



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST *MESSENGER*



1807 S. Florida Ave.
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 78 No. 42 October 15, 2024

ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

Steven Ford

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

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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.....6:30 p.m.

WEB PAGE

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
Ted Wheeler Ghana, W.A.

Shelter in the Time of Storm

Brian R. Kenyon

In one of Isaiah's many prophecies about the Messianic kingdom, he wrote, "the LORD will create above ... Mount Zion ... a tabernacle for shade in the daytime from the heat, for a place of refuge, and for a shelter from storm and rain" (Isaiah 4:5-6). That Messianic kingdom was in the distant future from Isaiah's time, but is a present reality for us. With the establishment of the church came the beginning of the Messianic kingdom (Matthew 16:18-19; Acts 2:41, 47 cf. Joel 2:28 [cf. Acts 2:16]; Amos 9:11 [cf. Acts 15:16]; Isaiah 2:2; Daniel 2:44). The kingdom was spoken of as a present reality in the first century (Colossians 1:13; 1 Thessalonians 2:12; Hebrews 12:28; Revelation 1:9). If the kingdom was in existence then, it certainly is now! The question is: "Am I a part of God's kingdom, the shelter in the time of storm?"

As the recent conversion to Christ indicates, any time is the right time to seek refuge in the spiritual shelter the Lord has provided in His kingdom. The day before the hurricane hit Florida, our new sister in Christ contacted the church wanting to know about salvation and baptism. While hurricanes are physical storms that threaten our well-being, sin is the storm that threatens our spiritual well-being (Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 3:23; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8). Unless, by God's grace (Ephesians 2:5), we do something about our sin, we are doomed (Romans 6:23). The only reliable source of truth on salvation is the Bible, which is "Scripture ... breathed out by God" (2 Timothy 3:16, ESV). That word gives us knowledge of "all things that pertain to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3). The Bible teaches that salvation can only be ours when we obey the teaching God has given (Romans 6:16-18). God's word instructs us to believe that Jesus is the risen Lord (John 8:24); to repent of our sins (Acts 17:30-31); to confess our faith in Jesus (Romans 10:10); to be baptized (Acts 2:38); and to live faithfully (1 John 1:7). Are you sheltered in the Lord? If not, "now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2). Why wait any longer?

Welcome Our New Sister in Christ!



We rejoice with heaven that Rosetta was baptized into Christ on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, the day before Hurricane Milton made landfall. She sought the truth and the Lord blessed her quest (Acts 17:27). Thank God for His salvation (Mark 16:15-16)!

Join Us

FOR A SPECIAL SERIES OF STUDIES
WITH DR. STEPHEN C. ATNIP ON

The Holy Spirit

NOVEMBER 17-20, 2024

Sunday, November 17

9:30 am **Prevalent Views about the Holy Spirit**

10:30 am **The Baptism with the Holy Spirit**

Fellowship Lunch following worship

6:00 pm **The Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

Monday, November 18

6:30 pm Congregational Singing

7:00 pm **The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit**

Tuesday, November 19

6:30 pm Congregational Singing

7:00 pm **The Holy Spirit as Comforter**

Wednesday, November 20

6:30 pm **The Holy Spirit and Eternal Life**

Followed by a Fellowship Snack



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PRAYER LIST

Current: Karen Ritchey (Casey Potvin's mother) biopsy was postponed due to the storm. Tonya Anderson's sinus surgery went well, Vicki Bingle (Jeff's sister) will have hip replacement surgery on Thursday. **Continual:** Rachel Zapata (health), Jim Turner (cancer) Sharon Mathis Washington (Health & family); Stacey Wilson (health); Debbie Bush (struggles); Carlene Long (health & strength); Ron Ford (health); Janie Wise (health); Margaret Coone (health); Melissa Craft (health); Kathy Nester (health & travels).

Shut-ins: Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French, Barbara Jones, Charles Paulin, Helen Perrin, Bettye Bolding, Nellie Anderson, Cheryl Barker

Also continue to pray for those on the extended family and friends list! [Extended family and Friends List is Emailed Weekly.](#)



P.I.E.

Ladies join us on Sunday October 20, 2024 at 4:00 PM for a "PIE" Party! Sign up to bring your favorite pie and join us for fun and fellowship together with the ladies of SFA.

Laura St. Church of Christ
FALL
GOSPEL MEETING!

OCTOBER 25.26.27
FRI. SAT. SUN

Steven Ford
Minister,
5. Florida Ave Church of Christ

1310 E Lewis St
Plant City, FL 33613
813-752-2858

All Services Live Streamed! [LauraSteenCo.org](#)

Theme: "Words To Live By"

Gospel Meeting!
Fri. 7p.m. Sat. 7p.m.
OCT 25 OCT 26

OCT 27 **Sun Times**
9:00 am Sunday School
10:15 am Worship
1:30 pm Worship

- "Seek"
- "Godliness"
- "Expectations"
- "Love"
- "Commitment"

HOMECOMING

N. Jackson Ave church of Christ

Bartow, FL

Sunday October 27, 2024

Speakers: FSOP students

Lunch following the 11:00 service

A special thank you to all who have helped with the clean up around the building following the Hurricane and also to those who have been helping in other areas that have been so hard hit!



Scheduled to Serve in October

Designated Elder	David Anderson
Wednesday, October 16, 2024	
Announcements	Brian Kenyon
Song Leader / Prayer	Stacey Paulin
Devotional / Invitation	Steven Ford
Closing Prayer	David Williams
Sunday, October 20, 2024	
10:30 am Sermon	Steven Ford
"Life Lessons from Genesis" (Gen 1:26-28)	
6:00 pm Sermon	Paul Sweeney
"Why is Christianity Hard?"	
Those to Serve 10:30 am	
Greeters	Ralph and Pat Rogers
Song/Pray before class	Dave Williams
Announcements (both)	Frank Hamby
Song Leader (both)	Tucker Sweeney
Prayer / Bible reading	Josh Estridge
Lord's Table (both)	George Davis
Closing Prayer	Andre Medley
Open/Close Building	Bobby Sheumaker
Attendance Cards	-
Sound Booth (both)	Jason H
Those to Serve 6:00 pm	
Greeters	Fifes
Announcements	Frank Hamby
Song Leader	Tucker Sweeney
Prayer / Bible reading	Allen Grimes
Closing Prayer	Kyle Bingle
Wednesday, October 23, 2024	
Announcements	Stacey Paulin
Song Leader / Prayer	Terrance Dindy
Devotional / Invitation	Steven Ford
Closing Prayer	Phil Fife
How We Are Giving	
September 29	\$7,117.00
October 6	\$7,185.58
October 13	\$5,494.81
Contribution Average	\$6,839.50
Weekly Budget	\$7,410.00

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!

Missed Opportunities

There is a Jamaican saying/proverb that I like to use sometimes, "Cow neva know di ah him tail, til him lose it!" Translated—a cow never knows what his tail is for until he loses it. This saying means, we don't realize the value of something until we no longer have it.

In Matthew 25:41-45, "Then He will also say to those on the left hand. Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me. Then they also will answer Him, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You? Then He will answer them, saying, Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me."

Missed opportunities to do good can lead to eternal damnation. Missed opportunities to share the gospel with someone can result in that person losing their soul. Lord, help us to recognize the value of opportunities that are in front of us.

Fellowship in Service
Sunday October 27 following evening service.

Bring foods and drinks to share as we sign cards of encouragement while enjoying fellowship with one another!

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com
Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful"

Hebrews 10:23

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Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested



LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Taught by
Susan Stearsman



The Spirit of Truth

Study of First John 3:24-4:11

October 22, 2024
7:00 PM



Future Class Dates:
November 12, 2024
December 10, 2024
January 2025 Three ladies classes during Lectureship

All ladies are invited to join us in the FSOP classroom at 1807 South Florida Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33803 or Live stream through Zoom.

Receive the link to join class at <https://fsop.net/ladies-class-registration>



Ladies who miss class may watch the recording later when it is posted to our Facebook Group: FSOP Ladies Class.



If you have questions please contact us (863) 683-4043 jagie@fsop.net

Bible themed TRUNK OR TREAT: SATURDAY
OCTOBER 26 @5:00 Pm
Sign up on the sheet in the foyer if you want to be involved with this fun event !

See Carlisa with any questions



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