



## Weekly newsletter, April 24, 2020

### Pastor's Message

Dear Apopka Church Family,

In Matthew 4:17, *The Message* reads, "He (Jesus) picked up where John left off: 'Change your life! God's Kingdom is here!'" Others will read "Repent! The Kingdom of God is at hand!" or something along those lines. Later, we see Jesus using synagogues for meeting places, teaching people the truth about God and His Kingdom: "... beginning right now they were under God's government, a good government! He also healed people of their diseases and of the bad effects of their bad lives" (from verses 23-25). Matthew 4 shows us that Jesus taught that God's "Kingdom Government" was *here, seeking citizens and co-workers, that it was a place of healing, wholeness, and salvation, and that we are citizens regardless of the earthly kingdoms we are living in.*

Some find the idea confusing that God's Kingdom is "here," or "at hand," when it seems like we are in a world ruled by something very different. We have to fast forward to Jesus's words at His "trial" to gain insight into this: "My Kingdom is not of this world..." (John 18:36). What is important to remember is who is really in charge of your life, and who is in charge of the story of all history. Revelation shows us that Jesus is the One Who is worthy to be called "King of kings, and Lord of lords."

Faith allows us to see things differently. We can be surrounded by temporal madness... sickness, death, and even corrupt governments... and yet be citizens of an eternal Kingdom. Jesus taught us to be good citizens here, but never lose sight of the greater Kingdom we belong to. Our loyalties begin and end there. This is extremely reassuring to me, as I hope it is for you. It is a fact that gives me much greater peace in the midst of storms. May this be reassuring to you today as well.

Stay in touch with each other, pray for each other, and stay safe.

Every blessing in Christ,

Pastor James

### Virtual Services

**Virtual Sabbath Worship Services:** Go to [www.apopkasdachurch.com](http://www.apopkasdachurch.com) for our local Sabbath School options (many more options have emerged, and more are "in development"... stay tuned!), Hope Sabbath School and Virtual Worship Service. Our worship services are split into two video sections: "Build 7 – Church Life" and "Build 7 – Virtual Worship."

#### Local Sabbath School Options

- "Perspectives" Sabbath School, James Johnson: 7:00 PM, Friday evening. Go to <https://zoom.us/j/597674660>.

- High School Sabbath School, 10:00 AM, Sabbath morning. Go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89519798035?pwd=STVyVWVYV0dHU3JLSIRSQU4vdFZtZz09>. Meeting ID: 895 1979 8035, Password: 2PYKey.
- Adult Sabbath School Quarterly 1, George Crawford: 10:00 AM, Sabbath morning. Go to <https://zoom.us/j/914391071>.
- Adult Sabbath School Quarterly 2, Jack Carey: 10:00 AM, Sabbath morning. Go to <https://zoom.us/j/601759026>.
- Adult Sabbath School Quarterly 3, Hugo Kennedy, 10:15 AM, Sabbath morning, Go to <https://zoom.us/j/3999743097>. Meeting ID: 399 974 3097. Dial by location +1- 929- 436- 2866, US (NY).
- Seeker's Class, Scott Shelton: 9:55 AM, Sabbath morning. Go to <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2249739986>. Password is - 287556
- Message: "The Gospel: Becoming Fluent," James Johnson. Thank you, Rivera family, Chrystine Deniz, Kayti Ghosh and Wilson Benjamin, Mergenthaler family, Marcellus family, and the Terikov family, for your beautiful readings of Scripture for us this week! *Next week's message will be brought to us by Pastor James Johnson: "The Gospel In Me."*
- Be sure to respond to this week's message at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WBFNXFG>.
- Featured Offering for this week will be presented by: Myriam Ordaz. Our offering this week is for Florida Advance. Our local mission in Apopka is locally supported. Please remember our "Build 7 – Building Fund" as well. 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 this week by Marlon Bryan
- Our family prayer will be presented by Bill Allen.
- "Build 7 Connections" features, "Apopka Church Family Safe @ Home," with Gail Shelton, hosted by Jack Carey.

## Church Life

### Youth Connections

Next Meeting: Saturday, May 2 at 6:00, <https://zoom.us/j/91043756915>.

### Church Business Meeting

Due to "stay-at-home" mandates, the church conducted a virtual Church Business Meeting on April 19, 2020, with over forty participating via Zoom. As plans have been made for our church building project, funds have become available through the Southern Union Revolving Fund (SURF) to be loaned for projects such as ours. SURF offers lower loan costs and much easier processing, making SURF the most desirable source for such a loan. *The Church Board recommended applying for a SURF Loan of \$2.1 million, with funds to be drawn as needed for the project, and any amount over \$1.6 million requiring the approval of the Finance Committee and Church Board. This recommendation was moved, seconded, and approved.* Further details of the meeting can be found on the linked document here: [https://1drv.ms/w/s!AuchfklDj6SZhCqG1S0\\_YJBDNuKE](https://1drv.ms/w/s!AuchfklDj6SZhCqG1S0_YJBDNuKE).

### Worship Committee Zoom Meeting

Monday night at 7:00. To join the meeting, click: <https://zoom.us/j/99480637840?pwd=SUtDbko1RjJwV3lGKzZsNlc3OVpvdz09>.

## **Morning Prayers**

Every weekday morning at 7:30, we invite you to join together in prayer via Zoom. The gathering is hosted by Elder George Crawford, and it is a tremendous blessing. Simply go to the internet, and go to <https://zoom.us/j/150286450>, or dial in by phone at (929) 205-6099 and enter the Meeting ID when prompted: 150286450.

## **Journey Through the Word**

We continue to study Matthew on Wednesday evenings. Go to <https://zoom.us/j/676008518>, or dial in at (929) 205-6099 and enter the Meeting ID when prompted: 676 008 518.

## **For Your Prayers**

- Tim McGuire, son of Kristen and Norm McGuire, as he recovers from his automobile accident.
- Cindy Locke's mother who has just been put on hospice after being diagnosed with stage 4 liver cancer.
- Cindy Locke's brother recovering from pneumonia and lung surgery.
- COVID-19: The health of our families. Those who will be facing financial difficulty. Our young people as they are dealing with isolation and a new way of being educated. Teachers, who continue to work hard to continue to provide a good education. Especially first responders and health workers who are dealing with this crisis first-hand.

**Church:** With the shortage of masks that Medical personnel are having to use due to the COVID-19 crisis, I have been made aware of programs across the US where individuals are donating homemade masks to hospitals. I thought it would be a good project for those interested in helping out our hospitals here in the Orlando area. I have contacted AdventHealth, and they welcome any donations. If you are interested, you can go to the websites of stores like Joann or Pinterest for patterns. You can also call my wife Dana at 407-929-1688, for a pattern. If you want to buy a mask for yourself or for the hospitals, you can go to websites for Etsy, Amazon homemade, ,ebay, Facebook Marketplace, Buck Mason, Custom ink, GIR, Hedley Bennett, REI, Sanctuary, and Los Angeles apparel. I think this is a nice way to help out hospitals. Since the CDC recommends individuals to use masks, it would also be a way to help those in our church and community.

William Nutt, President Healthcare Reimbursement Advisors, Inc.  
3497 Oak Knoll Point, Lake Mary Florida.  
Phone: 407-833-8680 (FL) Cell: 321-277-7097.