

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Wednesday Evening Class We invite each of you to attend the mid-week Bible Study upstairs on Wednesday evening beginning at 6 p.m. We encourage you to attend these vital and exciting studies!

Church Clean-Up We will regularly have monthly church cleanings on the last Saturday of each month, beginning at 10 a.m. The next cleaning day will be on April 29, so make plans to attend and help.

Children's Church Our Children's Church is held upstairs in the Activities Room (up the steps and to the left) each Sunday morning, beginning at 11 a.m. Ages 2-10 are welcome, snacks are provided (we welcome donations), and we ask that you would please sign children in and out. If you have questions or concerns, please see Sarita Agee.

Words of Wisdom: THE STRUGGLE...

A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. One day a small opening appeared, he sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could and it could go no further.

So the man decided to help the butterfly, he took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily. But it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings. The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened! In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It never was able to fly.

What the man in his kindness and haste did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening were God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our life. If God allowed us to go through our life without any obstacles, it would cripple us. We would not be as strong as what we could have been. We could never fly.

- I asked for Strength.....And God gave me Difficulties to make me strong.
- I asked for Wisdom.....And God gave me Problems to solve.
- I asked for Prosperity.....And God gave me Brain and Brawn to work.
- I asked for Courage.....And God gave me Danger to overcome.
- I asked for Love.....And God gave me Troubled people to help.
- I asked for Favors.....And God gave me Opportunities.
- I received nothing I wanted.....I received everything I needed.





Welcome to the

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Follow Us:  "The Everlasting Covenant Church", Birmingham, AL
 "THE_ECC2015"

Eric R. Agee, Jr., Pastor

April 16, 2017

Vision Statement:



Enhancing Our Knowledge of Jesus Christ, Empowering All Believers for Ministry, and Encouraging Continuous Dedication to the Lord.

ORDER of SERVICES

Fellowship/Refreshments — 9:30 A.M.

Sunday School — 10:00 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES — 11:00 A.M.

Announcements & Recognition of Visitors

Call to Worship

Scripture Reading

Prayer

Tithes and Offerings; Prayer of Thanksgiving

Praise and Worship Selections

Sermon

Invitation to Christ

Communion Services

BENEDICTION

EASTER... Taken from <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/history-of-easter>

Easter, which celebrates Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead, is Christianity's most important holiday. It has been called a moveable feast because it doesn't fall on a set date every year, as most holidays do. Instead, Christian churches in the West celebrate Easter on the first Sunday following the full moon after the vernal equinox on March 21. Therefore, Easter is observed anywhere between March 22 and April 25 every year. Orthodox Christians use the Julian calendar to calculate when Easter will occur and typically celebrate the holiday a week or two after the Western churches, which follow the Gregorian calendar.

The exact origins of this religious feast day's name are unknown. Some sources claim the word Easter is derived from Eostre, a Teutonic goddess of spring and fertility. Other accounts trace Easter to the Latin term hebdomada alba, or white week, an ancient reference to Easter week and the white clothing donned by people who were baptized during that time. Through a translation error, the term later appeared as esostarum in Old High German, which eventually became Easter in English. In Spanish, Easter is known as Pascua; in French, Paques. These words are derived from the Greek and Latin Pascha or Pasch, for Passover. Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection occurred after he went to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover (or Pesach in Hebrew), the Jewish festival commemorating the ancient Israelites' exodus from slavery in Egypt. Pascha eventually came to mean Easter.

Easter is really an entire season of the Christian church year, as opposed to a single-day observance. Lent, the 40-day period leading up to Easter Sunday, is a time of reflection and penance and represents the 40 days that Jesus spent alone in the wilderness before starting his ministry, a time in which Christians believe he survived various temptations by the devil. The day before Lent, known as Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday, is a last hurrah of food and fun before the fasting begins. The week preceding Easter is called Holy Week and includes Maundy Thursday, which commemorates Jesus' last supper with his disciples; Good Friday, which honors the day of his crucifixion; and Holy Saturday, which focuses on the transition between the crucifixion and resurrection. The 50-day period following Easter Sunday is called Eastertide and includes a celebration of Jesus' ascension into heaven.

In addition to Easter's religious significance, it also has a commercial side, as evidenced by the mounds of jelly beans and marshmallow chicks that appear in stores each spring. As with Christmas, over the centuries various folk customs and pagan traditions, including Easter eggs, bunnies, baskets and candy, have become a standard part of this holy holiday.

SERMON NOTES

Scripture: _____

Subject: _____

Notes: _____

Enhancing Our Knowledge of Christ
Empowering All Believers for Ministry
Encouraging Continuous Dedication to the Lord