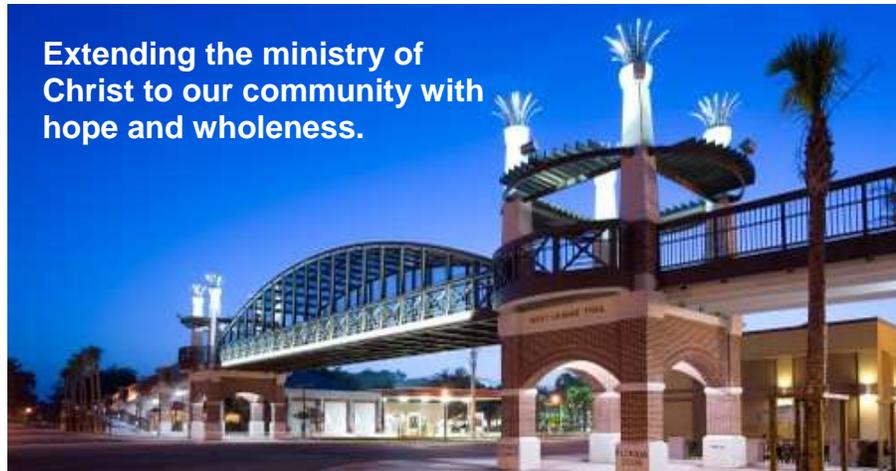


APOPKA
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
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<http://apopkasdachurch.com>
(407) 889-2812

Newsletter
August 15, 2020
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Pastor's Message

It was the anniversary of tragedy and triumph. Numbers 9 finds the Hebrews in the wilderness one year removed from the final plague in Egypt and Pharaoh's command: "Get out!" There was wailing in Egyptian households at the death of their firstborn sons. The reason there wasn't wailing in Hebrew homes? They had celebrated *Passover*. The doorpost was painted with blood. The special meal was eaten in haste.

A year later, they were to celebrate what God had done. God told them to "celebrate the Passover..." A year earlier many of them, while observing this meal, felt a great sense of relief that their firstborn son was still alive. Maybe they could hear the cries of mothers and fathers and younger siblings in the homes of those who did not observe that first Passover. But today, Passover was to be celebrated. God delivered them from the house of bondage with a mighty arm and outstretched hand! They had seen the miracle wonders of God time after time. They had seen His Presence as He gave them His covenant of love and faithfulness. Absolutely *everyone* needed to remember what God had done for them!

I take a couple of principles from this.

1. Take time to celebrate God's goodness. He has delivered me from the ultimate house of bondage: sin. I can celebrate on special occasions, but each day is a new day to celebrate what God has done, especially in Jesus Christ, the Lamb who was slain on the cross to deliver me from certain eternal death.
2. If I find myself unable to celebrate, take it to God. There are days that are so lousy that it's hard to celebrate. We are months into a pandemic as I write this. Celebration isn't exactly what I feel like some days. But no matter how awful I feel or how bad the situation is, I can have faith that God is still good and He is still being good to me. If I can't find a reason to celebrate, I can ask God! He'll give me one!

How will you celebrate God's goodness today? What do you do when you don't feel like celebrating? How do you discern what God is telling you to do or telling you to say?

Every blessing in Christ,

James Johnson

Lead Pastor

James.Johnson@floridconference.com

This Week's Online Worship Services

- **Message: "Then Who Are You?" by Freddy Rodriguez.**
- Scripture: John 1:22-23 , read by Eduardo and Alejandro Rodriguez.
- "My Next Step" – We encourage you to fill out our Online Connection Card after viewing this week's service. Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8F5N2D2>
- Featured Offering: Local Church Budget brought to us by Wally Frost. Please remember our "Build 7 – Building Fund." Thank you for your support of God's work in our community! You can give online at <https://adventistgiving.org/#/org/ANTBBB/envelope/start>
- Children's Story: Marlon Bingham
- Family Prayer: Renoir Marcellus
- **Online Sabbath School Options**
 - **Children & Youth Divisions**
 - **Juniors:** Sabbath, 10 AM, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82360827579?pwd=eTZPVngwNzZDQmdSdGZMN1Y5VXE4dz09>, Password: Juniors
 - **Earliteens:** Sabbath, 10 AM, at <http://us04webzoom.us/j/8751088252?>, Password: 293126
 - **High School:** Sabbath, 10 AM, at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84523787323?>, Password: 2PYKey
 - **Adult Sabbath Schools**
 - **Seekers** (Scott Shelton): Sabbath, 9:30 AM, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2249739986>, Password: 287556
 - **Adult Quarterly 1**(George Crawford): Sabbath, 10:00 AM, <https://zoom.us/j/914391071>
 - **Adult Quarterly 2** (Jack Carey): Sabbath, 10:00 AM, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/120351894?pwd=Sk1scWJSbXJVWUtJV0RoUVFDUTJUUT09>, Meeting ID 120 351 894, Password: 214135
 - **Adult Quarterly 3** (Hugo Kennedy): Sabbath, 10:00 AM, <https://zoom.us/j/3999743097>, or dial 929- 436-2866 and enter the Meeting ID: 399 974 3097.
 - **Journey Through the Word:** Wednesday, 7:00 PM. We have been enjoying going through "Gospel Fluency" in more detail, including learning to tell our stories as "Gospel Stories!" Last Wednesday, Jack Carey shared his powerful Gospel Story. We hope you'll join us! Click here, [Journey Through the Word](#), to join us!
- **Morning Prayer Line:** Weekday mornings, 7:30 AM. <https://zoom.us/j/150286450>

Children's Church

Every Sabbath at 2:30 PM, all are invited to our online "Children's Church," designed for kids and put on by kids! Go to <https://zoom.us/j/3999743097>. The Zoom link is also provided on the Church website.

Extending the Ministry of Christ

Pastor James received a wonderful letter recently from William Brown, Senior Chaplain of the Orange County Jail Ministry. It reads (in part) as follows:

Joy McFarlane, one of our volunteers and one of your congregation asked us if we could use Bibles, which of course we are always in need of. Our inmates always ask for large print, so we asked her if we could have some. We expected maybe 6 Bibles, but she had 82 Bibles sent to us! We were astonished! Kaycee, our Office Manager, asked her how she could keep doing this, which is when (Sister McFarlane) told us of the kindness of your congregation.

Well, that deserves a letter of gratitude! Thank you for the love that you all have shown us over and over again. We sincerely appreciate your kindness... you are an awesome group of Brothers and Sisters. May God reward you richly for your hearts of giving unto these souls so in need here.

Your Brother in Christ,
William T. Brown
Sr. Chaplain
Orange County Jail Ministry

What a fantastic letter to receive! We praise God for what He is doing through Sister McFarlane through this ministry!

Re-Convening

Leadership is meeting every two weeks to discuss the trends and latest updates on the COVID-19 pandemic and how it is impacting Florida and, more specifically, Orange County. The “markers” we are watching include (1) the number of cases, (2) the percentage of positive COVID-19 diagnoses, (3) hospitalizations and deaths, (4) the chances that at least one person will be COVID-19 positive at a gathering based on the number of people gathered. We are seeing encouraging signs. With schools reopening, we pray to continue seeing progress towards reconvening. We will meet again on August 25 to evaluate the situation again and make further recommendations. Our plan for reconvening that was prepared in late June is still in place for when we are ready. Continue praying for our church family and community who have been impacted by COVID-19.

“Total Community Involvement” (TCI)

Our next **COVID-19 Food Card Distribution** is scheduled for August 16, from 2:00 – 3:00 PM.



May we pray for you?

- Finances
- Illness in Family or Friends
- Children
- Emotional Support
- Loss of a loved one
- Overcoming Addiction: Alcohol, drugs, smoking, pornography, or others.
- Spiritual Blessing for yourself, family, or home.

Share your prayer request by...

- Text: (407) 988-5715
- Email: tcibuild7@gmail.com

In Our Prayers

God is Good!

- He is “YHWH Ra’ah,” meaning, “The LORD is My Shepherd!” or “The Lord is My Friend!” This Name is featured in Psalm 23 and shows us God’s desire to have an intimate friendship with His people.
- We praise our God, for He leads us as One Who is present with us in the moment as a close, personal friend!
- Reba Crawford is thankful for healing in our family/church family, from COVID, Jack; morning prayer group.
- Jack Carey continues to feel even stronger than before accident.
- Kevin Sadler is grateful for the Morning prayer group, and that he is moving ahead with a new Bible study with family.
- Kristen McGuire is thankful for answered prayers in her family and in her neighborhood.
- Shirley Kennedy is grateful for the church’s audio-visual ministry, and Hugo is thankful for being able to have a spiritual conversation with a neighbor after exchanging mangoes and avocados with him.
- The LeBrun’s are thankful that their youngest granddaughter is getting married at the end of the month.

We Lift Up Needs!

- One of our Apopka SDA Church family, Harold Knox passed away peacefully this month. He was an active participant in George Crawford’s Sabbath School class, though hasn’t been able to attend church for a period of time due to his health. He chose to come to the Apopka Church in part because of his great passion around our church building program. Harold was 99 years old. Services will be held this coming Monday, August 17 at the Highland Memory Gardens at 3329 E Semoran Blvd., Apopka. Visitation: 9:00-10:45am; Graveside service: 11:00am
- We pray for the health of the Nephew of the Kennedy’s neighbor.
- Pastor Freddy Rodriguez and family as they prepare to move to Apopka.
- For our Nation - Political, economic, and civil unrest.
- Teachers and students returning to school, safety from the COVID virus.
- Anna D-Andrea - For Baptism.
- Odella - Study and acceptance of God's Word.
- Marilyn and her brother Michael - Study and acceptance of God's Word.
- Linda - for healing.
- Tim and his finance, Connie, to walk fully with God.
- Please pray for Cheryl Smith and her family. Last week, her cousin, Clayton, died of a heart attack. Her Uncle, Eddie, had a massive heart attack this week and is under hospice care and is not expected to live much longer, and his wife Jenny also has many health issues and will have to move after he passes. In addition, her brother, Les, is at Leesburg Regional Hospital after suffering a stroke this week.
- Please continue to pray Betty O’Ffill and her family. The O’Ffill family will pay tribute to Elder O’Ffill’s life in a private service later this year. Condolences and remembrances are welcome at the following page: <https://www.facebook.com/richard.offill.1>.
- Please continue to pray for Cindy Locke’s brother Tommy, who has just undergone heart valve repair surgery, and is home recovering.

Sunset Schedule

Friday, August 7: 8:06

Sabbath, August 8: 8:05

