



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST *MESSENGER*



1807 S. Florida Ave.
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 78 No. 47 November 19, 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

EMAIL
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.....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.

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

Let's Invite Our Friends & Family!

Thankful for You!

Paul began both of his epistles to the Thessalonians in almost the exact way, giving thanks for these Christians and their evident progress in the gospel. Paul first wrote, “We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father” (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3). Then about six months later, he also wrote, “We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other ... for your patience and faith” (2 Thessalonians 1:3-4).

Paul singled out three specific areas for which he was thankful to God. First, Their faith was flourishing (2 Thessalonians 1:3b). The term “grows exceedingly [is greatly enlarged, NAS]” is from a compound word (occurring only here in the original text) that carries the idea of “hyper-growth,” and means to grow abundantly, to flourish. In the first epistle, he commended them for becoming “followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,” for being “examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe” (1 Thessalonians 1:6-7). Paul even complimented them, “from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything” (1 Thessalonians 1:8-10). It is great to see growth in members of the South Florida Avenue church of Christ. This growth has come in the form of people being baptized into Christ, and thus being added by God to His kingdom (Acts 2:38, 40-41, 47), by Christians from other areas moving here and placing membership, and by Christians maturing in the faith and reaching past their “comfort zones” to serve the Lord (Ephesians 4:12-16; 22-23). All of us can be thankful and encouraged by this growth!

Second, the Thessalonians’ love was increasing (2 Thessalonians 1:3c). “Love [charity, KJV]” here is the *agape* love to which Jesus said a “new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another” (John 13:34 cf. John 15:12, 17). This love is completely willed, not dependent on anything in return, and always seeks the highest good in its object. It is in this way that Christians can even “love your enemies” (Matthew 5:44). The word behind the translation “abounds [is increasing, ESV; grows even greater, NAS]” means to increase, grow, become more, be extended (2 Corinthians 4:15; 2 Peter 1:8). Even though the Thessalonians showed maturity in love, none of them (or any of us) can say they have arrived and have no room for improvement. Thus, Paul entreated, “may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you” (1 Thessalonians 3:12). It is great to see the love this congregation expresses, not only in special and/or community events but also in day-to-day interaction with each other! All of us can be thankful for this increasing love!

Third, the Thessalonians’ patience remained strong (2 Thessalonians 1:4). Their “patience and faith” was so strong that Paul and his coworkers told others about it (2 Thessalonians 1:4a). “Patience [perseverance, NAS; steadfastness, ESV]” is translated from a word that means patient endurance, steadfastness, perseverance, fortitude (Hebrews 10:36; James 1:3-4; 2 Peter 1:6). Paul later acknowledged that Jesus was the source and example of this patience when for the Thessalonians he prayed, “may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ” (2 Thessalonians 3:5 cf. 1 Thessalonians 3:10-12; 4:10). Paul also confirmed that “eternal life” awaited “those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality” (Romans 2:7). Although persecution was the test they passed by their patience (1 Thessalonians 2:13-16), our tests may be different (like the construction on our building). No matter the test, patience is the key to overcoming (cf. Luke 21:19). It is great to see and be encouraged by the patience this congregation has shown. All of us can be thankful for the patient endurance of God’s saints! ♥ *Brian*



PRAYER LIST

Current: Rosetta Vargas is having medical tests done. Brenda Lynn is in much pain from pelvic fractures, Kathy Nester is in the hospital in Michigan

Continual: Melissa Craft (health), 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);

Shut-ins: Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French, Barbara Jones, Charles Paulin, Helen Perrin, bettye bolding, Cheryl Barker

Also continue to pray for those on the extended family and friends list!

[Extended family and Friends List is Emailed Weekly.](#)

We need teacher's for all ages for next quarter. Please see Brian if you are available to teach or assist with teaching. It would be ideal if we could get some new teachers involved so that our regular teachers could get the opportunity to be a student this quarter!

Thank You for all the love you have shown to us through prayers, calls, cards and hugs. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful Godly family.

In Christian love, Stacey and Toney Wilson

Baby Shower

Come help us celebrate with Casey and Emily Paulin.

Sunday December 29th after evening services.

Please bring finger foods to share.

They are expecting a baby boy in late March 2025.

They will be registered at my.babylist.com and if you shop there

please have the gift shipped to

1648 Kansas Ave. S.E. Huron, SD 57350.

Lads to Leaders

Sunday, Dec 1

Lunch will be

Provided!

All are encouraged

to attend to work

on your projects!

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Taught by Susan Stearsman

God's Witness

Study of First John 4:20-5:13

December 10, 2024
7:00 PM

FLORIDA SCHOOL OF PREACHING
1807 S. FLORIDA AVE., LAKELAND, FL
(863) 683-4043 WWW.FSOP.NET

Scheduled to Serve in November

Designated Elder	Bobby Sheumaker
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Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Announcements	Stacey Paulin
Song Leader / Prayer	Brian Kenyon
Devotional / Invitation	Steve Atnip
Closing Prayer	Allen Grimes

Sunday, November 24, 2024

10:30 am Sermon	Steven Ford
"Putting Faith to Work" (Pt. 1) James 1:1-4	
6:00 pm Sermon	Brian Kenyon
"Planning for the Future" (James 4:13-17)	

Those to Serve 10:30 am

Greeters	Brunson's
Song/Pray before class	Stacey Paulin
Announcements (both)	Frank Hamby
Song Leader	Tucker Sweeney
Prayer / Bible reading	Bobby Sheumaker
Lord's Table (both)	Josh Epperson
Closing Prayer	Jeff Stewart
Open/Close Building	David Deal
Attendance Cards	---
Sound Booth (both)	Jason

Those to Serve 6:00 pm

Greeters	Fife's
Announcements	Frank Hamby
Song Leader	Tucker Sweeney
Prayer / Bible reading	Terrance Dindy
Closing Prayer	David Deal

Wednesday, November 27, 2024

Announcements	Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader / Prayer	Stacey Paulin
Devotional / Invitation	Steven Ford
Closing Prayer	Phil Fife

How We Are Giving

November 3	\$10,247.60
November 10	\$6,722.26
November 17	\$7,906.00
Contribution Average	\$6,959.74
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!

When Do You Stop Trying?

When a non-Christian starts studying and attending worship, we as a congregation make that person feel welcomed with open arms. When someone is baptized into the Lord's church, we rejoice and shower them with love. When becoming a Christian there are so many changes a person goes through. They sometimes must change the way they talk, dress, act, and think. They may have a past they are ashamed to share, or feel anxiety about how little knowledge they have of the Bible. They may feel that there is no way they have anything in common with members who are "mature" Christians or grew up in the church.

So my question to you is...

When do you stop trying to get to know your brothers/sisters in Christ? Have you tried getting to know them outside of the church building?

Every member is battling something in their daily lives. There could be a member who has really bad anxiety. There could be a member that, even though they have a smile on their face, is being crushed by the stress that is going on in their lives. There could be a member who can't go to fellowships because children aren't allowed or it's too late in the evening. There could be a member that is so insecure about themselves and their past that they feel they can't open up to you. Whether it is a non-Christian studying, a newly baptized Christian, or a member that has been a Christian for years, you should NEVER stop trying. Not everyone is open about how they are truly feeling, and what they are currently going through. I would say, the ones who are quiet, sit alone, or are consumed at the moment by parenthood or the stress of their daily life, should be our priority. We should never stop trying to get to know our brothers/sisters in Christ, because the more we try, eventually, that member will open up and feel safe and secure in our congregation.

Ephesians 4:3 - "Make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace"

1 John 1:7 - "but if we walk in the light, as He is the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin."



SAVE THE DATES:

- Dec. 14, 2024-** SFA Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall
- Dec. 15, 2024-** FSOP Graduation following evening service
- Jan. 03, 2025-** Bonfire at the Kenyon home, all are invited!

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com



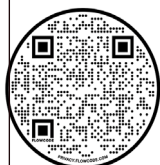
South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

"Let your speech be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one"

Colossians 4:6



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