

Laurel Church of Christ

Family Focus

September 1, 2024

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THANK GOD IF YOU CAN READ THIS

By David Bragg

The US Department of Education and the National Institute of Literacy report that 14% (32 million) of American adults are illiterate. 21% read at or below the 5th grade level. Of the youths that interact with the court system, 85% are functionally illiterate. One in four children in America will become illiterate adults, while 20% of high school graduates are considered functionally illiterate.

As alarming as these statistics may be, they pale in comparison to the number of Americans who are Biblically illiterate. According to pollster George Barna, the Christian body in America is immersed in a crisis of Biblical illiteracy. Amos, the Old Testament prophet from the Southern kingdom (Judah) who preached to the northern kingdom (Israel) spoke of this danger when he lamented, "Behold the days are coming," says the Lord God, "that I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord" (Amos 8:1).

We give thanks to all those who contribute to the Biblical training of our young people, from parents to Bible class teachers to participants in the Lads to Leaders program to those who interact and work with our youth program. Training our young people is one of the most important obligations to God.

So, if you can read your Bible give thanks to God and show your appreciation and gratitude to our teachers.

**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:

CONTINUING CONCERNS: Terry Hastings, Myra's sister, Connie; Norma Hudson, Ruth Banks, Michelle Tucker, Charles Fooks, Goldie Weldon.

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
Parents to be: Josh and Alexis Donaway-Nov.
Outreach ministry at Outlet Market
Prayer walks -first Sunday each month
Marie Travis; getting chemo and radiation now
Betty Beasley
Fred and Donna Sponseller
Pat Tucker is now at home.
Lottie Donahoe needs continued prayer
Teachers and students returning to school
Christian's friend, Elijah; stroke, in rehab
Our Country and world leaders.

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.
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Wednesday

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— The ladies' Bible study at Cathy's each Fri. morning will resume Sept. 6 and will be studying Names for God. Coffee and fellowship 10:30, study at 11:00. Ladies' Tuesday evening Zoom will resume Sept. 10 at 7:00 and will study "Proclaimed: Jesus the Messiah" a study of Mark.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to sit at the booth at the Rt. 13 flea market. See Thea.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Frankford Ladies' Day, Sept. 28 (Open Our Eyes), 9 am-1 pm.

Clothing giveaway Oct. 5, 10 am to 1 pm.

Laurel Ladies' Day, Oct. 26. Ladies, Our day is quickly approaching and we need help to make this day special for everyone. If you are willing and able to lend a hand, we have a task for you. Please let me know if you are available and we will discuss what job best fits you. Ginger

MEN TO SERVE;

Welcome/Scripture; 9/1-Chad; 9/8David

Prayer; 9/1-Lanny; 9/8-Bobby

Table; 9/1-Dave; 9/8-Dale

Song Leader; 9/1-Troy; 9/8-Christian

Announcements/Closing prayer; Joe-Sept.

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).