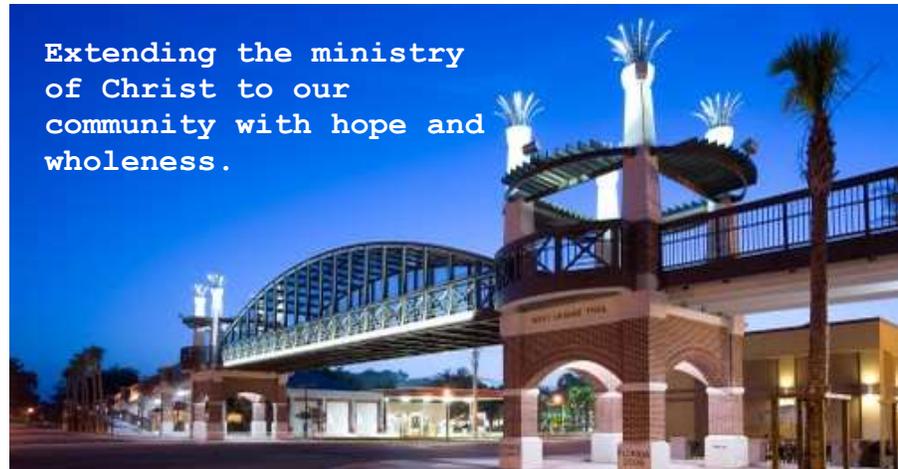


Newsletter
July 25, 2020

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Pastor's Message

"A day that will live in infamy"--December 7, 1942. September 11, 2001--the day in my lifetime that I have vivid memories of that will also "live in infamy." Both dates saw unmistakable acts of war.

In war, there is very little middle-ground. Oh sure, there will always be countries who remain "neutral," even in a "World" war that may directly affect them. We get the phrase, "I'm Switzerland here," during conflicts as a testament to determined neutrality. There are times, however, when taking a stand, and taking a side, becomes necessary. Jesus speaks to this in Matthew 12. Take a look, from *The Message*, at Verse 30: "This is war, and there is no neutral ground. If you're not on my side, you're the enemy; if you're not helping, you're making things worse."

Jesus's very living presence in the world was an invasion, an attack on the enemy, Satan, on his "home turf." His weapons were very non-conventional:

- Teaching people
- Healing people
- Casting out demons
- Decreeing justice and hope.

Where people stumbled in the ignorance of Satan's devising, Jesus taught the truth, lifting the veil of ignorance. Where people suffered under the results of sin--sickness, injustice, hopelessness--Jesus fought with healing and decreeing justice, giving hope where there was none. Where Satan controlled people, inhabiting and torturing them, Jesus cast him and his legions out, freeing them from unimaginable oppression.

This was His Father's will. "I've placed my Spirit on him; he'll decree justice to the nations... Before you know it, his justice will triumph; the mere sound of his name will signal hope, even among far-off unbelievers" (from verses 15-21).

When you choose the side of Jesus--and remember, being a non-combatant is not an option--he even calls you family. "Obedience is thicker than blood," he says in verse 50.

Christ has declared war on the enemy of souls. He calls on us to join his side, to even fight with him. Here's the good news: The enemy may still fight, but he is defeated. Even a dead snake can bite you, but... he's dead! You can only be bitten by a dead snake if you put yourself under his nose.

Christ teaches us... do the will of the Father. Teach people of the character of our God of love and His desire to have us in His family. Extend the touch of Jesus, believing that He works through us as we do this. Speak love, hope, and justice into someone's life and do what you can to deliver these things.

The defeated enemy fights and wants you to share in his defeat. The victor fights and wants you in His eternal family. Seems like the choice is clear.

Every blessing in Christ,

James Johnson
Lead Pastor

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This Week's Online Worship Services

- **Message: "Extending Jesus: Hope," by James Johnson.**
- Scripture: Romans 8:20-25, read by Aidan & Carys Johnson.
- "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/H3M86XJ>.
- **Featured Offering:**, Florida Advance brought to us by Karen Wilcox. 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: Jessica Lopez
- Family Prayer: Robert Broome
- **Online Sabbath School Options**
 - **Primaries:** Get together every Wednesday at 7 PM, <https://us04webzoom.us/j/77111838436?> Password: **9njWKH (UPDATED)**
 - **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
 - **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=Sk1scWJSbXJVWUtjV0RoUVFDUTJUU09>, 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. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/676008518?pwd=TVd6ZGM5RjdZME1YUUVjUko3Q0JPz09>
- **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! The Zoom link is provided on the Church website.

Re-Convening

Conversations are ramping up about re-convening soon! We are still watching the markers, and we are beginning to see encouraging signs. Those "markers" we are watching, again, are: (1) The number of hospitalizations decrease, and (2) The number of positive COVID-19 diagnoses are trending downward. In late June, we presented an outline of what services would be like when we reconvene, which will remain applicable. We will be in touch with updates soon. Stay tuned, and continue praying for our church family and community who have been impacted by COVID-10.

“Total Community Involvement” (TCI)

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



A ministry of Total Community Involvement (TCI)

May we pray for you?

- Financial concern
- Family or friend illness
- Your children
- Loss of a loved one or friend
- Spiritual blessing for yourself, family, or home
- Offer praise for answered prayer
- Emotional support
- Overcoming addiction
 - Alcohol
 - Smoking
 - Drugs
 - Pornography
 - Other

Share your request by:

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

An initiative of the Apopka Seventh-day Adventist Church

In Our Prayers

God is Good!

- He is “El Elyon”: “The God Most High,” a name appearing 28 times in the Old Testament, 19 of those times in the Psalms.
- “I cry out to God Most High, to God Who will fulfill His purpose for me.” Psalm 57:2.

We Are Thankful!

- We are grateful that Wes Hall is home and is mending from COVID-19!
- We are grateful for the joy expressed by Jack Carey for his rapid recovery from a broken hip.

We Lift Up Needs!

- Cindy Locke’s brother, Tommy, is having heart valve surgery on Thursday.
- Continue praying for Jann Hall and Jean Wilson.
- Continue to pray for Richard and Betty O’Ffill. They are home, for which we can be thankful, but as both continue to recover, times are difficult.



Sunset Schedule

Friday, July 24: 8:22 • Sabbath, July 25: 8:21