



The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 73 No. 47 November 24, 2020

ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Stacey Paulin
Jimmy Sweeney

MINISTER

Hiram Kemp

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

SECRETARY

Dee Parramore

OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

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.

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SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

YOUTUBE.com

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

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Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia
Don Iverson.....India
Marc Veary.....Malawi, Africa
Graham McDonald..Scotland
J. Paguaga.....Honduras, C.A.
Joey Treat.....Pacific Islands
Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

20 Things the Bible Teaches About Thanksgiving

Hiram Kemp

- 1. We should give thanks to God because He is good (1 Chronicles 16:34).** God has been good to us and blessed us with so much. We should have the mindset of thanksgiving as we consider every good thing that He has given to us.
- 2. God is to be thanked because of the deliverance that He gives to His people (1 Chronicles 16:35).** In the Old Testament, God often delivered His people from foreign enemies. God would intervene and fight for His people as they battled Egypt, Canaan, Assyria, and Babylon. As Christians, we should thank God as we have been delivered from the enslavement of sin and its consequences.
- 3. Like the Old Testament Levites, we should thank God every morning and evening (1 Chronicles 23:30).** Christians must be people of habitual thanksgiving. In the United States, we acknowledge Thanksgiving Day each November, but this is not enough. At the start and close of our day, we should thank God for all that he is going to do and all that he has done.
- 4. God's people should thank and praise Him because of who He is (1 Chronicles 29:11- 13).** When we contemplate God, we will be awed and amazed. God is higher, holier, brighter, stronger, and wiser than any one of us will ever be. Considering the greatness of God leads one to praise Him but also to give thanks because such a great God has chosen to be mindful of us.
- 5. Thanksgiving should be the result of recounting all of God's wonderful deeds (Psalm 9:1, ESV, NASB).** We need to be well acquainted with God's wonderful deeds in the past as they are recorded in scripture. We also need to be acquainted with His wonderful deeds in the present as we remember what He is doing in our lives now. As we anticipate the future and eternity, there is cause for thanksgiving for all that God has yet to do for us. God's deeds should not only impress us but drive us to our knees in thanksgiving.
- 6. Our thanks to God should lead us to sing His praise (Psalm 18:49).** Worship is commanded by God. Worship is also the outpouring of thanks that comes from the heart of one who appreciates all that God has done and adores Him. As we come before God in worship, our songs should be filled with thanksgiving (Psa. 28:7).
- 7. Thanksgiving is a congregational endeavor (Psalm 35:18).** Our individual lives should be marked by thanksgiving but so should our congregation. We should be collectively thanking God for all of His good deeds toward the church at SFA. As the public prayers are offered, they should be offered in thanks when we consider that our congregation is blessed in innumerable ways by God through Christ.
- 8. Thanksgiving must never end (Psalm 45:17).** We thank God on earth, but we will also thank God throughout eternity. When we read Revelation chapters 4 and 5, we see that heavenly worship involves thanksgiving. Those who cannot thank God here will not thank God there. Thanksgiving begins on earth, but it will continue in heaven forever and ever.

9. God is to be thanked for His amazing foreknowledge (Isaiah 25:1). God was in existence in eternity before He made the world. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were involved in planning the world's creation and also the scheme of redemption that would be necessary to save man. Nothing catches God off guard because He knows everything. His plans are as eternal as God is and that is reason for thanksgiving.

10. We should be thankful God gives us wisdom and power (Daniel 2:23). Men like Joseph and Daniel were given the ability to interpret dreams. They realized that the talent and ability they possessed came from God. Do we understand that everything we can do is because God has given us the ability that we have? All of the knowledge and wisdom we possess has come from the benevolent hand of God. The power we possess to work, reason, think, and live comes because God is gracious toward us. Because He blesses us with wisdom and power, we should thank Him for it.

11. God can be thanked anywhere and at any time (Jonah 2:9). As Jonah was in the belly of the fish, he prayed one of the deepest and most desperate prayers in all of the Bible. He was crying out to God and realized his deep need for God's help. Jonah vowed to offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and pay what he vowed to the Lord. No matter where we are in the world, we can find God if we are searching for him. Jonah would not give thanks while on the boat fleeing from God's presence, but he found it necessary to give thanks from the belly of the fish. God can be thanked in our darkest and gloomiest circumstances. We can thank God anywhere and at any time. We should not wait for perfect circumstances to do so.

12. Christians should thank God through Jesus Christ (Romans 1:8). The greatest gift God has ever given us is His Son (John 3:16). Our thanksgiving should come through Jesus because it is through Him that we enjoy a relationship with God.

13. We should be thankful we were delivered from sin (Romans 6:17-18; Colossians 1:12-13). We were slaves to sin and headed to an eternity apart from God. Now we are saved, and heaven bound. God is to be thanked because we have now been given access to all of the spiritual blessings in Jesus. We have the hope of eternal life!

14. Unthankfulness is a sin (Romans 1:21). The wrath of God is poured out on those who refuse to repent of their sins. One of the sins that will bring on the wrath of God is unthankfulness. Many times, we underestimate the disrespect we show to God by being unthankful. It is as serious and ungodly as any other sin.

15. Thanksgiving is a part of the will of God (Ephesians 5:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:18). God wants us to give thanks always in all things. We should be finding things daily for which we can tell God thank you. Paul says it is the will of God. God not only is worthy of thanks, but He commands us to give thanks. We are doing part of God's will each time we give thanks.

16. We should offer incessant thanks to God for the church (Ephesians 1:15-16). Paul was always thanking God for other Christians. We, too, should thank God for one another. Pray and thank God for the elders of our congregation, those who serve as deacons, our missionaries, and each member. Every time Paul remembered the Philippians, he gave thanks (Philippians 1:3).

17. We should be thankful God reigns (Revelation 11:17). God is in charge, and this is reason to rejoice. The world is subject to Him, and He will always be in charge of it. God reigns and not men, therefore God's people have nothing to fear.

18. Thanks is due to God for our victory in Jesus (1 Cor. 15:57). As Christians, we enjoy victory over sin, Satan, and hell (Romans 8:1). We will be resurrected with new bodies and live forevermore with God. We should thank God for the victory we have in His Son.

19. Thank God for our food (John 6:11). Every time Jesus put food to His mouth in the gospel accounts, we read of Him giving thanks. Let us not rush through our prayers for our food but really express gratitude for all that God does in keeping His promise to provide for us.

20. Thanks be unto God for His indescribable gift (2 Corinthians 9:15). The more we meditate on the cross, the more our lives will explode with thanksgiving. Jesus going to the cross on our behalf is something we cannot thank God enough for. The human vocabulary is incapable of putting into words how grateful we are that our God died in our place. We thank God for all He has done but especially for Jesus!

Senior Saints by John McShane

This week we are back to things we need to shed. Let's take a look at pride. One definition is a feeling of satisfaction for having accomplished a deed or job. We all need to have a feeling of pride for our accomplishments, especially for the things that we do for God. However, sometimes pride becomes a sin. The Biblical definition of pride is rather different than the dictionary definition of pride.

Here is a clear definition of what pride is: An inordinate self-esteem; an unreasonable feeling of superiority as to one's talents, beauty, wealth, rank, and so forth; disdainful behavior or treatment; insolence or arrogance of demeanor; haughty bearing. Pride can, more rarely, have the good connotation of a sense of delight or elation arising from some act or possession. Some synonyms of pride are egotism, arrogance, haughtiness. (Source: Insight into the scriptures)

In the Bible, pride does not mean simple arrogance or ostentation. Instead, it means preferring self-will to God's will. Its polar opposite is called, in the Bible, following God. Two of the times pride is mentioned in the Bible are James 4:10 "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you" and Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." There are many other biblical warnings about the sin of pride, and we need to shed the pride of the Bible.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16

Our Members:

Bob Pratt	Brenda Mask	Carol Edmonson
Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt	Linda McShane	Stacey Wilson
Darlene Thompson	Bernetta Green	Ray Nashick
Bill & Carlene Long	Bobby Simpson	Melody Baxter
Ciera Edwards	Brian Smith	Geny Johnson
Kathy Nester	Jim Turner	Margaret Coone
Sharon M. Washington	Annette Phillip	George Davis
Joyce Williams	Ron & Judy Ford	
Antoine & Marcella Swain		

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week.

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Faith West Joyce Burbage Carol Eason
Ellen Shearer Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt

UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

Bernetta Green's hip surgery went well. She'll be in LRMC for a few days.

Sharon Washington is in LRMC getting tests run.

Carter Hancock has been on our extended prayer list since his accident. He is recovering well, but his mother is now in critical condition in the hospital with the covid virus.

RESPONSES

Jimmy Sweeney requests prayers to be a better Christian father and husband.

Rejoicing in hope

Romans 12:12

The Lord recently added two souls to His kingdom. Let's welcome our new brother and sister in Christ:

Paul Sweeney (11/21/20)

Jamesicia Palmer (11/22/20)

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase." 1Cor. 1:6

Thank you

Thank you for the calls & cards of sympathy in the passing of my sister-in-law. I'm so thankful for my caring Christian family!
Love in Christ, **Sharon Egolf**

5th Sunday Collection

November 29th is the 5th Sunday collection for the Building Fund. If you would like to give additional funds, there are designated envelopes in the foyer. Please place it in the collection plate. You can also mail or bring your contribution to the office. Be sure to designate the contribution as part of the Building Fund. It will be collected by the elders.

PRAYER LIST

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

November

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, November 25, 2020

Song Leader/Prayer Brian Kenyon
Devo Bobby Sheumaker
Closing Prayer Charles Paulin

Sunday, November 29, 2020

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
"What Everyone Must Believe About the church"
Matthew 16:17-18

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
"What the church owes the wayward"
James 5:19-20

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both services) Bobby Sheumaker
Song/prayer before class Brian Kenyon
Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
A.M. Song Leader David Williams
Scripture reading/Prayer Tyler Anderson
Lord's Table Andre Medley
Closing Prayer Nigel St. Bernard

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader Brian Kenyon
Scripture reading/Prayer Rick Kenyon
Lord's Table Andre Medley
Closing Prayer Charles Paulin

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Song Leader/prayer Vince Daugherty
Devo Zach Jones
Closing Prayer Brian Kenyon

ASSEMBLING UPDATE

We still encourage those who do not feel well and those who consider themselves high-risk to stay at home.

The City of Lakeland discontinued their mandatory face mask mandate on Oct. 5. However, to side with caution, we are still requiring masks to be worn upon entering the building as we have since July 2.

We will continue live-streaming the services on YouTube as we have since March 22.

Thank you for your cooperation. - Elders

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Nov. 8	\$7,660.00
Nov. 15	\$6,889.00
Nov. 22	\$5,917.00
Contribution Average	\$7,117.21

There is nothing like a home-cooked meal: the smell of an apple pie in the oven, slow-cooked Sunday roast, or flaky biscuits made with love and smothered with Tupelo honey. The time, effort, thoughtfulness, and love that is poured into quality ingredients can turn ordinary dinner tables into places of comfort, sharing, and joy. Raising children to become homemade Christians can be just as similar.

Proverbs 22:6 tells us "to train a child in the way they should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Pouring our time into our children to teach them the foundation of the Bible, giving our best effort to be consistent in our example for them, being thoughtful in our words and actions, and our outpouring of love through discipline, are all important to raising Christians. Providing children with quality examples of Biblical influences can not only raise helpful, obedient adults but soldiers for Christ.

"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house." Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Some of the most important conversations happen around the dining room table over meals. What is the conversation at your supper table? Are you setting quality examples for your children? Are you creating a place of comfort, joy, and sharing the good news with your children daily? It's going to take consistency, effort, obedience, and a whole lot of love at home to produce homemade Christians.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS STOCKING STUFFER PROJECT

The list of suggested items for the stockings is in the basket on the foyer table.

If you'd prefer to donate money, please see Rene' Bingle.

The last day to bring stocking items is December 13.

For more details, see Rene'.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- 11/26 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING
- 11/26-27 - Office is closed
- 12/2 - Quarterly challenge
- 12/5 - Youth Group Service Project
(See Vince for details)
- 12/6 - Winter quarter begins
- 12/6 - Lads 2 Leaders guest speaker, a.m. service
- 12/6 - Fellowship in-service, 4:30 p.m.
- 12/13 - Lads 2 Leaders activity
- 12/13 - Elders, deacons, preachers meeting, 4:00 pm
- 12/13 - Donations for stocking stuffers due.
(See Rene' Bingle for details)
- 12/19 - Youth Group Christmas party & caroling

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

"IN EVERY THING GIVE THANKS: FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS CONCERNING YOU."

1 THESSALONIANS 5:18