



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 75 No. 47 November 29, 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

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

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.

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY

Luke 11:1-13

Vince Daugherty

If I am being honest with myself, I can let the Christian discipline and blessing of prayer slip in my daily habits. I get going with the morning hustle and bustle, and I forgot to start my day off in prayer. I race to work, listen to a podcast, radio, or music, and forget to pray. I sit down to a meal and forget to thank God for His blessings. I pick kids up from school and don't take the time to share our day with the Lord in prayer. I go about chores at home, soccer practice with the boys, and forget to stop and spend time with my Lord in prayer. I finish my day and when my head hits the pillow I can be out like a light, and oh I forgot to pray... all day. To forget about prayer an entire day is (1) a shame, we are connected to the omnipotent ruler of the universe who makes time for me; (2) it is ungrateful to the sustainer of the entire cosmos, all the way down to little insignificant me; and (3) a wasted opportunity to think about others and intercede on their behalf. Maybe you are like me, being forgetful of the great blessing, prayer. If so, like the disciples of the first century, we need to ask the Lord, "Teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1).

A MODEL FOR PRAYER



Jesus blessed His disciples, then as now, with a model, or blueprint, for our prayers. If we do not know where to begin in our prayers, we ought to start with His model. He said, "When you pray, say... And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one" (Luke 11:2-4). First, when we pray, we must acknowledge and give honor to our heavenly Father. "Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name." Second, we ought to pray for God's will to be done. He is the Creator and Sustainer of all life, so we acknowledge that His way is best and pray for things to be done as He would approve. "Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven." Some people get a little nervous about the phrase, "Your kingdom come," since the kingdom has already been inaugurated (Acts 1; 2). However, His will is not done universally and His kingdom is not come to all men so to pray that petition is not wrong. Next, God daily blesses us with the things we need. It is good to acknowledge, thank, and continue to ask for our daily necessities. "Give us day by day our daily bread." Next, our ability to communicate with God is that we have been made holy by the blood of Jesus, We daily need to acknowledge that it is God who forgives our sins and continues to forgive our sins, as we also forgive others. "And forgive us of our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us." Finally, we ask for God's protection and care as we learn to avoid sin and steer clear of temptation. "And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one" (Luke 11:2-4). When we first begin, we may memorize this model prayer. As we become comfortable in the discipline to see the prayer as a model, or a blueprint, we can make our prayers more personalized.



WE DO NOT INCONVENIENCE GOD

We all have that one friend who contacts us at crazy times. It is good to set boundaries with people because we have limitations. However, friends can sometimes override boundaries because of our love for that friend. Even though it is inconvenient, we will take the call/text in the middle of the night. We will go the extra mile, and we will make a special effort, even though it is a grind on us! When we pray, we pray to God. We never inconvenience God in your prayers. He never sleeps. He never gets tired of listening. He is never tied up with other responsibilities. Even the Son, "ever lives to make intercession for us" (Heb. 7:25) in heaven on our behalf to the Father. When friends and family cannot meet our needs, the Lord is open 24/7 365. He will never fail us. His ear is always open to our needs at any hour of the day.

KEEP ON ASKING, SEEKING, & KNOCKING



Jesus said when we pray, we must be persistent. When we are in need, we need to ask. We are connected to the God who can help and who desires to help us in our needs. He knows what we need before we ask. The burden is not too great for Him. We often have decisions in our lives that we cannot know what the right answer is. The answer is to seek God's wisdom in our prayers. "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, Who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5). When we pray, God answers in three ways: Yes, No, or Not yet. When we pray, we need to continue to listen/look for God's answers. If we give up after our first attempt, we cannot know if perhaps God desires for us to wait on His timing. Or, maybe He is saying no, and waiting on us to change our prayer to bring our desires more into His alignment. "You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss" (James 4:3). When we do not immediately receive a yes answer from God, we ought to immediately come back to prayer to see if maybe we are the ones who need to change. Jesus says if we, being dumb, ignorant, and evil, know how to give good gifts to our children when they ask, "how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:13).

CONCLUSION

Pray without ceasing. Start off terrible, stumbling your way in the dark. Continue to study the Scriptures to see how Jesus and others prayed. Continue to ask God for wisdom. Seek His will for you and your life (and your prayer life). I always wonder about Daniel. He set an example of daily, continual prayer. He also was privileged to see great things from God's mind. God is ready to listen, able to respond, and desirous to do so. We have to talk to God and communicate. We need to learn to pray.

Happy Holidays

If you want to bring in Christmas cards for the "elves" to deliver, please have them in no later than December 14th and PLEASE have them in alphabetical order by the last names.



Instructions from a Father (Pt. 2)

How to L-E-A-R-N: E is for Engage

- Incline your ear to wisdom
- Apply your heart to understanding
- cry out for discernment
- lift up your voice for understanding
- seek her as silver
- search for her as hidden treasure

Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, And find the knowledge of God. (Prov. 2:1-4)

If you want to learn something new, put your entire being into it. Do not be halfway. If you do not know something raise your hand, and keep on asking questions until you do understand it. "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might" (Ecc. 9:10). There are so many things to learn under the sun, more than can ever be learned. Whatever you find in your mind to learn, be totally engaged and you will learn more, and more faster than those who are not. Most of all, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding" (Prov. 3:5).

- VD

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- LRMC
 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
 Jeff Bingle- 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



Our deepest sympathies

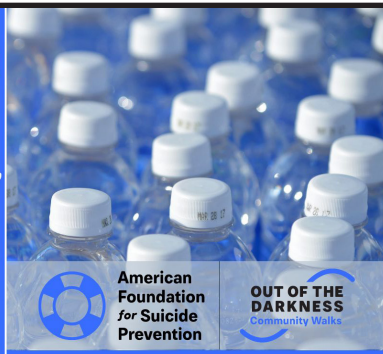
are extended to the family and friends of Paulisky Irizarry, Jagie Kenyon's brother, who passed away on Wednesday, November 23rd. Please keep the family in your prayers at this time.

Jean McCarter has asked to coordinate a team of senior saints to visit senior saints. This will be discussed at the next Senior Saints meeting on Monday, December 12, beginning at 10 am.

SCARS
 left by...

There will be an informational meeting after A.M. Worship in the north wing on December 11th for those interested in attending Y.E.S. Weekend in Valdosta at Forrest Park Church of Christ.

We need 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. We also need coolers, granola bars, and fruit. Please bring the snacks and coolers to the pantry by Friday, December 2nd. See Rick Kenyon or Kyle Faneuf for more details.



SCHEDULED TO SERVE

November

Designated Elder - David Anderson

Wednesday, November 30th, 2022

AnnouncementsStacey Paulin
 Song Leader/prayer David Williams
 DevoRick Kenyon
 Closing PrayerDavid Deal

Sunday, December 4th, 2022

10:30 A.M.

The Aching Achan Caused .. Joshua Cantrell
 Joshua 7:10-11

6:00 P.M.

Rise, Fall, Restoration: David ... Joshua Cantrell
 Psalm 51:1-3

10:30 A.M.

Song/prayer before classPaul Sweeney
 AnnouncementsRick Kenyon
 A.M. Song LeaderTerrance Dindy Jr.
 Scripture reading/PrayerBrian Williams
 Lord's TableGeorge Davis
 Closing PrayerDavid Anderson
 Open/Close bldg (both)B. Sheumaker
 GreetersSweeney
 Attendance cards (both)Adrian/Colby

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song LeaderTerrance Dindy Jr.
 Scripture reading/PrayerJosh Potvin
 Lord's TableGeorge Davis
 Closing PrayerKyle Bingle
 GreetersE & C Smith

Wednesday, December 7th, 2022

AnnouncementsB. Sheumaker
 Song Leader/Prayer.....Kyle Faneuf
 DevoVince Daugherty
 Closing PrayerNigel St. Bernard

Upcoming Events

November

30- Quarterly Challenge

December

4 -Walk Out of Darkness
 4 -Fellowship in Service
 8 - Ladies' Scrapbook Night
 11 -Elders, Deacons, & Preachers' Meeting
 11 -Ladies' Cookie Swap
 16 - Youth Polar Express Night
 17 - Christmas Lights & S'mores @ the Shearers'

~ **HOW ARE WE GIVING** ~

Nov 13	.....	\$7,987.00
Nov 20	.....	\$4,899.00
Nov 27	.....	\$5,594.00
Contribution Average	.....	\$6,415.54
Weekly budget	.....	\$7,663.43

In a scene from the movie, The Valley of Light, the main character, Noah Lock said,
"Stay hopeful and trust that God has a plan for you."

Did you know that God has a plan for us? Yes, He does! (Ecclesiastes 12:13; Acts 17:24--27)
We are created by Him for His purpose. (Genesis 1:27; Isaiah 42:5; Isaiah 43: 7; Revelation 4:11)
Since sin separated man spiritually from God in the Garden of Eden (Romans 5:12), we must search
the scriptures to find out how we can renew our relationship with Him.

Once we find out what that plan is, we must trust Him enough to follow that plan completely.

We must hear the gospel, believe that Jesus Christ came and died for our sins, decide to make a change
in our lives by turning from sin and turning to God (repentance), confess that Jesus is the Son of
God, be baptized for the remission of our sins, and then live faithfully until death. The following
scriptures are a few references to study: Mark 16:15-16; Romans 10:8-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-22;
Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 24:46-47; Acts 2:38; Revelation 2:10).

Ladies' COOKIE SWAP
@Stephanie's house
Sunday, December 11th, 4:00 P.M.
LADIES SHOULD BRING 2 DOZEN OF EACH
COOKIE THEY WANT TO SHARE.
PLEASE BRING COPIES OF THE
RECIPE FOR LADIES TO TAKE HOME.
THERE WILL BE GAMES, COOKIES,
AND REFRESHMENTS. PLEASE JOIN US!
THERE IS A SIGN-UP SHEET ON
THE BULLETIN BOARD.

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
and S'mores
AT THE SHEARERS'**
December 17th @ 5:00 P.M.
BRING A CHAIR
SIGN UP SHEET
ON THE
BULLETIN BOARD

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
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

Now to our God and
Father be glory forever
and ever. Amen.

Philippians 4:20



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