

September 10, 2023



FLORENCE BOULEVARD CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders

Steve Clark
Jake VanDyke
Ken Vanhorn
Mark Willingham

Deacons

Greg Allen
Justin Beckman
Kevin Clemons
Jeffrey Cox
Mike Davidson
Kyle Dickson
Gregg Elrod
Nate Fulmer
AJ Gooch
David Gooch
Lee Handley
Will Hodge
Brian McManus
Jamey Medley
Ronnie Putnam
Dave Schmidt
Mark Vanhorn

Minister

Austin Johnson

Youth Minister

John Birdwell

Secretary

Sonya Cox

Ezekiel 34-Daniel 6

When I was growing up, pedestrians were altogether absent from downtown Florence. Downtown consisted of Rogers, a couple of restaurants, and a few businesses spread across mostly derelict buildings. My parents would tell me how busy it was when all the department stores were located downtown before they moved to the mall. I remember wishing I could have seen what Downtown Florence was like then. When we read the later part of Ezekiel in anticipation of Christ, the message beginning in Ezekiel 34, is clear. Things will be desolate for a while, but there will be a restoration of “the good old days”.

First, there is clear imagery of the current situation. The shepherds God put in place as leaders have forsaken the flock, but they continue to benefit from it. The resolution is clear, God will rescue his flock with his good shepherd, Prince David. They could not have understood who Jesus was, but as we often look back at good leaders with admiration, David, the brave and romanticized King of Israel clearly represented that a just and righteous leader would return to rescue God’s people.

Next, after God briefly shares how he will destroy those that take advantage of the temporary destruction of Israel, we see the imagery of the dry bones we often sing about. Once again, the imagery is clear. A deserted valley of bones returning to life as a mighty army. This is not an image from a horror movie, but an image of a long-defeated army, suddenly being fully restored. It is like a bonus life in a video game. This imagery must have been inspiring to the people rebuilding Jerusalem with Nehemiah. Little did they know that the perfect restoration of a Holy Nation would come in the form of the Church.

If you drive or walk through Downtown Florence today, it smells of food, stores are open, and people are out walking throughout the day. Most building owners have taken great pains in restoring the building facades to their original design while also assuring they are equipped with modern amenities. Growing up I couldn’t have imagined that Downtown Florence today might be the best version of itself it has ever been. People of Israel and Judah who had been taken into captivity could not have imagined that a restoration would ever happen to Jerusalem. But it did. And not only that, once Christ came, he restored God’s holy nation with significant improvements to say the least. It’s a nation we enjoy being a part of today.

Tyler Thompson

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Worship: Sunday 9:00 am & 5:00 pm; Bible Class 10:15 am; Wednesday: 6:30 pm

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday AM: 273 / On Line Views: 189
Sunday School: 214 / On Line Views: N/A
Sunday PM: 202/ On Line Views: 227
Wednesday: 204/ On Line Views: 113
Budget: \$14,620
Contribution: \$ 14,293

SEPTEMBER MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

Jean-Claubert Belton
Carrefour Michaud #46 Route Malpasse
Entrée Double Harvest
Croix des Bouquets
Haiti

Lamentations 3:22-24

22 "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.
23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. 24 The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him."

CEDAR VIEW ASSISTED LIVING

We are in charge of the services at Cedar View Assisted Living **Sunday, September 17th**, at 2 pm. If you can help with this, please see Jake VanDyke.

TEACHERS WORKSHOP

Teachers Workshop **Saturday, September 16th**, in the **Family Room** with Kirk Brothers, Ed Gallagher, Arvy Dupuy & Michael Jackson. Time **8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

THANK YOU

I cannot even tell you how much your visit and contributions meant to our residents and staff. You are an amazing group of people who just luminate with love. Your donations of blankets, clothing, jewelry, stuffed animals, fidget pads and wheelchair/walker bags were just a blessing and so appreciated by our residents and staff. I just feel so blessed that I was able to meet such a wonderful group of fine Christians who love the Lord and want to serve by taking care of others. We miss you already and hope we meet again soon. May God bless and keep you safe.

Sincerely with love,

Denise Jefferson / Activity Director

Arabella Health & Wellness of Carrabelle, FL

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Everyone is invited to a potluck fellowship meal on Sunday, September 24th, after AM services, celebrating those that have been baptized this year. Please come to celebrate, encourage and fellowship with these new Christians!

Meal Team #5 is in charge of set up and Meal Team #6 is in charge of clean up.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please mark these upcoming events on your calendars and make plans to attend: **Maywood Church-wide Retreat, October 13th -15th (sign-up sheet on foyer table)** and our **Gospel Meeting , November 5th-8th.**

