



First Church of Lucedale

A Global Methodist Congregation

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Notes From the Pastor's Desk . . . *March, 2024*

I am ready for Spring! There is something about the transition from February to March that I find uplifting. The days are growing longer and the plants I failed to cover during this winter's freeze are showing signs of new life emerging out of death.

The date of Easter is determined as the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon falling on or next after the ecclesiastical spring equinox (March 21). Spring equinox in the northern hemisphere can fall earlier (2024's date is March 20), but the church fixed this date. Remember the spring equinox in the northern hemisphere refers to the day when day and night are roughly equal. This varies depending upon the latitude. The Paschal full moon refers to the fourteenth day of the ecclesiastical lunar month and not the real astronomical Full Moon, and its date is determined from tables. In 2024, the Paschal full moon falls on Sunday, March 31, so Easter will be celebrated on **Sunday, March 31, 2024**. Paschal full moon is the ecclesiastical full moon of the northern hemisphere's spring. The name "paschal" is derived from "Pascha", a transliteration of the Aramaic word meaning "Passover."

The Hebrew people used lunar cycles to calculate time. We use a calendar based upon dates fixed by solar cycles and not fixed by lunar cycles. Biblical feasts, festivals, and holy days were based upon the agrarian and lunar cycles.

This leads to some confusion in setting the date for Easter. It is important to recognize it is set in relation to the Hebrew calendar's setting of the date for Passover.

Passover commemorates the story of the Israelite's departure from ancient Egypt. The Hebrew people were told by Moses to mark their door frames with the lamb's blood so that the angel of death would recognize and "pass over" each Jewish household. As each firstborn male in each Egyptian died the cries of anguish rose through the night. The Jews who obeyed were saved by the blood of the lamb who was slain in atonement for their sins.

In the same way, the blood of The Lamb, Jesus was slain. The judgment of the evil one has no power to snatch us from our Savior's hands unless we surrender to Satan. Why would we? Among the Jews, there were likely some households that did not follow the Lord's command. What power did the blood of a lamb have over death? The "power" was God's hand of salvation moved by the faith of the obedient.

The power of Christ's sacrifice is released and covers our sins and death itself. Will you respond in obedience to His call upon your life? Repent and believe the Gospel and Easter becomes a celebration of what Christ has done. The Lamb that was slain has saved all who believe and follow Him as Lord!

Your Brother in Christ,

David

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Children and Youth News . . .

Chrissy Jordan, Children's Pastor
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Love is a wonderful word. When you think about love it gives you a warm, fuzzy feeling in your heart. We actually just celebrated the "month of love". In February love is in the air.

Yet, love is much more than a feeling; it is an action. Love is showing grace to someone who feels "graceless". Love is praying with someone and taking your time to make someone feel like they are valued in this world. In the hustle and bustle of this crazy world, love can make such a difference every day. This March we are celebrating Easter - Jesus paying the ultimate price for our salvation, the ultimate gift of love.

Our children have been using the verse found in John 13:34 - "As I have loved you, so you also should love one another" as a basis for doing **GOD DEEDS** in our community. A God deed is a good deed with God in the middle. When you do a **GOD DEED**, you let Christ shine for others to see; instead of just helping someone, you stop and pray with them also. Instead of calling or texting someone on the phone, send them a scripture or word of encouragement to lift them to Christ. When you see someone in the store that you know, ask how you can pray for them. **GOD DEEDS** put God front and center. We have had children in our church write cards to those in need, praying with others, stopping and praying with friends at school.

One of our children took cookies to a neighbor and drew a card telling them God was with them. When the person got the cookies and the note, they had just asked God to let them know He was with them. The child didn't know that but God knew and used that **GOD DEED** to touch that person's heart. How powerful!

One of our other children, after having major ear surgery, told his doctor at his final check up that God had used her to heal his ear and hearing. He also told his doctor how grateful He was for her and that he prayed for her. One of our children even wrote a note to their principal, prayed for them and gave them a gift card. **LOVE IS POWERFUL! GOD DEEDS ARE POWERFUL.** When we complete our reading with verse 35, we see what Jesus wanted us to embrace - the fact that we **ARE** His disciples **IF** we show love one to another, love isn't just a feeling; love is an action. Love is Jesus, love is what shows a dying world a **PERFECT SAVIOUR**. So, this month as you celebrate Easter, remember why Jesus came, to **SEEK** and **SAVE** that which was lost. When we walk and live by His example, life becomes more about giving than receiving. Life becomes a little more like Jesus. Our "Chosen Children" challenge you to let **GOD DEEDS** live through you. **Who knows it might just change a life!**



Annie Hillman, Youth Leader
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Our youth will be going again this Summer: **May 27 - June 1** 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 5 chaperones going. If you would like to donate to help sponsor this trip it would be greatly appreciated.

We will have 2 After-Church Service Meals to raise funds: 1 in March and 1 in April. In May we will be at the Fairgrounds "Run for the Roses" Event doing concessions again as our last fundraiser.

Thank you for supporting our youth in any way you are able.

Thank you from Youth and Parents

COMING SOON



VBS 2024

June 17-20

Kids & Youth Wednesday

Snack Supper in March:

- 6 Jason and Kelli Ardoin
- 13 Jeffrey and Kristin Tolbert
- 20 Marilyn Bounds
- 27 No Classes - Join us for 6 PM Maundy Thursday Communion Service in the Sanctuary

Easter Is Coming! Celebrate the Savior! . . .

**Invite your family and friends
to come with you!!!**



PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday, March 24, remember to wear your Palm Cross. We will also have some extra crosses at the front door of the Sanctuary.



--The WSCS

(Women's Society of Christian Service)

Maundy Thursday

March 28 - 6 PM

Communion Service



**Easter Cantata
"He Lives!"**

**March 31
10 AM**



**"March to the
Empty Cross"
Offering
Easter Sunday!**

Memorials, Thank You!, Announcements . . .

In Loving Memory, gifts have been given. . .

In Memory of Kay Grafe

gifts have been given to First Church of Lucedale by Jason and Kelli Ardoin, Jean Brantley, Nancy Corley, Gayle Gill, George and Nell McIntosh, Jo Ann Weaver

In Memory of Dave Lollis

gifts have been given to First Church of Lucedale by Mike and Donna Bragg, Jean Brantley, Nancy Corley, Gayle Gill, Betty Henderson, George and Nell McIntosh, Jo Ann Weaver, Tommy and Judy Wilder

In Memory of Kay Grafe, Dave Lollis, Ricky Josey

a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale by John and Alceon Ward

In Memory of Curtis Hebert

gifts have been given to First Church of Lucedale by Curtis and Virginia Hebert Family, George and Nell McIntosh

In Memory of Annie Mae Clark (*Pastor Chrissy's grandmother*)

a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale by Faye McNeill

In Memory of Dave Lollis, Kay Grafe, Buddy Varnadore

a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale by Marshall and Gail Havard

Our Christian Sympathies are extended to the Family of:

Annie Mae Clark (*Pastor Chrissy's grandmother*) who passed away Sunday, February 18. Her Homecoming Celebration was Wednesday, February 21, at the Pathway Church in Mobile, Alabama. Please continue to remember Pastor Chrissy, her mother and their family in your prayers.

Operation Christmas Child: The numbers are in! The total amount of shoeboxes collected worldwide was 11,330,126. Of those, 10,051,570 were collected in the United States. Our three county districts collected a total of 9,522. And last but not least, our church collected 557.

Thank you to Beth Smith and all those who contributed items and donated money to fill shoeboxes. It is our prayer that every shoebox will be an opportunity to introduce a child to the gospel of Jesus Christ. --**Kim Dees**



MARCH Shoebox Ministry Needs: Hot wheels or matchbox cars, small cars or trucks, balls and as always, monetary gifts to the Shoebox Fund are very helpful. Thank you!!!--Beth Smith

Mollie Margaret Maples

BRIDAL SHOWER

Sunday, March 24, 2024

2:00 to 4:00 PM

Chapel

First Church of Lucedale

Further details to follow

Thanks for Serving in March:

8:30 Communion Servers:

Ron and Annis Prescott, Jeff Howell

11:00 Communion Servers:

Steve and Kelly Tipton, Danny Moore

8:30 Scripture Readers:

3rd Robert Hudson

10th Kim Dees

17th Stacy Woodruff

24th Derrick Scott

31st Easter

11:00 Scripture Readers:

3rd Sissy Bailey

10th Judy Wilder

17th Tonya Harbison

24th Judy Vosburg

31st Easter

8:30 Service Ushers: David Miller,

Frankie Massey, Ronnie Miller, Scott Stradtner

11:00 Service Ushers: Jack Vosburg,

Danny Moore, John Ward, Mike Nyman

Money Counters:

Richmond McKay, Ronnie Miller

Doorstep Ministry:

Jody and Zan Hataway

9:30 -10 AM CHAPEL FELLOWSHIP

March 3: Andy Brantley: Contemporary

March 10: Mitchel Dixon: Discovery

March 17: Marilyn Bounds: Fellowship

March 24: Annie Hillman: Youth

March 31: Easter

Kids & Youth Wednesday

Snack Supper in March:

6 Jason and Kelli Ardoin

13 Jeffrey and Kristin Tolbert

20 Marilyn Bounds

27 No Classes - Join us for 6 PM Maundy Thursday Communion Service

thank
you!

Thank you for the love and kindness shown to our family during this difficult time. We are overwhelmed at the support we have received. God Bless!

--Family of Deputy Jeremy Malone



MARCH 2024

Regular Sunday Schedule (Nursery provided) . . .

8:30 Contemporary Service
8:30 Children's Church
9:50 Sunday School

11:00 Traditional Service
5:00 Adult Choir Practice

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 World Day of Prayer	2
3 Third Sunday of Lent 5:30 Movie Night Outside with Food	4 12 Noon WSCS Luncheon, Chapel 6:30 - 8 PM Gideon's Meeting, Stinson House	5 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	6 5:30 Kids /Youth Snack Supper, CLC 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages	7 6:30 AM Prayer & Praise, Chapel	8	9
10 Fourth Sunday of Lent 	11-18 School Spring Break	12 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel	13 1:30 PM Staff Meeting, Chapel 5:30 Kids /Youth Snack Supper, CLC 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages	14 6:30 AM Prayer & Praise, Chapel 6:30 PM Ultreya Meeting, Chapel	15	16
17 Fifth Sunday of Lent	18 6 PM NOW Committee Meeting, Chapel	19 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	20 5:30 Kids /Youth Snack Supper, CLC 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages	21 6:30 AM Prayer & Praise, Chapel	22	23
24 Palm Sunday 2-4 PM Bridal Shower for Mollie Maples, Chapel  31	25 	26 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry 9:30 AM Esther Kirkwood Circle, Room 103 5:30 - 6:30 PM Scouts, Upstairs 6 - 7 PM Brownies, Cadets, CLC 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel	27 No Classes tonight: Join us for Maundy Thursday Service	28 6:30 AM Prayer & Praise, Chapel 6 PM Maundy Thursday Communion Service	29  Rose Morris 3:45 PM - 6:00 PM Violin Group, Stinson House	30 Easter Egg Hunt  TBA