

# Laurel Church of Christ

## Family Focus

August 13, 2023

### OUR LEADERS:

#### Elders:

David Hudson  
Shawn Donaway

#### Deacons:

Dave Hudson  
Lanny Sowell  
Danny Snyder

#### Evangelist:

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#### Benevolence:

Phil Winter

#### Care Ministry:

Wayne Mathis

#### Treasurer:

Don Trader

#### Media Ministry

Don Trader  
Julio Brennick

#### Youth Leader:

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### THE PRESSURE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

By Robert Lupu

When I was growing up, I was constantly reminded by my parents, my teachers, and my church leaders to resist peer pressure. That was certainly good advice. Peers can hold a tremendous amount of power over a young person. They want to be liked and feel like they belong. So, when a crowd shows them a certain amount of acceptance, they may conform to any number of trends or habits within that group.

When I was in high school, the number of peers that might have influence over me was probably around fifty. MySpace was the only social media platform. My world of influence would be considered pretty small by today's standards. But, that was still enough to sway me to make several detrimental mistakes in my youth.

Not only do our children have pressure from friends they know in real life, but they also receive pressure from millions of social media influencers and users tailored to prey on their most base curiosities. Every Google search they make or website they visit is recorded and sent to social media platforms to shape what pages, profiles and forum threads they are recommended and what ads they see. Any doubt or question they have about morality could bring them to a page with thousands of people with different religious values, upvoting the most popular takes.

We need to understand what this kind of influence is having on children today. According to the news site, "The Hill" the number of LGBTQ students went from 11 per cent in 2015 to 26 per cent in 2021. How did we get to a point where one in four teens is openly identifying as LGBTQ? It is the pressure of social media. For the first time in history, our children have a popularity-based system of measuring their worth. What matters is not how many of my friends compliment me or invite me to hang out. What matters is how many likes my post gets from complete strangers. The more shocking the post, the better the reception.

"Evil company corrupts good morals". What kind of company are your kids keeping online? They may have ten friends at church. How many friends do they have on Instagram?

**He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises. 2 Peter 1:4**

**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, Myra's sister, Connie; Norma Hudson, Ace Himes. Butch and Jenny Womersley and family.

On-going personal Bible studies

World turmoil; people of Russia and Ukraine

Cipolla family and their work with children

"Celebrate Recovery"

Daniel and Christine; expecting a little one

AIM missionaries, Carolina Aguilar, Miguel Javier

Dale and Maddy

Ruth Banks; now at home

Many that are traveling

Joe and Donetta Daliessio; recovering from motor-cycle accident

Jean Newberry; home and doing well.

Latin American Missions

Julio and Jenny; health issues. **GOOD NEWS**—Jenny should be here next month. Prayer answered!

Andrea Kondrup; in Lifecare

Tracy Moran (Diane's niece); cancer

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

**WOMEN'S STUDIES**—Apostle Paul study Fridays at Cathy's, 10:00 (Tai Chi), coffee and fellowship 10:30, study at 11:00. The next study will be **August 18th.**

**NURSERY ATTENDANTS** still needed.

**MEN TO SERVE;** No info available.

Welcome/Scripture;

Prayer;

Table;

Announcements/Closing prayer;

Song Leader;

## Opportunities for study and worship

Sunday: (In person and virtually at:  
[www.laurelcoc.org](http://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) 7:30 a.m.

Bible Study at building 6:30 p.m.

Thursday

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

Friday ladies' Paul study 10:30 a.m.

We invite you to attend any of our service times, and we look forward to welcoming you, and pray

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).