



# South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 75 No. 42 October 25, 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  
(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.....7:00 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  
Joey Treat ..... Pacific Islands  
Ted Wheeler ..... Ghana, W.A.

## XXXXXXXX THE DAYS OF EZEKIEL XXXXXXXX

Vince Daugherty

In the days of Ezekiel, God’s promises to Israel and David seem like a shadow of a very distant memory. Apostasy and idolatry had eroded Judah’s foundation. She saw her neighbor to the north taken away by the Assyrians into captivity. Instead of learning from their failures, they abandoned God to side with nations like Egypt and Tyre. Now they faced their own imminent destruction at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians. Ezekiel was among some of the earlier captives taken to Babylon and was called to be God’s prophet on his thirtieth birthday. Ezekiel’s burden of being a man of God was no small task. He was directed by God to level the charges against the nation of Judah. They were guilty and their punishment would be severe. Though the city of Jerusalem would be besieged and its people would be taken into captivity for 70 years, that would not be their final chapter. Even in terrible circumstances, God can breathe new life into things we thought were dead and gone.

### DEM BONES

In Ezekiel 37 God showed His prophet a vision. He brought him to a valley that was “full of bones... and indeed they were very dry” (v. 1,2). What a terrifying nightmare for Ezekiel to behold. The bones were an allegory for the “house of Israel” (v. 11). To the watching world, and to the Israelites themselves they thought, “Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!” (v. 11). In the midst of the valley of dry bones God asked Ezekiel, “can these bones live?” to which Ezekiel responded, “O Lord God, You know.” (v. 3). The Lord commanded Ezekiel, “Prophesy to these bones, ‘Hear the word of the Lord!’” (v. 4). God said, “Surely I will cause breath to enter into you and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you and you shall live. Then you will know I am the Lord” (v. 5,6). Ezekiel obeyed the Lord’s command and behold, “there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone... sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over” (v. 7,8). To the dry bones, to the nation of Israel, the Lord said, “I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves and bring you into the land of Israel” (v. 11,12). After 70 years of captivity, God indeed allowed for a remnant to return. Under the leadership of men like Ezra and Nehemiah, the city of Jerusalem was restored, and her walls were rebuilt. God’s chosen people were not dead and buried. God’s promises were not dead and gone. There also still existed a preserved seedline from the lineage of David. A “Shoot from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch” (Isa. 11:1). There was still an opportunity for a tender plant to grow up before Him, And as a root out of dry ground (Isa. 53:2).

### HOPE FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE

Ezekiel 37 is an epic chapter of Scripture that gives us vivid imagery that brings great hope. Those things that we might think with man, impossible, are possible with God! David said this in Psalm 124 “If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, When men rose up against us, Then they would have swallowed us alive, When their wrath was kindled against us; Then the waters would have overwhelmed us, the stream would have gone over our soul. The popular worship song taken from this Psalm says, “Blessed be the Lord, who would not give us up, blessed be the Lord for His unfailing love.

The snare is broken and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord.” David also said, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me...” (Psa. 23:4).

Ezekiel's vision of hope was not the last instance of hope from beyond the grave found in Scripture. Jesus said, “Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth... (John 5:28,29). Jesus gave hope from beyond the grave. He demonstrated this literally in raising the widow’s son from Nain (Luke 7:11-17). He raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11). Matthew even records that at the time of His resurrection, “graves were opened and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many” (27:52,53). Chiefly, Jesus, Himself rose from the grave, as He predicted, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up” (John 2:19). Though the widow's son was being carried away in a casket, Jesus brought life back to the dead body. Though Lazarus surely stank by the time He arrived He called him from beyond the grave. Though the soldier pierced Jesus' body, though His body was wrapped up like a mummy, on Sunday, up from the grave He arose! Though His enemies thought if they could kill Him they could kill His plans, He said, “the gates of Hades would not prevail against it” (Matt. 16:18).

### CONTINUE IN HOPE

What am I to conclude about the character and nature of God? What should my takeaway be? What things do I see as impossible? What things do I judge dead and gone? What things do I believe are beyond hope? With God, I need to think again. That is why I keep working on my relationships with friends, family, and coworkers. That is why I still pray fervently for those who have walked away from the truth. That is why I continue to strive to walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh (Gal. 5:16). Paul says because God can and has worked beyond the grave, our “labor is not in vain in the Lord” (I Cor. 15:58). When Jeremiah stood watching His beloved city burn to the ground He pinned this beautiful verse, “Though the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, says my soul, Therefore I will hope in Him!” (Lam. 3:23).



### Not My Will, But Thine

I do not remember whining and complaining about the food I was forced to eat at the dinner table when I was young. I must have a hazy memory because now that the shoe is on the other foot my kids fight Tiffany and me tooth and nail when they are asked to eat certain things at dinner (who doesn't like mashed potatoes?!?). I may not remember complaining when I was growing up because it would do me no good in getting my way. I still had to eat at least one good helping of green peas. Kids whining and complaining don't get much further in my house either. It is rather annoying listening to my sons say, "but I don't liiike it!" "I'm sorry you don't like it, it's good for you and you will finish your plate!" Oh, that children would just let go of their own desires ("dude it's just mashed potatoes, they're not gonna kill you"). In Luke 22:39-46 we learn of another Son who was in a much more difficult place, faced with a cup of suffering prepared for Him. Instead of whining and complaining; instead of looking for another way out, the Son of Man said "not My will, but Yours, be done." There will be times you may not desire to fall in line with your mom and dad. In most things, it is safe to say moms and dads are looking out for your best, and it is in our best interest to listen to them. What we must absolutely learn from Jesus is submission to our heavenly Father. It is not about my will and my desire. Not my will, but Thine.

-Vince

**Sunday  
October  
30**

**Free  
Candy**

**TRUNK  
or  
TREAT**

**following evening worship (around 7:00 p.m.)**

**Please do not wear costumes to worship.  
There will be time to change afterward.**

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health  
 Jim Turner - health  
 Brian Smith - heart health  
 Debbie Bush - struggles  
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health  
 Wayne Shearer - health  
 Geny Johnson - health  
 Sophia Smith- in Blake @ Bradenton

## PRAYER LIST

Ron & Judy Ford - health  
 Bernetta Green - health & strength  
 Bobby Simpson - health  
 Annett Phillip - health  
 Janie Wise - health  
 Brenda Mask - health  
 Bitsy Thomas - injury  
 Neyome Brunson- trip to Sri Lanka

(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

The decision has been made to cancel this year's ladies' day due to scheduling conflicts.

*We hope to see you in October 2023.*



We are in need of gas cards again for benevolence purposes. Please give the cards or money for cards to Rick Kenyon or drop them off at the office. Thank you!

# Welcome

Jeff Childers has placed membership here at South Florida Ave. Let's welcome him:

5926 Hendricks Rd  
 Lakeland, FL 33811

## 5TH SUNDAY COLLECTION

The next 5th Sunday collection for the Building Fund will be **October 30, 2022.**

If you would like to give additional funds at other times, please mail or bring them to the office. Be sure to designate the contribution as part of the Building Fund. It will be collected by the elders.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### October

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

### Wednesday, October 26, 2022

Announcements ..... B. Sheumaker  
 Song Leader/Prayer..... Stacey Paulin  
 Devo ..... David Anderson  
 Closing Prayer ..... Brian Kenyon

### Sunday, October 30th, 2022

#### 10:30 A.M.

Not Made to Fit In Pt.3... Joshua Cantrell  
 Matthew 9:9-13

#### 6:00 P.M.

Youth Led Service

#### 10:30 A.M.

Song/prayer before class ..... Frank Hamby  
 Announcements ..... David Anderson  
 A.M. Song Leader ..... Andre Medley  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Wayne Shearer  
 Lord's Table ..... Tucker Sweeney  
 Closing Prayer ..... Tyler Anderson  
 Open/Close bldg (both) ..... Hendrix  
 Greeters ..... Olivia & Ingrid  
 Attendance cards (both) ..... Declan/ Ellis

#### 6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader ..... Peyton Willcut  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Paul Sweeney  
 Lord's Table ..... Tucker Sweeney  
 Closing Prayer ..... Cam'ron Bailey  
 Greeters ..... Fife

### Wednesday, November 2nd, 2022

Announcements ..... David Anderson  
 Song Leader/prayer ..... Frank Hamby  
 Devo ..... Kyle Faneuf  
 Closing Prayer ..... Rick Kenyon

## Upcoming Events

### October

28 - Orange St. Sing, 7pm  
 30 - Trunk or Treat

### November

3- Ladies' Night Out  
 10- Church Scrapbook Night  
 12- Eagle Lake Men's Lectureship  
 11-13- WWCC Fall Family Camp  
 13- Elders, Deacons, & Preachers' Meeting  
 13-16- Fall gospel meeting  
 18- Youth Thankful Meal



## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Oct 9	\$5,338.00
Oct 16	\$6,597.00
Oct 23	\$4,248.00
Contribution Average	\$5,394.33
Weekly budget	\$7,663.43

I trust in you when I cannot stand- when I'm broken and confused.  
 I run to you for healing when my heart is mangled and bruised.  
 I pray for wisdom in conversations where stakes are high and feelings are raw.  
 I reach for you when I'm frightened, and uncertainty sinks in its claws.  
 I pray for peace at the end of the day- when things are beyond my comprehension.  
 I read your Word and trust your power to erase all of my tension.  
 I lean on you in fallow times- when strands of hope dwindle down to nothing.  
 I place my heart within in your hands and find joy in suffering."

*"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness." James 1:2-3*

## Verses about God's Mercy

*With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful;  
 With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless;*

**Psalm 18:25**

*Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your  
 lovingkindnesses, For they are from of old.*

**Psalm 25:6**

*Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.*

**Luke 6:36**

*But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with  
 which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses,  
 made us alive together with Christ  
 (by grace you have been saved);*

**Ephesians 2:4-5**

**PERMANENTLY Christian**

**NOVEMBER 13TH - 16TH**  
**SOUTH FLORIDA AVE. CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**FALL 2022 GOSPEL MEETING**

1807 S. FLORIDA AVENUE  
 LAKELAND, FL 33803

**JEFF JENKINS**  
 Jeff has been preaching since 1973. He holds degrees from Faulkner University (AA - 1979), Freed-Hardeman University (BA - 1981), and has done post-graduate work at both Southern Christian University and Emory University. He is also a co-founder of The Jenkins Institute.

*please join us*

- Bible Study - "The Christian's Position"
- A.M. Worship - "God's Plan"
- Fellowship meal following A.M. worship
- P.M. Worship - "The Christian's Practice"
- Monday - "The Christian's Perspective"
- Tuesday - "The Christian's Place"
- Wednesday - "The Christian's Power"
- Sunday: 9:30 AM, 10:30 AM, & 6:00 PM
- Monday- Wednesday: 7:00 PM

[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.



### South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue  
 Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

*The Lord is gracious and  
 full of compassion,  
 Slow to anger and great  
 in mercy.*

Psalm 145:8



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