

# Laurel church of Christ Youth and Children's Ministry

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It has been a little over a year since Kelsea and I moved here to the Laurel congregation and joined this family. We have thoroughly enjoyed our time here, and have loved working with the youth.

However, we realize that there are always areas in which the youth program can grow and improve. This congregation is also facing a

unique transition in our school-age ministry as Tom and Amelia did a wonderful job working with the younger children. However, now that they have moved to South Carolina, the team tasked with leading and developing our school age ministry are diligently working towards both continuing the work that Tom and Amelia started while also adapting to any changes that might be needed going forward.

Thus, we are including in this week's bulletin, a survey that contains questions on both the youth ministry and school-age ministry. We value your opinion and feedback in crafting a youth and school-age ministry that is both faithful and effective to the mission of this congregation. You can complete this survey by either filling out a hard copy and handing it to myself, Brother John Birus or Brother Del Meadows. However, you are also free to fill this form out digitally and email it to either myself, John Birus or Del Meadows. If you choose this latter option check your email inbox as it should have been sent to you via Elexio, or you can scan the QR code at the end of this note to download it on your computer/tablet or smart phone device.

Finally, there are 8 questions for each of the two categories (youth and school-age). Do not feel as though you have to answer every question or that you have to both fill out a survey for the youth and the school-age ministry. Of course, if you do we appreciate it and the more feedback, the better, but please do feel not obligated to do so. The school age ministry survey follows the youth ministry survey.



In Him, Tim Conrad

## Class Today

Join us in the Fellowship room downstairs as we discuss the final session in our study of Kings. This final study of Kings will explore the themes of Israel/Judah's Fall, life in captivity, and the final hint of restoration with God.

## Class on Wednesday

Join us in the Teen Room as we explore further how Peter encouraged the believers throughout the Roman Empire to remain faithful to the gospel of Christ amidst persecution.

## Class Next Week

Join us in the Fellowship Room as we begin to discuss the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. We will talk about how, although Israel and Judah were taken captive, God worked through a remnant of faithful followers in order to bring his children back into the promised land.



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**rightnow** MEDIA

Check out this week's recommendation on RNM! If you have not yet signed up for this terrific service, please email me so that I can send you an invite!



# Dig Deeper

Read 2 Kings 17-19



1. The Northern Kingdom of Israel fell to the Assyrians in 722 BC and was never heard from again. The Southern Kingdom of Judah fell to the Babylonians in 586 BC but had an amazing comeback seventy years later when they returned from captivity. How do you see God's patience and commitment to bring his people back to himself woven through these two centuries of history?
2. God allowed a foreign army to invade and defeat Israel (the Northern Kingdom). Why did God bring this judgment on his own people and what do you learn from God's response to the behavior of Israel (2 Kings 17:1 - 14)?
3. Hezekiah of Judah was one of the few kings deemed "good" in the eyes of God (2 Kings 18 - 19) What did Hezekiah do that pleased God and how can we learn from his example? How can Hezekiah's prayer shape the way you pray when times are tough?
4. Though the Southern Kingdom of Judah discovered they would one day end up prisoners of war under the fist of a foreign nation, God spoke words of hope through his prophet (Isaiah 14:1 - 5; Isaiah 49. What did God promise and how do you see him continuing to accomplish his plan to bring his people back to himself?
5. Hezekiah pleased God when he spiritually cleaned house, got rid of idols, and smashed and cut down all the signs of spiritual compromise in the land. When you look at your spiritual life, what could you clean out, cut down, or smash so that you can walk more closely with God?
6. When Jerusalem was surrounded by the Assyrian army and the situation looked hopeless, Hezekiah prayed and things changed. What are you facing today that seems too big, overwhelming, or even hopeless, and how can this group, your friends, or your family join you in prayer?



'I didn't expect it to be so magnificent'

In an instant, day turned to night.

A crowd, gathered on the ballfield at Camp Ne-O-Tez near De Soto, Mo., watched in amazement Monday as the solar eclipse reached totality.

"Wow! It was like nothing I have ever experienced in my life," said Nancy Henley, a board member of the camp, which is associated with Churches of Christ. "It more than lived up to the hype."

About 150 people — ranging in age from four months to 86 — traveled to the camp to witness the historic event.

Preston and Sara Ackerman, members of the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Oklahoma City, drove seven hours to Camp Ne-O-Tez. They described the eclipse as awesome and surreal.

"Seeing the partial does not even compare to the full totality," they said. "You felt like you were in the scene of a movie."

Henley, who helped to organize the watch party, said while they knew it would get dark at totality they had no idea that "dark" would happen so suddenly.

"It was light and even though there was a tiny sliver of the sun it was still bright" and then it wasn't, she said.

Farther east along the path of totality, in Nashville, Tenn., ministers and staff of the Brentwood Hills Church of Christ gathered on the roof of their building to watch the eclipse.

The church's associate minister, Andrew Leeper, spent time after the event — like many Americans — scrolling through social media images of what he had just seen.

A friend of Leeper's wrote that he hadn't "found a photo or video online yet that accurately depicts what he saw and experienced in totality. I agree 100 percent," Leeper said. "This is a rare case where a picture ... really isn't worth a thousand words."

READ THE REST OF THE STORY BY SCANNING THIS QR CODE



# Upcoming Youth Events

What	When	Where	Cost	Registration
Ronald McDonald House	Monday 9/4/17 4:00-9:30 PM	RMH 635 W. Lexington St. Baltimore MD 21201	Free	Elexio
Coffee House Devo	Friday 9/8/17 7:00-8:00 PM	Corner Bakery 10000 Town Center Avenue Columbia, MD 21044	~\$5 each	N/A
Movie Night	Saturday 9/9/17 5:00-9:00 PM	The Conrad's 10320 Hickory Ridge Rd. Apt. 818, Columbia MD 21044	\$3 each	Elexio
Sunday Fun Day	Sunday 9/17/17 12:30-6:00 PM	The Church	\$3 each	Elexio
Ice Cream Social	Friday 9/22/17 7:00-8:00 PM	Medows Frozen Custard 5470 Freetown Rd. #205, Columbia, MD	~\$5 each	N/A
Bike Riding in Columbia	Saturday 9/23/17 10:00 AM-1:00 PM	Meet at the Conrad's	~ \$10 each (to rent a bike. Feel free to bring your own, though)	N/A

## Verse of the Week

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

...

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

~Isaiah 6:1-8

What	When	Where	Cost	Registration
Parent's Meeting	Sunday 9/10/17 9:30 AM	2nd half of the Fellowship Hall Church Building	N/A	N/A
Bible Bowl Kick-off	Sunday 9/10/17 2:00-5:00 PM	Church Building	Free for members of Laurel coC (small cost for members of other congregations)	N/A

## School-Age Ministry Announcements

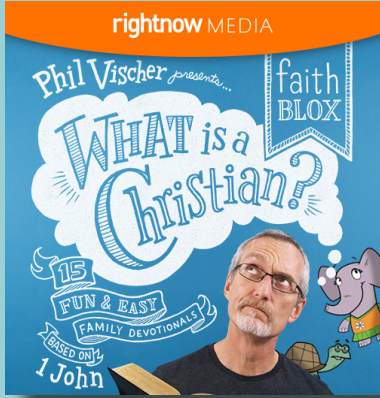
Exciting things are happening with Laurel coC's School-Age Ministry! With the move of Tom and Amelia, who did amazing work in this ministry, we are at a unique time of transition in which to expand on the work the Decker's have already done. A great many things will remain the same, but we also plan on revamping a few things that are already awesome to make them even better!

That being said, we are getting SO close to the beginning of this year's Bible Bowl kickoff! We will have food, games, and a ton of fun with this year's Bible Bowl theme, "The Price He Paid", as the central focus of the entire event.

In addition, there will be a Parent's Meeting on the same Sunday (9/10/17) during Sunday School hour in the 2nd half of the Fellowship Hall. During this meeting, we will discuss some of the changes that will be made in regards to the School-Age Ministry as well as answer any questions you might have about this upcoming year.

In summary:

- Bible Bowl Kickoff is on Sunday, Sept. 10 from 12:30 to 5:30 PM. Please register on Elexio if you plan on participating.
- A Parent's Meeting will be held on Sunday Sept. 10 from 9:30 to 10:15 to discuss the future of the School-Age ministry.



Check out this week's recommendation on Kid's RNM! This study from the creator of Veggie Tales is a fun and interesting way to start talking with your kids about what it means to be a Christian.

If you have not yet signed up for this terrific service, please email me so that I can send you an invite!

