about the connections that we make with our children - the connections that we have in our home. Whether our home is a traditional family, a blended family, a grandparent rearing a child, or a home full of a combination of people full of love rearing kids, people that love together and live together are a family. As media has taken over our world, our connections with loved ones have taken a back seat. We no longer communicate without a phone in our hand or checking our media devices. This Crusade is called "Connect 4". You remember that old game? Four tokens of the same color make a connection and a win. This Crusade will focus on re-establishing our connections with each other - taking back respect, control and not compromising. We will have connection meals, connection classes, worship, devotions, and connection prayer time. We will have fun times at the end with competitive games and end with a snack. On Saturday we will have one class and then let the games begin! We will end the Crusade with a Sunday morning service for all and a huge lunch. This Event will be free. All people have to do is sign up. We will be giving away lots of prizes including hotel accommodations for a family trip! As we face the future, we have to get back to the basics with connections. We have to connect with God again, we have to connect with our loved ones, we have to connect with our church and we have to connect with each other. Please tell everyone you know about this Event. We need God to move. We need prayer. We need our families. We need to look at the faces of our children and be intentional about reaching them right where they are today...tomorrow is too late. Let's make time for this Event. So, please join us Thursday, July 18: 5:30 to 7:30 PM, Friday: 5:30 to 7:30 PM and Saturday: 9 AM to 12 Noon. LET'S CONNECT 4!



**July 3: No Wednesday night classes**

**July 7: Combined Church Service (No Children's Church)**

**July 10: Sonic Kids Night**

**July 14: Children's Church**

**July 17: Inside Movie Night (wear pajamas if you want) STARTS AT 5:00**

**July 18: 5:30 TO 7:30 PM**

**July 19: 5:30 TO 7:30 PM**

**July 20: 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon**

**July 21: 10:00 AM Combined Family Service**

**July 24: Inside Game Night**

**July 28: Children's Church**

**6-7 PM Back-to-School Prayer**

**July 31: Back-to-School Skate Night Party - 6 TO 8 (\$5 for each person (SKATING OR NOT))**

### July Kids/Youth Wednesday Snack Supper:

**July 3: No Classes**

**July 10: Lee & Linda Roberts**

**July 17: Matthew and Lacy Lee Smith**

**July 24: Marshall and Gail Havard**

**July 31: Marilyn Bounds**

## Youth, Music and Other News. . .

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

Greetings,

I hope everyone has been having an amazing summer. I know that the youth have had lots of fun with some of our summer activities and have also put in a lot of work this summer. They have done an amazing job at cleaning up yards and helping with different areas of the church. If anyone has any suggestions on work the youth could do, please let me know.

There are a lot of plans that are being made with the youth program and a lot of changes that will be made in the future. I am so excited to see where this program goes.

*-Annie Hillman*

**THANK YOU!!!**

A very special thank you for all the Youth and Adults that helped clean Sophia Smith's yard! Everyone worked hard and finished it by early afternoon. Sophia so appreciates all that everyone has done - looks so nice!!!

**PROMISS**

**Baby Bottle Campaign:**  
You have given **\$1,467.16** so far!!! What a blessing to this Ministry. Thank you for giving!!!

Donna Bragg, Music Leader  
601-770-0616  
music@firstchurchofluencedale.com



**Come join us . . .**

**Summer Choir Rehearsals  
Sundays at 5 PM  
July 7 and August 4**

We are taking up an offering this coming Sunday, June 30, to pay towards our Disaffiliation debt - \$183,000 was the original amount. We now owe approximately \$94,000. We take up three offerings during the year: March to the Manger, March to the Empty Tomb, and Independence Day Offering. These three offerings are applied to the loan plus making quarterly payments. Our quarterly payment is \$9,300. Our goal is to pay it off soon and get it off the books! The Finance Committee and I want to thank everyone for your generosity towards this goal. --*Lee Hedegaard*

**South Mississippi Cross of Christ  
Foundation Meeting  
Thursday – July 25  
5:30 PM in the Chapel**

Discussion: To go over the plans for building and maintaining a roadside Cross along Highway 98 to be a beacon of light for thousands traveling each day and provide a place to rest, meditate and to pray. Everyone is invited to attend.

**First Church of Lucedale**  
5101 Main Street, Lucedale, MS  
**Saturday, July 13, 2024**



## **FUNDRAISER**

**\$20**

Plate includes  
3 or 4 Fish Fillets,  
French Fries, Cole Slaw,  
Hushpuppy, Homemade  
Dessert and Soda/Bottled Water

This Fish Fry Blessing Fund-raiser will benefit Kim Whites Taylor, Dr. Dayton Whites' daughter, because of recent medical procedures in Cleveland, Ohio

**All  
PROCEEDS  
benefit Kim's  
medical  
expenses**

**You can pick up your plates starting at 11 AM to 2 PM in the Christian Life Center (CLC) of First Church of Lucedale. We will bring them out to the car or you can join us inside for food, fellowship and entertainment by our Local Artists.**

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

*In Loving Memory, gifts have been given. . .*

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



## July Shoebox Needs:

- ◆ Flashlights (with batteries)
  - ◆ Monetary gifts
- Thank you for giving!!!**

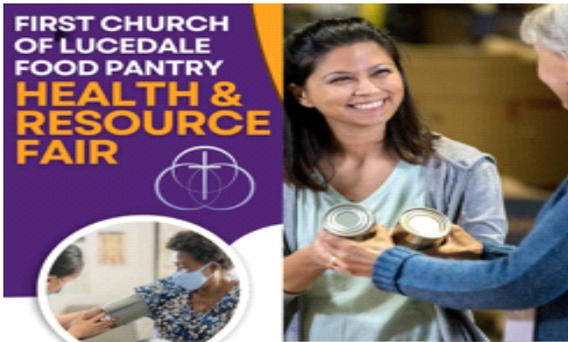
--Beth Smith, Kim Dees

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## Health & Resource Fair

Tues. - July 2  
9 AM - 12 Noon



JOIN US FOR:  
HEALTH SCREENINGS  
COMMUNITY RESOURCES  
ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS  
AGING & ADVOCACY SERVICES  
DOOR PRIZES & GIVEAWAYS  
PARKING AVAILABLE

July 2, 2024

9:00AM - Noon

FREE LUNCH TO GO!

Location:  
5101 Main St.  
Lucedale, MS 39452



For more information call >>> DeWanda Platt 601-947-8132

DeWanda Platt - 601-508-0642

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## Ray Dees' Mission Trip to Peru July 13 - 20, 2024

Donations for the Medical Team can be: reading glasses (any strength), sunglasses, and travel-sized toothpaste, clean, gently-used shoes and/or monetary donations toward the widows' tiny houses. A plastic container is in the church office foyer for the donations. Thank you for your support!

## Thank you for Serving in July . . .

### Communion Servers - July 14:

Amanda Newton, Terri Nyman, Mike Bragg

### Scripture Readers:

July 7: Thomas Woodruff

July 14: Linda Roberts

July 21: Annie Hillman

July 28: Marla Howell

July Ushers: Jill Larsen, Ty Larsen, Larry McDonald, Steve Tipton

### July Money Counters:

Valerie Carr, George McIntosh

### July Doorstep Ministry:

Steve and Kelly Tipton

## July Kids/Youth Wednesday Snack Supper:

July 3: No Classes

July 10: Lee & Linda Roberts

July 17: Matthew and Lacy Lee Smith

July 24: Marshall and Gail Havard

July 31: Marilyn Bounds

**Thank you for serving!!!**

## 8:30 AM CHAPEL FELLOWSHIP

July 7: Marilyn Bounds: Fellowship

July 14: Andy Brantley: Contemporary

July 21: Jeff Howell: Adult Class

July 28: Annie Hillman: Youth

## First Church Family,

Thank ya'll so much for the prayers and gifts ya'll sent. There is no way to let you know how much they meant. My next surgery is scheduled for August 8th, so I ask for continued prayers; as I have no doubt they're what made the difference.

Love,  
Scott and Kim Taylor

## Highlighting Our Families . . .



**Michael (Mike) Dossett: Retired**  
Social Studies Teacher, Football Coach; Luce-  
dale Middle School, Rocky Creek, Semmes  
Middle East Central  
Retired Colonel, US Army  
Army Reserve . Alabama  
Army National Guard  
**Interests/Hobbies:** Handyman, Shooting,  
Cooking, Alabama Football Fan  
**Teresa (Terry) Dossett: Retired**  
Providence Hospital, RN Outpatient Surgery  
**Interests/Hobbies:** Reading, Art, Music,  
Decorating



**Lee Roberts:** Pipeline  
**Linda Roberts:** Bus Driver  
**Wyatt Roberts:** 10th Grade  
Moved from Pike County, MS - October 2012  
**Family Interests/Hobbies:** Hunting,  
Fishing, Gardening, Farm Animals, Church  
Volunteers



**William (Billy) Rogers: Retired**  
Electrician  
**Interests/Hobbies:** Construction,  
Woodworking, Electrical, Bike Riding  
**Elaine Rogers: Retired**  
Mortgage Loan Officer  
**Interests/Hobbies:** Sewing, quilting,  
bike riding



**Jack Vosburg: Retired**  
Loss Control Representative  
**Interests/Hobbies:** Traveling, Beach  
& Cruises, Flea Markets & Antiquing  
**Judy Vosburg:**  
High School Business Teacher  
**Interests/Hobbies:** Crafting, cards,  
Boardgames



**JULY 2024**

**Schedule: (Nursery provided) . . .**

8:30 AM Chapel Fellowship  
9:00 AM Sunday School  
10:00 AM Worship Service

10:00 AM Children's Church  
5:00 PM Adult Choir Practice  
(July and August)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1</p> <p>5 PM <i>Weight Watchers Meeting, Chapel</i> 6:30 - 8 PM <i>Health Fair Setup, CLC</i> 6:30 - 8 PM <i>Gideon's Meeting, Stinson House</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p>9 AM - 12 Noon <b>Food Pantry Health Fair</b></p>	<p>3</p> <p>No Classes tonight</p>	<p>4 6:30 AM Praise &amp; Prayer, Chapel</p>  <p>Church Office Closed</p>	5	6
7	<p>8</p> <p>5 PM <i>Weight Watchers Meeting, Chapel</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p>9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry</p> <p>6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel</p>	<p>10</p> <p>No Staff Meeting</p> <p>5:30 Kids /Youth Snack Supper, CLC <b>Kids Sonic Trip</b> 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages</p>	<p>11 6:30 AM Praise &amp; Prayer, Chapel</p> <p>6:30 PM <i>Ultreya Meeting, Chapel</i></p>	12	13
14 Holy Communion will be served	<p>15</p> <p>5:15 PM Trustees Meeting, Room 123 5 PM <i>Weight Watchers Meeting, Chapel</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p>9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry</p> <p>6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel</p>	<p>17</p> <p>5:30 Kids /Youth Snack Supper, CLC 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages</p>	<p>18 Happy Birthday, Brother David!!! 6:30 AM Praise &amp; Prayer, Chapel</p> <div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>5:30 - 7:30 PM</p>  <p>Family Crusade / CLC</p> </div>	19	20
21	<p>22</p> <p>5 PM <i>Weight Watchers Meeting, Chapel</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p>9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry</p> <p>6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5:30 Kids /Youth Snack Supper, CLC 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages</p>	<p>25 6:30 AM Praise &amp; Prayer, Chapel</p> <p>Everyone invited: 5:30 PM So. MS Road Cross Meeting, Chapel</p>	26	27
28 Backpack Blessing!!!	<p>29</p> <p>5 PM <i>Weight Watchers Meeting, Chapel</i></p>	<p>30</p> <p>9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry</p> <p>6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel</p>	<p>31</p> <p>5:30 Kids /Youth Snack Supper, CLC <b>Back-to-School All-Church Skate</b> 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages</p>			