

Laurel Church of Christ

Family Focus

February 5, 2023

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TESTING POSITIVE

By Joe Slater

What first ran through your mind when you saw the title of this article? COVID, right? We look at a positive COVID test as bad news! Of course, it's possible to have certain symptoms (fever, chills, cough, etc.) when the cause is something other than COVID. Putting that lovely mile-long swab up your nose lets you know if it really is COVID.

Not all positive tests are bad things. Peter and James wrote about the testing of our faith (James 1:3; I Peter 1:7). Now there's a case where testing positive is the best of news! So, is your faith genuine, or is it a mere pretense?

Rapid COVID tests are looking for the presence of certain proteins characteristic of the virus. If the test finds those proteins, you test positive—you're infected!

Genuine faith also has characteristics distinguishing it from the pretend variety. For example, Biblical faith works. *"What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but does not have works? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead"* (James 2:14, 17). Obviously dead faith isn't genuine faith!

In I Thessalonians 5:8 Paul illustrated spiritual warfare by urging us to put on *"the breastplate of faith and love."* Yes, love characterizes genuine faith. In fact, Galatians 5:6 commends *"faith working through love."* I Corinthians 13:13 adds "hope" to the mix. And Paul urged Timothy to *"pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness"* (I Timothy 6:11).

Some of Paul's detractors wanted to examine his apostolic credentials. Paul told them, *"Test yourselves!"* (2 Corinthians 13:5). That's not bad advice for all of us. Test yourself. Do you test positive?

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 to Him!

CONTINUING CONCERNS: Terry Hastings; Sandi Holt, Michelle Tucker, Pat Tucker, Dave Newberry, Myra's sister, Connie; Norma Hudson, Bobby Phillips, Grace Peterson, C.W. Matthews, Ace Himes, Butch and Jenny Womersley and family.

All those battling COVID
On-going personal Bible studies
World turmoil; people of Russia and Ukraine
Our elders and deacons
Cipolla family and their work with children
"Celebrate Recovery"

FROM THE COMMUNITY:

Daniel Parker and Barbara Anderson, both with terminal cancer; Mike Lowe, open heart surgery; the Pugh family in the loss of Jamin Pugh and healing and recuperation for his daughters, Gracie and Jayleigh Pugh; Wesley Collins, heart attack.

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

STATE OF THE CONGREGATION today following Worship.

SUPER BOWL PARTY at Cathy's on Feb. 12th at 5:30. Welcome to bring favorite Super Bowl finger food.

STAFFING NURSERY; see Rhonda to volunteer

MEN TO SERVE;

Welcome/Scripture; Bobby-5th; Philip-12th
Prayer; Julio-5th; Vinny-12th
Table; Troy-5th; Christian-12th
Announcements/Closing prayer; John-February
Song Leader; Dave-5th; David-12th

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.
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Wednesday

Men's prayer (Shawn's)	7:30 a.m.
Bible Study at building	6:30 p.m.

Thursday

Men's Bible study	8:30 a.m.
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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).