

Laurel Church of Christ

Family Focus

January 28, 2024

OUR LEADERS:

Elders:

David Hudson
Shawn Donaway

Deacons:

Dave Hudson
Lanny Sowell
Danny Snyder

Evangelist:

Dale Nelson
501-207-3808
dale.nelson@laurelcoc.com

Benevolence:

Phil Winter

Care Ministry:

Wayne Mathis

Treasurer:

Don Trader

Media Ministry

Don Trader
Julio Brennick

Youth Leader:

Contact us:

1010 S. Central Avenue
Laurel, DE 19956

laurelcoc@outlook.com

Phone: 302-875-7748

www.laurelcoc.org

Send bulletin items to:
dknewwoo@gmail.com or
Text/call 443-521-2401

WHEN DOES IT GO UP AND WHEN DOES IT COME DOWN?

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Is your Christmas tree packed away for another year? When is the right time to take down the tree? When is the right time to put up the tree? For some, the right time for it to go up is the day after Thanksgiving. For others, it may be earlier for a myriad of reasons: putting up and decorating more than one, too busy after Thanksgiving, can't wait, etc. Similar arguments can be made for the timing of its removal. For some it needs to come down 15 minutes after the presents are opened, b/c when it's over, it's over. For others, it is such a big hassle they procrastinate. Whether you like it or not, the answer is: Whenever you want to.

There are some things about which we cannot be so casual in our timing. There are lots of actions in our lives that require a much more urgent response. We tend to put off just a little bit longer or until the timing is right. Sadly, such reasoning usually results in perpetual procrastination, and we never see them accomplished.

For instance:

When is the right time for apologizing for hurting someone?

When is the right time to use kind words?

When is the right time to be a peace maker and not a pot-stirrer?

When is the right time to tell someone you love them?

When is the right time to get rid of sinful and harmful habits?

When is the right time to give full control of your life to God?

The answer to all of the above is "Now!" Now is the time to do the right thing. I think it is safe to say that all of us have one or more of these situations which need to be dealt with immediately. Why are you putting off handling it? Is it really because the timing is not right? Or is it more an issue of personal, stubborn pride? Only you can answer that, and I hope you will answer it honestly. More importantly, I hope we can all understand that the right time is now to do what we know we should do.

**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: 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, Michelle Tucker
On-going personal Bible studies
World turmoil; people of Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Guyana, Cameroon
Cipolla family
"Celebrate Recovery"
AIM missionaries, Carolina Aguilar, Miguel Javier Dale and Maddy
Latin American Missions
Debbie Revel (Cassie's mother, surgery)
Coleman family as they care for Kenny's parents
Sue Banks (Jean's niece)
Brenda Pepper; continued prayers; making progress
Jenny Womersley, broken wrist
Julia's Dad, Haines; surgery went well. Also pray for Julia's cousin's granddaughter, Ciara-aged 14.
Charles Fooks (Jean's brother)
Noah Donahoe's niece, Lottie; doing better, stable.
Dave (Shane's friend); cancer
Sue Brook's son Nathan, injured at work.

Opportunities for study and worship

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

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| Bible Classes | 9:00 a.m. |
| Worship | 10:00 a.m. |

Tuesday:

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

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| Men's prayer (Shawn's) | 7:15 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

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 **WILL MEET THIS WEEK.**

SECRET SISTER REVEAL LUNCHEON has been re-scheduled for Feb.17th at 11:30 am at Jojo's Rest., Salisbury. RSVP to Ginger.

Jan. 28-31 Carey Terry meetings canceled due to Carey being ill. The meal of soup and sandwiches will still be enjoyed today.

SUPER BOWL PARTY Feb. 11 at Cathy's.

MEN TO SERVE;

Welcome/Scripture; 1/28-Danny; 2/4-Christian Prayer; 1/28- Philip; 2/4-Lanny
Table; 1/28-Dale; 2/4-Danny
Song Leader; 1/28-Troy; 2/4-David
Announcements/Closing prayer; 1/28 and 2/4
Chad

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).