

THE WAYPOINT



"a reference point along a course to reach a destination"

DECEMBER 24, 2023

South Trail Church of Christ

5601 South Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, Florida 34231

Mailing Address - PO Box 19825, Sarasota, Florida 34276

Offices - 2079 Constitution Boulevard, Sarasota, Florida 34231

941.922.4141

stcoc@comcast.net

Worship—

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Bible Classes —

Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday 7:00 p.m..

Elders—

Scott Blomeley
941.360.2932

Ed Hunnicutt
941.323.3422

Doug Tackett
941.321.9380

Minister—

Terry Chapman
941.377.6124
terry0311@comcast.net

Family Life Minister—

Craig Embry
270.702.0832
craigstcoc@comcast.net

Assistant Minister—

Craig Ross
740.571.1129

What's Happening—

WELCOME

We want everyone to know we are thankful you are with us today to worship God. Our God is so awesome and great, worship is a joy to be in His presence. God has shown His love by sending His Son to be the greatest gift man has ever known. Every Sunday we gather to remember and praise God for His Son, the Savior of the world.

We want to invite you to grow and appreciate who Jesus is, and the salvation He offers. As Christians, we are far from perfect, but we are learning, loving, and serving our King. It is only by these avenues that we can reflect the light of the world. These days the world can seem to be a dark place, but Jesus has given His followers the duty to be "the light of the world." (Matthew 5:14-16) Letting our light shine is so the world can see the good works, and give glory to God. As Jesus increases in visibility, then we decrease. (John 3:30) Come worship and study with us weekly!

JESUS AND ME IN 2023



O.W.L.S — The Older Wiser Loving Servants will meet on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 10 a.m. There will be a guest speaker from the Players Centre for Performing Arts. Please sign up on attendance and food sign-up sheet located at the back bulletin board.

YOUTUBE SCHEDULE

Sunday Bible Class—
Christian Family
Sunday Worship

Upcoming Events—

01/08 — O.W.L.S 10 a.m.

01/13 — Rockin' Bobbins 10 a.m

01/19 — Mount Dora Benefit Dinner 6 p.m.

01/20 — Celebration of life for Charlotte Haznedar 11 a.m.

01/21 — Corporate meeting and potluck.

02/10 — Pearls & Ponytails 10:30 a.m.

PREACHER COLUMN

“SPENDING, SHOPPING, OR SERVING?”

The holiday season has a large impact on the economy. The National Retail Federation has forecast Americans will spend \$960 billion this November and December. (Please do not consider that to be a stock market tip!) Women spend an average of 20 hours for their gifts and preparations to wrap and identify them. For those who are curious, \$1 million in \$100 bills weighs 22 pounds, and \$1 billion in \$100 bills weighs 22,000 pounds. So to transport the amount expected to be spent in 2023 would take 265 fully loaded 18-wheeler trucks, each packed with \$100 bills. Some put a “lot of weight in what money can buy.” The point is not the amount or time or size of spending for giving to family, friends, and business associates, but rather to ask, “Why?” Augustine wrote, “To discover the character of people we have only to observe what they love.” Jesus said it like this, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:21)

Gift giving is good, as we generously share with loved ones. It is an expression of love, and the way we value people with whom we share our lives. Gifts bring smiles. The best gifts are given as an expression of unselfish love. Paul spoke of it like this, “though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:3) God is the ultimate giver, as He sent Jesus into the world to show us His love. (John 3:16) The generosity of God was not minimal. Nor did God seek to see how little a gift He could bestow. Rather, He lavished His best on us. We must give God our best. Paul gave praise to the Macedonians, “For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing.” (2 Corinthians 8:3)

Gift giving is costly. Based on the previously mentioned total, the average person spends \$2,742 on gifts given during this season of the year. Studies consistently show that in America half of all professing Christians give less than 1% of their income to support the local church. This is certainly not a significant expression of our devotion to God. How is our devotion to God reflected in our giving? Do we give generously to God? Paul gave this instruction, “For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.” (2 Corinthians 8:12)

Gift giving is a service performed humbly and out of a spirit of love. When gift giving becomes an expectation and is demanded, then it is burdensome. Paul offered some sage advice, “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:6-7) One author wrote of an early life experience as he was reared in a very poor family. Every year the children would receive one present under the tree. He remembered one year that he noticed he had two presents under the tree. He was so excited to imagine that he was a recipient of two gifts. Then the moment came when he opened the first present to find a single sock. He knew immediately what was to be found in the other gift — the second sock! As he grew into adulthood, and success in life, he never forgot the lesson of two socks, wrapped individually.

We must not measure a gift, either given or received by its monetary value, but the thought behind the gift. The expression of love found in a relationship shared. Life is a gift, so let's never forget to express our profound gratitude for what God has given to each one of us. May we all say with the Apostle Paul, “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.” (2 Corinthians 9:15) Amen!

Terry Chapman

PRAYER LIST

LOCAL – TREATMENT

Betty Herman, hospice.
Charlotte Horsley, rehab at SMH Rehab on Rand Blvd.
Mike Hertel
Caroline Hellmer (Linda V. granddaughter) treatments/improving.

HOME –

Dianne Binkoski, recovering .
Noreen Anderson.
Ethan Jackson, (Jackson's Grandson) recovering / doing well.
Reece Jackson, (Jackson's Grandson) recovering from concussion.
Sue Fredenburg, in rehab at Riviera Palms in Palmetto.
Jim Lewis, recovering.
Francie Martinez, high blood pressure
Marsha Blomeley, recovering.
Bruce Cook, recovering, improving.
Gay Torrey, feeling ill.
John Walters, Dr. appt & tests.
Bert Bolin, ankle problems.
Martinez Family.
Donna Johnson, lung issues.
Johnny Maschino, cancer & dementia
Victoria Steele, home.
Carolyn LaBard
Patrick & Marianne Owens
Gwen Chapman
Kristy Gleason, searching.
Sheryl Belair, pain.
Patricia Hawk
Eric Ipe (Mark & Robin's son)

OUT OF TOWN –

Tommy Hodges (TN) recovering from surgery at Vanderbilt Hospital.
Wendy Cosgrove (PA, Faust's daughter) diagnosed with lupus.
Natalie Hood, (Cowley's granddaughter) recovering.
Jensen (Cowley's Granddaughter) broken arms, recovering.
Jeff LeBlanc (MI Donna J. Grandson) MRSA.
Darrel Ashby (MI) pain is back.
Hunter Mangrum & all active military, uncertainties in world.
Johnny Crabb (Pensacola, Margaret's son) weak heart/improving.
Pam Alcorn (Linda Hunnicutt's sister, TN) chemo treatments/complication.
Troy Bess (MO)
Connie Vallion (AR) bladder tumor, waiting on brain surgery.
Leonel Santos (TX, Ricc Lopez's father) hospice.
David Doederlein (CA, Ron's son)
John Caldcleugh (TX, J. Cook's son-in-law)

Deacons—

Bruce Cook
941.320.3276 (Worship)

Dan McCartney
703-401-3662 (Grounds)

Larry Reams
513.484.4868 (Hospitality Groups)

David Seymour
941.879.4597 (Building)

Justin Seymour
941.650-1297 (Audio/Video)

Jason Wohnhas
614.519.0195 (Young Families)



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TRAIL MIX— Jean Cook and Pam Herman are traveling to Texas. Ron Doederlein is in California. The Krolls and Melissa Dill are in Michigan. Donna Coleman is in Tennessee. John Walters is in Indiana. Many are traveling over the holidays, please keep them all in your prayers.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE—A celebration of life for Charlotte Haznedar, Yasemin Chain's mother, will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 11:00 a.m., at the South Trail church of Christ. We want to honor and remember our dear sister.

WEDNESDAY—This Wednesday evening will be a special New Year's devotional and singing at 7 p.m. Come out and sing together. Encouraging each other as we grow and enter the blessing of a new year. Your presence is a blessing to your brothers and sisters. Our mission must be to love our God and bring Him glory at all times. See you Wednesday.

NEW CLASS— A new class will begin on Sunday morning, January 7, 2024, Craig Ross will be teaching a young adults class "Lesson For Eternity" in room 11. Kickoff meeting will be after morning assembly. Food will be provided, bring your input and ideas.

ROCKIN' BOBBINS— The sewing group will meet on January 13, 2024 at 10 a.m.

BENEFIT DINNER— Enjoy an evening of fun and good food with fellow Christians from our surrounding area congregations while supporting the good work at the Mount Dora Children's Home. On Friday, January 19, 2024 at 6 p.m. If you need tickets, please see Bob Sutton, tickets are free.

CORPORATE MEETING— The annual corporate meeting for South Trail church of Christ will follow the morning worship on January 21, 2024. Plan to attend both the corporate and the congregational meeting to follow.

PEARLS & PONYTAILS— Mark your calendars for the Pearls & Ponytails Ladies' Day on February 10, 2024 10:30 a.m to 1:00 p.m. Join us for a day of scripture, reading, singing, prayer and lessons from the table. Lunch will be provided. Wear pearls, ponytails, and/or red.

MOVED— Rita Mathis has moved to Windsor of Venice, apt. 203. Rita's new phone number is (941) 837-6051.

ATTENTION— While Bruce Cook is recovering, Craig Ross will be the interim contact person for the Worship Leader Schedule, if you are unable to serve you can contact Craig by email at cross1658@gmail.com or by phone (740) 571-1129. Thank you.

Worship Assembly 12/24/23

Song "Lord, We Come Before Thee Now" #797
Welcome/Song Leader Craig Ross

Song "Joy to the World" #1018
Song "More Love to Thee, O Christ" #700

Prayer Joshua Tackett

Song "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" #538
Song "I Will Sing the Wondrous Story" #509

Lord's Supper & Contribution

Preside— Bill Johnson

Song "Wonderful Love of Jesus" #308
Song "Away in a Manger" #1017
Song "God Is So Good" #83
Scripture John 1:14-18 Caleb Tackett
Sermon "God's Providence" Terry Chapman

Invitation Song "I Am Resolved" #948
Closing Song "Jesus, Let Us Come to Know You" #768
Closing Prayer/Announcements Ed Hunnicutt

Sound Room/Projection—Justin Seymour/ Caleb Betts
Communion Assist—Bob Sutton

Youth Programs

Florida Bible Camp
Vacation Bible School

Ladies' Projects

Rockin' Bobbins Sewing Group
Ladies' Bible Class

Seniors

OWLS (Older Wiser Loving Servants)

Edification

Equip (Orlando, July 2025)

Benevolence Ministries

Mt. Dora Children's Home
Churches of Christ Disaster Relief, Nashville

Mission Works

Upper Valley, Vermont
India
France
Florida Prison Ministry
In Search of the Lord's Way, WGN & WTOG Sun a.m.

12/17/23

Attendance Sunday AM — 179

Budget	\$10,228	Contribution	\$16,363
YTD Budget	\$521,628	YTD Contribution	\$505,564

Why We Believe What We Do

Welcome to the church of Christ at South Trail! We are glad to have you with us, as we strive to present the love of Jesus to you. Our goal is to teach others about Jesus and His Word.

If anything is clear today, it is the gross religious confusion in the world. Why do people choose to seek God in so many ways? How can anyone know they are right?

These questions are very serious ones. No one should consider them trivial. A long time ago God said, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." (Proverbs 14:12) God has a prepared way. We are to find it through His Son. (Matthew 17:5) Jesus declared, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven." (Matthew 7:21) For this reason, we believe that the study of the Bible is to find answers to life's most important questions.

The church of Christ is not a denomination. It is neither Catholic nor Protestant, but strives to be the church Jesus founded nearly 2000 years ago. The gospel has not changed, so we urge obedience to the same conditions of salvation. When a person obeys the gospel, that person

becomes a Christian, nothing more or less. Undenominational Christianity is all that existed in the New Testament, so we teach that today. The basis is the Bible as our only creed. All doctrines, creeds, confessions and catechisms are written by uninspired men. Seeking to restore the church of the New Testament is our goal. Therefore, we speak where the Bible speaks; and we are silent where the Bible is silent.

In the New Testament the Lord has provided a complete pattern for His church: the names, doctrine, organization, worship and mission. Our desire is to please God by honoring His design for the church, to love and serve one another in our community. Caring and sharing is the Lord's way. The church is unified in its mission to reach out to the lost with the only hope of the world—Jesus! We pray that you may seek to please Him in the same way.

If you are looking for a local church, we would invite you to study with us and learn how we seek to bring glory to God as we worship God in spirit and truth; practice fellowship and service toward one another; teach God's word to both the lost and saved; reach out to our community in love; and look forward to the eternal blessings in heaven.

Terry Chapman

ADDITIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

LOCAL:

Lexi (Embry's friend) brain tumor.
Amy Teigan (Jess T. mom, Bakers friends) recovering from surgery.
Nancy (Charles R. friend)
Tony Gibson (Steve G. friend)
Joy Yeager (Steve G. coworker) son Tom had a heart attack.
Women's Ministry at Sarasota County Jail.
Myrna Kilpatrick (Deb M. friend) physical therapy.
Shelly Cox (Mike S.'s friend) cancer treatments.
Don McManus (Donna J.'s friend) hospice.
Margaret Cadogan (Miralyne's friend) cancer.
Gordon Thompson (Miralyne's friend) cancer.
Jeanie Evans (Miralyne's sister) surgery January 10 and 31.

OUT OF TOWN:

Rhea (Virgin Islands Rivard's friend) bad accident, multiple injuries.
Mike (WA, Carolyn LaBard's brother in law) test/ health issues.
David Pharr (preacher at Concord Street in Orlando) recovering from brain surgery.
Jaylee (Debbie M. friend) recovering from kidney removal surgery.
Jill Gravenites (IL, Dianne Binkoski's sister) test at Mayo Clinic.
Dan and Margy Patterson (MO, Hunnicutt's friends) hospice/struggling.
Greg Conner (SC, Roy and Pat's son) rehab for stroke.
Roy Conner (SC) dementia.
Lynleigh Price (MT, Lund's friend) 4yr-old recovering from heart surgery.
Kristina (TN, Couch's friend) Pregnant, diabetes, baby will need heart surgery when born. Her fiancé, Dawson, has been deployed to Bosnia.
Pam LaSage (MA, Deb M. sister) recovering.
Liz Hamilton (KY, Mary R. friend) stem cell transplant complications, slowly improving.
Rick Cole (TX, Bonnie T.'s brother) cancer surgery cancelled, more tests.
Tina Rogers (Roger's daughter-in-law) complications from surgery.
Mike Tackett (TX, Doug's brother) chemo.
Nathan Tyler (Bob Hughes' relative) kidney transplant went well, recovering.
Gary Tyler (Bob Hughes' relative) kidney donation surgery went well, recovering.
Marie Johnson (Karen Lund's sister) Occupational Therapy/ difficulties.
Candice Clement (Cowley's granddaughter-in-law) treatments.
Venia Jean Jordan (KY, Miralyne's friend) health issues.
Chuck Jordan (KY, Miralyne's friend) bladder complications/ surgery recovery.
Melissa Pierce (KY, Embry's friend)
Michael Monroe (IN, Dayna's cousin) lung cancer.
Rick McMahon (MI, Carole J.'s nephew) multiple myeloma/Guillain Barre Syndrome.
Brenda Herman (IN, Dayna's cousin) dialysis, transplant list.
Sandra Curtis (Linda Hunnicutt's friend, TN) chemo.

OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS : Emma Lund (Western Tech) ; Abigail Lillibridge (FL Southern); Cameron Dunn (FGCU); Avery Boyette (Germana); Tayven Clark (FAU); Keira Jackson (UH); Andrew Miller; Ashley Bess (UF); Emma Harting (FGCU)

OUR FAMILY AT HOME OR ASSISTED LIVING: Jean Cook, Betty Herman, John & Peggy Bolotin, Charles Richardson, Patricia Hawk & caregiver Joe Austin. Ima June Veal (Sherry C.'s mother), Jim Lewis, Sue Fredenburg, Lois Gleason, Paul & Betty Gerber, Paul Miller, Margaret Earls.

OUR MILITARY & FIRST RESPONDERS: Hunter Mangrum (Navy); Nick Hertel (Navy Reserve); Kiana Kirkland (Air Force); Mariah Sanders-Solis (Army National Guard); Aaron Boyette (Coast Guard); Tim Tramel (National Guard); Scott Bickel (Air Force); Brandon Hughes (Air Force); Kyle Zinsner (Marines); Michael Jackson (Sheriff Dept.); David Dunn (Sheriff Dept.); Evan Krause (Sheriff Dept.); Greg Irwin (Fire Dept.); Steve Rissler (Fire Dept.); Ben Carpenter (Fire Dept.); Ryan Hellmer (Fire Dept.); Amber Mangrum (Fire Dept.); Derek Kroll (Police Dept.); Terry Chollera (security) 12/24/23