



# South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 78 No. 22 May 28, 2024

## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
Stacey Paulin

## MINISTER

## ASSOCIATE MINISTER

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.....6:30 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  
Ted Wheeler ..... Ghana, W.A.

## Heaven: A Place of No Departures

Brian R. Kenyon

We were reminded last Sunday with our “farewell” fellowship meal honoring Rick, Stephanie, Klark, and Karissa that departures, even when they are for good and godly reasons, contain sadness. The Kenyons had a great impact and influence for good in the six years they were here, and we are saddened to see them go. However, they are moving on to greater service in the Lord that will, by God’s grace, strengthen and expand the borders of His kingdom (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16), which is a good thing. There is only one destination, however, where sad departures (of any kind) will cease to exist, and that destination is heaven.

## Heaven Has Been Prepared

Heaven, the place, or state, of eternity with God, is a prepared place. Jesus told the apostles, “In My Father’s house are many mansions [rooms, ESV]; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:2-3). The preparation to which Jesus referred was what He would do on Calvary. It was on the cross that Jesus shed His blood for all mankind (Hebrews 2:9). It was there He had “broken down the middle wall of separation ... so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace” (Ephesians 2:14-15). It was on Golgotha (John 19:17-18) that His blood, which can cleanse our sins (Revelation 1:5), became the substitute for our curse (Galatians 3:10-13; 2 Corinthians 5:21). Without the blood of Christ, there would be no hope of living with God eternally.

## Heaven Comes After This World

The word “heaven” is found in a number of ways in the Bible. The “kingdom of heaven” and “kingdom of God” are used interchangeably (Matthew 19:23-24) and can refer to the church of Christ, which is the final manifestation of God’s kingdom this side of eternity (Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 12:18; Revelation 1:9). However, for the focus of this study, the “kingdom of heaven” can also refer to the abode of the righteous following this life. In a clear, last-day-judgment scene, Jesus declared, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven” (Matthew 7:21-23). Furthermore, when Jesus gave the last-day-judgment scene following the parables of the virgins and the talents, He depicted the King saying to the righteous, “Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matthew 25:34). What the church and heaven have in common with “kingdom” is that both consist of those who have

we will exist eternally when our souls enter Hades the moment after death (Luke 16:19-31), heaven (or hell) will be after Jesus comes again to judge every soul (John 5:26-29; Hebrews 9:27-28).

## Heaven Is Eternal

While the Hadean realm is only temporary (Revelation 20:11-15), heaven is eternal (Revelation 22:5). When Jesus concluded a depiction of judgment day, He said, "And these [those on the left] will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life" (Matthew 25:46). The eternalness of heaven is comforting to those who know and have obeyed the gospel, for they shall rest from their labors (Revelation 14:13). It is also comforting to know that heaven will be a destination of relationships. These will not be based on earthly relationships (Matthew 22:28-30 cf. Matthew 12:46-50), but in different bodies with Deity and the faithful children of God (1 Corinthians 15:35-57; 1 John 3:2; Revelation 21:7). Heaven will be completely devoid of wickedness (Revelation 21:8, 27). Heaven's occupants will be there forever! No one in heaven will ever say "Good bye" for any reason, but the bliss of God's and His people's presence will be our joy forever!

## THANK YOU, RICK, STEPHANIE, KLARK, AND KARISSA

... and those who helped say bye & load the truck



## PRAYER LIST

**Current:** Jim Turner is home from the hospital; Joseph Faulk's sister, Kellie, has mental health problems; Fran Gabaldon will have surgery on June 10.

**Continual:** Sharon Mathis Washington (Health & family); Stacey Wilson (health); Debbie Bush (struggles); Bill & Carlene Long (health & strength); Ron Ford (health); Annett Phillip (health); Janie Wise (health); Margaret Coone (health); Melissa Craft (health); Kathy Nester (health); Jim Turner (health)

**Shut-ins:** Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French, Barbara Jones, Charles Paulin, Helen Perrin, bettye bolding, Sharon Roy, Nellie Anderson

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

### Bible Class Teachers Needed

If you are willing and able to teach a children's Bible class during our summer quarter, please see Brian or Tonya Anderson. Summer quarter begins June 2nd, and we need teachers for 4-7 year olds (Sun. am and Wed.), upper elementary (Wed.), and a cradle roll teacher.

ORANGE STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST PRESENTS:

## A Summer Series on the Names of God

- 6/5 Elohim (God) – Brian Kenyon
- 6/12 Yahweh (The I AM) – Chad Tagtow
- 6/19 El Roi (The God Who Sees) – Bob Bauer
- 6/26 El Shaddai (God Almighty) – Jonny Singh
- 7/3 Yahweh Yireh (The Lord Provides) – Carlton Hyde
- 7/10 Adonai (Lord/Master) – Kenneth Hill
- 7/17 Yahweh Rapha (The Lord Heals) – Rusty Hilliard
- 7/24 Yahweh Nissi (The Lord Is My Banner) – John Allen
- 7/31 Congregational Devotional
- 8/7 El Kanaa (Jealous God) – David Stearsman
- 8/14 El Elyon (God Most High) – Marcus Grayson
- 8/21 El Sali (God My Strength) – Ken Schauer
- 8/28 Immanuel (God With Us) – Isaac McLaurin

WED. NIGHTS AT 7PM | 310 ORANGE ST AUBURNDALE, FL | 863.967.1757

# Eagle Lake VBS June 15 @ 9 am

Since SFA is not able to have our VBS, let us support this as ours!

## Scheduled to Serve in June

Designated Elder	Brian Kenyon
------------------	--------------

### Wednesday, May 29, 2024

Announcements	Tyler Anderson
Song Leader / Prayer	Stacey Paulin
Devotional / Invitation	Brian Kenyon
Closing Prayer	Phil Fife

### Sunday, June 2, 2024

10:30 am Sermon	Brian Kenyon
Jesus & Our Curse (Gal. 3:10-14)	
6:00 pm Sermon	Brian Kenyon
Costa Rican Evangelism (Matt. 28:19-20)	

### Those to Serve 10:30 am

Greeters	Olivia/Ingrid
Song/Pray before class	Frank Hamby
Announcements (both)	Tyler Anderson
Song Leader (both)	David Williams
Prayer / Bible reading	Josh Potvin
Lord's Table (both)	George Beals
Closing Prayer	Wadi khoury
Open/Close Building	David Anderson
Attendance Cards	Sawyer
Sound Booth (both)	Jason

### Those to Serve 6:00 pm

Greeters	Paulin's
Announcements	Tyler Anderson
Song Leader	David Williams
Prayer / Bible reading	Kyle Faneuf
Closing Prayer	Tim Croson

### Wednesday, June 5, 2024

Announcements	Jimmuy Sweeney
Song Leader / Prayer	Landon Willcut
Devotional / Invitation	Andre Medley
Closing Prayer	Lou Van Allen

### How We Are Giving

May 12	\$5,852.56
May 19	\$7,331.00
May 26	\$9,595.62
Contribution Average	\$7,294.60
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!**



## WEDDING SHOWER

FOR

TUCKER SWEENEY & ANNA CLAIR ROSS

SATURDAY JUNE 1, 2024

@5:00 PM

**PLEASE RSVP** by Wed. May 29 TO THE OFFICE SO THEY WILL KNOW HOW MUCH FOOD TO PREPARE! THEY ARE REGISTERED AT AMAZON THERE WILL ALSO BE A MONEY TREE -SEE RENE' OR TONYA IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THAT.



## A Special Recipe

Growing up as little girl in Jamaica, my paternal aunt was like a mother to me and my paternal siblings. Aunt Ruth was a baker of traditional Jamaican wedding cakes aka black cake. My favorite memories with Aunt Ruth were the times she wanted me to help her with her baking. My reward was always my own little cake that was baked in a small repurposed can. Besides cakes, she also would make one of my favorite sweet treats, pine balls. I would help to roll the balls and be the taste tester. Sadly, none of us ever asked Aunt Ruth for the recipe. It died with her in 1996.

God has a plan for mankind that we can compare to a recipe. This plan is far more precious than any recipe. This plan is for the salvation of mankind, and it was written down for us almost two thousand years ago. If we follow the instructions, we will receive forgiveness of sin and the promise of eternal life with God.

We need to hear the story of the birth, life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ which can be found in the first four books of the New Testament—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We must believe what was said about Him, acknowledge our sins and repent of them, confess that Jesus is the Son of God, submit to baptism for the remission of our sins and then live faithfully until death.

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter." (Matt. 7:21)



**FSOP Ladies Class is Tuesday, June 11 at 7:00 PM**  
 Susan Stearsman is the teacher  
 All ladies are invited and encouraged to attend.

[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.



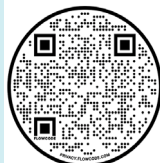
**South Florida Avenue  
 CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue  
 Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

**"I cry out to God Most High, to God who  
 fulfills His purpose for me."**

**Psalm 57:2**



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