



# South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 78 No. 02 January 9, 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.

## How Fragile Are We?

Brian R. Kenyon

Faithful Christians in the Book of Revelation were enduring tremendous persecution (Rev. 1:9-11; 6:9; 11:2, 7-8). The persecuting forces had not only “beheaded” and “shed the blood of saints and prophets” (Rev. 16:6; 20:4), but they were also “drunk with the blood of the saints and ... martyrs of Jesus” (Rev. 17:6 cf. Rev. 18:24). It is no wonder, then, that John encouraged, “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested ... Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Rev. 2:10).

In many ways, the challenges we face in remaining faithful are minimal compared to those first century Christians who were face-to-face with real, violent, bloody challenges to remain faithful. We “have not yet resisted to bloodshed” (Heb. 12:4). One truth that must be in common with their challenges and ours: the will to faithfully serve God no matter what happens! If we cannot show faithfulness through minor challenges, how can we possibly remain faithful and active through major challenges? Consider two principles that will help us overcome challenges.

**This World Is Not Our Home:** If we are Christians, we belong to the kingdom of God (Mt. 16:18-19 cf. Col. 1:13; Heb. 12:28). Although the church of Christ is the final manifestation of that kingdom this side of eternity (1 Thes. 2:12; Rev. 1:9), the ultimate state of that kingdom is synonymous with heaven (Mt. 7:21; 25:34; 1 Cor. 15:50-57; 2 Tim. 4:1). Paul wrote, “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Phil. 3:20). To “eagerly wait [look, KJV]” means to anticipate and expect. While we do not know when Jesus is coming to end this age (1 Thes. 5:1-8), we know He is coming, and we should be in a constant state of readiness (cf. Heb. 9:27-28). Yes, living in this world is fragile (Job 14:1-2; Ps. 90:10), but because we know the place Jesus prepared is awaiting (Jn. 14:1-3), we must not allow the fragility of this life turn us away from “the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Heb. 11:10). Let us be strong in the Lord (Eph. 6:10).

**The Inward Person Is Renewed:** Paul was familiar with persecution (2 Cor. 1:8-10; 4:8-12; 6:4-10; 11:23-29), but, because of what was being accomplished through the gospel, he still wrote, “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day” (2 Cor. 4:16-18). The “outward man” is the physical part, frail and subject to suffering persecution (cf. 1 Thes. 5:23). The “inward man” is the biblical heart, the center of a person’s will, intellect, emotion, thought, and affection (cf. Rom. 2:14-15; 6:17; 10:9-10). The more we expend our “outward man,” to “spend and be spent” (2 Cor. 12:15), for the gospel’s sake, the greater our spiritual resilience (cf. Eph. 3:16-21). Let us stay strong in the Lord (Eph. 6:13)!

# 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



Brian R. Kenyon, Director

# A REASONED HOPE: FIRM UNTO THE END

January 15-18, 2024



Joey Davis



Trevor Dees



James Eaves



Steven Ford



Elvis Galbreath

### 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



Melvin Otey



Graham McDonald



Jerry Martin



Robert Lupo



Brian R. Kenyon



Hiram Kemp



Jeff A. Jenkins

## PRAYER LIST

**Current:** Stacey Paulin is in severe pain with Trigeminal Neurologia. Bobby Simpson is still at the Bartow Hospital.

**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. Cheryl Barker will be having surgery on her ankle on Jan. 23.

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



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A  
**Daugherty**  
**FAREWELL PARTY**  
 January 20th @ 11:30 AM  
 please RSVP to the office



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!

**Response**  
*Cierra Edwards responded to the invitation Sunday morning. Asking for prayers of the congregation.*



SFA's day to provide lunch has been switched back to it's original day on Wednesday Jan 17th . If you are unable to bring food to Orange St, please bring it here to the building between 9:30 - 10:00 am on Wednesday. There is a sign-up sheet on the table to let us know what to expect food wise. There is also a sign-up sheet for those able to volunteer at the Lectureship.

Scheduled to Serve in January	
Designated Elder	Bobby Sheumaker
<b>Wednesday, January 10, 2024</b>	
Announcements	Rick Kenyon
Song Leader / Prayer	Landon Willcut
Devotional / Invitation	Jeff Stewart
Closing Prayer	Joseph Faulk
<b>Sunday, January 14, 2024</b>	
10:30 am Sermon	Vince Daugherty
Walking by Faith	
6:00 pm Sermon	Brian Kenyon
A "Stagnant" Church? (1 Cor. 12:12-14)	
<b>Those to Serve 10:30 am</b>	
Greeters	Olivia/Ingrid
Song/Pray before class	David Williams
Announcements (both)	Stacey Paulin
Song Leader (both)	Kyle Faneuf
Prayer / Bible reading	Jarred Spivey
Lord's Table (both)	Brian Williams
Closing Prayer	Paul Sweeney
Open/Close Building	David Deal
Attendance Cards	Klark/Declan
Sound Booth (both)	Jason Hendrix
<b>Those to Serve 6:00 pm</b>	
Greeters	Paulins
Announcements	Stacey Paulin
Song Leader	Kyle Faneuf
Prayer / Bible reading	Joseph Faulk
Closing Prayer	Matt Willcut
<b>Wednesday, January 17, 2024</b>	
Announcements	Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader / Prayer	David Williams
Devotional / Invitation	FSOP Lectureship
Closing Prayer	Tim Croson
<b>How We Are Giving</b>	
December 24	\$8,598.10
December 31	\$7,920.35
January 7	\$6,239.00
Contribution Average	\$6,239.00
<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!**

## Women of the Word

### A Hill to Climb

Have you ever been at the foot of a hill, looking up you declare “I just can’t climb that far. It’s too hard for me!” However, you decide to give it a try. You make the first few steps, one foot in front of the other. You keep going even though it’s a struggle, huffing and puffing and before you know it you have made it to the top of the hill. You look back down and feel victorious. You made it!!

The unexpected challenges of life or struggles with sin that have a choke hold on us can be as daunting as climbing a hill or mountain. We feel like we are so far down the pit that we can’t make it out. As Christians we can’t and shouldn’t try to do it by ourselves. That’s when we need to ask God for help. Be specific in our prayer for what we are struggling with. “Dear Father help me as I struggle with \_\_\_\_\_!” Trust that God will help us and wait for Him to handle our every care.

Psalm 121: 1-2 “I will lift up my eyes to the hills— from whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”

1 Peter 5:6-7 “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”

*Ingrid Stewart*

## Youth Section

### Discerning Wisdom Which is From Above

(James 3:13-18)

#### Wisdom which is from below

- bitter envy
- self-seeking
- boasts in a lie
- earthly
- sensual
- demonic

#### Wisdom which is from above

- pure
- peaceable
- gentle
- willing to yield
- full of mercy
- produces good fruit
- without partiality
- without hypocrisy

Vince Daugherty

[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.



**"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose"**  
**Romans 8:28**

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

1807 South Florida Avenue  
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested



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