

# Jacksonville 1<sup>st</sup> Church Gazette

April 2026

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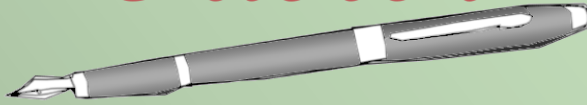
Church Calendar

Did You Know?



Christ was crucified for our sins, and was raised from the rent sepulcher for our justification; and He proclaims in triumph, "I am the resurrection, and the life." Jesus lives as our intercessor to plead before the Father. He has carried the sins of the whole world, and has not made one mortal man a sin-bearer for others. No man can bear the weight of his own sins. The crucified One bore them all, and every soul who believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

# From the Pastor



## “Peace From Above”

**“1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” (John 14:1–3, KJV)**

One of the most beautiful promises ever given to humanity is that God will never leave us alone. In John 14, Jesus begins by reminding us not to let our hearts be troubled. Why? Because in our human nature, we tend to worry—sometimes about even the smallest things. Jesus knew the trials He was about to face, yet His words carry a deep sense of peace. It is just like our Savior to comfort His children, especially in moments of difficulty. This is what makes our heavenly Father so loving and so incredible.

This message is especially important for us today as we navigate uncertain times. God reminds us that just as Christ's trials came to an end, ours will too. And if that promise were not enough, John 14:27 offers an additional assurance—a peace that still abides with us today. **“27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. 28 Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I. 29 And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.” (John 14:27–29, KJV)**

May this promise strengthen your heart and fill your home with Christ's peace this month.

**Jacksonville First SDA Church**  
Senior Pastor: Pastor Abner Rodriguez



## Lift Him Up the Risen Saviour

The time had come for Christ to ascend to His Father's throne. As a divine conqueror He was about to return with the trophies of victory to the heavenly courts. Before His death He had declared to His Father,

"I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do" ([John 17:4](#)).

After His resurrection He tarried on earth for a season, that His disciples might become familiar with Him in His risen and glorified body. Now He was ready for the leave-taking. He had authenticated the fact that He was a living Saviour. His disciples need no longer associate Him with the tomb. They could think of Him as glorified before the heavenly universe.



## Summer Pesto Noodle Salad

### Ingredients:

#### Pesto Sauce

- 1 large bunch of fresh basil, leaves picked and rinsed
- 1 1/2 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 1/2 tablespoon nutritional yeast (or sub with parmesan cheese)
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 teaspoon miso paste
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled
- 1/4 cup walnuts

#### SALAD:

- 2 Large Summer Squash
- 1 Large Yellow Peach, peeled & diced
- 1 Cup Cherry Tomatoes

#### Step 1

In a food processor, blend the basil, oil, nutritional yeast, lemon juice, miso paste, salt, garlic, and walnuts together until smooth. Set aside.

#### Step 2

Spiralize the squash using Blade B. Once the squash has been spiralized, I like to give all the noodles several rough chops so that they're easy to eat (otherwise, the noodles are too long). Chop up the parts of the squash that did not get spiralized and add them to the salad. If you do not have a spiralizer, create vegetable noodles with a julienne peeler or vegetable ribbons with a regular peeler.

#### Step 3

In a large bowl, toss the noodles, diced peaches, cherry tomatoes, and 1/3 to 1/2 cup of the pesto sauce together.

#### Step 4

Store the unused pesto and leftover salad in separate containers and refrigerate.



## **Everything You Should Know About the Benefits of Squash**

**High in vitamins C and B6, plus beta-carotene, squash helps with heart and eye health.**

Winter and summer squash are low in calories and fat, and both are excellent sources of vitamin C. They also contain fiber, B vitamins and important minerals such as potassium and magnesium.

Squash contains antioxidants, which prevent cellular damage caused by free radicals. Antioxidants are a nutritional jackpot for your body — no risk and all reward.

Beta-carotene is an antioxidant found in squash. Your body transforms beta-carotene into the essential nutrient vitamin A. Studies have also linked beta-carotene to a lower risk of cancers, including: Non-Hodgkin lymphoma., Cervical cancer, Lung cancer, Bladder cancer.

Squash is rich in minerals, including calcium. Calcium helps build and maintain healthy bones and teeth. The vitamins A and C in squash also help keep your bones healthy. In fact, a 2017 review of studies linked vitamin A deficiency to an increased risk of bone fractures.

Squash is a great source of iron. Iron deficiency can cause a host of problems, including anemia. Getting enough iron doesn't just help prevent and treat anemia.

Squash is a smorgasbord of powerhouse vitamins, including vitamins A and C. Studies show that vitamin A can help protect your eyes and plays a role in preventing night blindness and age-related macular degeneration.

Studies show that vitamin C and beta-carotene are good for skin health. Vitamin C is also connected with wrinkle prevention and wound healing.

# Inspirational Story



## A Single Gesture Of Love

Not everything you learn in school comes in the classroom. Sometimes academia falls short. Sometimes the wisest lessons come at the most unlikely times. One of the greatest lessons I ever learned didn't come from a book or a teacher but from a little girl in elementary school.

It was at lunchtime. We were all sitting at the tables in the lunchroom eating a hot lunch. Now the hot lunches the school provided weren't always the best but they did have the most delicious hot rolls. Often I would trade my dessert with someone just to get an extra hot roll. We lived in a poor area so most of us qualified for a free lunch. Some of the parents at that time, however, made a few dollars too much so their kids had to buy their lunch every day even if they struggled to afford it. It was only later in the year that I noticed one boy who sometimes ate lunch with us and sometimes just sat at the table with nothing. I finally realized that his parents couldn't afford to buy his lunch every single day.

One day he was sitting at the table trying not to look hungry when a little girl across from me handed him her hot roll. "I'm full," she said. "Do you want this?" The boy happily accepted then I handed him my hot roll. "I'm stuffed too," I said. The little girl and I smiled shyly at each other while he ate his rolls. And from that day on whenever he sat with us without a tray we made sure that he at least got something to eat.

That little girl taught me something that I carry in my heart to this day. She taught me that a single gesture of love can influence a life, a single gesture of love can help to change the world. I am sure God smiled down on her that first time she shared her food with a hungry boy.

To this day I try to fill my days with as many gestures of love as I can. To this day I try to share my kindness with everyone I meet. To this day I try to follow that little girl's example and live in a way that makes God smile and the angels sing. May we all do the same.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



Jacksonville First S.D.A  
Church Presents

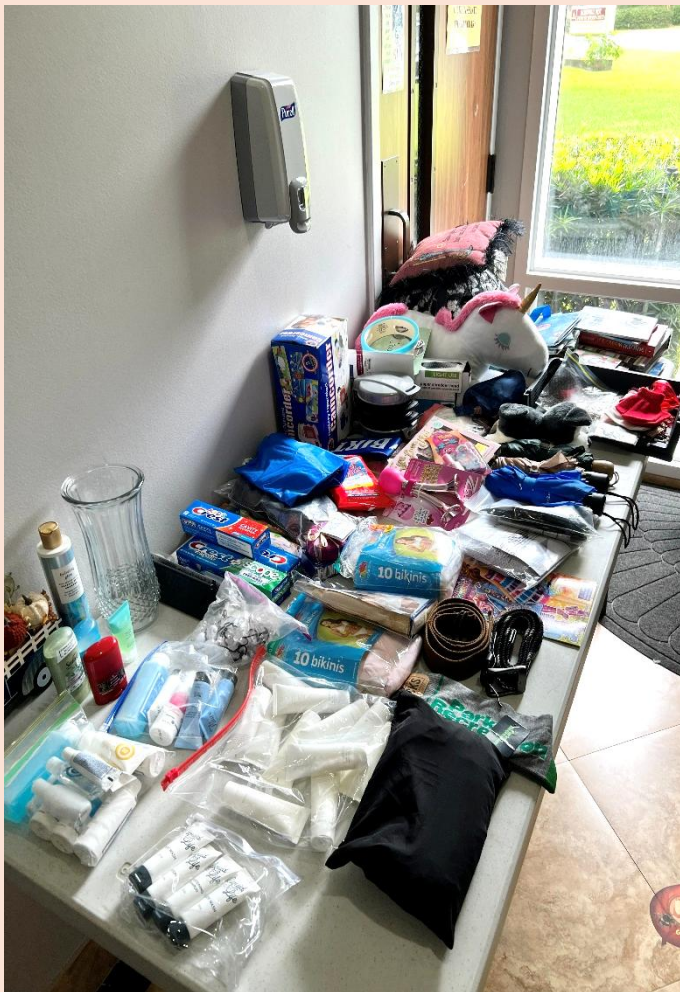
## Grand Clothing Giveaway

**April 26, 2025**  
**2pm-5pm**

Clothes, and shoes available for  
all ages and occasions. New to  
Gently used!!

Jacksonville First S.D.A Church  
7951 Lenox Ave, 32221

904-781-8550  
Refreshments Provided  
Donations Appreciated





## Join Us On April 25<sup>th</sup> For Game Night!

We'll kick off the evening with a fun round of Bible Trivia during vespers, followed by lively rounds of our favorite family board games. Have a favorite game you love to play? Bring it along and share the fun with everyone!

Light refreshments will be provided.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with setup and cleanup—please see Sabrina Delacruz for more details.

### **Calendar Dates:**

#### **April 11**

2:00-5:00p PF Meeting

2:30-4:30p Adventurer Meeting

#### **April 12**

2:00-4:00p God's Closet Organization

#### **April 13**

7:00p Church Board Meeting

#### **April 25**

2:00-5:00p PF Meeting

2:30-4:30 Adventurer Meeting

7:00p Game Night! (following vespers program)

#### **April 26**

2:00-4:00p God's Closet Give Away



## Global Youth Day 2026

Global Youth Day, which began on March 13, 2013, was created with the vision to "recapture the reality of Adventist youth as a global movement mobilized for service, contributing to the proclamation of the everlasting gospel and ushering in the second coming of Jesus Christ"

(gcyouthministries.org)

This year, that vision came to life in a powerful way through the Jacksonville First Church. With hearts ready to serve, our youth and church members stepped into the community to distribute hygiene kits made possible by the generous donations of our church family.

But what we experienced went far beyond simply handing out supplies. We paused to listen, to connect, and to pray with those we met. Moments of kindness turned into moments of ministry, reminding us that even small acts of service can carry a lasting impact.

This experience has ignited a passion within our group. What started as a single day of service has inspired a greater vision—to continue reaching our community in meaningful ways. It is our desire to make community service a quarterly outreach, allowing us to consistently share God's love in both word and action.



# PIANO & VOICE LESSONS

Music Educators for Christ is a Christian music company created to provide foundational support to the Christian Church and to preserve African American Sacred Choral Music, dedicated to lifting composers who are actively writing music.



## Our Services


- Private Piano & Voice Lessons
  - \$100 for 4 forty-five minute lessons per month
- Vocal Coaching Lessons \$25 for each 45 minute session
- Lessons available on Wednesdays & Sundays starting at 1 p.m. last student at 6 p.m.



Jax 1st SDA Members: 904-487-4312



Non-Members: 904-207-9801

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Friday	Sabbath
			1	2	3  Sunset: 6:28	4 Speaker: Pastor Abner Rodriguez  Sunset: 6:29
5	6	7	8	9	10  Sunset: 7:33	11 Speaker: Elder Evelyn Exon  Fellowship Lunch  Sunset: 7:34
12	13	14	15	16	17  Sunset: 7:38	18 Speaker: Elder Leonard Grant  Sunset: 7:38
19	20	21	22	23	24  Sunset: 7:42	25 Speaker: Pastor Abner Rodriguez  Sunset: 7:43
26	27	28	29	30		

## REMINDER~ Did you know?

⌘ You can pay your tithes and offerings online at  
<https://adventistgiving.org/>

⌘ There is a church page where you can update your contact information and upload a picture of yourself for the directory. You can also access the Adventist Giving Site from there as well.  
<https://my.eadventist.net/login>

⌘ You can see the recent bulletin, register for events and more by visiting our church website <https://jaxsda.org/>