

# Avon Park Christian Church

ACCLAIM

AUGUST

2020

## ***To Study the Bible or NOT to Study the Bible...should this even be a question?***

Recently I read an article about a couple being fined in California for holding a Bible Study in their home. The short of the story is they had more than 3 people in attendance. Therefore, they were fined \$300.00 and threatened with a \$500.00 fine for any future studies. [https://thestir.cafemom.com/politics\\_views/126360/couple\\_fined\\_for\\_studying\\_bible](https://thestir.cafemom.com/politics_views/126360/couple_fined_for_studying_bible)

Any regulation that prohibits more than three people from getting together at one time to study the Word of God seems to bring into question the First Amendment right to freedom of religion and freedom of assembly. I'm not sharing this article for political debate. I am sharing it because the time has come for Christians to stand up for their right to honor God. We are living in a time right now where people are telling us through laws and notice what we can do and not do. I understand taking precautions for healthy living. I understand a need to limit how many people are safe in a limited space. But what is happening is people are so scared right now of what may or may not happen that they are allowing a separation from God to be mandated in their lives. Church attendance has dropped-fear has risen. The church has and is being forced to close its doors due to an inability to meet financial obligations. And now, fining people if they choose to hold a Bible study in their home where friends can come together to grow closer to God through His Word.

We offer opportunities for people to come to worship. The question has been posed about restarting a Bible study. To meet the necessary requirements for social/public distancing, the wearing of masks, and providing a sanitizer for your protection, the study would probably need to be held at the church. The question that was asked was ***"WILL YOU ATTEND?"***

Folks, it is time we get back to the practice of being the church. We don't need to worry about fines. We don't need to worry about PPE (Public Protection Equipment). What we do need to consider is our "Personal Growth" through the scriptures in this day and time. I want to encourage you to be in prayer about your decision in joining our Bible study. We are asking you to please respond to the church office by phone or card to let us know if you will attend? The date to resume has been set for ***August 16th at 6:00pm*** here at the ***Church building***. We really need to hear from you to make plans/arrangements.

Remember, this time is not to subject you to any possibility of illness. We are hoping to provide you with a safe environment, fellowship in coming together, while we study of the Bible, the teachings of God to His children. Our prayer is that this newsletter and information inside find you healthy, living in the peace that God provides. God bless....Pastor Greg

## **Sharing Through Caring Program**

Our Sharing Through Caring Program is undergoing a change in format. Our clothing room is doing OK. We are not having people coming in as regular as we have had in the past. Our food (bag) need has slowed down due to the Coronavirus pandemic, I'm certain. But even more than that, we are once again partnering with The Church Service Center to aide people at this time. Under new management the Center now receives food delivered directly to them for distribution. Their financial blessings have increased and they are now prepared to handle a greater influx of people.

Therefore, we are now sending people in need with a card from our church stating that we have recommending the help they are seeking come from The Church Service Center.

We appreciate all that you have done to help in the past. We are still providing food bags through our office. That means we still have need of items, but not as much as before. Please watch the bulletin or listen for updates when we find we are running low on supplies.

Again, thank you for your help and generosity. We are also providing a "Mission Gift" monthly to The Church Service Center. If you would like to help meet this commitment, please make your donations to the Church and let Ricky know this is for The Church Service Center Monthly Mission. God bless you. Pastor Greg

**We're Missing You!** So many folks are choosing to stay home these days on the advise of health officials. The problem is staying away from the church is affecting the church and its ministries. Staying home is a wise decision; no one disputes that fact. However, you can still be a vital part of the church by participating in ministries from your home. For example: telephone calls to those missing from service to check and see if there is anything the church can do to help them. Labeling, folding, and mailing newsletters on behalf of the church. Participating in Worship and Bible studies from home by video or phone teleconference. These are just a few of the ministries you can assist in.

Whatever your choice, we pray that you choose to fulfill the ministry of the church by connecting yourself with opportunities that can be done from home. We still have open doors to meet whatever needs become available. Contact the church office and volunteer to help to keep the gospel message alive today.

## ***Birthdays***

*August 03 ~ Mark Parent*

*August 10 ~ Mark Walton*

*August 11 ~ Ruth Dance*

*August 13 ~ Dean Ellicott*

*August 28 ~ Teresa Ratliff*

## ***Anniversaries***

*August 01 ~ Mike & Cindy Smith*

*August 08 ~ Sal & Pat Sboto*

***Upcoming Events*** As of the mailing of this newsletter, no additional events have been planned. Unfortunately, we are still asked to limit our meetings and study times due to the Coronavirus/Covid 19. As soon as we are able, plans will be set for as breakfast, a movie night, a game night, and so on. We understand the inconvenience this causes in Christian growth. Until then, we pray you are watching Worship services and daily devotions on our YouTube channel. If you need help accessing these, please contact Tony at the church office Monday-Friday 8am-12pm. He will be happy to assist you.

The site addresses are:

***<https://cutt.ly/Tyd36lT>***

Or Our webpage at

<https://www.avonparkchristianchurch.com>

*God bless...Pastor Greg*

***Acts 16:5 So the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily.***

*Psalm 40:8 "I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart."*



**Jesus first at  
Avon Park  
Christian Church**



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**Weekly Services**

**Sunday 10 am** Morning Worship in church or Live Stream on YouTube  
Watch for updates on resuming our Bible study

**Knights of God's Army**

The Youth of Avon Park Christian Church has come together to decide that we are the Knights of God's Army. Please be in prayer for these young Knights as they prepare to reenter back to school this month. As you can imagine they will be facing all sorts of new adventures. Three of our youth are starting their Freshman year in High School, one will be a Senior, and the others starts their new year at Middle School for the first time. These are truly trying times for each and every one of these young Knights. We have spent the summer months doing online lessons every week, working around the church in various needs, and we have now started a daily devotional for our youth. In the coming months we are hoping to pick back up on our in-person lessons and activities that we need to help cultivate these young minds and hearts to truly become the Knights of God's Army. With school starting they will be facing a new host of difficulties with the Covid-19 protocols put in place at their schools. Please be sure to encourage and support them in both prayer and words as they face challenges the likes they have never seen before. Stay tuned for new opportunities with the youth.

*Tony Ratliff*

**August 2020**

**Servers**

**Open Up/Lock Up:**

Tony Ratliff

**Hosts:**

Kelli Ratliff (Sanctuary)  
Cordi Ratliff (Sanctuary)

**Communion Meditation:**

Sal Sboto  
Lee Taylor  
Greg Ratliff  
Ricky Helms  
John Kornegay

**Communion to the Sick:**

Sal Sboto  
Lee Taylor  
Greg Ratliff  
Ricky Helms  
John Kornegay

**Communion Preparations:**

Kelli & Cordi Ratliff

**Communion Servers:**

Communion Servers are selected weekly.

**JAM Class:**

Kelli Ratliff

**Women's Ministry & Women's Bible Study**

The Women's Ministry and Bible Study will resume at the start of 2021. Please contact Susan Taylor for more information on the date and study material.

**WORD SEARCH!**  
**BACK TO SCHOOL**

FIND AND CIRCLE THE WORDS ON THE LIST... WORDS MAY BE FOUND ACROSS, DOWN, OR DIAGONALLY  
--FORWARDS, BACKWARDS, AND SOMETIMES OVERLAPPING. HAVE FUN!

<b>WORD LIST</b>	P H C G W J A X L I B E R P
ACADEMY	M T A R E H C A E T Q C S V
ALGEBRA	C A F L P O N U Q U A N R F
BELL	A M E B L Y G U M R K E E Z
BLACKBOARD	U H T L I M E R B B A I K U
BOOKS	Q U E I T Z O E A D R C C S
BUS	L B R T E D G N I P L S O T
CAFETERIA	P N I E R L O N I A H L L U
CHALK	L D A R A S G H S T F Y A D
CIVICS	A Y D U T S Z S W T O Y D E
CLASS	Y L O E U G E O M E T R Y N
DESK	G O V E R N M E N T A O M T
GEOGRAPHY	R O T N E R M E V O G T E S
GEOMETRY	O H C H A L K C B L I S D Y
GOVERNMENT	U C I D K M S K O O B I A R
HALL MONITOR	N S V Q V Q C U J B F H C W
HISTORY	D V I E G A U G N A L E A G
LANGUAGE	M E C C L I B R A R Y S S T
LIBRARY	W Z S B I X U T H U R S D A
LITERATURE	N O J K G S S E C E R B L P
LOCKERS	
MATH	
PLAYGROUND	
READING	
RECESS	
SCHOOL	
SCIENCE	
STUDENT	
STUDY	
TEACHER	

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**School Supplies**

In years past we have helped with school supplies for our youth. Once again we are offering you the opportunity to assist in this need. As different schools and classes ask for differing supplies, we once again ask you to pick up a list at the Welcome Center with a student's name and supply needs. Of course, we are not asking that you supply every need on the sheets. If you are able, any help is appreciated.

**Just a Note:** Before we were all affected by the Coronavirus or Covid-19, we had planned a Homecoming 2020 for March 29th during a Worship service. We will reschedule this meeting in 2021. Please pray about this meeting. God bless you all!

**Please be in prayer!** We have had many people this Spring and Summer who have undergone many illnesses and surgeries. Please continue to pray daily for your brothers and sisters at Avon Park Christian Church.

*Mark 10:52 "Go," said Jesus, 'your faith has healed you.' Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road."*