

Laurel Church of Christ

Family Focus

November 27, 2022

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GIVING AND RECEIVING

By Joe Chesser, Fruitland CoC, Jackson, MO

“What are you getting for Christmas? What do you want for Christmas?”

How many times have you heard these questions? Christmas shopping is in full swing. For the next few weeks many gifts will be given and received. Which do you enjoy most—giving or receiving? Honestly, receiving gifts, especially the ones we’ve always wanted, brings a lot of pleasure and happiness. But there’s no honor in receiving gifts.

Several years ago, Calvin Coolidge, our 30th president said, “No person has ever been honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.” Can you think of an award or honor given to someone that received the greatest or most gifts? On the other hand, there are numerous honors and rewards for those who excel at giving. Oscars and Emmys are given to the person who contributed the most to the music and entertainment industry. Athletics have their Most Valuable Player awards. Universities, governments, and even zoos have buildings named after major contributors.

This probably doesn’t surprise you at all. No doubt you have heard many times the statement of Jesus: “It is more blessed to give than to receive”. The best known verse in the Bible honors God for what He gave, not for what He received (John 3:16), What does surprise many people is that when God honors giving, it has nothing to do with the amount of the gift. Generation after generation honors the poor widow who, even though it wasn’t much, gave all she had (Luke 21:2). The Macedonians are also esteemed for their giving, even though poverty stricken themselves (II Cor. 8:1-5). In contrast, very little is said about those receiving the gifts. About the only thing we know about how to receive gifts is to do so with gratitude and in a way that glorifies God. Perhaps we need to work a little harder at becoming a generous giver. That’s hard to do, especially at this time of year, but by doing so, we will become a little bit more like the God we love and serve. Givers are truly more blessed than receivers.

Encourage one another in love and good deeds. Hebrews 10:23-24

Pray for the sick: You may not know some of them, but God knows them and their needs, so let's lift them up.

Terry Hastings, Sandi Holt, Michelle Tucker, Pat Tucker, Dave Newberry; Myra's sister, Connie; Norma Hudson, Bobby Phillips, continuing health concerns.

On-going personal Bible studies.

World turmoil; people of Ukraine and Russia

Jenny Womersley and family

Goldie Weldon; foot problems

Butch Womersley; health and safety

All our members that are traveling

All those battling COVID

Our elders and deacons

Leaders of our country, cities and states

Diane Wooten, cataract surgery on Wed.

Cipolla family in their work with children.

Launching of 'Celebrate Recovery'

Ace Himes

LADIES' ZOOM: Now Tuesdays at 7:00

CELEBRATE RECOVERY will continue each Monday evening from 6-9 in the FLC. Meal at 6, meeting 7-9.

The congregation is sponsoring a family for Christmas. See Philip or Thea to help.

CHRISTMAS TEA/ORNAMENT EXCHANGE has been rescheduled for **Dec. 3rd at 12:00 noon.** There is a sign-up sheet on the new bulletin board in the FLC foyer. Bring a wrapped ornament.

Christmas Caroling will be Dec. 18th. Meet at the FLC at 3:00.

MEN TO SERVE;

Welcome/Scripture; Lanny-27th; Danny-4th

Prayer; Bobby-27th; John-4th

Table; Shawn-27th; Dale-4th

Announcements/Closing prayer; Dave-Nov.; Philip—Dec.

Song Leader; Daniel-27th; Troy-4th

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.

Teen Devo 6:00 p.m.

Thursday:

Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study at building 6:30 p.m.

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).