



# South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 78 No. 23 June 4, 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](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)

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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.

## ***DON'T TURN BACK!***

Brian R. Kenyon

A popular expression once said, “When the going gets tough, the tough get going.” Sometimes, however, “When the going gets tough, many turn back to what was easier.” That was the case initially with the apostles, following the crucifixion of Jesus. John gave an account of this third time (John 21:14) Jesus appeared to His disciples following His resurrection.

After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias ... <sup>2</sup>Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. <sup>3</sup>Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We are going with you also.” (John 21:1-3a)

The Sea of Tiberias was another name for the Sea of Galilee (John 6:1). Jesus told the apostles before He was murdered that He would meet them in Galilee after He had risen (Matthew 26:32). Thus, it should not have been a surprise when He appeared as He promised, but this, among other things, showed the apostles were not able by themselves to continue the work where Christ left off (John 16:12-13). When Peter said, “I am going fishing,” he seemed to have had the attitude, “Jesus is gone. It’s over. What a great ride it was, but now it’s time to get back to what I was doing before.” Peter’s attitude also influenced six other apostles who went with him (John 21:2). Those apostles fished that night and caught nothing (John 21:3b). John continued:

But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Children, have you any food?” They answered Him, “No.” <sup>6</sup>And He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish. <sup>7</sup>Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. <sup>8</sup>But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. (John 21:4-8)

Perhaps there are several possible reasons why the apostles did not recognize Jesus standing on the shore, even after He spoke, but at the root of it all was their not expecting Him (cf. Luke 24:13-35), despite His instructions to them before He died (Matthew 26:31-32) and the angel’s instructions to the women at the empty tomb, which was conveyed to the disciples (Matthew 28:5-8). The scene with the net is reminiscent of when Peter was initially called to be a fisher of men (Luke 5:1-11). The main difference was on that initial occasion Peter hesitated following Jesus’ instructions by interjecting, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing” (Luke 5:5). Once the net was placed where Jesus told them,

the result was the same, a huge catch of fish (Luke 5:6-7 cf. John 21:6, 8). On that former occasion:

Simon Peter ... fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" <sup>9</sup>For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; <sup>10</sup>and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." (Luke 5:8-11)

On this second occasion, John was the first to recognize Jesus, but Peter was the one who could not get to Jesus fast enough (John 21:7). Given Jesus' ensuing discussion with Peter (John 21:15-17), his rushing to see Jesus was initial evidence of his repentance over denying Jesus three times (Matthew 26:69-75). Incidentally, the fact that Peter was working without wearing "his outer garment" ("naked" as per KJV) but put it on to visit Jesus, showed that, at least in their culture, appropriate working attire was not always proper "Jesus meeting attire."

Prior the boatload of fish these disciples received from following Jesus' instruction, the apostles were in danger of turning back from their commission to "make disciples of all the nations" (Matthew 28:19-20) to the familiar, less demanding life they knew before their approximately three and half years of working as Jesus' hand-picked helpers. Sometimes, Jesus' disciples today become dangerously close to turning back from the work, especially when drastic change has taken place, but remember these important truths.

## ***JESUS IS STILL THE SAME***

Even though our character and circumstances can change, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). As the song declares, "Hold to God's unchanging hand." Though our flesh is weak (Matthew 26:41), Jesus is God in flesh (John 1:1-3, 14 cf. Matthew 1:21-23). He was in complete control of His body, being "in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). He will never lead us astray! Jesus was undeniably "a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know" (Acts 2:22). Even an honest Pharisee could conclude, "we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him" (John 3:1-2). Ultimately, Jesus was "declared to be the Son of God with power ... by the resurrection from the dead" (Romans 1:4). No matter how our circumstances may change, the faithful have assurance from God's promise, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). Jesus is still the same. Let us serve Him with renewed vigor (Matthew 22:37)!

## ***THE MISSION IS STILL THE SAME***

Even though culture and conveniences may change (like having no church building, parts of buildings being unavailable due to emergency construction, etc.), God's mission for His people has not changed. First and foremost, our mission is to glorify God. While referring specifically to Israel, Isaiah revealed a principle that applies to all mankind, "Whom I [God] have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him" (Isaiah 43:7). Paul wrote, "whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). The only way to glorify God is to fulfill the instruction, "whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Colossians 3:17). "In the name of the Lord Jesus" means everything we do must be according to His authority, not according to what we think pleases Him (Matthew 7:21-23). Second, we must live the gospel. To the world, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). To the church, "walk worthy of the calling with which you were called ... endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:1-3). Third, we must be "fishers of men." Jesus came to "seek and save the lost" (Luke 19:10), and so should we (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16).

## ***THE OUTCOME IS STILL THE SAME***

As illustrated by the catch of fish (Luke 5:1-11; John 21:1-8), God is "able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20). He has "given to us exceedingly great and precious promises" (2 Peter 1:4), which He will always fulfill (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:17-18). Let us place complete trust in Him (Proverbs 3:5-6) and follow His will (Luke 6:46)!

**PRAYER LIST**

**Current:** Gene Boles is sick at home; Fran Gabaldon will have surgery on June 10. Jeff Bingle's biopsy came back negative!! PTL; family of PJ and Martin Mcgough whose grandmother passed last Thursday.

**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!

**Extended family and Friends List is Emailed Weekly.**

Beverly Sunanan requested prayers as she will be travelling to Jamaica on June 9- August 25th.

Elders and Deacons meeting is Sunday, June 9th at 4:00 PM  
Please let one of them know if there is anything you would like discussed at the meeting.

**VBS**

Eagle Lake church of Christ

Saturday June 15, 2024

8:45 am til noon

\*lunch will be provided\*

**Kevin Patterson** will teach adult class.

Let's be supportive of this great work !

**New Address:** Rupert and Beverly Sunanan have a new address.  
It is 315 Bassadena Circle S, Lakeland FL 33805.

Ralph and Patricia Rogers will be gone for the summer. If you would like their address while they are away we have it in the office.

I THINK THAT I SHALL NEVER SEE  
A CHURCH THAT'S ALL IT OUGHT TO BE;  
A CHURCH WHOSE MEMBERS NEVER STRAY  
BEYOND THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW WAY;  
A CHURCH WHOSE DEACONS ALWAYS 'DEAK"  
AND NONE IS PROUD AND ALL ARE MEEK,  
WHOSE GOSSIPS NEVER PEDDLE LIES  
OR MAKE COMPLAINTS OR CRITICIZE;  
WHERE ALL ARE ALWAYS SWEET AND KIND  
AND ALL TO OTHER'S FAULTS ARE BLIND.  
SUCH PERFECT CHURCHES THERE MAY BE,  
BUT NONE OF THEM ARE KNOWN TO ME.  
BUT STILL WE'LL WORK AND PRAY AND PLAN  
TO MAKE THIS ONE THE BEST WE CAN- AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Scheduled to Serve in June	
Designated Elder	Brian Kenyon
<b>Wednesday, June 5, 2024</b>	
Announcements	Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader / Prayer	Landon Willcut
Devotional / Invitation	Andre Medley
Closing Prayer	Lou Van Allen
<b>Sunday, June 9, 2024</b>	
10:30 am Sermon	Steven Ford
"A Worthy Walk" (Eph. 4:1-6)	
6:00 pm Sermon	Brian Kenyon
"I Have Five Brothers" (Luke 16:28)	
<b>Those to Serve 10:30 am</b>	
Greeters	Bingle's
Song/Pray before class	Stacey Paulin
Announcements (both)	Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader (both)	Kyle Faneuf
Prayer / Bible reading	Brian Williams
Lord's Table (both)	George Davis
Closing Prayer	Jeff Bingle
Open/Close Building	David Deal
Attendance Cards	Declan
Sound Booth (both)	Jason
<b>Those to Serve 6:00 pm</b>	
Greeters	Nona/Janis
Announcements	Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader	Kyle Faneuf
Prayer / Bible reading	Frank Hamby
Closing Prayer	Phil Fife
<b>Wednesday, June 12, 2024</b>	
Announcements	Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader / Prayer	Terrance Dindy
Devotional / Invitation	TBD
Closing Prayer	Camron Bailey
<b>How We Are Giving</b>	
May 19	\$7,331.00
May 26	\$9,595.62
June 2	\$6,911.00
Contribution Average	\$7,275.42
<b>Weekly Budget</b>	<b>\$7,410.00</b>
<p><b>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!</b></p>	

# Our Rock

When I think of a rock, I picture a huge solid, heavy mass. A rock is larger than a pebble or stone. It is solid and very hard to break. The earth is made up of different types of rocks. I also think of the saying, 'rock-solid' which can mean not likely to change or fail, or something that is reliable. All buildings rely on a rock-solid foundation.

As Christians our foundation is built on a rock, Jesus Christ. He is compared to a rock in several passages which signifies strength, steadiness, and dependability. Here are a few passages: "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress" (Psalm 18:2); "Unto thee will I cry, O Lord my rock" (Psalm 28:1); "All ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. (1 Corinthians 10:3-4); Be thou my strong rock. For thou art my rock and my fortress." (Psalm 31:2-3)

"On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand."

"The Lord's our Rock, in Him we hide, a shelter in the time of storm."

"Rock of Ages, cleft for me; let me hide myself in Thee."

Any time you see the word rock, remember that:

**Redemption is Only in Christ the King.**

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

**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)

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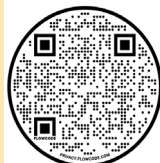
## South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue  
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;"

Philippians 4:6



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