

May Birthdays

Aubrey Crow	5/1
Wayne Geiger	5/4
Ava Mondragon	5/5
Dylan Wilson	5/8
Eddie Tracy	5/9
Bobbie Sue Goetz	5/10
Donna King	5/10
Kathy Stanley	5/10
Elaine Clark	5/11
Bob Kerr	5/11
Nathan Key	5/12
Ron Stallard	5/12
Bob Parry	5/19
Victor Galvan	5/21
Julie Key	5/22
Bree Vandergriff	5/22
Kaitlyn Randall	5/25
Peggy Hinds	5/26
Diane Moore	5/26
Barry Smith	5/26
Cindy Strobel	5/26
Danny Holmes	5/27
Ben Weiler	5/28
Lynn Carroll	5/29
Dawson Poor	5/29
Daniel Crotzer	5/30
Jerry Huff	5/31



Summer Camp is one of the most exciting events for our children and teens! Jan-Kay Ranch in beautiful Detroit, TX., offers a full range of activities to be enjoyed!

Teen Camp: June 29 - July 4
 Junior Camp July 13 - 18

There are still spots available and scholarships too. It's not too late to sign up!!

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

I Cor. 15:1-5

Join Our On-Line Services

Until we are able to meet together in our auditorium, we will continue to have church services on-line. We start at 10:30 with worship videos and then the service starts at 11:00 a.m.

If you'd like to join us, please let us know and we will send you a link to join us on the video conferencing program called Zoom.

The Youth Group is meeting on Zoom every Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. They also have small groups meeting on line led by Pastor Ken and the Youth Leaders.

Eric & Karen Holmes are posting interactive videos on Facebook for the children of our church. Please contact us for an invite to this group.



Monthly Prayer Meeting

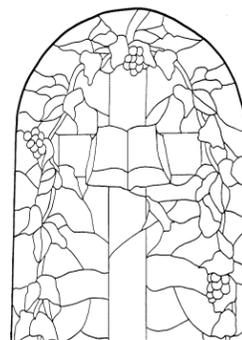
Please join us on-line as we use Zoom for our prayer meeting on Saturday, May 2, at 9:00 a.m. Please contact Pastor Bob for a link to join the meeting.

National Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 7. We will gather here at CCBC at 7:00 p.m. to pray for our church, community and country. Rick Menasco is co-ordinating this event. If we are unable to meet here at the church we will hold the prayer meeting on Zoom.

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Cedar Creek Connection

A MINISTRY OF CEDAR CREEK BIBLE CHURCH



*"Making a Difference...
 ...by Making Disciples"*

Volume 25, Number 5

May 2020

JOIN US

Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
Worship Service	11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Night	6:30 p.m.



CONTACT US

Bob Parry
 Senior Pastor
 903.887.2670
 bobparry.ccbc@gmail.com

Ken Emerson
 Assistant Pastor
 903.880.9701
 emerson.ken@gmail.com

Church Office
 903.432.2175

www.ccbctx.org

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Essential

The Covid 19 pandemic has made that word the essential word of the year! We now live in a world where there are essential employees, essential retail stores, essential services, and even essential household supplies. What's amazing is what qualifies as essential and what is considered to be non-essential.

A quick glance at the Webster's Dictionary provides us with this working definition:

Essential: adjective absolutely necessary; extremely important, indispensable

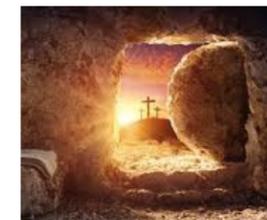
Which begs us to ask ourselves this question - What does God say is essential? What is absolutely necessary, extremely important, indispensable when it comes to my relationship with Christ? The apostle Paul provides us with the answer in his first letter to the church at Corinth.

To the question, what is essential? Paul says, *"that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve."*

I Corinthians 15 is Paul's great treatise on the Resurrection, the essential cornerstone of our faith. Of the Resurrection, Paul will say in verse 14, *"if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, your faith also is vain."* Apart from the Resurrection you and I have nothing. Everything that we believe is rooted in that great truth that when Christ died on the cross, He defeated death on our behalf.

Here's why that matters. Verse 16, *"For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins."* In order for you and I to pass from Death unto Life, Christ had to first defeat death, conquer sin, and make a way available for you and I.

The essential element of our faith is the Resurrection. Apart from that truth everything else that God's Word declares becomes very non-essential. May each of us live out each day mindful of the hope that anchors our soul in the midst of a very stormy world.



CCBC Statement of Purpose

Cedar Creek Bible Church is a nondenominational, local, Bible-centered church founded for the purpose of glorifying God. Based upon Scriptural imperatives, CCBC is committed to the worship of God and the preparation of His people in the Cedar Creek area for evangelism and works of service through obedience to Christ and the Scriptures.

Recognizing that the Church is a living body designed by God Himself to be His agent of witness and evangelism in and to all the world, CCBC seeks to fulfill its God given purpose by making disciples through acts of worship which involve:

1. **Teaching** – to stand for the historic, fundamental, Christian truths for the purpose of equipping the saints for the work of service, for the building up of the body of Christ which is demonstrated by the attaining of unity, increasing knowledge of God, and maturity in Christ.
2. **Fellowship** – to provide opportunities for the development of meaningful relationships through acts of service which results in the maintaining of the unity of the body.
3. **Prayer and Public Praise** – to provide a context for expressions of public praise and private and public prayers.
4. **Observance of the Ordinances** – to regularly administer the ordinances of believer's baptism and the Lord's supper. and which result in the:
5. **Evangelization of the Lost** – to actively participate in world evangelism (both in the local community and around the world) and to encourage and train God's people to have an effective influence and loving ministry in the society in which they find themselves.

The expressed purpose of this philosophy of ministry is to guide in the application of every part of the ministry to the attainment of this goal.

Baptism

Is baptism essential? For salvation? No! For discipleship? Yes! Baptism is not a work we do in order to be saved. It plays no role in gaining our salvation. When Jesus said from the cross "It is finished!" He was declaring that every work and sacrifice that was necessary for salvation had been completed by Him. We do not add to it by anything we do. Baptism is not a work we do in order to be saved. Baptism is a picture, a symbol, of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection and it is something we do because we are saved. By making this public declaration of baptism, we are identifying with Jesus and His Church and telling everyone that we have put our faith in Him alone for salvation.

Baptism is one of two ordinances of the church. The Lord's Supper is the other ordinance. Both of these are for believers only. Baptism is commanded by Jesus for every believer (See Matthew 28:18-20). Every believer should be baptized. Sometimes we ask children to wait until the age of eight years or older to ensure that they understand this issue and so that they will remember it when they are older. We believe that baptism is only for believers and not for infants who are unaware of what baptism means. If you have never been baptized, please pray about this issue and feel free to talk with an elder or the pastoral staff. Baptism is essential, not for salvation, but in order to be obedient to what Jesus has commanded us to do.

Church Membership

Is church membership essential? For salvation? No! For discipleship? No! For the ability to be a part of a local church where you have a vote in the choosing of leaders, how our money is spent, and what programs we do? Yes! Nowhere does Jesus command us to become a member of any organization. But in order to conduct the business of the church, it is necessary to have officers, organization, and delegation to ensure that God's work gets done. You do not have to be a member to attend any of our services, including the congregational business meeting. If you'd like to become a member, please see an elder or the pastoral staff. Church membership is not essential for salvation or discipleship, but it is essential to have a group of believers who have made a commitment to do the business of the church in a God honoring way.

A Time to Hope



Back in the day, when I was a college student, I was trying to capture time with my camera. I set up at the shallow part of a river and held the shutter open for time to pass. When my prints came back— maybe that was the time experiment, but there were no digital cameras yet, so the wait for prints just felt normal—I remember feeling disappointed about the result. The riverbank, trees, and rocks were clear and their colors deep, but the moving water flowed like a ghost. The clear water with distinct ripples and eddies that I hoped would create interesting patterns, when the time element was added, instead became a milky blur.

Friends I've spoken with have seen it, too. These continuous days in isolation become a blur. Daily contacts are limited and monotonous, so that days run together and uncertainty renders the future opaque and tentative. For us, a plan that we thought was coming together for our next steps is now on hold.

Trying to make sense of it all is difficult, and certainly finding understanding is more accurately done in retrospect. But Paul offered a view of his own experience for us to learn from. In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, he tells them about enduring the hardships he and his friends suffered in the province of Asia:

We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. (2 Co 1:8-11, NIV)

In retrospect, Paul recognized that the practical benefit of that dreadful hardship was to recognize their own powerlessness and to shift their reliance from themselves onto God. Our Father, who raised Christ from the dead, can deliver us from the deadly peril of our circumstances, and he will deliver us from the vacuity of death.

What a great time to be celebrating Easter! The real stuff and substance of our Lord's resurrection speaks to our experience of this present crisis. Though the epidemic threatens, we can rely on God who has freed us of the weight of our sin and who has shown us the first fruits of the resurrection, our living Savior who will keep his promise to raise us to life with him. As we see clearly our timeless God and Savior to set our hope on him, let's help one another by our prayers. -- *Ken Morrow*

What's Next?

Is God reminding us through this world-wide health and economic crisis to worship Him alone? To focus on reconciling people to Him rather than the Idols our world is focusing on?

Believers should think about ministry as a first, second or third career. Understand the process, feelings, and the possibility of being called to serve part time or full time in a faith-based ministry. God always provides for His purpose.

MissionNext is a safe, Bible based, experienced ministry that can help you make a difference among the nations with options to serve home or abroad, short-term or as a next career. For more information, please contact me at: Mikeg@missionnext.org or 903 603 9564. -- *Mike Gallagher*



Youth Mission Trip

The Youth Mission Team is still hoping that they can go to south Texas at the end of July to work with our missionary Bob Kerr. They have already started training and meeting together on Zoom to practice songs, lessons, and sharing the gospel. Please pray that they will be able to go on this trip. Even if they cannot go, they are still learning how to share the gospel!