



511 Greenbank Road  
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March 15, 2020

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www.greenbankcoc.org

## Keeping Forgiveness in Focus

Forgiveness is hard. It is easy to focus on the hurt that the offender caused us or others. It is easy to focus on the pain until it sickens us and brings us to the dark places of hatred and contempt. It is there that we feel helpless and paralyzed by the venom upon which we have been feeding. How do we learn to forgive and come out from under the weight of all the hurt that has been done to us? We must change our focus.

Peter asked Jesus the question, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" (Matt. 18:21) The religious elite of the day stopped at three. Peter added four perhaps trying out this concept of love his Master taught. Jesus shows him the idea is bigger than that by saying, "seventy times seven" (Matt. 18:22). This doesn't mean 490 times, but rather, as much as it takes.

The parable of the unmerciful servant is told to help us change our focus. God is portrayed as a king that was settling debts with his servants. One in particular owed an amount that he could never repay. The command was given to sell the servant, his family, and all his possessions to repay the debt. However, the king showed mercy at the request of the slave. The slave then went out and threw a fellow slave in prison over a debt that was nothing in comparison to that which he had owed. When the King found out about it he said to the slave, "You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave in the same way that I had mercy on you?" (Matt. 18:32-33) Jesus then lays out the lesson very plainly. "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart" (Matt. 18:35).

You may still be wondering, "How do we do that with all the hurt?" The wicked servant was focused on what others "owed him." That breeds more pain. Our focus should be on how great a debt we have been forgiven. This parable puts these passages into perspective. "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you" (Matt. 6:14). "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you" (Eph 4:32). Please understand that you can forgive someone but still be in a situation of rebuilding trust. You don't have to put that person in a situation where they can hurt you again. If someone has "sinned against you" there is a responsibility for you to work towards reconciliation (Matt. 18:15-17). Forgiveness is still hard. Thankfully, we can see it exemplified in God's love for us.  
—Josh Blackmer

## GATHERING TIMES

**Sunday Bible Classes** 9:30 a.m.  
**Sunday Worship** 10:30 a.m.  
**Wednesday Bible Study** 7:00 p.m.

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## OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY GREENBANK FOOD PANTRY

Thursday Evenings—Doors are open 6:00-7:00 PM

Volunteer Schedule:

Wednesdays 10:00 AM  
Thursdays 9:30 AM & 5:30 PM  
Fridays 9:00 AM

To volunteer contact: Ed or Sue Maynard  
302-994-3800

## Order of Worship

Rise Up, O Men of God—R405

Welcome

The Great Physician—R173

Breathe on Me, Breath of God—R295

Scripture Reading & Prayer

More Holiness Give Me—R488

Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know—R304

Communion

Offering

More About Jesus—R626

"Anger & Forgiveness"—Doug Mattis

Wonderful Words of Life—R303

Closing Prayer

## Love One Another

Let's all participate with common sense actions to help reduce the spread of the Coronavirus and other germs.

\*Wash your hands often

\*No handshakes, hugs, or kisses

\*Cover your cough / sneeze

\*If you are not feeling well, please remain at home and take care of yourself



Help keep our prayer list current by providing regular updates on family and friends.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Pray for all effected by the Coronavirus, and for protection of health for all others; **Bob Crusco:** placed on dialysis this week; **Jonathan Mitchell Sr:** coworker and cousin passed away; **Rick Mickowski:** heart monitoring after AFib episode; **Joe Sullivan, Ronnie Essex & Ken Essex:** all with congestive heart failure; **Christina Steiner:** looking for new job; **Jonathan Mitchell, Jr:** serious health concerns; **Jeffrey Clark Jr:** transition period

**SHUT-INS:** George Adair; Connie Dowds; Joan Gaynor; Agnes Ignudo

**LONG-TERM ILLNESS/RECOVERY:** Joe Brannock, Vincent Stephano, Melinda & Sophia Baluk, Nella Littlejohn, Lucas Kirkland, Monica Green, Andre Verlander, Ed Maynard, Joyce Gamble, Marie Difilippo, Dustin Lackford, Michael Mugrage, Felicity Ray, Gwendolyn Brady, John Arnold, Bud Polk, Evalyn Kline, Emma Green, Gloria Edwards, Daisey Mae Wright, Janette McGowan, Andre Johnson

**COLLEGE STUDENTS:** Rachel Johnson, Kyle Cox, Heather Abosch, Brent Tucker, Tatiana Vargas, Kristal Moreta, Mackenzie Naseery, Ethan Reed, Prissila Sanichar, Antonio Sanichar, Adriana Moreta

**INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS:** Ghana Bible College, Samuel Agbeta (Nkwanta, Ghana); Chad & Amy Westerholm (Mozambique); Edmond Borfay (Liberia); Antony & Nicole DaCunha (MedRlm Mission)

**DOMESTIC MISSIONS:** Delaware Christian Campus Ministry Foundation; Camp Manatawny

**OUR COUNTRY:** Leaders, Military, Law Enforcement, Firefighters

**OUR ELDERS, DEACONS, & MINISTRY LEADERS**

# GREENBANK NEWS

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

Check with the office to see if you have submitted up-to-date information for yourself and your family. If your contact information has changed recently, please provide us with an update. We also need updated photos for many members. Contact Lisa Reed to get an information form, and Yvette Curcio to have your picture taken.

## BARNABAS MINISTRY—MARCH 21—9:30AM

Join us in sending cards to those who need encouragement. If you have any questions, talk with Crystal Reyes.

## 5TH SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP MEAL—MARCH 29

We will enjoy a potluck luncheon immediately after our worship service on 3/29. Please bring main dishes, salads, and desserts to share.

## SIGHT & SOUND—FRIDAY, MAY 15—7:00PM

We are excited to be taking a group to see the new production, Queen Esther, at Sight & Sound. Shows are selling out quickly, so we need to know how many tickets are needed. **Please sign up today** on the list posted on the bulletin board. Tickets are \$68/adult & \$34/children (age 12 & under). See Fern Davis if you have questions.

## SECURITY COMMITTEE

Contact Rory Irwin if you are interested in serving with this group who is working to improve security measures for our facility.

	03/15/20	In His Service	03/22/20
	W. Johnson	Worship Leader	J. Clark
	R. Irwin	Scripture & Prayer	T. Tucker
	B. Pennington	Usher	W. Johnson
	R. Stafford	Communion	M. Ray
	P. King	Offering	C. Blue
	R. Mickowski	Pass	M. Galeano
	T. DeShields	"	C. Mason
	S. Willis	"	G. Kirkland
	D. Regester	"	R. Stafford
	F. Davis	Greeters	B/B Davis
	Friederichsen	"	Greenwood
	J. Friederichsen	Shepherd's Prayer	P. King
	D. Mattis	Security	C. Blue

### Last Week

Sunday AM: 128  
Contribution: \$5196

Weekly Average: \$4959  
Budget/Week: \$4800

Wednesday PM: 20  
2020 Baptisms: 3