



April 17, 2020

### Pastor's Message

Dear Apopka Church Family,

This morning I spent time reflecting on John 4:1-30, the story of the Woman at the Well. There is an awesome quote from Jesus, as translated in *The Message* devotional paraphrase by Eugene Peterson:

- “But the time is coming—it has, in fact come—when what you’re called will not matter and where you worship will not matter. It’s who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That’s the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly themselves before Him in their worship.” (Verses 23-24)

So, if what Jesus is quoted as saying here is true, worship is not, at its core, an activity, a once-a-week thing separate from the rest of the week, making an hour on Sabbath more “sacred.” In Jewish, they would not have separated a “sacred” time from a “secular” one, since *all* the time in the world belongs to God and is sacred. Worship was life!

“Worship” in Scripture combines two words which mean “toward, or with regard to,” and a word that conjured up an image of a dog licking his master’s hand. People would have taken the whole word to mean “to kiss the hand, in a token of reverence.” If we only do this once a week, we open ourselves up to tremendous danger: the temptation to worship something else the rest of the week.

One of the blessings of this strange time is the opportunity to worship with my family in ways we have not previously considered or attempted. We have been able to reflect on what Sabbath means, and even on what a whole week of living in worship means. I encourage you to join us in this: *worship God now*, in the moment. Make worship more than 1/7 of your week. Worship Him from who you are, wherever you are, in every moment!

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

Every blessing in Christ,

Pastor James

## Virtual Worship

**Virtual Sabbath Worship Services:** Go to [www.apokasdachurch.com](http://www.apokasdachurch.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>.
  - 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?>
  - Seeker’s Class, Scott Shelton: 9:55 AM, Sabbath morning. Go to <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2249739986>.
- Message: presented by Joel Rivera. *Next week’s message will be brought to us by Pastor James Johnson.*
- Featured Offering for this week will be presented by Robert Broome. 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>
- Our family prayer will be presented by Edna Green.
- For Build 7 Connections, Larry Campbell will give a reminder of our Business Meeting on Sunday. Also during the Announcements, don’t miss the slide presentation showing our Apopka Family Safe@ Home. Want to be included next time? Text your photo showing how you are spending your time in lockdown to 407-353-7172.

## Church Life

### Youth Connections

Saturday evening at 6:00, Apopka Youth are invited to join us for “Connections” at <https://zoom.us/j/94527645036>.

### Church Business Meeting

Please plan to join our online Business Meeting on April 19, 7:00 PM, via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/531220179>. *There is one agenda item: The Church Board recommends approving the application of a loan of \$2.1 million for our church building project, with funds to be used from this loan as needed. If more than \$1.6 million is required, approval will be necessary from the Church Finance Committee and Church Board.*

## **Morning Prayers**

Every 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.

## **“Shepherding Groups”**

Maynard LeBrun, James Johnson, our elders and others have been working to divide our church contact list into groups of 12 “home contacts.” This includes members and others who have been connected to Apopka SDA. We want to do our best to keep in touch, especially during this very strange time! Starting this week, many of you will begin to receive a phone call, text, or email from the leader of the group you are in. We are still working on many of the contacts to be sure they have someone responsible to keep in touch. Please be patient with us as we continue to work out this initiative.

## **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 diagnosed with stage 4 liver cancer.
- Cindy Locke’s brother recovering from 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.

**Thank you!!** I’d like to recognize Adacha Leigh and Sydney Campbell for the amazing job with last week’s Children’s Story. My apologies for missing the mention of it last week, and thank you, both of you and your families, for letting God use your talents and creativity! Pastor James