



## Weekly newsletter, May 9, 2020

### Pastor's Message

Dear church family,

s of tomorrow, it will have been 56 days since we last worshipped together in person. There are times it seems like that was another lifetime! As of today, all we know is that churches will remain closed for regular gatherings through May, and perhaps beyond. There is just so much that remains unclear.

The Church--meaning followers of Jesus, not limited to our Apopka Church family, or even the Seventh-day Adventist Church we are part of--historically goes through times of major reconsideration of how they do things. The church deliberates in Jerusalem about their concern of Peter entering the home of a Gentile, in Acts 11, and were led by the Holy Spirit to conclude that the Gentiles were now in on God's redemption plan. Later, Paul and Barnabas had to show the Jerusalem Council how the expectation of circumcision of Gentile converts was not necessary. The council made a clear change in their expectations.

Christianity becoming a state religion under Roman rule. The Reformation. The small disciple's groups John Wesley began. The Adventist message. Every major change was preceded by a time of serious thought, study, and reflection.

I believe we face a similar opportunity. What if this time affords us the chance to...

- Re-focus on the Gospel mission of the Church?
- Re-focus on the unique mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church?
- Re-focus on the localized mission of the Apopka Seventh-day Adventist Church (could you tell someone what that is, without looking it up?)
- Adjust our approach to accomplishing the above, without compromising our core beliefs and message, to reach the lost in our community and to reach the next generation... with hope and wholeness?
- Plan for, invest in, and strive to be a truly 7-day-a-week Church.

God has a mission in Apopka. It is privilege to be on it with Him. I'm going to put it all out there. I believe that while this has been a difficult and tragic time for very many, it also is a gift God has given us. It has been a wakeup call. I, for one, do not look forward to "getting back to normal." Historically, any time there was a "normal," God seemed to shake things up. Perhaps we are there again. I want to call each of us to pray earnestly for God to reveal to us, not what the future holds, but just what the next step will be on His mission and the courage to take that step with Him.

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 and the worship service.

### 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=dkVGajg4UGNuSEl1ZkQ4SlhxBZz09> 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 Us*,” James Johnson. **Scriptures:** Acts 2:42-47; Romans 5:15-17; Acts 22:2-16

After viewing this week’s sermon, we invite you to take a step with Jesus! Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RDZQDY9> and take our brief survey.

- Build 7 will be presented by Judy Blair speaking about the TCI Initiative: COVID-19
- **Featured Offering** for this week will be presented by: Mack Rucker. Our offering this week is for the World Budget-Adventist Community Services. 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 Sara Rivera.
- **Family prayer** will be presented by Errol Reid.

## Church Life

**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.

## Announcements

Every week is a new opportunity for us to invite people to take a step in their lives with Jesus! We encourage each of you to fill out an online connection card after viewing our service this weekend. We intend to continue this with physical and digital connection cards when we are able to worship together again!

**Funeral service and viewing for Peggie Youngs, Cindy Locke's mother.** It is with great sadness to say this, but my mother, Peggie Youngs, passed away Sabbath, May 2, 2020 at 10:53 AM. She was diagnosed on April 16 with stage 4 liver cancer. She came to my house on hospice, and I was able to sleep by her bed, and care for her, which she told me made her feel very secure. Two weeks & two days later she was gone. I still can't believe it, it happened so fast. **The viewing will be at Highland Memory Gardens in Apopka from 9:00 – 10:45 AM, then a graveside service at 11:00 AM.** It was first planned for 10 family members only, but as Monday afternoon, the funeral home lifted that restriction, so now, for a graveside service, anyone may come. Unlimited number. You can also stay in your car and listen to the service. When you arrive, the attendants will tell you which radio station to tune in to so you can hear. I can't wait for that day when Jesus comes and I can see her pretty little face once again! Come Lord Jesus, Come!!

### For Your Prayers

- Tim McGuire, son of Kristen and Norm McGuire, as he continues to recover from his automobile accident.
- Cindy Locke and her family, grieving the loss of her mother Peggie Youngs, and supporting her through her brother's recovery.
- Pat Marshall recovering from 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,
- First responders and healthcare workers who are dealing with this crisis first-hand.
- Residents and staff at nursing home and assisted living facilities who are vulnerable to the spread of COVID-19.

### Church Board Meeting, Tuesday, May 2, 2020 zoom meeting.

**Food Drive.** If you have been adversely affected financially due to the Covid-19 pandemic and are in need of food, please drive by the Apopka SDA church front entrance, on Sunday, **May 10 from 2:00 – 3:30pm.** We will provide you with a bag of food staples as well as a gift card to Aldi Groceries, to assist you in this time of need.

We will also provide a "Directory of Financial Assistance" with many resources which are available for those that qualify. If you have questions regarding information in the directory, please give William Nutt a call at (321) 277-7097.

## **TCI Initiative: COVID-19**

As the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continues, we know that the Apopka Church members are being impacted as well.

We believe that it is important for the Apopka Church to be proactive in helping to alleviate the suffering. With that in mind, the Church has set up a COVID-19 TCI Initiative committee which has developed plans to assist our members and the community in dealing with this crisis.

If you need help understanding the entitlements or in contacting one or more Federal or State agencies, Contact Bill Nutt.

If you have been adversely affected financially due to the COVID-19 pandemic and in need of food, please drive by the Apopka Church front entrance on Sunday, May 10 at 2:00 P.M. We will provide you with a bag of food staples as well as a gift card to ALDI to assist you in this time of need.

If you need a ride to the grocery store, pharmacy, medical appointment, please call or text Judy Blair, for assistance.

If you would like to volunteer and desire to help with food distribution or transportation, please call Judy Blair.