



First Church of Lucedale

A Global Methodist Congregation



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

As I write this article, the Global Methodist Church's first General Conference is taking place. Reports from the Conference are very encouraging. The Spirit of God is moving through the delegates, volunteers, and attenders. A new movement of God is clearly at work, and we are privileged to be connected.

When the Global Methodist Church was launched and First Church of Lucedale voted to join, it was a fledgling denomination. The Mississippi-West Tennessee Conference had about 40 congregations, and there was uncertainty about whether we would be viable as a Conference. Every officer of the Conference was a volunteer. We had no budget, no checking account, no expense reimbursements. But we served with great joy, trusting in the Lord.

God is faithful. He is moving in a fresh way among the people called Methodists. I witnessed this last week at the New Room Conference. People were delivered from bondage, lives were given a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and the worship was incredible!

We trusted God, and God has proven to be faithful! Our Conference is now over 200 congregations strong. Our district is the largest in the conference and growing! Most importantly, the Spirit of God is moving among us, and people are coming to Christ. Christians are growing in holiness, and worship is vibrant!

The Word of God speaks much about trust. We launched out on a journey where the future was less certain, but we were faithful. Proverbs 3:5 tells us "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding." "Trust in God is a central imperative in Scripture. The verb used in Proverbs 3:5 occurs more than 100 times in the Old Testament. The writer does not define or explain trust. He does, however, describe what trust in God is not- it is not relying on our own understanding." (Rachel Coleman writing for Firebrand magazine)

Misplaced trust is a chronic temptation for our generation just as it was for the people of Israel and the New Testament church. Israel trusted in high walls and fortifications, political alliances, and military weapons. What's wrong with that? We want a strong military, secure borders, and strategic friends. Scripture speaks of the role of government being that of keeping order and protecting the integrity of the nation's borders.

Scripture tells us that our trust is to be in the Lord. We know that even the strongest armies fail, enemies find ways to penetrate borders, and alliances are fickle. Misplaced confidence is deadly. Gideon's army won the battle only when it paled down to a contingent too small to win apart from the hand of God. We have seen this at First Church. God has taken us through a season where we have had to rely upon Him. In the New Testament, the word "believe" is used to mean placing our confidence in the Lord.

As a nation, we are in a contentious political season. We are almost evenly divided. In times past, the vote may have been close, but at the end, we worked together to be a stronger nation. That time has passed. Christians must engage in politics, but our feet are not firmly planted there. We are planted upon the Rock that is Christ, not in shifting sand. Our hope is in the Lord. He is sovereign regardless of the outcome in November.

My prayer and confident hope is that the Lord will use the Movement we are grafted into to effect a change in our Nation so that many more will come to know Christ, and we will know a unity grounded in the One True God!

Your brother in Christ,

Brother David

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

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

Children Ministry . . .

**Chrissy Jordan, Children's Pastor - 251-377-5838
chrissyjordanlovesjesus@yahoo.com**

2 Samuel 24:14: Let us fall into the hands of the LORD, for His mercy is great..

I heard a story some years ago about a family that had lost a precious loved one. After some months they decided to go through the terrible task of parting with their loved one's belongings. As they packed, they decided to check the pockets on some of the clothes. To their surprise, pocket after pocket contained hundreds of dollars. Hush money. Hidden money. Saved money, something to fall back on in a hard time. I also watched a story about a mother who saved every little speck of food she could: canned it, froze it and hoarded it for a day when food would be scarce.

My beloved great grandmother knew that I loved peas. So she would hide packs of peas in her freezer just for me. When Chrissy, the kid came to visit, she always had "fresh" peas and apple dapple cake. Something to fall back on, she used to say.

Whether we want to admit it or not, we all have something we fall back on. We keep a little secret, hide a little cash, store up for a rainy day or just have someone or something we can't live without. We all need a safe place to land in times of trouble.

King David needed a safe place to land. He had done the very thing God had told him not to do. He was told not to number his people. But David did. Why? Who knows? Maybe because he was feeling inferior and needed to see how many soldiers he could call into action. Perhaps he felt impowered, being sovereign and in control of His Kingdom. He disobeyed the Lord. He chose to willfully number his people and disobeyed the Lord.

God gave him a choice. David had all the resources in the world at his disposal. God asked him what he wanted his punishment to be. David answered; to FALL in the hands of Lord because His mercy is great. David knew that even though he had let the Lord down, God would not let him down. God would still be God and could still be trusted. God was just that to David, trustworthy. A safe place to fall.

My question today is what or who do you FALL back on? Is there something in your heart that makes you feel that if you hold on to it everything will be, ok? He wants us to FALL INTO HIS ARMS, rest in His love and have confidence that HE IS TRUSTWORTHY. He is faithful. What does He hold for us when we fall - Mercy, the highest form of compassion and forgiveness. He is a soft place to land.

As we enter into October and Fall approaches, open up your eyes with each falling leaf; open up your heart, and with total abandonment, free fall on the ONE who gave it all for us. He is our back-up plan. He is our safe landing. Fall back on God, He will never let you down.

OCTOBER 2: CRAFT NIGHT (crafts for rehab) / Bible Drill

OCTOBER 9: NO WEDNESDAY CLASSES / CAMPMEETING

OCTOBER 16: CHILDREN'S SABBATH PRACTICE

OCTOBER 20: CHILDREN'S SABBATH

OCTOBER 23: VISIT THE REHAB / BIBLE DRILL

OCTOBER 30: FUN NIGHT

OCTOBER 31: HOE DOWN NIGHT

Christmas Play Practice - Wed. @ 5 PM: Oct. 16, 23 and 30

Music, Youth Ministries, Announcements . . .

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

Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things. Psalm 98:1

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Psalm 100:1-2

The book of Psalm is full of exhortations that encourage us to sing to the Lord. It plainly states that God is pleased with our expressions of worship through song and music. He does not even mind that we may be not be the best singer in the world; He is listening for YOUR voice. Everyone can sing! Everyone can be blessed by singing even as it blesses God. Try focusing on a favorite hymn or worship song during your morning devotions. Read over the words and reflect on their meanings. Sing them out loud. I promise that you will have a song in your heart all day!

The Adult Choir is meeting each Sunday afternoon at 5:00. We have begun working on our Christmas music, "Christmas...A Savior Is Born!" We would love to have you join us!

Let's all make a joyful noise!
Donna

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

To The Church,

September was so enjoyable for the Youth with a game night and the new addition of a Gaga pit. They had a lot of fun!

In the upcoming month of October be sure to cheer the football team on at Friday night games and cheer the band on Saturdays at their competitions. October is full of football and music for the Youth.

-Annie Hillman

Kids/Youth Wednesday Snack Supper:

- 2: Karl and Beth Smith
- 9: Salem Camp Meeting
- 16: Robert and DeWanda Platt
- 23: Mike and Terri Nyman
- 30: Jeff and Melinda Howell



a Unto Us
Savior's Born



Wedding Shower for
**Luke Lumpkin and Courtney
Martin**

**Sunday, October 6, 2024
2 PM - Chapel**

**Registered: Amazon, Walmart, and
Pampered Chef**

DeWanda Platt (601)-508-0642

Memorials, Thank You!, Announcements . . .

In Loving Memory, gifts have been given. . .

In Memory of Mitchel Dixon

gifts have been given to First Church of Lucedale by Gayle Gill,
Tommy and Judy Wilder

In Memory of Voncile Lamb, Kay Grafe

a gift has been given to First Church of Lucedale by Lucille Cooper

In Memory of Voncile Lamb

gifts have been given to First Church of Lucedale by Mavis Dungan,
Jeff and Melinda Howell

In Memory of Julie Eubanks

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

Our Christian Sympathies are extended to the Family of:

Lillie Voncile Lamb who passed away Monday, September 2. Her Homegoing Service was held on Monday, September 9 here at First Church of Lucedale. Burial was in the Magnolia Cemetery. Please continue to remember Voncile's family in your prayers.



**We welcome the
newest member,
Julie Cherie Hebert,
into our
Congregation!!!**

**First Church of Lucedale is currently in search of a
Music Director. Donna Bragg is retiring after many
faithful years of service. Please contact SPRC
Chairperson, Tanya Beech or Brother David at 228-
216-6567.**



**Join us for
Salem Camp
Meeting!!!
October 7th
thru 12th**

Thank you for serving in October:

Communion Servers:

Jason & Stacy Woodruff, Carmen Johnson

Scripture Readers:

6: Valerie Carr **13:** Robert Hudson
20: Children's Sabbath **27:** Ronnie Miller

Ushers: Jeff Howell, Noah Alexander,
Mike Henderson, Scott Stradtner

Money Counters:

Brenda Underwood, Betty Henderson

Doorstep Ministry:

Jeff and Melinda Howell

8:30 AM Chapel Fellowship:

6: Andy Brantley: Contemporary

13: Ronnie Miller: Discovery I

20: Marilyn Bounds: Fellowship

27: Jeff Howell: Adult Class

Kids/Youth Wednesday Snack Supper:

2: Karl and Beth Smith

9: Salem Camp Meeting

16: Robert and DeWanda Platt

23: Mike and Terri Nyman

THANK YOU'S . . .

We're thankful for the food that fed us, prayers that sustained us, texts that encourage us, and visits that reminded us we're not alone. This church always exemplifies the selfless love of Jesus in action. Our emptiness is great, but we are so excited about seeing him soon. He loved you all so much.
--Margaret, Carmen, Mike, Ladner and Taite

I'd like to thank each person who lifted me up in prayers. Thoughts, prayers and support have contributed so much to my emotional health as well as physical. Please feel free to continue to mention me in your daily prayers.
Love in Christ,
Dana Brantley McMullan

Highlighting Our Families . . .



Donnie and Joyce Barry:

Donnie: Retired Military (Army)

Joyce: T. A. (Lucedale Elementary)

Interests/Hobbies: We enjoy spending time with our children and grandkids and working in the flower garden. Joyce worked with the Food Pantry Team for 10 years. She is a member of the Esther Kirkwood Circle.



Julie Cherie Hebert: Interior Designer
Works at Floorz N More
Former Occupation: Self-employed 25 years Accent On Design

Interests/Hobbies: DIY and Decorating
Serves on Decorating Committee here at First Church of Lucedale



Wanda Golden: Retired from Grocery Manager Position

Interests/Hobbies:

Spending time with friends and family. Just loving retirement and being back in my hometown - helps with the Food Pantry currently.



Frank and Diane Bailey:

Retired - Former Accountant and Teacher

Interests/Hobbies:

Painting, sewing, gardening, reading

Both are willing to be involved in church ministry.



FIRST CHURCH OF LUCEDALE 2024 MISSIONS FAIR



TRASH

To
Treasures

SALE



**Household Items,
Jewelry, Purses,
Puzzles, Holiday
Items & MORE!**

Come shop with us!

**Friday, October 4
8 AM - 12 Noon
&**

**Saturday, October 5
8 AM - 12 Noon**

**ALL PROCEEDS
GO TO
MISSIONS!!!**

If you are a local craftsmen selling home-made products and are interested a booth at **First Church's Mission Fair**, please register by filling out an application at the church website or in the church office.

The cost for a booth is \$25 for one day or \$25 for both days.

If you have questions, please contact **Kim Dees** at 601-508-3363.

**You can start bringing your garage sale items for Missions Monday, September 30!
No CLOTHES, PLEASE!
Please call Kelly Tipton at 601-770-0027
if you have ???'s.**



2024

Schedule: (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
	<p>Start bringing your sale items for the Missions Fair!!!</p>	<p>1 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 6:30 AM Praise & Prayer, Chapel</p>	<p>4 8 AM - 12 Noon Missions Fair, CLC</p>	<p>5 8 AM - 12 Noon Missions Fair, CLC</p>
		<p>5:30 - 6:30 PM Scouts, Upstairs 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel</p>	<p>5:30 Kids /Youth Snack Supper, CLC Bible Quiz & Kids Craft Nite 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages</p>	<p>6:30 AM Praise & Prayer, Chapel</p>		
<p>6</p> <p>2 PM Wedding Shower for Luke Lumpkin & Courtney Martin, Chapel</p>	<p>7 - 12 Salem Camp Meeting</p> <p>12 Noon WSCS Luncheon/Meeting, Chapel 5 PM Weight Watchers Meeting, Chapel 6:30 - 8 PM Gideon's Meeting /Stinson House</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry</p> <p>5:30 - 6:30 PM Scouts, Upstairs 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel</p>	<p>9</p> <p>1:30 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>No Classes - "Come to Salem Camp Meeting!!!"</p>	<p>10 6:30 AM Praise & Prayer, Chapel</p> <p>6:30 PM Ultreya Meeting, Chapel 7 PM 9th MS Cavalry Meeting, Stinson House</p>	<p>11</p> <p>3:30 PM Rose Morris, Violin Group, Stinson House</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>"Columbus Day" Church Office Closed</p> <p>5 PM Weight Watchers Meeting, Chapel 5 PM Trustees Meeting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:30 - 6:30 PM Scouts, Upstairs 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5 PM Kids Christmas Practice 5:30 Kids /Youth Snack Supper, CLC Bible Quiz & Kids Sabbath Practice 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages</p>	<p>17 6:30 AM Praise & Prayer, Chapel</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p>10 AM Children's Sabbath</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5 PM Weight Watchers Meeting, Chapel</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry 9:30 AM Esther Kirkwood Circle, Room 123</p> <p>5:30 - 6:30 PM Scouts, Upstairs 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5 PM Kids Christmas Practice 5:30 Kids /Youth Snack Supper, CLC Bible Quiz & Kids Visit Rehab 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages</p>	<p>24 6:30 AM Praise & Prayer, Chapel</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>11:15 AM - 1 PM Church Council Planning Meeting - Lunch is provided</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5 PM Weight Watchers Meeting, Chapel</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry</p> <p>5:30 - 6:30 PM Scouts, Upstairs 6 PM Men's Bible Study, Chapel</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5 PM Kids Christmas Practice 5:30 Kids /Youth Snack Supper, CLC Bible Quiz & Kids Fun Nite 6 PM Small Groups Bible Study for All Ages</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6 - 8 PM HOE DOWN NITE</p>		