

Laurel Church of Christ

Family Focus

December 26, 2021

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GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS

By Troy Mathis

Have you ever felt like you're just going through the motions? Perhaps at work. You do your job. You do everything that is expected of you. You arrive on time. You smile. Your body is doing all the tasks required, but there is no emotion, no passion, no feeling. So your job becomes mundane, boring.

Or perhaps a sports team whether you play or just enjoy watching. It gets to the end of the regular season and there is no chance of making the playoffs. So what happens? Players still show up. They still train and stretch to avoid injury. But there is no spirit on the field. The players get in their respective positions, and run the designed play. But it's just a body in motion. No joy. No feeling. There are so many games on the schedule so they have to play them all, but the outcome is meaningless. There is no hope.

This can happen in so many areas of our lives—our job, our recreation, our school. What about our church? Are we ever guilty, as Christians, of just going through the motions? We take our seat in the pew, we sing, we pray, we take communion, but there's no emotion, no passion, no feeling—just a body doing what it is expected to do.

In Isaiah 1 the Israelites were going through the motions. They were making sacrifices. They were having their feasts. They were in the temple 'worshipping' not just Jehovah God, but lots of gods. But they had forgotten the real reason for their worship. And God was mad.

In Revelation, John tells of the church in Laodicea. Because they were neither hot nor cold, but lukewarm, God said He would 'spit them out'.

But we worship a god of love. He told the Israelites through Isaiah that His forgiveness was still available. He told those in Laodicea that we can still sit with Him on His throne. We have to put God first all the time. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your might." Worship with that love.

Being like Christ John 15:4-5

Pray for the sick:

Faith Fooks, Dave Newberry, Gloria Hurley, Terry Hastings, Kay Murphy, Kristy Brady, Robin Anderson, Natalie Anderson, Pat Tucker, Michelle Tucker, Sandi Holt—continuing health concerns.
Thea's friend Cindy's brother Dwight; back surg.
On-going personal Bible studies.
Kerri and family—(Dad 's return of brain cancer)
Marissa (Robin Anderson's niece; shock trauma
James McCartney; prostate cancer (has not spread to his bones)
Michael Roulis; vertigo related to migraines
Rhonda Cipolla and her pregnancy
Claire Rossiter; bleeding issue not resolved
Tornado victims.
Carol (Sandi's friend) tongue cancer.
Carla Griggs; liver testing
All those traveling; Julio, Donna, Dave and Lauren, Dale and Maddy, Eleanor, Jean, Karen and Lanny.
Arriana Cline: 11 yr old with thyroid cancer
Bobby Haynes

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.

Tuesday:

Men's Bible Study	8:30 a.m.
Women's Zoom study	7:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study at building	6:30 p.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

FELLOWSHIP MEAL; Today December 26, soup and sandwiches. Please stay and enjoy a time of food and fellowship.

CROWN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CLASS coming in Feb.

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).