

# The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

**A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.**  
The Messenger is published weekly by the South Florida Ave. Church of Christ meeting at 1807 South Florida Ave - Lakeland, FL 33803 Vol. 72 No. 15 4-16-19

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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.

## HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching  
since 1969

## 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.

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www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



IN  
**SEARCH**  
OF THE LORD'S WAY

Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. Check local listings

## Ten Practical Ways to Have Family Worship

Hiram Kemp

Today, the spiritual education of children must begin and continue in the home. Unless God is the architect of our home, we are laboring in vain (Psa. 127:1). We do not possess enough wisdom and skill to lead our families on our own, so we must lean on God and his word. God has charged fathers with bringing up children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4). Parents are told to train up their children in the way they are to go so they do not depart from it later in life (Prov. 22:6). Husbands and wives likewise should learn from God's word together and grow together spiritually as heirs together of the grace of life. However, with schedules that are extremely busy and commitments that often overwhelm us, how can we worship as a family? Or if a family has been out of the habit of family worship, how can that family return to it and glorify God? Hopefully these ten practical tips will be of some assistance.

**1. Make It Fun.** The Bible teaches that Christians are to be joyful people who rejoice (Phil. 4:4; 1 Thess. 5:16). This is true not only of our lives in general but also in relation to how we approach the Bible and family devotions. If we have a sour look on our faces or are so serious that no one can laugh, family devotions will feel like school and not like a family trying to grow closer to God. Let us remember that a merry heart does good like a medicine (Prov. 17:22). Perhaps the family could play a board game with the stipulation that in order to earn your next turn you must answer a Bible question correctly. Or maybe get a Bible trivia game and challenge each other. Let your children use action figures to act out certain Bible stories. There are many fun ways to learn the Bible, make family worship enjoyable and not drudgery.

**2. Keep It Simple.** When engaged in family worship, one should not need to consult Greek and Hebrew in order to understand what is being taught. Make it age appropriate for the children, and do not teach over their heads (Isa. 28:10). Husbands and wives may take a chapter of Proverbs which corresponds to the date and read and discuss it together. Maybe on the way home from practice, you might bring up a verse and talk with your children about it. It is possible to overwhelm people with too much information. Start out with milk and move to the meat of God's word (1 Pet. 2:2).

**3. Be Flexible.** Make sure you are flexible and understanding as you begin or restart this process. You may not always be able to do this at night, depending on schedules. Maybe the morning would be better. It might be the case that it has to

take place on the way to school. It may be good to talk about the Bible around the dinner table or have each family member say something for which he or she wants to request prayers (1 Thess. 5:17-18). Make it flexible and not rigid or else it will not last.

**4. Sing.** God commands that we sing, and when we sing, we teach (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). Get out the hymn book or the AIM app and sing together. It does not matter if you think you sing well or not. What matters is that you sing together as a family and get God's truths into your heart (Jas. 5:13). You can sing in the car; you can sing three songs before the children go to bed. Singing is a simple way to instruct and instill truths and also to rehearse biblical truths together as a family.

**5. Pray Often.** Make a big deal about prayer. Family worship should teach how important prayer is, how much we rely on our communication with God, and how we can trust him to help us. We should pray bold prayers (Heb. 4:16). We should remember that God hears when we pray in accordance with his will (1 Jn. 5:14-15). Jesus encourages us to ask (Mt. 7:7-11). Families should pray over meals, but not only over meals. We can teach our children to pray by praying with them (Lk. 11:1). Husbands and wives can gain insight into each other's fears and struggles as they regularly go to God together. In family worship make much of prayer (1 Thess. 5:25).

**6. Use the Assembly.** When you are on the way home from worship or Bible class, use the lessons learned at the assembly to spark discussion or further study (Col. 4:16). Talk about the sermon. Have everyone say one thing they learned. Use the EHT cards from your children's Bible class to question and quiz them. You do not have to come up with all of the topics. Use what is already available.

**7. Prioritize.** While you want to be flexible, you also want to make this a priority. If you put this off to watch one more episode or one more inning, you might not do it at all. Seeking God's kingdom first involves making it a priority (Mt. 6:33). If we always push God to the background of our lives, we should not be surprised when he is not present anymore.

**8. Apologize.** Maybe you have not done family devotions for some time and you will feel bad about telling your kids or your spouse that you want to resume. Be willing to apologize and say that you or we dropped the ball and we need to get back on track. Ignoring family devotions will not help our families grow. Apologizing and forgiving apathy and weakness will help us be more like Christ (Eph. 4:32).

**9. Be Patient.** When you have not done family worship in a while, it can be a bumpy road. Be patient. Everyone may not be paying attention or even be enthusiastic, but bear the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). It will take time for everyone to get into a rhythm and get on board with this, but it will be worth it. Do not yell at your children or your spouse and do not nag. Remember to operate with the spirit of Christ and be longsuffering (Eph. 4:1-3).

**10. Be Persistent.** You might begin family devotionals and then miss a week or two or even a month. Do not quit. You and I need the Lord to build our homes (Psa. 127:1). We need God to direct our paths, but we must resolve not to quit (Prov. 3:5-6). No matter what, keep it up. In the summer it may be harder to do family worship with school being out and traveling, but be persistent. Remember that our labor is not in vain in the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58).

Our families are a blessing from God and we should cherish them. Hopefully, these ten practical suggestions will help your family glorify God together (Psa. 34:3). Ω

## **Additional Announcements**

**Selection of Directors** To comply with state regulations, an annual meeting and selection of directors must be conducted each year. This will be done immediately following morning worship service May 5, 2019. The following nominees have been made: David Anderson (chairman); George French (vice-chairman); Charles Paulin (treasurer); Bobby Sheumaker (secretary). Nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting. However, the nominee's willingness to accept must be presented to the chairman prior to the meeting.

**Old House Update** The contractors who will be upgrading the house are in the process of obtaining permits, which means construction will soon begin. Please stay away from the area.

**Fellowship Teams** We will now include the monthly "fellowship in services" in the rotation for fellowship team clean-up. Please be present to help when it's your team's turn.

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Melody Baxter is suffering from knee pain, she sees the specialist on 4-29. Faith West, Jim Turner, Sharon Washington and Margaret Coone.

**Shut In Members:** Carol Eason, Virginia Plumlee, Dick & Joyce Burbage and Cheryl Barker.

**Others:** Naomi Zamot (Jagie Kenyon's niece), Larry Lester, (Toney Wilson's brother), Gina, (daughter of Kathy Nester), Paulisky Irizarry, Lynn Stevens, Chrissi Fuesner, Christina Jones, (Debra Pavlovic-Okolichany's mother in law), who is in re-hab, Tonya Mathis, Chip Bolding, Tony Seibert, Teresa Hogan, (Zora Herndon's daughter) and Peggy Nabors (member at Orange Street).

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday April 20th:** Ladies' Yard Sale Shopping Day. Meet at the building at 7:00 a.m.

**Saturday April 20th:** Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Josh and Marissa Estridge's house at 11:00 a.m. If you would like to bring finger foods that would be great!

**Tuesday April 23rd:** FSOP Ladies class at 7:00 p.m.

**April 21st-24th:** Gospel Meeting at the Central church of Christ in Clearwater with David Sain.

**April 21st-25th:** Gospel Meeting at the Eagle Lake church of Christ with Sam Willcut.

**Saturday April 27th:** Youth Group devotional and service project at the Bingle's at 4:00 p.m.

**Saturday April 28th:** Men's breakfast is at Orange Street church of Christ in Auburndale at 8:00 a.m.

**Sunday, May 5th:** After evening services, we will celebrate our high school graduates in the fellowship room. Stay tuned for more details in future announcements.

## Congratulations

Alden David Muhundro, son of David & Cara Muhundro, grandson of Bobby & Becky Sheumaker was born 4-13-19. He was 8lbs and 1.6 ounces. Mother and baby are doing fine.

## Visitors

Sherman Williams, Eric Bunch, Jerry Green, Haley Pack, Jaylen Toliver, Kaylee Dyal, Sierra Gilbert, Alex Szabo, Larry Laster, Tawana Burkett and Tiffany Hash, Megan and Sam.

### ~ Communion to Shut-ins ~

April 21st.....Van Allen  
April 28th.....Van Allen

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### April

#### Open/Close building-David Anderson

Jimmy Sweeney ..... **Table** ..... Tyler Anderson  
Wesley Brunson ..... **Assist** ..... Alex Parramore

#### Sunday, April 21, 2019 9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class**.....Jim Turner  
**Prayer**.....Bobby Sheumaker

#### 10:30 A.M.

**Sound Booth**.....Tucker Sweeney  
**Announcements**.....Frank Hamby  
**Song Leader**.....Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer**.....John McShane  
**Sermon**.....Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer**.....Wayne Shearer  
**Greeters** .....Anderson/Sweeney  
**Cards**.....Colby/Sawyer

#### 6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader**.....David Williams  
**Opening Prayer**.....David Anderson  
**Sermon**.....Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer**.....Kenny French

#### Wednesday, April 24, 2019

**Song Leader**.....Tucker Sweeney  
**Opening Prayer**.....Steve Hunley  
**Closing Prayer**.....Wayne Shearer

### April - Clean-up John McShane's team (A-D)

*Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Stacey Paulin so he can get a replacement - (863) 838-8911*

#### Sunday, April 28, 2019 9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class**.....Kyle Bingle  
**Prayer**.....Phil Fife

#### 10:30 A.M.

**Sound Booth**.....Casey Paulin  
**Announcements**.....Frank Hamby  
**Song Leader**.....Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer**.....Kyle Williams  
**Sermon**.....Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer**.....Tucker Sweeney  
**Greeters**.....McShane/Shearer  
**Cards**.....Willcut boy's

#### 6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader**.....David Williams  
**Opening Prayer**.....Charles Paulin  
**Sermon**.....Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer**.....David Anderson

#### Wednesday, May 1, 2019

**Song Leader**.....Vince Daugherty  
**Opening Prayer**.....David Anderson  
**Closing Prayer**.....Charles Paulin

### ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Mar. 24.....\$4,422.90  
Mar. 31.....\$6,843.90  
Apr. 07.....\$6,894.00  
Apr. 14.....\$6,668.25  
Contribution Average.....\$6,681.95



Tune into AM 1330 (station WWAB) with your friends and neighbors every Sunday at 4:00 p.m. for the "Way of Truth" program. This is a joint effort to evangelize involving Terrance Brownlow-Dindy (6th Street) and Hiram Kemp. Let's point our community to the Bible!



*Member Spotlight*  
**Phil Fife**



Phil was born in Dearborn, Michigan, and spent much of his life in that area. As a child, he wanted to be a fireman. His first job was in a packing house. He is now retired from the automotive industry, but active in the local church. He has visited many places. In his free time, he likes to play golf. He is good at cooking breakfast for large crowds. His most satisfying accomplishment is rearing three good children. The best advice he's been given is "Do your best." He has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, and 1 great grandchild, and is married to Dottie.



*Young Man Spotlight*  
**Paul Sweeney**



Paul was born in Lakeland and has lived here all his life. One of his goals when he was younger (and might still be) was to be an MLB player. He's a great baseball player now among his peers. His first paying job is his own car-washing business. He likes root beer and ice cream. The weirdest thing he's eaten is lizard. He is a night owl. Summer is his favorite season. In his free time, he likes to play video games, play baseball, go fishing, and just about anything, except chores. The best advice he's been given is "Take a shower every day." He is in the 8th grade.



*South Florida Avenue*  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
*1807 South Florida Avenue*  
*Lakeland, FL 33803-2653*

Return Service Requested

The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

**Save the Date: June 2-6, 2019 Vacation Bible School**



**MISSION TRIP PERU**

Pray for our young people and their chaperones as they gear-up for a mission trip to Haucho, Peru, July 19-27, 2019. They will knock doors, pass out tracts, and conduct one-on-one Bible studies.

We appreciate our elders for seeing the value in involving our young people. If you would like to contribute, see our elders.

Please **DO NOT PARK** between the trees on the right and the bushes on the left in the foreground of this picture. It blocks access to the grass lot.



**Take Advantage of the Area Gospel Meeting Opportunities**



**Central church of Christ in Clearwater**  
**David Sain April 21-24**

**"Scriptures That Enlighten & Encourage"**

\*Brian will take the FSOP van to Clearwater on Monday, April 22. If you want to ride, let him know.



**Eagle Lake church of Christ**  
**Sam Willcut April 21-25**  
**"The Church in the World"**

**Check the Bulletin Board for More Details!**