

Laurel Church of Christ

Family Focus

December 8, 2024

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ON GIVING THE PERFECT GIFT

By Joe Chesser

Shopping for Christmas is now officially open, and at a frenzied pace. Trying to spend less makes shopping for just the right gift that much more important. I struggle with what to buy, finally make a decision, and a week later find something that would have been better. I wish I knew the perfect gift to give each person on my list.

Actually I do. The best gift I can possibly give cannot be purchased at Walmart or ordered online. This gift is not something I have to save for, nor is it like any gift anyone else can give. It's unique, it's one of a kind, and I am the only one that can give it. That gift is myself!

I am the best gift I can give my wife, my children and my grandchildren. I am the best gift I can give my neighbor and my co-worker. I am even the best gift I can give my Lord. I know this is true because I learned it from Him.

From Paul's words in Galatians 2:20 we learn: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." I crucify myself because He allowed Himself to be crucified. I love Him because He first loved me. Giving ourselves to God is the absolute best gift we can possibly give. Nothing is a close second. Would my wife prefer a new watch more than my time, my affection, my attention? Not in a hundred lifetimes! Would my children, my grandchildren, fellow Christians, anyone, prefer a gift from Target? No. And neither would God.

The Corinthians are forever remembered because they gave themselves first to the Lord. Nothing you could ever buy will ever substitute for giving yourself. It's fun to exchange wrapped presents, but never forget that the gift most people truly need and want, the perfect gift, is you. Give yourself wrapped in love!

**Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth! Psa. 46:10**

Pray for the sick:

CONTINUING CONCERNS: Terry Hastings, Myra's sister, Connie; Norma Hudson, Ruth Banks, Michelle Tucker, Charles Fooks, Goldie Weldon, Pat Tucker, Donna Sponseller.

On-going personal Bible studies

World turmoil; people of Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Cameroon

"Celebrate Recovery"

AIM missionaries, Carolina Aguilar, Miguel Javier Dale and Maddy

Latin American Missions

Parents to be: Josh and Alexis Donaway-Nov.

Wendy Bowman, surgery Dec. 16th

Our Country and world leaders

Thea's brother, Leland Vickers-loss of eyesight due to macular degeneration

Lanny, pray for improved vision from eye surgery Eleanor; pulled muscle and broken pelvis; now at home recuperating

Cheyenne Mathis; headaches caused by a cyst Colleen's sister, Cindy; breathing difficulty

CELEBRATE RECOVERY each Monday evening from 6-8 in the FLC.

WOMEN'S STUDIES— Ladies' Bible study on Fridays at 10:30 at Cathy's. Ladies' Tuesday Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

KID'S GAME NIGHT Due to the busy holidays, the next **Kid's Night** will be Tues. Jan. 14th.

SAVE THE DATE: Tea and Ornament Exchange, Dec. 14 at 12:00 pm, Cypress Creek Venue, 8982 Morning Glory Farms Rd., Laurel. RSVP to Julie by Dec. 8th at 302-841-0274 or use sign up sheet.

TITUS 2 DISCIPLESHIP for adult women, third Thursdays. Next one is Jan. 16th, 6-8 pm at Courtney Whaley's house. See Maria, Taylor or Courtney if you have questions.

DEC. FELLOWSHIP MEAL will be Dec. 29 with a menu of soup and sandwiches.

MEN TO SERVE;

Welcome/Scripture; 12/8-Shawn; 12/15-Vinny Prayer; 12/8-Christian; 12/15-Julio Table; 12/8-Daniel; 12/15-Christian Song Leader; 12/8-David; 12/15-Daniel Announcements/Closing prayer; Shawn-Dec.

Opportunities for study and worship

Sunday: (In person and virtually at:
www.laurelcoc.org)

Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday:

Women's Zoom Study 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Men's prayer (Shawn's) 7:15 a.m.

Bible Study at building 6:30 p.m.

Friday ladies' study at Cathy's 10:30 a.m.

1st Sat. men's breakfast 8:30

We invite you to attend any of our service times, and we look forward to welcoming you, and pray that you might find a home here with us in Laurel and with God in heaven as His child.

If you need Media help — connections, addresses, or general questions contact: Don Trader or Julio Brennick

WHO WE ARE

The body of Christ in Laurel, Delaware is a family of believers knit together in love (Colossians 2:2), striving to serve God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24) and carrying the gospel to the lost (Matthew 28:18). We are an autonomous body with Christ only as our head, and elders shepherding the flock of God (Acts 20:28).

We have been entrusted with the gospel (I Thessalonians 2:4) and so it is that we speak. The congregation seeks to uphold the doctrine and practice of the first century church using the only true standard, the Bible, as our guide (2 Peter 1:3). It is our prayer that all would come to a knowledge of the truth and partake in that divine fellowship in the body of Christ, being immersed for the remission of sins, and beginning life anew with Christ as Lord (Acts 2:38, Romans 6:1). Our plea is that we might be one in Christ, and serve the Lord faithfully unto death to receive our crown (Revelation 2:10).