



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
info@apopkasdachurch.com
<http://apopkasdachurch.com>
(407) 889-2812

Newsletter

June 27, 2020

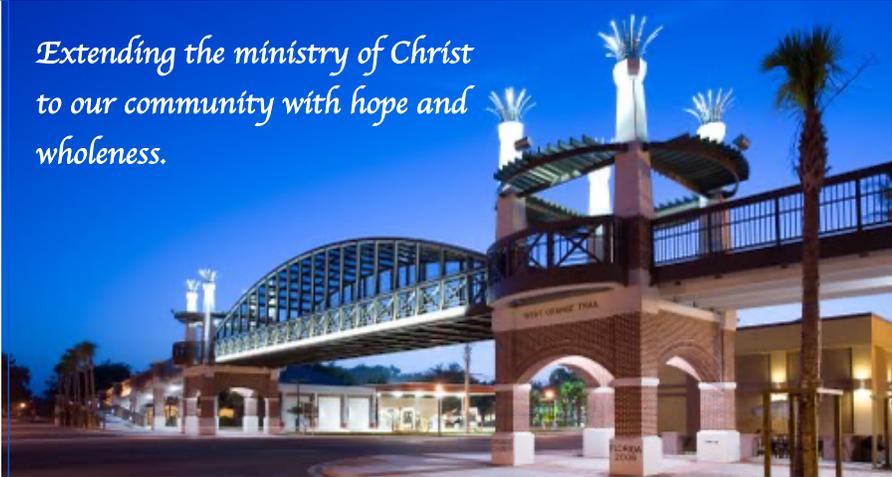
Pastor's Message, p. 1

This Week's Worship, p. 2

Re-Convening, TCI, p. 2-3

Sunset Info, p. 3

*Extending the ministry of Christ
to our community with hope and
wholeness.*



Pastor's Message

I have always appreciated the way *The Message* (Eugene Peterson's devotional translation of the Bible) words God's promise to Abram in Genesis 12:2-3. "I'll make you a great nation and bless you. I'll make you famous; you'll be a blessing. I'll bless those who bless you; those who curse you I'll curse. All the families of the earth will be blessed through you."

The story of the Tower of Babel, just one chapter earlier, teaches that when people try and make themselves famous, it likely won't end well. I think about the huge list of people who gained notoriety for themselves, and the list that is almost as long of people who suffer a kind of fall in the midst of their fame. I was a huge fan of cycling in the early 2000s. The story of Lance Armstrong's seven-straight Tour de France championships after almost dying from testicular cancer was compelling. To find out that he was taking performance enhancing drugs and "blood doping" was the prelude to a huge fall for him, one he continues to deal with to this day, including recently settling a lawsuit against him by his main sponsor from those titles.

Abram himself would go from this amazing blessing at the beginning of Genesis 12 to a humiliating experience in the latter verses of the chapter. After traveling to Egypt to escape famine, Abram was dishonest with Pharaoh in telling him that Sarai, his wife, was his sister. Pharaoh took Sarai to be his wife, but his household came down with terrible sickness, and Abram and his family was kicked out of Egypt, even being paid handsomely to leave.

God's plan for Abram prevailed, but in Egypt, Abram made Him famous for the wrong reasons. God promised Abram blessings, and fulfilled the promise in spite of Abram's actions of distrust and fear.

God remains good! God's will is ultimately done! What remains to be seen is what will *we*, His children, make Him famous for when given the opportunity. All of us face doubt and fear. They are arrows Satan constantly shoots at us. In the face of this, what I wish for is to be able to make Him famous for His goodness even in the face of such doubt and fear.

Fear and doubt make poor friends. Pray that the better friends of trust and courage of God will fill you *before* you think you even need them.

Every blessing in Christ,

James Johnson
Lead Pastor

James.Johnson@floridaconference.com

(813) 205-1554



This Week's Online Worship Services

- **Message:** “A Beautiful Inconvenience: Do Something,” by James Johnson.
- **Scripture:** James 1:19-27, read by Eleora Joseph.
- **Online Connection Card,** “My Next Step” with Jesus: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FL5SSZW>
- **Featured Offering:** Florida Advance, brought to us by Bill Allen. 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:** Karen Wilcox
- **Family Prayer:** Edna Quinones

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?>
- **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/84523787323?>
- **Adult Quarterly 1**(George Crawford): Sabbath, 10:00 AM, <https://zoom.us/j/914391071>
- **Adult Quarterly 2** (Jack Carey): Sabbath, 10:00 AM, <https://zoom.us/j/601759026>
- **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.



Re-Convening



We are looking forward to being able to meet together to worship again on **July 11!** Please understand, there is much that will change. We all are dealing with a “new normal,” and circumstances may change between now and then. The service will begin at **11:00 AM** and will last about an hour. Here’s what we envision for the near future:

- Being able to provide a streamlined, on-site worship opportunity for about 125 attendees while to continue to provide livestream services for others who remain home (especially for those who are at higher risk of contracting the Coronavirus— immunocompromised and the elderly).
- Providing children’s materials online for parents to bring during the service to accompany a children’s feature.
- Continuing to provide excellent online Sabbath Schools throughout the Sabbath that can meet at times that best meet the needs of each class while accommodating those who attend in person.
- Moving to the use of online, digital bulletins and other materials we once provided on paper.

- Other possibilities, including a vespers that goes deeper, at-home praise opportunities, and smaller, networked, home-based worship groups.

As we are concerned for the health and safety of those who are most vulnerable to the Coronavirus, we encourage you to consider your risk factor carefully before attending. If you have felt ill in the least, we ask that you enjoy the service online from your home. In order to do this safely and well, the following measures will be in place:

- Please bring a mask and a water bottle. Water fountains will be shut off. We will have a limited number of masks available at the church facility.
- Upon arrival, plan to park on either side of the entrance and to approach the entrance from the side you park on. Once parked, an attendant will come to your vehicle to ask how everyone in your vehicle is feeling, or if anyone has recently been ill, and will take a touch-free temperature check.
- We ask you to enter through the main lobby entrance. At the end of the service, plan to exit through the exterior door closest to you. Each exterior door will be opened and closed by an attendant, who should be the only person to touch the door handle. All interior doors will remain open at all times.
- Seats are spaced apart, and tables will be provided for families with children.
- Only the fellowship hall, foyer, and bathrooms will be used. We ask that the foyer be used only as a pass-through after entering the facility, and for ladies to get to the restroom. Men are asked to access the men's room through the B-wing rear exit. We ask that only three people be in either restroom at the same time. Disinfectant wipes will be provided in the restroom for each person to wipe down the area he/she used after each use.
- We encourage you to take advantage of online giving for returning tithes and giving offerings (adventistgiving.org). You may request a "Tithes and Offering" envelope from an attendant, and physical tithes and offerings will be collected at the end of the service at central locations near the fellowship hall stage and in the lobby as you exit.
- Unfortunately, at this time there will be no congregational singing as this has been a major way that the Coronavirus has been transmitted at many churches nationwide.

We realize that this is a lot to consider! Please understand we are doing everything we can to ensure the safety of as many as possible. To that end, we ask that you take a brief survey as a way to respond to this and let us know if you plan to attend in person, will continue viewing from home, or are undecided. We would also like to know if you are interested in the small group idea.

Here is the link to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CBH7CBT>

"Total Community Involvement" (TCI)

Our **COVID-19 Food Distribution** is scheduled for Sundays from 2:00 – 3:30 PM on the following dates: June 28, Sunday, July 19, and August 16.

Sunset Schedule

Friday, June 26: 8:28 PM • Sabbath, June 27: 8:28 PM

