



# vision2020

PRAYING | CARING | SERVING | SPEAKING | TRAINING

**We gather with purpose,  
and we go with purpose.**

- Every Sunday a day of prayer. Every home a place of prayer.
- Every LIFEgroup enhanced by prayer.
- Every work of service surrounded by prayer.
- Every heart moved by the needs of others.
- Everyone serving the church. Everyone serving the world.
- Everyone trained in personal evangelism.
- Everyone discipling and being disciplined.
- Deliberate ministries to visitors, our children, special needs families, college students, and the economically disadvantaged.
- Four churches planted in the Lehigh Valley.
- Three missionary teams sent to Unreached People Groups.

**This is our**

# 2020 vision

PRAYING | CARING | SERVING | SPEAKING | TRAINING



Cliff Boone  
Former Senior Pastor

PRAYING | CARING | SERVING | SPEAKING | TRAINING

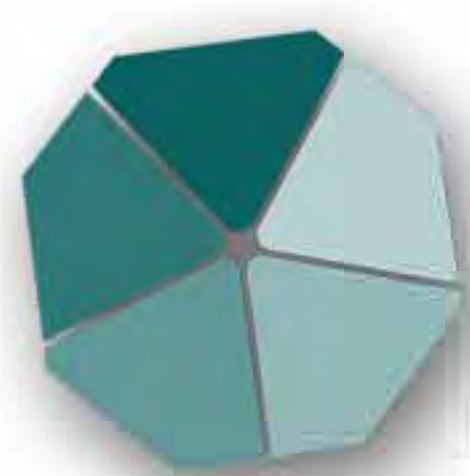
*In 2020 Cedar Crest Bible Fellowship Church* is a loving large family of Christians who whole heartedly participate in the meaningful cycle of gathering and going. We gather and we go. We gather with purpose, and we go with purpose. We gather together every Sunday to join our voices in heartfelt praise of the Triune God, to hear from Him, and to be increasingly equipped to live for Him. We gather regularly in our LIFEgroups to build significant relationships, and to participate in mutual discipleship. We go out from our gatherings to pursue our individual and family callings and to see God use us as His witnesses in the Lehigh Valley and around the world.

When we are together on Sundays we sing with enthusiasm and sincerity as our worship is led with undistracting excellence. Upgraded equipment in audio and visual technologies are in place. Those who participate in the Celebration service, including those in their 20's and 30's, find the music engaging and helpful. Those participating in the Heritage service experience a creative mixture of traditional hymns and modern praise songs.

In both services the Word of God is preached with diligence and depth. Expository studies of books of the Bible are the mainstay of our sermons, with occasional topical studies when needed. We gather together knowing that we need to hear from God. We listen intently as the Word of God is preached and, by His grace, we sense Him speaking to us. During the All-of-Life Discipleship Institute we receive practical help in living for the Lord. We cherish our time together every Sunday for we sense God inhabiting our fellowship and changing us through it.

When we are together in our LIFEgroups we participate on a deeper level in one another's lives. Our challenges and joys are not experienced alone, but with those we have grown to trust and love. We prize our time together in LIFEgroups for we sense ourselves growing as disciples of Christ and see ourselves helping others in their growth.

We gather together on Sundays and in LIFEgroups with expectation and commitment. We leave each other better equipped to glorify God in this world. Because of God's transforming work in us, as we gather and as we go we are marked by five outstanding characteristics.



## In 2020 We Are a **PRAYING** Church

Each Sunday our people gather for the worship service with a heightened sense of anticipation. A prayer meeting has occurred that morning prior to the service in which scores had gathered to implore the Lord for His blessing on our gathering. Some of those remain in the prayer room, in prayer, all through the service. A profound touch from God is sensed during the worship in song and during the preaching of the Word. When the service is over many people make their way to the front of the worship center to pray with members of the prayer team. The leaders and the prayer team finish the morning in prayer together before going home. Every Sunday is a day of prayer.

During the week, in homes sprinkled throughout the Lehigh Valley, parents lead each other and their children in prayer. With a confidence that comes from being trained, fathers and mothers open the Bible with their children and unashamedly encourage them to grow in prayer. The name of Jesus Christ is extolled on the tongues of parents and children day after day in their homes. Every home is a place of prayer.

The fellowship of our LIFEgroups is enlivened by worship-based prayer and marked by the sharing of our burdens and joys in prayer.

Whenever our people begin a work of service, whether it be on Sunday or Wednesday or any other day of the week, they gather with the others who are serving and beseech God for the supernatural grace that enables their weak efforts to bear lasting fruit. They sense God's help during their ministry. Then, after the ministry is over, but before heading home, the ministry workers gather together again to give thanks and to persevere in asking for God to make their service fruitful. Every work of service is surrounded by prayer.

Every Sunday a day of prayer.  
Every home a place of prayer. Every LIFEgroup enhanced by prayer. Every work of service surrounded by prayer.



## In 2020 We Are a **CARING** Church

Visitors and guests are genuinely welcomed on Sunday by numerous people of our church. They are spotted in the parking lot as guests, welcomed there and directed to the proper door. Once inside they are greeted again – by those who have volunteered to serve as greeters, as well as by numerous others who are spontaneously expressing their love by looking out for newcomers. Guests leave our premises remarking to themselves, “I’ve never been in such a friendly church!”

Our reputation in the community is one of compassion. Hurting people throughout the Lehigh Valley are told by their acquaintances, “You know that church on Cedar Crest Boulevard near I-78? You should check them out. They’ve helped my (friend/co-worker/cousin/etc.) when he was in a bad way, maybe they can help you too?”

Young and old walk through our doors and find empathy, understanding and comfort. Those bereaved feel that their grief is understood. Those divorced find non-judgmental help. Those new and friendless in the Lehigh Valley find themselves welcomed into already thriving webs of relationships. Those facing economic hardship find counsel, support and practical help. Those with special needs children find acceptance, respect and rest. Van loads of college students gather with us weekly because they have found homes away from home. In short, all who enter into our church immediately become aware that they are surrounded by people who genuinely care for them. Every one of our hearts is moved by the needs of others.

And those needs include the needs of our children. Our children are excited to “come to church” because their instincts tell them that they are safe, they are loved, and they are special. On Sunday morning

children are urging their parents to get ready so that they can get to church on time! Parents have confidence that the children's program staff is trained, qualified, and trustworthy. The environment of the children's program communicates safety, cleanliness, and excitement. Everything about the children's ministry shouts, "We care about children!"

Our reputation as a caring church is justified because it can be said about us: Every heart is moved by the needs of others.



## In 2020 We Are a **SERVING** Church

Many of our people drive to our campus with eager anticipation because they are going there to contribute to other's lives. They have been helped to discover their spiritual gifts, have been trained in how to use them, and have found a satisfying ministry.

But, it is not only Sunday in which their gifts are used. Every day of the week, inside or outside the church facilities, in a multitude of different ways, our people are using their spiritual gifts to help each other. Every Christian is serving the church.

All the church ministries, whether to children or adults, are fully staffed with trained volunteers.

But, it is not only the church that we serve. We also serve the world. Our men and women go to work on Monday with a renewed perspective and enthusiasm concerning the place of their work in God's plan. They serve the Lehigh Valley through their work.

Also, there are additional needs of people which our compassion causes us to notice. Throughout the Lehigh Valley community organizations, civic meetings, neighborhood and professional associations aimed at community betterment – all have people from Cedar Crest Bible Fellowship Church in their ranks.

Families experiencing economic hardship visit our campus and find people ready to help them. There are dozens of families in the Lehigh Valley who once were in need of the Food Bank, but no longer are in such need. This transformation is due, in large part, to the love and practical help they found among our people.

Either through our jobs, or in another ways, we serve by meeting needs in the Lehigh Valley. Every Christian is serving the world.

You can walk up to anyone in our church family and ask these two questions: How are you serving the church? How are you serving the world? Every one of us answers those questions with confidence. Each one knows the way in which they have been gifted and what ministries God has led them into.

Everyone serving the church.  
Everyone serving the world.



## In 2020 We Are a **SPEAKING** Church

Every Monday morning our people awake with the prayer on their lips, "Lord, help me this week to have an opportunity to tell someone about Jesus." They begin their weekly routines, at home or at work, with the confidence that if the Lord opens a "door of opportunity" for them they will unhesitantly speak about Jesus Christ. They are unafraid because, through the church, they have been trained in how to share their testimony and how to explain the Gospel to another person.

Indeed, the "doors of opportunity" open every week. Every week we hear more stories of how God used someone to share the Gospel with their neighbor, or co-worker, or family member. Baptism testimonies are filled with stories of how someone in our church shared the Gospel with the new convert.

Everyone is trained in personal evangelism.

Part of the excitement as we gather on Sunday morning is that some of our number are preparing to begin a new church – the fourth new church since 2014 that our church has participated in planting. El Faro has become a self-supporting church. The Forks Township BFC church has been established, partly through our people and resources. A third new church is well underway – the core group of which is made up of former members of Cedar Crest Bible Fellowship Church. Now, our preparations are continuing for the start of a fourth church which we expect to begin worship services not long after 2020. Our prayers contain cries for wisdom as to how we could partner with others to see a church planting movement overflow from the Lehigh Valley into the surrounding counties and states.

But our excitement concerning church planting extends outside of the Lehigh Valley as well. We are now preparing to send another TIMO team – the third TIMO team since 2014. After the Ndengereko, Alagwa and Matumbi, we have been a crucial partner in seeing two more teams sent to two additional Unreached People Groups in Tanzania. The Hall of Missions has pictures of our own members who are on these new teams. Now, our preparations are continuing for the start of another one. Our sights are set on the remaining Unreached People Groups in East Africa and we are praying for guidance as to how we may contribute to getting the Gospel to every single one of them.

Both abroad and at home our earnestness in speaking the Gospel is expressed in church planting. And on the personal level, every individual has the ability to speak of Christ.



## In 2020 We Are a **TRAINING** Church

Every Sunday the classrooms are bursting with men, women and young people participating in the All-of-Life Discipleship Institute. Classes and training sessions fit in a coherent plan, are led by trained men and women, and are aimed at helping our people learn and live the Gospel in every relationship. Every Sunday the participants are helped to grasp an aspect of Gospel Forgiveness and Gospel Freedom clearly and apply it practically. They are continually discovering the implications of the Gospel on all of their relationships. They are not only taught, but trained, in practical disciplines. They leave our campus on Sunday with deepened understanding, improved skills, and encouraged hearts.

The great majority of our people are participants of LIFEgroups. The deeper fellowship experienced there is visited by the hand of God and great strides in maturity are made as all the LIFEgroup members contribute to each other's growth.

Men are helping other men, and women other women, through Spiritual Life Studies. The numbers of people who have been taken through SLS are growing rapidly.

Through personal attention, significant relationships, and group instruction, God is setting individuals free from troubling sin patterns and energizing us to help one another. Family dynamics are improving, church relationships are brightened, the power of the Spirit is seen and felt, and our unseen enemy is increasingly frustrated and defeated.

Everyone is discipling and being discipled.

This is what we could be. By God's grace this is what we will be.

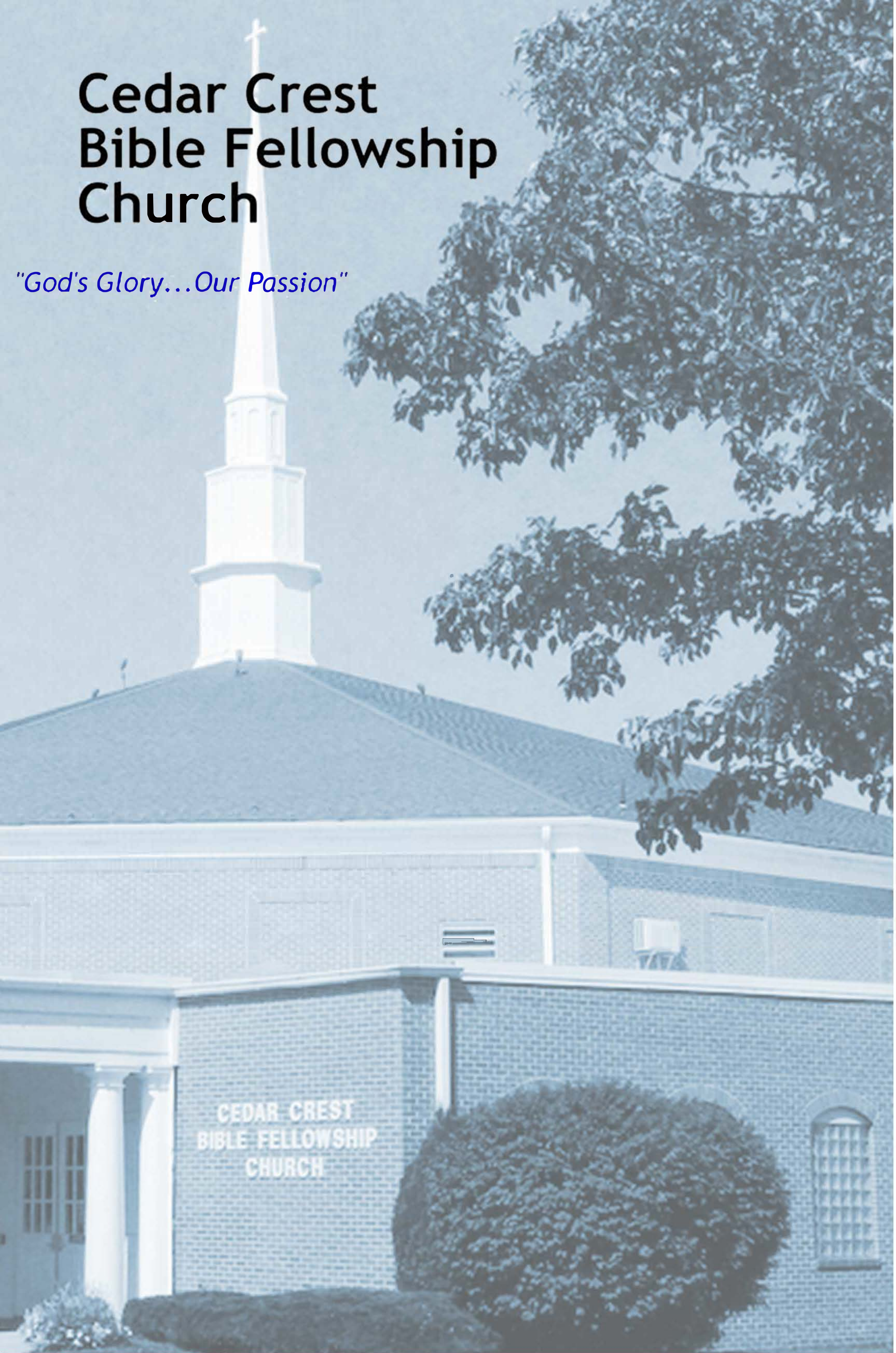


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# Cedar Crest Bible Fellowship Church

*"God's Glory...Our Passion"*



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