



Weekly newsletter, May 2, 2020

Pastor's Message

Dear church family,

In the middle of a description of the grand new temple Solomon had built, God interrupts:

“The word of GOD came to Solomon saying, “About this Temple you are building—what’s important is that you live the way I’ve set out for you and do what I tell you, following my instructions carefully and obediently. Then I’ll complete in you the promise I made to David your father. I’ll personally take up my residence among the Israelites—I won’t desert my people Israel.”” (1 Kings 6:11-13 MSG)

In 1 Kings 6, this interruption stands out. In my imagination, I see Solomon throwing out all the ideas and commands, or waxing eloquent about the temple to some listener of importance, and God walks in just to say, “Hey, this temple is great and all, but you need to know what I care about the most—obedience. My presence with you is more about what you do with your life than how beautiful this building is.”

So much of obedience God traces right back to love. “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind... love others as yourself.” The commands Jesus quoted in Matthew 22:36-40 were known to Solomon, for they traced back to the Torah (the Law, or Books of Moses) that he surely well knew. It would not be a stretch to say, “Love me, and love others, as I have commanded, and I’ll be with you. To neglect this is to ensure that temple will be empty of Me.”

I want God present in my life, home, and church. I want to do better at loving people. Even now, as we are planning to expand our facility in Apopka, this rings loudly in my ears. God’s presence among us depends far more on our love for God, for each other, and for our community, than it does on any plans for a building. If it was true for a building the beauty and magnitude of Solomon’s temple to the Lord, how much more so for us.

May we love well, even if we now cannot see each other face to face. Pray for each other. Reach out. Make that call, send that text or email. Be an encourager this week. Be the temple the Lord loves to reside in.

In Christ,
Pastor James

Virtual Services

Virtual Sabbath Worship Services: Go to www.apopkasdachurch.com for our local Sabbath School options (many more options have emerged, and more are “in development”... stay tuned!).

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/84523787323?pwd=dkVGaig4UGNuSEl1ZkQ4SlhxBZz09> Meeting ID: 895 1979 8035, Password: 2PYKey.
 - Youth Connections Saturday night 6:00 PM, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91043756915>
 - 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 in Me*,” James Johnson. Thank you, Sarah Miranda, Alec Mullings, Alyssa Mullings, Aliyah Mullings and Carys Johnson, 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 Us.”*

- After viewing this week’s sermon, we invite you to take a step with Jesus! Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZRXCJ7G> and take our brief survey.

- **Featured Offering** for this week will be presented by: Karen Wilcox. Our offering this week is for the Local Church Budget. 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 Barbara Mathurin.
- **Our family prayer** will be presented by Robert Broome.

Church Life

Youth Connections: Next Meeting: Saturday, May 2 at 6:00, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91043756915>.

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.