



# South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 75 No. 38 September 27, 2022

## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
Rick Kenyon  
Stacey Paulin

## MINISTER

Joshua Cantrell

## ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

OFFICE PHONE  
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## 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.....7:00 p.m.

## WEB PAGE

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

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## 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  
Joey Treat ..... Pacific Islands  
Ted Wheeler ..... Ghana, W.A.

## WHEN YOU ARE DOWN TO NOTHING, GOD IS UP TO SOMETHING

*Joshua Cantrell*

Upon reading the Bible we are blessed to have an understanding of who God is. God through his word has revealed his will, and way to us. Thankfully, we don't have to live in the darkness, especially since our Lord urges us to let our light shine (Matthew. 5:13-16). While we give God everything we have, there are still things in this life that test us, and try us. In those moments we have the responsibility to trust God. Trusting God is difficult because we like to be in control of our lives. We have to be able to trust he who can see what we cannot (2 Corinthians. 5:7).

Throughout the history of mankind, many have lost so much. Adam and Eve sinned in the garden (Genesis 3), and the world was forever changed. Often we speak of having nothing. There have been many times when I've used those words. It's hard to grasp the concept of nothing, especially in our world today. In our nation's history, a few events remind us that we were down to nothing. On September 4, 1929, the United States of America entered a period called The Great Depression. On October 29, 1929, the stock market crashed. For many of those people, they lost everything, they had nothing.

In every situation in life, God can sustain us. If we trust in him. Often we speak of the glory and goodness of God when things are going well in our lives. Can we have that same declaration when things aren't going well? Those are the moments that we need to plug into God (Ephesians. 3:14-18) and remember that he will see us through. When we have those moments in our lives when we feel as if we are down to nothing, we have to remember that God is up to something.

## TRUST THE PROCESS

When I was in preaching school, an older brother would always tell the class, "Trust the process." For the longest time, I wonder what he meant. I would respond, "I trust God, and I have all the confidence in him." While those are instrumental in our relationship with God. The process is often what's neglected because we want to trust God but control the process. If we are trusting God the way God tells us to then we will trust him with the outcome as well. We will trust him with the process.

No one would say that Abraham did not trust God. He left his home (Genesis. 12:1-3), many of his family members, and friends. And as you read throughout his life we can see just how much he trusted God, but he did not always trust the process. God instructed Abram and his wife that they were going to have a child. They waited years, and the child had not come. Sarah comes up with the plan "a process" that would bring their family more grief. We find ourselves in more trouble when we don't trust God's process. In their minds they felt they were down the nothing, they use Haggar as a final opportunity to help God fulfill his will. Yet, God did not need their help, and God does not need ours. He needs our obedience.

When we are obedient to God it will always lead to him being glorified, as us being blessed. While our obedience is a benefit to others, so is our disobedience. Abraham's family had to suffer greatly because they did not trust God to work things out in his time. I urge each of us to make sure we rely on God and not our strength. Too often we speak of "being independent, and being strong." While those are qualities that we should have, they should not turn our hearts away from God to do things ourselves.

## TRUST THE POWER

Power is defined as “the ability to do something or act in a particular way, especially as a faculty or quality.” Another definition says “Ability, regarded as put forth or exerted; strength, force, or energy in action.” Both definitions help us appreciate God’s power. God’s power is not limited by our limited imaginations. Too often we look at how great the problem is and forget how big our God is. He is the God of Heaven and Earth. He controls the elements just by the power of his voice. Job would declare, “He stretches out the north over the empty space and hangs the earth under them. He obscures the face of the full moon and spreads his cloud over it. The pillars of heaven tremble and are amazed at his rebuke. He quieted the sea with his power, and by his understanding, he smiteth the proud. Lo, these are part of his ways: but how little of portion is heard of him? But the thunder of his power who can understand?” (Job. 26:7-14).

If God can hang the earth upon nothing (Job. 26:14), and knows the end for the beginning (Isaiah. 46:9-11), then surely God can control the problems that arise in our lives. We have to not only trust the process, we have to trust his power. To get God’s power, we have to give him our trust. From Genesis to Revelation God has shown us that he will take care of his people. When you are going through the storm of life you have to remember that God has the power to control the storm. The Psalmist declares, “Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty and holiness. The voice of the LORD Is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the LORD is upon many waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.” (Psalm. 29:1-5).

## TRUST THAT GOD IS UP TO SOMETHING

While we cannot understand why God operates the way he does. We each have the responsibility of trusting the process and trusting his power. Often we believe that we are down to nothing. When can take comfort in knowing that will never leave us nor forsake us (Joshua. 1:5,9; Hebrews. 13:5). We have to recognize God’s power through his word (Psalm. 19:1-3).

Jesus came to fulfill the father’s plan, and through him we have justification. Only in Christ can salvation be found. One of my favorite songs says, “In Christ alone, my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song. This cornerstone, this solid ground. Firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace? When fears are stilled, when striving cease. My comforter, my all in all. Here in the love of Christ, I stand.” Christ’s love is close to us when we do things according to his will. He is with us even in the darkest moments in our lives. Indeed, when you are down to nothing, God is up to something.



*Our annual  
ladies' day  
has been postponed  
to a future date.*

1807 S FLORIDA AVENUE, LAKE LAND

**FINDING CONTENTMENT IN THE CHAOS**

IF POSSIBLE, REGISTER AHEAD OF  
TIME BY CALLING THE OFFICE (863)  
682-4702 OR USING THE QR CODE  
TO THE RIGHT



## Render to Caesar

Jesus told his disciples that He had authority over the earth (Matt. 28:18). To have authority over something means to have the power or the right to decide. For example, parents have authority over children. That means kids have to listen to what their mom and dad says. Since Jesus has all authority on earth, He is even more powerful than the government. One time Jesus was questioned about whether it was right to pay taxes to Caesar (Luke 20:20-25). Even in Jesus's day people did not like taxes. But they were trying to trap Jesus. If He said to pay their taxes the people would not have liked Him, but if He said to not pay their taxes, that was illegal. Even though Jesus had authority over governments He asked the people to bring them a coin. On the coin was the picture of Caesar.

Jesus said, "give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and give to God what is God's" (Luke 20:25). Jesus's answer stunned the people, and teaches us a very important principle. Just because we are friends with Jesus does not mean we don't have to listen to the people in government. The things that we are supposed to do, like following the speed limit, and paying taxes, we must obey those things, because its the law. As long as a law made by the government does not directly go against Jesus's authority, we must obey it.

- Vince



# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health  
 Jim Turner - health  
 Brian Smith - heart health  
 Debbie Bush - struggles  
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health  
 Janie Wise - health  
 Dorothea Lauther - surgery recovery  
 Brenda Mask - health  
 Bitsy Thomas - injury  
 Kathy Nester- surgery recovery

## PRAYER LIST

Ron & Judy Ford - health  
 Bernetta Green - health & strength  
 Bobby Simpson - health  
 Annett Phillip - health  
 Vanessa Palmer - health  
 Wayne Shearer - health  
 Bill Long - cancer treatments  
 Geny Johnson - health  
 Sharon Mathis-Washington- back pains  
 Sophia Smith- in TICU @ LRMC

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board. Please let the office know if someone's status on that list needs to be updated or if a person needs to be removed from the list

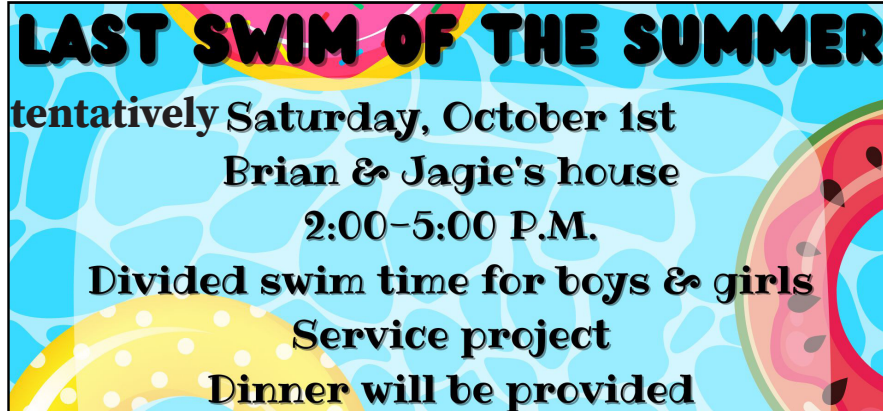
### Pray for our Shut-ins

Joyce Burbage Carol Eason

Brothers, pray for us. 1 Thessalonians 5:25

Welcome new members:  
 Keely, Sean, & Mac Cooper  
 Brian, Sandy, & Derek Williams  
 We are so happy to have you as part of our  
 South Florida Avenue Family!

Brenda Mask came forward last Sunday morning requesting the prayers of the congregation. Let's keep her in mind as we speak with our Heavenly Father.



**LAST SWIM OF THE SUMMER**  
 tentatively Saturday, October 1st  
 Brian & Jagie's house  
 2:00-5:00 P.M.  
 Divided swim time for boys & girls  
 Service project  
 Dinner will be provided

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### SEPTEMBER

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

### Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Wednesday night  
 Bible study has been  
 cancelled due to  
 Hurricane Ian

### Sunday, October 2nd, 2022

#### 10:30 A.M.

Slavery to Slavery... Josh Cantrell  
 Romans 6:16- 18

#### 6:00 P.M.

Am I "Shepherd-able"?... Josh Cantrell  
 Hebrews 13:17- 18

#### 10:30 A.M.

Song/prayer before class ..... Stacey Paulin  
 Announcements ..... Frank Hamby  
 A.M. Song Leader ..... Brian Kenyon  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Paul Sweeney  
 Lord's Table ..... Rick Kenyon  
 Closing Prayer ..... Jeff Bingle  
 Open/Close bldg (both) ..... Brian Kenyon  
 Greeters ..... Fife  
 Attendance cards (both) ..... Klark/ Sawyer

#### 6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader ..... Brian Kenyon  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Ralph Rogers  
 Lord's Table ..... Rick Kenyon  
 Closing Prayer ..... Mike Van Allen  
 Greeters ..... Bingle

### Wednesday, October 5, 2022

Announcements ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
 Song Leader/prayer ..... Kyle Faneuf  
 Devo ..... Vince Daugherty  
 Closing Prayer ..... David Deal

### Upcoming Events

#### September

30- Orange St. Sing

#### October

1 - Youth swim @ B.Kenyon  
 2 - Fellowship in Svc.  
 21 - Fiesta Friday  
 27 - Ladies' Night Out  
 30 - Trunk or Treat



### ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Sep 11 ..... \$4,375.00  
 Sep 18 ..... \$5,357.80  
 Sep 25 ..... \$5,629.00  
 Contribution Average..... \$5,120.60  
 Weekly budget ..... \$7,663.43

I was recently reading a book of poetry when I ran across this quote: "Wear your vulnerability like a crown, Whether it is made of thorns or of wildflowers is up to you." -Jon Lupin

This really struck a chord with me and had me thinking about spiritual vulnerability. We are vulnerable to being exposed to harmful situations, heartache, temptation, and the consequences of other people's sins. It isn't just a risk though- we know we will be exposed to these things. We wear vulnerability like a crown in the sense that the world is watching us as we react to those situations. Do they see Christians perpetually confused and angry or rejoicing in trials? In James 1:2 it doesn't say to count it all joy "if" we meet trials of various kinds, but "when" we meet those trials. How do we view trials- as a harsh and heavy burden or as an opportunity to overcome and point others toward God? Our mindset isn't just half the battle- it is THE battle here. We are human and having sorrow and frustration from trials can be expected. However, past the initial frustration, are we wallowing and projecting a bleak picture for those around us? If so- how do we reconcile that with passages like 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 which calls God "the God of all comfort," and Philippians 4:7 which describes His peace as the peace "which surpasses all understanding". Do we allow him to comfort us and give us peace? If we are to be cities set on a hill and lights to the world, our crowns must be wildflowers because Jesus has already borne the crown of thorns.

## Verses of Peace

*Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!*  
Psalm 46:10

*Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*  
Romans 15:13

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*  
Philippians 4:6-7

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

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

1807 South Florida Avenue  
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

*The work of righteousness  
will be peace, And the  
effect of righteousness,  
quietness and assurance  
forever.*

Isaiah 32:17



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