

<u>Times of Services</u>	
<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>
9:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Worship	7:00 p.m. Bible Study
<u>Other Study and Worship Opportunities</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pines/Cady Hills Bible Study -Sun. & Thurs. at 7:00 p.m. • Young Bible Scholars –April 14, 6:00 p.m. • Lady’s Bible Classes at YMCA – To be announced. • Sunday Sermon is recorded and placed on Darrell Powell’s Facebook page and can be viewed later when posted. • Second Sunday Neighborhood Bible Study – 3:30 p.m. TBA • Third Sunday – Trinity Care Home Service - 1:30 p.m. • Fourth Sunday Song Service following 10:00 a.m. sermon • Our Gospel Meeting - April 23-28, with Colby Junkin 	
<u>News and Notes</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer Requests: Patsy Chunn, Jim Ratcliff, Wade McCrary, Doug Wheeler, Steve and LaNette Coburn, Mike Butler, Lee Gallop, the Andy Elliott Family, Steve and LaNette Coburn. Cindy Nutt requests our prayers for her grandchildren and family. Sick: Steve Coburn is undergoing medical diagnostic tests. Patsy Chunn is taking cancer medications. Mike Butler had successful stomach surgery in Jackson on March 23rd. He is home now recuperating. Rebecca Powell suffered a fall on March 10 and had to undergo surgery in Memphis, TN. She is now recuperating at home. Benny Parker is being treated for kidney stones and had another treatment in late April. 	
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East Columbus Bulletin

Our Gospel Meeting

Our spring Gospel Meeting will be April 23 – 28, with Colby Junkin from Florence, Alabama. Lesson titles are:

- (4/23) 9:00 AM Bible Class - *Water and the Bible*
- (4/23) 10:00 AM Worship - *One Day with the Shepherd*
- (4/24) 7:00 PM Monday - *Wait and Listen*
- (4/25) 10:00 AM Tuesday - *Faith: Trust in God*
- (4/25) 7:00 PM Tuesday - *Rahab - Past versus Future*
- (4/26) 7:00 PM Wednesday - *Faithful Endurance*
- (4/27) 10:00 AM Thursday - *A Challenge to Trust*
- (4/27) 7:00 PM Thursday - *Maintaining Unity in Marriage*
- (4/28) 7:00 PM Friday - *Unity of God’s People*

What can I do for this Gospel Meeting?

- Pray for a successful meeting, for receptive hearts, for good weather, for our own attitudes to be in tune to spiritual truth and service to others.
- Pray for Colby Junkin, for his preparations, for his safety, for his family.
- Invite other congregations, our friends, neighbors, and others to attend.
- Clear our calendars to attend all the services we possibly can
- Encourage one another to attend and offer transportation for those who cannot drive at night.
- Thank God daily that we have opportunities like this to worship, learn and encourage one another.

Life is Worth Living!

Reports of suicide among young people sadden us. Such reports are strikingly similar: the young person faced a situation that seemed beyond repair to the young person. Perhaps they faced shame and humiliation for an indiscretion and sin that became public. Perhaps they were being bullied by others. Perhaps it was a deep depression that led them to what they thought was the only option they had left. We ought to be immediately concerned when someone thinks the only way out of a difficult situation is to end his or her life.

Suicide is irreversible. Without debating the mental state of one who takes his life, we can confidently affirm that suicide is not the only alternative available to one's dilemmas.

A society that presumes social status and acceptance along with material possessions defines happiness and success devalues life. The world always offers a distorted view of a happy life (see 1 Timothy 6:6-10).

Life is a great gift from God (Genesis 2:7). Eternal life in the Son is even greater (1 John 5:11; Ephesians 1:3). Suicide leaves nothing but pain, sorrow and questions to those who remain. The gospel answer to sin and trouble brings forgiveness and the joy of a new life in Christ (John 3:3-5; 2 Corinthians 5:17).

Suicide expresses helplessness, but Jesus Christ is the great Helper of all who come to Him. Suicide, whether contemplated or applied, reveals helplessness of heart. That is the perception; it is not the reality. There is always help, whatever trial and trouble you face. You may be facing financial ruin, bullying or some other trial. Whatever it is, Jesus said to come to Him and He will give you rest (Matthew 11:28). His help saves your soul – regardless of what others say and do to you (or what you may have foolishly done to yourself and others).

Suicide expresses haplessness, but Jesus Christ is the great joy giver. Sin invariably brings sadness and sorrow to life; the way of the transgressor is hard (Proverbs 13:15). Depression can leave people with a sense of being overwhelmed with no way out. But Jesus gives a joy that no one can take from you (read John 16:22, 33). Go to Christ for salvation from your sins and in Him find peace and joy (Romans 5:1-2; Philippians 4:4).

Suicide expresses hopelessness, but Jesus Christ is the Life who gives us living hope. God raised Jesus from the dead, assuring our hope of heaven (1

Peter 1:3-5). There is no situation in your life beyond God's ability to mend and make whole. Jesus is "the Life" (John 14:6).

Let Christ live in you through faith and you will see that life truly is worth living (Galatians 2:20). This is accomplished by first hearing the gospel, believing Jesus is the Son of God and confessing your faith before men (Romans 10:17; John 8:24; Matthew 10:32-33). Then, upon repenting and being baptized for the remission of your sins, you can "go on your way rejoicing" (Acts 2:37-38, 41; 8:35-39). By faithfully following the will of Christ you can face every situation of life with confident joy and enduring hope (Hebrews 6:17-20).

Joe R. Price, The Spirit's Sword (Bellingham, WA), 10-10-10

Weeds

One of the hardest parts of a successful garden is combating the weeds that come up time and time again. Some weeds pop up within days, overtaking fruitful plants. Some weeds have roots that run deep into the soil and must be dug up.

If weeds are allowed to overtake a garden, they will eliminate any prospect of fruit to be enjoyed in the harvest. In combating weeds, it is important to daily pull them up and remain vigilant.

This same principle is true for the Christian. In Matthew 13:22 Jesus gives us an individual who receives the Word of God, but the weeds and thorns of life and the world choke this fruit out ... "He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful."

It is very hard to properly serve God if you allow distraction, sin, worldly cares, and worldliness to cover you up and choke the very fruit that God would have you to bear. You and I must be vigilant every day to pull up any roots of bitterness, envy, strife, and ungodliness ... we must not allow it a place to grow, to flourish, and ultimately choke out the fruit that God would have us to bear. Be a vigilant keeper of the garden God has given you, be a vigilant grower, and foster an environment of success by refusing to allow the distraction of weeds and thorns into your life.

Kyle Ellison, 7-13-20 Facebook post