

Laurel Church of Christ

Family Focus

November 19, 2023

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BLACK FRIDAY

By Bill Brandstatter, Marion CoC, Marion, IL

I have been seeing ads recently for “Black Friday”. This used to be the day after Thanksgiving when retailers lure customers with all kinds of special incentives. Now “Black Friday” comes earlier and lasts longer. People line up to get the special “doorbuster” savings. They will flock to stores and spend large amounts of money just to take part in the euphoria of “Black Friday”.

A long time ago there was a “Black Friday” that was even more significant. In Mark’s gospel account we read: “Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour” (Mk. 15:33). For three hours the earth was dark. This was a dark day because Jesus was being crucified. We know it was Friday because Mark adds “Now when evening had come because it was Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath”. Since the Sabbath is Saturday, we know this dark day was on Friday.

What made this “Black Friday” so special? It was special because of the price that was paid. Jesus paid the price for the sins of all mankind. There was another special purchase made on this day. Paul told the elders at Ephesus, “Shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood” (Acts 20:28).

It was special too because of the people that were there. The crowd of people that wanted Him crucified were there. Simon the Cyrenian was there. The soldiers that led Him away to the cross were standing there mocking Him. The chief priests were mocking Him also. The reason Jesus died was for those that were there and for those that were not there.

Have you participated in the events of the “Black Friday” of Jesus’ life? Are you saved by His blood (Matt. 26:28; Rev. 1:5)? Have you put Him on in baptism and taken part in all that His death purchased (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27)? What did or does that “Black Friday” mean to you?

**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, Pat Tucker, Myra's sister, Connie; Norma Hudson, Ruth Banks, Tracy Moran, Ashley Cox.

On-going personal Bible studies

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

Cipolla family

"Celebrate Recovery"

AIM missionaries, Carolina Aguilar, Miguel Javier

Dale and Maddy

Latin American Missions

Debbie Revel (Cassie's mother, cancer)

Coleman family as they care for Kenny's parents

Karen Sowell; medical procedure Nov. 29

Michelle Tucker; cardiac testing

Prince Ituni's wife; surgery in Nigeria

Sue Banks (Jean's niece)

Brenda Pepper; continued prayers

Jesse Jenkins family member with collapsed lung

Thankfulness every day for everything God gives us

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

WOMEN'S STUDIES— Apostle Paul study Fridays at Cathy's, coffee and fellowship 10:30, study at 11:00. Ladies' Tuesday evening Zoom study at 7:00 pm.

CHRISTMAS TEA AND ORNAMENT EXCHANGE will be Dec. 9 at 12:00 in the FLC. RSVP to Julie by Dec. 2 or sign up on the sheet in the foyer.

THANKSGIVING FELLOWSHIP FEAST is today following worship. Members and guests please stay and enjoy. There is always plenty for everyone.

MEN TO SERVE;

Welcome/Scripture; Shawn-19th; Chad-26th

Prayer; Lanny-26th

Table; Philip-19th; Dave-26th

Song Leader; Christian-19th; Troy-26th

Announcements/Closing prayer; Danny-Nov.

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) 7:30 a.m.

Bible Study at building 6:30 p.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 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).