



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 75 No. 45 November 15, 2022

ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Rick Kenyon
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

Joshua Cantrell

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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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.

THE NINE MEN WHO MISSED THANKSGIVING

Joshua Cantrell

Thanksgiving is recognized by many as one of the best holidays. Families get together to celebrate life, each other, and the blessings they have. Thanksgiving is defined as the expression of gratitude (dictionary.com). For the child of God, thanksgiving is something we celebrate every day. We are thankful that God sent his son to save us from our sins (Luke 19:10). We are thankful for the kingdom of God. We are thankful we have the hope of going to heaven after a faithful life (2 Timothy 4:6-8; Revelation 2:10).

When reading the Gospel according to Luke, we see a scene from our Lord's life that shows the importance of thanksgiving. Luke, the physician gives us many close-up accounts in the life of Jesus. As recorded in Luke 17, Jesus was going to encounter some desperate, hopeless, and helpless men with leprosy. Throughout the Bible, there were prominent people with leprosy: Miriam (Numbers 12:10), Joab (2 Samuel 3:29), Naaman (2 Kings 5:1-7), Gehazi (2 Kings 5:20-27), Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26), and Simon the leper (Mark 14:3-9).

THE LEPERS AND JESUS

Jesus showed his love and concern for everyone. He was a friend to strangers and outcasts. Luke recorded that His ways were being questioned, "Now all the tax-gatherers and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him. And both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them"" (Luke 15:1-2, NASB). Luke's Gospel reveals that Jesus would often put himself in uncomfortable situations (Luke 7; 15; 17; 19). When we examine our lives (2 Corinthians 13:5), we understand that Christianity will put us in uncomfortable situations as well. The Bible reveals that Jesus went up to the lepers (Luke 17:12). Where others saw a disease, Jesus saw a soul. Where others saw hopelessness, Jesus saw he could help them.

The Bible does not reveal how these men became lepers. Luke recorded, "As he entered a village, ten leprous men who stood at a distance met him" (Luke 17:12). These men with this horrid disease wanted help and knew that Jesus had the power to cleanse them. When people today come to us spiritually sick, are we able to point them to Jesus? Often, people look for an earthly solution to their spiritual problems. Certainly, Jesus has the power over leprosy, but he ultimately wants to save our souls. Luke recorded, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

THE OLD TESTAMENT CONCERNING LEPROSY

As Moses instructed God's children, he gave strict instructions for those who had encountered this disease (Leviticus 13; 14). Throughout history, fewer diseases have been as dreaded as leprosy. It was common among people in Bible times. Leprosy refers to several skin diseases and even some kinds of fungi, such as those found in the walls of homes. Leprosy was the scourge of the ancient world. Nothing evoked more fear, more dread than the sight of the walking dead.

The smell of the decaying flesh would announce the coming of leprous people long before the tattered scraps of their flesh would be seen or the shout, "Unclean, unclean!" would be heard. The stumbling shuffle of toeless feet, and the wandering of sightless eyes all pointed to leprosy.

This unseen attacker slowly destroyed human bodies and made the individuals untouchable to society, but not to Jesus. In biblical times, it was almost universally believed that only God could heal leprosy. Even the king of Israel, to whom the king of Syria sent his general, Naaman, for healing, asked, "Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy?" (2 Kings 5:7). The prophet Elisha intervened, suggesting that Naaman could be healed. Jesus encountered people who were in very desperate situations. God is no respecter of persons (Romans 2:11). The men in Luke 17 did not need to be reminded about their current condition. They needed someone to fix their problem.

THE REQUEST OF THE TEN

These men asked Jesus to have mercy on them (Luke 17:13). Few in words, but powerful in request, these men were asking Jesus to have compassion and take pity on them and their condition. One of the great blessings we have is God's mercy and compassion. When we were sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:6-8). Peter recorded, "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

Christ extended his mercy to those men on that day, and he extends his mercy to us as well. When we ponder Thanksgiving, let us never forget the compassion, love, and mercy that our God shows to us daily. God has given us time to be saved, cleansed us, and freed us from sin. Jesus responded to them and said, "Go and show yourselves to the priests," and, Luke continued, "as they were going, they were cleansed" (Luke 17:14).

THANKSGIVING SHOULD LEAD US TO GLORIFY GOD

While all these men were cleansed, only one turned back to glorify God. Luke recorded, "Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice, and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him. And he was a Samaritan" (Luke 17:15-16). Often, we fail to appreciate what God has done for us. I often like to ask, "If we woke up today with what we thanked God for yesterday, what would we have?"

Gratitude unexpressed is gratitude unknown. This attitude of being cleansed led him to glorify God. The Psalmist declared, "O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever" (Psalm 107:1).

Paul wrote, "In everything give thanks" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). James recorded, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights" (James 1:17). As we examine ourselves this year, how often have we given thanks to God? When we look at our lives, we have much for which to be thankful. Jesus cleansed ten men, but only one turned back to glorify God. Luke recorded, "Then Jesus answered and said, 'Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine —where are they?'" (Luke 17:17). Jesus noticed this man. He sees his praise, his compassion, and his commitment. The emphasis is often on the nine, and their failures to glorify God. Yet, our example and emphasis should be on the one. His gratitude for what Jesus did, led him to thanksgiving. In everything we do, in everything we are, we should give thanks to God. Not just once during the year, but every day of our lives. Jesus responded, "Stand up and go; your faith has made you well" (Luke 17:19).



The Instruction of a Father Pt. 1

(Proverbs 1:1-4)

Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding;

For I give you good doctrine:

Do not forsake my law.

When I was my father's son, Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother, He also taught me, and said to me:

"Let your heart retain my words;

Keep my commands, and live.

How to Learn:

Listen

Engage

Ask Questions

No distractions

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
 George Davis- toe surgery
 Bill & Carlene Long- strength

PRAYER LIST

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

(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



to everyone who helped at the work day in order to get the offices ready for the remodel. We truly appreciate your help and your servant hearts!

Current newsletters from our missionaries are posted on the bulletin board. Previous newsletters can be found on the missionary bulletin board in the back hallway.

The SFA church directory is now available on the **Instant Church Directory App**.

Privacy and safety is an absolute factor! To access the app, your email address **must** be registered with the office to verify identity. If the office does not have your email, access to the directory will be **denied**.

If you need assistance or more information about it, please see Rick Kenyon.



SCHEDULED TO SERVE

November

Designated Elder - David Anderson

Wednesday, November 16th, 2022

AnnouncementsDavid Anderson
 Song Leader/prayer Terrance Dindy Jr.
 DevoGospel Meeting
 Closing PrayerJoshua Cantrell

Sunday, November 20th, 2022

10:30 A.M.

Slaves of Righteousness... Vince Daugherty
Romans 6

6:00 P.M.

Preaching of Haggai... Joshua Cantrell
Haggai 1:5

10:30 A.M.

Song/prayer before classStacey Paulin
 AnnouncementsJimmy Sweeney
 A.M. Song LeaderTerrance Dindy Jr.
 Scripture reading/PrayerPaul Sweeney
 Lord's TableRick Kenyon
 Closing PrayerJeff Stewart
 Open/Close bldg (both)David Deal
 GreetersBingle
 Attendance cards (both)Colby/ Ellis

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song LeaderBrian Kenyon
 Scripture reading/PrayerB. Sheumaker
 Lord's TableRick Kenyon
 Closing PrayerAndre Medley
 GreetersD. & N. Williams

Wednesday, November 23rd, 2022

AnnouncementsBrian Kenyon
 Song Leader/Prayer.....Andre Medley
 DevoJoshua Cantrell
 Closing PrayerFrank Hamby

Upcoming Events

November

13-16- Fall gospel meeting
 18- Youth Thankful Meal
 19- Ladies' Scrapbook Day

December

4 -Walk Out of Darkness
 8 - Ladies' Scrapbook Night
 11 -Elders, Deacons, & Preachers' Meeting
 11 -Ladies' Cookie Swap
 16 - Youth Polar Express Night



~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Oct 30	\$9,881.00
Nov 6	\$7,298.00
Nov 13	\$7987.00
Contribution Average.....	\$8,388.67
Weekly budget	\$7,663.43

We need packs of 16.9 oz water bottles & volunteers to help at the AFSP Walk out of Darkness being held on Sunday, Dec. 4th.

There is a sign up sheet for volunteers on the bulletin board. Bring the water to the office. Please See Rick Kenyon for more details.



Sometimes I feel like I'm always hungry or thinking about food. I have days that I'll eat smaller or healthier portions, and other days that I don't care what and how much I eat. It's a daily struggle for me and I know there are other people who face the same struggles. My spiritual health can be a struggle sometimes as well. What about yours? If we are to be healthy spiritually, we must have a real hunger for righteousness. (Matthew 5:6) To satisfy that hunger, we need to fill up our lives with spiritual food and activities. (Colossians 3:1-2) We must feast on God's word (John 5:39; Romans 15:4; Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 30:5; Ephesians 6:11-17). We need to assemble with the saints for Sunday worship services and bible classes as well as doing personal bible study (Acts 20:7; 2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 10:24-25). Pray daily (Luke 18:1; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17) Draw near to God (James 4:8). Strive to avoid behaviors that will make us spiritually weak and unhealthy (James 4:4; 1 Corinthians 15:33; Ephesians 4:17-18, 31).

Let us support each other as we struggle to stay spiritually healthy in Christ and seek to spend eternity with God! (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10; Hebrews 10:24)

Psalm 139 :1-10

"O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me."

PERMANENTLY Christian

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

1807 S. FLORIDA AVENUE
LAKELAND, FL 33803

please join us

2 MORE NIGHTS!

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.

Bible Study: 7:00 PM
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

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue
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Return Service Requested

He who heeds the word wisely will find good, And whoever trusts in the Lord, happy is he.

Proverbs 16:20



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