



# South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 78 No. 01 January 2, 2024

### ELDERS

David Anderson  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

### DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
Stacey Paulin

### MINISTER

### ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

### OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

### EMAIL

[SFA.church@gmail.com](mailto:SFA.church@gmail.com)

### SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.  
Worship.....10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00 a.m.  
Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.

### WEB PAGE

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com)

### Find us on

YouTube & Facebook

### HOME OF

*Florida School of Preaching*  
since 1969

**Missionary - Huron, SD**  
*Casey & Emily Paulin*

### MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill ..... Russia  
Don Iverson ..... India  
Marc Veary ..... Malawi, Africa  
Graham McDonald ..... Scotland  
J. Paguaga ..... Honduras  
Ted Wheeler ..... Ghana, W.A.

## Overcoming Inconveniences

Brian R. Kenyon

We have often heard missionaries talk about Christians in underdeveloped countries walking several miles just to attend congregational Bible study and worship, and were happy to be there (cf. Ps. 133:1). While those scenes are real, there is a huge difference between our culture and theirs. However, one thing is common: all cultures have potential inconveniences when it comes to assembling with the saints. There will be more inconveniences associated with this next phase of our construction to repair sewer lines. We must not let these inconveniences keep us from “stirring up love and good works” in the “assembling of ourselves together” (Heb. 10:24-25). Below are two things we can do.

### Keep Going the Extra Mile

In His discussion against personal retaliation when we are wronged by others, Jesus said, “Whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two” (Mt. 5:41). The background to this was the legal right Roman soldiers had to compel others to do menial tasks (cf. Mk. 15:21), whom they sometimes abused (cf. Lk. 3:14). The principle for us today is to have a cooperative spirit that goes well beyond what is “required by law.” How does this apply during our present construction? We must have a cooperative spirit that will challenge us to go beyond our comfort zone to grow spiritually (2 Pet. 3:18) and to encourage others in their spiritual growth (1 Thes. 5:11). Let us all go the “second mile” during this construction project by not complaining but by finding a way—in spite of the inconveniences—to bless others as we continue to assemble (Mt. 5:13-16).

### Continue Seeking God First

In His discussion about our worrying over physical necessities, Jesus said, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things [food, drink, and clothing] shall be added to you” (Mt. 6:33). To “seek first” is to deliberately pursue the objects mentioned as our first priority, which are the “kingdom of God” and “His righteousness.” The “kingdom of God” is broader than the “church of Christ” in that it refers to God’s reign, or rule (Ex. 15:18; Ps. 103:19; 145:11-13 cf. 1 Sam. 12:12), while the church refers to the final manifestation of God’s reign, or rule, this side of eternity (Mt. 16:18-19 cf. Heb. 12:28). The only way we can submit to God’s rule is through obedience to the gospel (cf. Acts 2:36-38, 40-41, 47). “Righteousness” can refer to God’s character (Ezr. 9:15) and/or to His gospel system (Rom. 1:16-17). Since God’s kingdom and righteousness are inseparable (Rom. 14:17), to seek the one is to seek the other! How does this apply during our present construction? We must not allow the inconvenience of a cramped fellowship room or a less comfortable chair dethrone our top priority to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” (cf. Lk. 6:46). ♥

# Change of Venue:

Due to emergency construction being incomplete at South Florida Avenue, the lectureship will be hosted by

# Orange Street church of Christ 310 Orange Street, Auburndale, FL 33823



Forest Antemasaris



Lori Antemasaris



Stephen Atnip



Brooks Boyd



Laura Boyd



Rico Brown



Joshua Cantrell



Jimmy Clark



John Allan



Logan Summers



David Stearsman



Daniel Stearsman



Katrina Stearsman



Jason Ridgeway

## Florida School of Preaching 49th Annual Lectureship



# A REASONED HOPE: FIRM UNTO THE END

January 15-18, 2024

Brian R. Kenyon, Director

### Monday, January 15

9:00 Biblical Contexts of Hope Logan Summers  
9:40 The Certainty of Biblical Hope Steven Ford  
10:20 BREAK  
10:50 God's Word: Transmission of Hope Trevor Dees  
11:30 LUNCH

#### Forum: Hope for the Local Church

1:30 The God of Hope Excels Our Hope ... Peace F. Antemasaris  
2:00 Restoring Hope When Suicide Hits A Family Jerry Martin  
2:30 Hope Like Never Before: The Future Is Bright Hiram Kemp  
3:30 Ladies Class: Sarah's Trust in God Lori Antemasaris  
3:30 Questions and Answers on Forum Topic  
4:30 DINNER - Alumni Reception - Alumni and family please RSVP  
6:30 Congregational Singing  
7:00 What God Has Done to Give Hope Trevor Dees  
7:45 "We're All in this Together" (Revelation 1) Jeff A. Jenkins

### Tuesday, January 16

9:00 The Hope of Israel David Stearsman  
9:40 What Everyone Should Know About Grief Jeff A. Jenkins  
10:20 BREAK  
10:50 Saved by Hope Stephen Atnip  
11:30 LUNCH

#### Forum: Contemporary Issues of Hope

1:30 Too Young to Die: Depression and Suicide Daniel Stearsman  
2:00 Faith's Role to Treat Hopelessness/Prevent Suicide J.Eaves  
2:30 The Church: A Safe Place to Restore Hope ... Life J. Davis  
3:00 BREAK  
3:30 Questions and Answers on Forum Topic  
4:30 DINNER - Appreciation Banquet - ALL WELCOME - Please RSVP, \$14 donation for dinner  
6:30 Congregational Singing  
7:00 Hope and the Resurrection Graham McDonald  
7:45 Jeremiah: Hope Through Tears Jimmy Clark

### Wednesday, January 17

9:00 The Hope of the Gentiles Robert Lupo  
9:40 Wisdom Living Gives Hope Brooks Boyd  
10:20 BREAK  
10:50 The Relationship Between Faith, Love, and Hope J. Clark  
11:30 LUNCH

#### Forum: False Objects of Hope

1:30 This World (1 Corinthians 15:19) Jason Ridgeway  
2:00 Riches (1 Timothy 6:17) Rico Brown  
2:30 False Religion (Colossians 2:8, 18, 20-23) Steven Ford  
3:30 Ladies Class: Hagar's Trust in God Laura Boyd  
3:30 Questions and Answers on Forum Topic  
4:30 DINNER  
6:30 Congregational Singing  
7:00 Abraham: Unwavering Hope in God's Plan F. Antemasaris  
7:45 Job: Hope in the Midst of Hopelessness Hiram Kemp

### Thursday, January 18

9:00 Hope's Role in Spiritual Battle Brian R. Kenyon  
9:40 Hope and Confident Preaching Rico Brown  
10:20 BREAK  
10:50 Hope in the Midst of Persecution Elvis Galbreath  
11:30 LUNCH

#### Forum: Hope's Power to Evangelize

1:30 Hope for People Like Saul of Tarsus John Allan  
2:00 Working Through Obstacles on Mission Fields G. McDonald  
2:30 There Is Only One Hope Joshua Cantrell  
3:30 Ladies Class: Rahab's Trust in God Katrina Stearsman  
3:30 Questions and Answers on Forum Topic  
4:30 DINNER  
6:30 Congregational Singing  
7:00 Hope as the Soul's Anchor: The Heart ... Hebrews H. Kemp  
7:45 Jesus Christ: Our Hope Melvin L. Otey



Joey Davis



Trevor Dees



James Eaves



Steven Ford



Elvis Galbreath



Melvin Otey



Graham McDonald



Jerry Martin



Robert Lupo



Brian R. Kenyon



Hiram Kemp



Jeff A. Jenkins

## PRAYER LIST

**Current:** Cheryl Barker will be having surgery on her ankle on Jan. 23. She requests prayers (visits, calls and cards would encourage her as well.) She is staying with Melody Baxter at this time.

**Continual:** Debbie Bush (struggles); Antoine & Marcella Swain (health); Bill & Carlene Long (health & strength); Ron Ford (health); Bobby and Linda Simpson (health); Annett Phillip (health); Janie Wise (health); Jim Turner (health); Margaret Coone (health); Melissa Craft (health); Kathy Nester (health); Ronnie Lynn is recovering from neck surgery.

**Shut-ins:** Joyce Burbage, Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French and Barbara Jones, Charles Paulin

**Starting in January our Wednesday evening services will begin at 6:30!**

WWCC Spring Ladies Retreat

Feb. 15-17, 2024

"Spill the Tea"

Register by February 4, 2024

Please join us for an uplifting weekend in the Word and in fellowship with our Christian sisters!



### New Year's Bonfire

**Location:** Brian and Jagie Kenyon's home  
**Date:** January 5, 2024  
**Time:** 6:30 PM

\*Bring a lawn chair to sit in by the fire and a side dish to share with others. Hot dogs and grilled chicken will be provided.



Youth Section

V.D.

### What Cain Can Teach me

Genesis 4:1-15

- 1) I cannot offer to God what I want but what God wants
- 2) I can rule over my desires/emotions or I can allow them to rule me
- 3) I am responsible for my own actions
- 4) I am my brother's keeper

### Scheduled to Serve in January

Designated Elder	Bobby Sheumaker
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#### Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Announcements	Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader / Prayer	Tucker Sweeney
Devotional / Invitation	Vince Daugherty
Closing Prayer	Jeff Stewart

#### Sunday, January 7, 2024

10:30 am Sermon	Vince Daugherty
"Continuing Steadfastly" (Acts 2:42)	
6:00 pm Sermon	Brian Kenyon
A "Stagnant" Church? (1 Cor. 12:12-14)	

#### Those to Serve 10:30 am

Greeters	Fifes
Song/Pray before class	Frank Hamby
Announcements (both)	Brian Kenyon
Song Leader (both)	Andre Medley
Prayer / Bible reading	Steve Tydings
Lord's Table (both)	Rick Kenyon
Closing Prayer	Jimmy Sweeney
Open/Close Building	David Anderson
Attendance Cards	Judah/Ellis
Sound Booth (both)	Derek

#### Those to Serve 6:00 pm

Greeters	Mccarters
Announcements	Brian Kenyon
Song Leader	Andre Medley
Prayer / Bible reading	Rick Kenyon
Closing Prayer	Kyle Bingle

#### Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Announcements	Rick Kenyon
Song Leader / Prayer	Landon Willcut
Devotional / Invitation	Jeff Stewart
Closing Prayer	Joseph Faulk

#### How We Are Giving

December 1	\$5,624.60
December 24	\$8,598.10
December 31	\$7,920.35
Contribution Average	\$7,119.42
<b>Weekly Budget</b>	<b>\$7,410.00</b>

**If you cannot serve as scheduled, please notify Stacey or the office. Even if you arrange your replacement, please notify Stacey or the office. Thanks!**

## Simplify

Like many people, every year I choose a word to focus on and strive towards for the next twelve months. This year, the word that seemed necessary was "Simplify."

It seems like I am perpetually  
Overbooked.  
Overcommitted.  
Overworked...  
and as a result, I am exceedingly  
Overwhelmed.  
And that is on me.

I have a hard time setting boundaries, and a book I finished just as we rang in the New Year influenced me as I set my one word.

I am not like God in his timelessness. I am not infinite. I am human, and I AM bound by time. I NEED rest. I NEED to respect the boundary that God has placed on my body.

I have to tell myself that it is not lazy to take a break. It is not lazy to need a day off. If I am to redeem the time, I must first own up to the fact that I have spent it foolishly, trying to overspend a resource that I have no control to alter. When I say yes to everything (even if they are all good things) I leave no space to breathe and meditate. I leave no space for my family (my closest and most prioritized ministry as a wife and mother), and I leave no space for my mind to grow.

The point is, I need to learn to simplify the things in my life so that I can carve out time for what glorifies God in my schedule. Me overbooking myself does not glorify God.

"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." (Eph 4: 15-17)

I plan to take time to stop and rest in His word, His goodness, His love, and His promises this year. I hope you will, too.

[www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com](http://www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com)

Email us: [SFA.church@gmail.com](mailto:SFA.church@gmail.com)

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



### **South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue  
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

**"And if it seems evil to you to serve the  
Lord, choose for yourselves this day  
whom you will serve.....But as for me  
and my house, we will serve the Lord"**  
Joshua 24:15-16



If you prefer to receive the bulletin via email, contact us.