

Laurel Church of Christ

Family Focus

July 3, 2022

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CELEBRATE FREEDOM

By Bart Warren, Glasgow, KY

In a letter dated July 3, 1776, John Adams wrote to his wife:
"This will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward and forever more."

The second president of the United States was right. Without question, our freedom should be celebrated! However, in order to celebrate properly, we must understand our freedom. Consider the spiritual truths as well.

Freedom comes at a high cost. The last line of the Declaration of Independence says: "And for the support of this Declaration, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." Jesus Christ gave His life to secure our eternal freedom (Rom. 6:3-9; 8:1-4). You and I must choose to die to self and live for Christ in order to be fully free (Gal. 2:20).

Freedom must be maintained. Freedom can be lost. History has shown again and again that nations can be destroyed. Spiritual freedom can be lost as well (John 8:31-36; Heb. 3:12; Gal. 5:4).

Freedom must be loved. Fools take freedom for granted. The wise recognize that they've been blessed. "Live as people who are free, living as servants of God" (1 Pet. 2:16; Gal. 5:1).

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.

Dave Newberry, Terry Hastings, Sandi Holt, Michelle Tucker, Dave Wooten, continuing health concerns.

On-going personal Bible studies.

Mothers to be; Courtney, Cadence (Crone) Wright

World turmoil; people of Ukraine and Russia

Myra's sister Connie

Kay Murphy; improved and released from Genesis

Pat Tucker has been very ill but doing better

Jenny Womersley and family

Goldie Weldon; foot problems

Anthony Cipolla is now gaining weight

Vinnie Oddo had his laser surgery on his eye; Ruth Banks will see a corneal specialist; Douglas dealing with detached retina; Dave Wooten has lost some vision in one eye.

Camp Manatawny dealing with COVID cases.

Maddie's Aunt Susan, early lung cancer.

Butch Womersley; health and safety

All our members that are traveling

LADIES' ZOOM: Tuesdays at 7:30.

CHURCH LOGO SHRITS are being ordered by Don Trader. If interested in ordering, see Don.

VBS August 8-12 from 6-8 pm. If you would like a job see Troy M. We all can begin inviting others.

MEN TO SERVE;

Welcome/Scripture; Troy M-3rd; Lanny-10th.

Prayer; Philip-3rd; Bobby-10th

Table; Christian-3rd; Shawn-10th

Announcements/Closing prayer; Daniel-3rd; Dave-10th.

Song Leader; David-3rd; Daniel-10th.



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.

Thursday:

Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study at building 6:30 p.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).