



Men's Retreat

Oct. 27-29

Laurel Lake Baptist Camp

Corbin, KY

FAC Fall Festival

October 25, 6-8pm Church Parking Lot & Gym

**Volunteer
Form
Coming
Soon!**

**Trunk-or-Treat
Food
Chili Cook-Off
Cakewalk
Games
Face Painting
and more!**

WHEN

GO



...Prunes Us

John 15

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me.

⁶ If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples.

-John 15:1-8, CSB

The word translated remain
also means to stay, continue,
abide, rest dwell, tarry.

Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, **and he prunes every branch** that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit.

-John 15:2



“The purpose of pruning is to influence the way plants grow, to improve their growth and therefore their shape and flower and fruit production.

Common reasons include:

- to remove dead, diseased, dying, and damaged growth
- to remove growth that may pose a risk to the plant's health
- to remove unwanted growth or growth outside the desired perimeter
- to increase air circulation and sunlight penetration
- to improve flowering and fruiting
- to create a desired shape

-Homefortheharvest.com

Why does God prune us?

- Because He loves us.

“God doesn’t apply pain when a more pleasant method would do just as well. Pruning is always the only and best answer to our deepest desires; **it is the tender gift of an all-wise and all-loving Father.**”

-Secrets of the Vine, Bruce Wilkinson

“No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. **I do not call you servants anymore, because a servant doesn't know what his master is doing. I have called you friends,** because I have made known to you everything I have heard from my Father.”

-John 15:13-15

Why does God prune us?

- Because He loves us.
- For the sake of more.

Fruit can be...

- Outward (good works, attitudes, actions, etc.)
- Inward (i.e. fruit of the Spirit)

“The primary indicator for a season of **pruning** is the suffering of **loss**.”

-Allen Hood

Sometimes pruning means cutting away things that are actually growing and bearing fruit.

“The fruit is not better
than the Creator.”

-Katy Mulderink

Where does God prune us?

- Relationships

Where does God prune us?

- Relationships
- Calendar

“If a vine is left unpruned, it will produce many more grape clusters than it can ripen. The entire plant weakens under the strain of ripening the fruit.”

-Better Homes and Gardens

“How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives.”

-Annie Dillard

Where does God prune us?

- Relationships
- Calendar
- Possessions/Money

Where does God prune us?

- Relationships
- Calendar
- Possessions/Money
- Identity

“While early pruning is mostly about your outward activities and priorities, mature pruning is about your values and personal identity.”

-Secrets of the Vine

I am who I am because
the / AM tells me who I am.

-New Name Written Down in Glory, Charity Gayle

How does God prune us?

- Scripture
- Prayer
- The Holy Spirit
- Other Jesus-followers

Who does God prune?

- God is the gardener
- Jesus is the vine
- Believers are the branches

The root word for **decide**, *cis* or *cid*,
literally **means “to cut” or “to kill.”**

“As I make hundreds of small choices throughout the day, I’m building a life—but at one and the same time, **I’m closing off the possibility of countless others, forever.**”

-Oliver Burkeman, *Four Thousand Weeks*

“When making decisions, **deciding to cut options can be terrifying**—but the truth is, it is the very essence of decision making.”

-Greg McKeown, *Essentialism*

Deciding to follow Jesus
is the first moment of
pruning in our lives.

The decision to follow Jesus
leads to fruit **no other choice**
will ever be able to offer.

Who? Why? Where? How?

God prunes believers because He loves us, wants what's best for us, and wants to make us more fruitful.

Through Scripture, prayer, the Holy Spirit, and other followers of Jesus He prunes our relationships, calendar, possessions, and our identity.

“In pruning, how you respond makes all the difference. You can complain, rebel, compromise, or run away. Or you can experience the joy, comfort, and rest that come to disciples who keep their eyes on the prize, not the pain.”

- *Secrets of the Vine*

“Satan wants you to interpret your season of loss as the result of your failure and the Lord’s abandonment of you. **You are not being pruned because you failed, but because you are succeeding. Only the fruitful branches are pruned.** The loss is not the result of your failure but of your success. The good news is that more fruit is just around the corner!”

- Allen Hood