



SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 75 No. 5 February 2, 2022

ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
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Rick Kenyon
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

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ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

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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.....7:00 p.m.

WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

Huron, SD Mission Work
Casey & Emily Paulin

MISSION FIELDS

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

Uplifting Others Is A Source Of Encouragement

Hebrews 10:22-25

The Hebrews writer throughout his book was encouraging members not to go back to the Law of Moses. He highlights the fact that Jesus is better than multiple things. As we grow in our relationship with God, we must also grow in our encouragement for each other. Being a family means much more than giving money, but includes giving time, compassion, and encouragement. In Hebrews 10, the Hebrews writer will emphasize the encouragement we must have for each other. Notice what he says: "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembly of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Heb. 10:22-25).

For many of the Hebrew Christians, following Jesus got hard, and the pressures from without were causing them to think about going back to Judaism. Many were fearful for their lives, and it caused them not to be where they should have been. Fear always causes people to be out of place and fellowship with God. No matter what happens, we must remain at our post as good soldiers of Jesus Christ (2 Tim. 2:3-4). The United States Navy has what is called "The General 11 Orders to the Sentry." The first one states: "Take charge of this post, and all government property in view." As Christians we must stand our post at all times. The Hebrew Christians did not understand this, and this fear pushed many into hiding.

When we study chapter 10, we immediately notice that the sacrifices of old cannot redeem us from sin (Heb. 10:1-4). Towards the middle of the chapter, the writer turns his attention toward the encouragement we must have for each other, and this is in the context of worship. Being in worship with brethren has to be the highlight of the week for the Christian. Singing praises together up to our God, praying for each other, hearing the Gospel preached, taking part of the Lord's Supper, and the giving of our means. This is the most encouraging time of the week for the Christian.

Encouraging One Another Is A Source Of Strength For Others

Through the death of Jesus, we have access to a much better covenant than the old (Heb. 10:20). When we come to worship God each Sunday, it is encouragement for each member in the assembly. Each of us not only needs this encouragement for ourselves, we need this to get through the week. All members of the body have their own individual life they must live, and often it gets hard. When we come together to worship God, we can understand that we are not alone. We have family members who care for us and who are excited to see us.

When we worship God, our faith increases each time. All Christians are commissioned to study for themselves (2 Tim. 2:15; John 5:39). Our faith grows from studying the word of God, but also as we worship God with fellow brethren. The unity that we read about in Ephesians 4 is the unity we must have as we worship our God. This is our calling, our way of life. Paul says to the Ephesian Brethren: "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called. With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love" (Eph. 4:1-2).

The Hebrews writer encourages us to "Hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering," (Heb. 10:23). Our faith should not lean but be firm and solid upon our Lord.

He is our anchor (Heb. 6:19), and the author and finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:2). Earlier in the book, the Hebrews writer says; “But exhort one another daily, while it is called to day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end” (Heb. 3:13-14).

Encouraging One Another Reminds Us Of God's Promises

As we worship our God together, it also reminds us that God is faithful to his promises. Throughout Scripture, God promises us that he will never leave us nor forsake us (Josh. 1:5; Heb. 13:5). The Hebrews writer says, “For God is not unrighteousness to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister” (Heb. 6:10). Throughout the Book of Hebrews, he gives them conformation after conformation that God is with them.

When we read the Bible, the faithfulness of God is displayed in every way. His promises are sure because his words are sure (Num. 23:19; 1 Kgs. 8:56; Tit. 1:2; Heb. 6:18). He promises us that he is coming again (Jn. 14:1-3). With those thoughts in mind, we can know that he is with us always. As Christians, we spend much time talking about sports, news, and many other things. Those things in of themselves are not wrong, nor necessarily sinful. Yet, how often do we talk about heaven? How often do we encourage each other with

thoughts of being with our Father for all eternity? Paul would say to the church at Thessalonica, “Wherefore comfort [encourage] one another with these words” (1 Thess. 4:18). At the end of each chapter in First Thessalonians, he ends with the hope of being with God for all eternity (1 Thess. 1:10; 1 Thess. 2:19; 1 Thess. 3:13; 1 Thess. 4:18; 1 Thess. 5:23). Each time we come together, the reminder of God’s faithfulness and promises should encourage us to keep going.

Encouraging One Another Builds Us Up To Press Forward

As we provoke each other to love and good works, we must also encourage each other to press on during this life. The word “provoke” means to stir up. We are to stir up, or encourage, each other. Christianity was not designed to go at it alone. We must do this daily, as often as we can. The Book of Hebrews is meant to encourage Christians not to give up on their faith. When the pressures of life get to us, our responsibility is to “hold fast” to our God and to each other. As Christians, we are not just to believe, but to act out in love and good deeds for each other. There were many saints who were not worshipping for many reasons, and the Hebrews writer encourages them to come worship God. After Job lost everything, his actions afterward show us his true character. He worshiped God (Job. 1:20-22). We must encourage each other to press forward despite the pressure not too (Phil. 13-14).

Youth Group

Bible Trivia
on Kahoot!

Every Thursday at 7:00 pm.
starting Feb. 3, 2022

GAME TIME!

SATURDAY
FEB. 19, 6-9 PM
AT THE DAUGHERTY'S HOME
PIZZA WILL BE SERVED



Senior Saints
by John McShane

As most of you know, Linda and I will be moving to Middleburg, Florida, to be closer to our daughter. If everything goes according to plan, we will move around the 1st of April. This leaves an opportunity for someone to take over the Senior Saints program and to write the weekly Senior Saints bulletin article. If you feel that you are the one to take over either of these programs, please contact me or the office. I have enjoyed both these programs and would like to see them continued.

John

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health
 Ron & Judy Ford - health
 Bernetta Green - health & strength
 Brian Smith - heart
 Debbie Bush - health
 Sharon M. Washington - health
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health
 Stacey Paulin - health
 Brenda Mask - inner-ear problems
 Melody Baxter - rehab for leg
 Carol Eason - sick
 Staci Smith - sick
 David & Nikki Williams - covid
 Toney Wilson - sick
 Charles Paulin - sick
 Kathy Nester - fell

PRAYER LIST

John & Linda McShane
 Jim Turner - health, tests
 Neil Entwistle - heart attack
 Bobby Simpson - health
 Margaret Coone
 Annett Phillip - health
 Vanessa Palmer - health
 Janie Wise - health
 Darlene Thompson - health
 Jeanelle Thrower - pain; blood clot
 Janis Waldon - covid
 Anita Shearer - pneumonia
 Palmer family - covid
 Casey Potvin - sick with cold
 Jimmy Sweeney - sick

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board

Pray for our Shut-ins

Joyce Burbage Carol Eason Ellen Shearer

Updates & Prayer requests

Anita Shearer has pneumonia.

David & Nikki Williams are sick with covid.

Janis Waldon has covid.

Linda Simpson has been sick for over a week.

Toney Wilson has been sick.

Charles Paulin is sick.

Kathy Nester fell last week. She is recovering at home.

Don't Forget!

Sundays at 5:45 pm - Prayer time for evangelism efforts

Sundays at 5:45 pm - Pew packers in auditorium

Mondays at 7:00 pm - Epistles class - Romans

Wednesdays at 10:00 am - Ladies Bible class

Thursdays at 7:00 pm - Ladies Bible class

Card Shower

If you would like to help with the Card Shower ministry, please let Charlene Smith or the office know. There will be a brief meeting after morning worship in the north wing.

There are thank you cards on the bulletin board from

Wesley & Neyome Brunson

Wadi Khoury

Bobby Simpson thanks everyone for the calls, texts, and prayers
 He truly appreciates it.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

February

Designated Elder - David Anderson

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 Song Leader/prayer David Williams
 Devo Vince Daugherty
 Closing Prayer David Deal

Sunday, February 6, 2022

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Joshua Cantrell
 "What Can Wash Away My Sins?"
 1 John 1:5-9

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Joshua Cantrell
 "Unexpected Blessings"
 Genesis 21:1-5

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) Hendrix
 Greeters Bingle
 Song/prayer before class Tucker Sweeney
 Announcements Tyler Anderson
 A.M. Song Leader Vince Daugherty
 Scripture reading/Prayer Tyler Anderson
 Lord's Table Lou Van Allen
 Closing Prayer Kyle Bingle

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader Vince Daugherty
 Scripture reading/Prayer Paul Sweeney
 Lord's Table Lou Van Allen
 Closing Prayer Mike Van Allen
 Greeters Stewart

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Announcements Tyler Anderson
 Song Leader/Prayer Andre Medley
 Devo David Williams
 Closing Prayer Zach Jones

Upcoming Events

February

6 - L2L workday
 8 - SFA men's b'fast
 18 - FSOP ladies class
 10 - Bible Trivia, 7pm
 12 - Parents' night out, 6-9 pm
 13 - Elders, deacons, & preachers mtg, 4pm

February

18-20 - WWCC Spring Ladies Retreat
 19 - area-wide men's b'fast at SFA
 22 - Ladies' Night, 6pm
 25-27 - YES Weekend
 26 - Ladies Day Port Charlotte

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Jan 16 \$7,637.00
 Jan 23 \$3,872.00
 Jan 30 (building fund)..... \$9,113.00
 Contribution Average \$6,470.60
 Weekly budget \$7,663.43

Intellectually I know everything is on God's timetable, but sometimes life can twist and deflect my focus. A friend recently had to remind me of God's wisdom and power, snapping me back into focus. I started thinking about different examples in the Bible.

Sometimes He's immediate. When a storm threatened to destroy a boat that He was sleeping in, His disciples came to Him for help. The time was right for Him to provide peace and calm (Mt. 8, Mk. 4, Lk. 8).

Other times, He takes longer. The woman with the 12-year flow of blood had to spend all her time, money, and energy before her faith flowed from her instead. When Jesus knew the time was right, He passed her way (Mt. 9, Mk. 5, Lk. 8).

And there's also "no." Paul asked over and over for the thorn in his flesh to be removed (2 Cor. 12:8-9). Let's not forget Jesus, His only begotten Son, prayed to the point of great sweat drops as of blood (Luke 22:41-44). "No"

I don't know why He allows me to get in the boat when He knows a storm is coming. I don't know why I should suffer pain and heartache. I don't always know when or how He makes all things work for good, but I do know that His timetable requires my love (Rom. 8:28) and faith (Prov. 3:5), and in every single moment of my time, He is near me (Matt. 28:20; Jn.17:15). I must humbly draw nearer to Him (James 4:8-10; Jn. 17:20-23) and accept that He is in full control (Job 38-41).

* * * * *
"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." Eph.3:20-21



STUDY WITH US

Ladies' Bible Study

Tuesday, February 8, 2022
7:00pm
In-person or Online

Teacher: Susan Stearsman

All ladies are invited to join us in the FSOP classroom at 1807 South Florida Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33803 or on Facebook. Live stream through the Facebook Group: FSOP Ladies Class.

If you have questions please contact the Florida School of Preaching at (863) 683-4043.

Save the Date

March 27 – 30, 2022

Spring Gospel Meeting

**South Florida Ave.
church of Christ**

**GROWING TO
SPIRITUAL
MATURITY**



1807 S. Florida Ave. Lakeland, FL 33803 863-682-4702

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: 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

**Oh come, let us sing
to the LORD;
let us make a
joyful noise to the
rock of our salvation!**

Psalm 95:1

