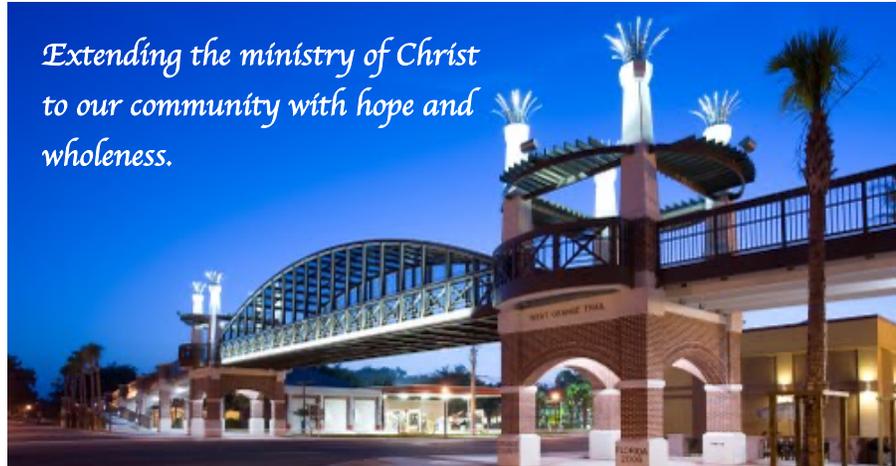


Newsletter
August 1, 2020

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Pastor's Message

Just as you cannot understand the path of the wind or the mystery of a tiny baby growing in its mother's womb, so you cannot understand the activity of God, who does all things. (Ecclesiastes 11:5, NLT)

For just as the heavens are higher than the earth so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:9, NLT)

Such reassuring words, yet words that can cause such great apprehension.

Face it... we may love a mystery novel, but we don't appreciate mystery when it hits us between the eyes. Very few of us are comfortable when there are unanswered questions in our lives. How will the baby's health play out? How will I be able to pay this bill? How will this new job really impact my career? Will this medicine work? Those are some tough "trigger questions," aren't they? To some, mystery is misery!

God is the greatest mystery there is, and He is in charge of everything and responsible for everything, ultimately. We cannot explain the wind and the weather. Oh, we have ways of predicting what will happen, and detecting the conditions that favor certain types of weather. Several days ago, they accurately predicted that this week would be a "chilly" one in Florida (yeah, I get it, Northerners... we Floridians just don't understand what cold is... we'll remind you of that next time we're shoveling sunshine off the driveway). But I can recall back in September how they thought a certain hurricane was going to go one way, then the next day it was going another, then it went another day entirely the day it hit us. We understand so much more than we did a century ago, but the weather still does whatever it wants in the end.

We understand a lot more about how a baby develops in the womb than we used to. It is a fascinating process. We can explain the division of cells. We can explain how things may have gone wrong in some cases, or how genetics caused something to happen. At the end of the day, however, a couple of the best God-fearing OBGYNs and Pediatricians I know say pretty much the same thing... it's a miracle!... which is a wonderfully positive way of saying *mystery*.

My problem is trusting God in the midst of mystery, which is a problem, because He *is* mystery. We are called to labor for God in the midst of (often maddening) mystery. We cannot see for sure what will happen. Even now, there are mysteries in my life that I wish like crazy would be solved. But they aren't, and I find myself frustrated with them, looking for answers, trying to figure out what I should do next without taking actions that could be harmful.

So, what it comes down to is this: *do I really trust God?*

I trust God. I trust God. I trust God. Yep, sometimes I am saying that over and over again just to convince my own soul that it is true. His ways are higher. His thoughts are higher. He is in control. Do I trust Him? I do. I do. I do.

I think there is a simple solution for apprehension when facing mystery. However, I don't think it is a solution easily enacted. The best I have found to do is to pray a prayer, something along the following lines...

Lord, you have begun a good work in me. You are faithful. You are completing it, even though I cannot always see and understand what you are doing. I place my [life... passion... idea... situation...] in Your hands. I place my worry for my [career... family... finances... education... situation...] in your hands. Even though the path seems cloudy and mysterious, I place my confidence in You and Your way of working that out. Father, you know my fears. You know my mind better than I do. Please, quiet my soul. Give me rest. At the same time, I plead with You... show me what to do or what not to do. Do not allow me to abandon Your way.

I trust You. Please bolster my trust. I may be saying it over and over again, trying to convince myself that it is true. I need You now. Show Me Your glory, Your faithfulness and love. I will give You the glory.

May God bless you in whatever mystery you may be facing today... He is there... He cares... and He has this, and you, in the palm of His hand! This is a good thing, because, as it says in 1 John 4:8, "... God is love."

Every blessing in Christ,

James Johnson

Lead Pastor

James.Johnson@floridconference.com



This Week's Online Worship Services

- **Message: "Extending Jesus: Wholeness," by James Johnson.**
- Scripture: Colossians 1:19-22, read by Lilyanna Cebollero.
- "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/JC6ZZCM>.
- Featured Offering: Local Church Budget, brought to us by George Crawford. 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: "Why We Stay Home."
- Family Prayer: Henry Linares
- **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=Sk1scWJSbXJVWUtJV0RoUVFDUTJUUUT09>, 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=TVd6ZGM5RjdZME1YUUVjUko3Q0JPZz09>
- **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.

Special Joint Sabbath School

We will be conducting a special Joint Sabbath School next week, August 8! Feel free to join as early as 9:45 AM to say hello. The program will be from 10:00 – 11:00 AM.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87120905863?pwd=RjNEekVSZS81Z3dkWDBJQVExUjluQT09>. Meeting ID: 871 2090 5863, Pass Code: 165743. You may also call in by dialing (929) 205-6099 and following the prompts to enter the Meeting ID and Pass Code.

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. As a reminder, the “markers” we are watching 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. 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.



May we pray for you?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Finances ● Family or Friends ● Children ● Emotional Support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grief & Loss ● Overcoming Addiction ● Spiritual Blessing |
|--|--|

Share your prayer need by...

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Text: (407) 988-5715 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Email: tcibuild7@gmail.com |
|--|---|

Pastor Richard O'Ffill. September 16, 1940 – July 29,2020

We are saddened to announce the passing of Pastor Richard O'Ffill, a friend of God, loving father and husband, and longtime and faithful member of the Apopka Seventh-day Adventist Church. We look forward to the soon return of Jesus when Pastor O'Ffill will be brought to life and to the health and vigor of the earth made new. Even so, come Lord Jesus!

God is Good!

- He is "YHWH": This Name was considered to holy to utter and occurs over 6,500 times in the Old Testament! It means "Lord, Master, the Omnipotent One" who is transcendent above all time, elements, space, matter, dimensions, etc. "
- ¹⁴God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you."

We Lift Up Needs!

- We pray for the Sylvain family. Valensky Sylvain's father, Samuel Sylvain, passed away last week.
- We pray for Carl Caldwell, who is recovering from hip replacement.
- Continue praying for Wes Hall & Jean Wilson. Both are recovering at home. They are so thankful for the prayers, food, calls and cards which shared the love and concern from their church family." Praise God for his mercy and love!
- Please continue to pray Betty O'Ffill who is grieving the loss her husband, and is recovering from knee surgery.
- Please continue to pray for Cindy Locke's brother Tommy, who has just undergone heart valve repair surgery, and is home recovering.
- Tim McGuire is still going through a lot of medical issues relating to his automobile accident.

Sunset Schedule

Friday, July 31: 8:17 • Sabbath, August 1: 8:17

