

## Greenbank Weekly Update – Friday, April 17, 2020

Is anyone in need? Please contact the church office, and we will find a way to assist you. Office contact info: [office@greenbankcoc.org](mailto:office@greenbankcoc.org) or 302-994-3800. Office hours: MWF 9-3

### Reflection: Challenging Times by Mike Barker

We've heard it said, from many sources, that we are living in challenging times. While this is no doubt true for all of us during the COVID-19 pandemic, we can imagine (or maybe know first-hand), what it must be like for our children having to continue their education outside the classroom. Because of being homebound, there must be times when distractions interrupt the learning process, leading to frustration for everyone involved.

Other challenges have also arisen as a result of this virus we've declared war on. Some have lost jobs; and because businesses that were deemed "non-essential" have closed, some have done so for good. While we cannot underestimate the impact of the foregoing statements, those who've been hospitalized or have died from the virus have encountered it in a way that we who've been spared have not. Still, in one way or another, we've all seen the effects of COVID-19.

To put it in another perspective, this is not the first time that our nation has faced a worldwide pandemic. One that we are all far removed from, but affected my mother at age 7, was the influenza pandemic of 1918. I remember her telling me what they did to treat the disease and help arrest its spread. Some of those measures were the same then as we're using now, but more importantly, it took everyone doing their part, working together as a team to bring the flu under control.

Perhaps there is another perspective for those of us living by the faith that binds us together in love. While we cannot meet together as we most often do, we can remind ourselves of the saints long ago who were scattered abroad and unable to come together because of persecution. While this wasn't due to a pandemic, Acts 8 tells us that our brothers and sisters were scattered abroad throughout Judea and Samaria, leaving only the apostles in Jerusalem. Adding to the persecution was Saul, taking Christians and putting them in prison, doing so with a clear conscience. While their lives were upended, they "went everywhere preaching the good news." The occasion became serendipitous for these Christians; that is, they turned the opposition into an opportunity for good. In his book, "The Spreading Flame," F.F. Bruce reminds us that the persecution of Acts 8 "kindled the fire" that led to widespread evangelism in the New Testament world.

Who knows but what we, like those mentioned in Acts 8, now have a great opportunity to turn this into an occasion for good as never before; to strengthen our faith and equip ourselves to be carriers of the word no matter how our lives are impacted by COVID-19. While we haven't been thrown into prison or had to leave homesteads out of fear for our lives, we have been "inconvenienced" by being housebound. Rather than being bored with "time on our hands," we can redeem the time to study, to reflect, and contemplate how we can be used as God's servants. Hopefully, when we are able to meet again, we will do so with great fervor, and with a willingness to let God direct our efforts, using the outcome for His purpose.

### Prayer & Praise

**Tabitha Hucker:** (former member) She has a MRSA infection; she has also been undergoing chemo for cancer which has compromised her immune system. Pray for healing.

**Relief from the COVID-19 pandemic.** Slow the spread. Please stay home.

**Essential Workers:** Doctors, nurses, law enforcement, firefighters, paramedics, postal & transit, grocers, etc.

**Business Owners & Employees:** that businesses will be able to recover from the shutdown.

**Our Government Leaders** who are working around the clock to find ways to bring relief.

The most recent requests are listed above. If you have an item for prayer or praise, please email it to [office@greenbankcoc.org](mailto:office@greenbankcoc.org) for inclusion in our weekly list. To view previous prayer requests and those on our ongoing lists, please visit the Weekly Bulletins page on our website [www.greenbankcoc.org](http://www.greenbankcoc.org).

## **Announcements**

**Mobile Food Pantry:** To help address increased demands for food assistance amid the COVID-19 public health crisis, the Food Bank of Delaware will be hosting a drive-thru mobile pantry on Monday, April 20, at 11 a.m. in the Christiana Mall parking lot. Participants are asked to bring identification and proof of Delaware residency. All food recipients must stay in their vehicle. The Food Bank of Delaware requests that participants make sure their trunks are cleared out so volunteers can load food with minimal interaction. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, public restrooms will not be available. The Food Bank of Delaware is prepared to serve up to 2500 households on a first come, first served basis. Pre-registration has been set up to help speed up the check-in process but does not guarantee service. To pre-register, please follow this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-castle-county-mass-distribution-tickets-102676253438>

On-site registration will also be available for those who do not have computer/smart phone access.

Again, food distribution for Delaware residents in need at Christiana Mall on Monday, April 20, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Please follow traffic message boards and share this information with anyone you know who might need assistance.

**Sight & Sound:** The show we were scheduled to see on May 15 has been cancelled by Sight & Sound Theatres. Our fellowship committee will determine if this event will be rescheduled for later in the year. Stay tuned!

**Online Bible Study:** Boyd Reed is hosting an online study of the Gospel of John. Passages are posted weekly along with questions to prompt discussion. You can access the lessons at any time convenient for you, read other's comments, and post questions or comments you have for each lesson. Access the lessons here:

<https://classroom.google.com/c/NjUyNzlyMTIzMTda> **Class code: 7s2upmd**

**Our Food Pantry:** Closed until further notice. We will not re-open until restrictions on large groups are lifted.

## **Connect with Us Online**

**Sunday Worship: Spanish service @ 9:00 a.m. English service @ 10:30 a.m.**

**Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:00 p.m. (English only)**

**PLEASE NOTE: You do NOT need to have a Facebook account to view the live feed through our website.**

1) **Facebook Live:** <http://www.facebook.com/greenbankchurchofchrist>

2) **Greenbank website:** [www.greenbankcoc.org](http://www.greenbankcoc.org) Click on the Facebook Live tab on the menu bar at the top of the page.

3) **Conference call:** Dial +1 (646) 749-3122 Enter Access Code 947 684 973#

## **Options for Giving**

**If you are able to & desire to maintain regular giving:**

1) **Write a check** and mail to 511 Greenbank Road, Wilmington, DE 19808, or hold all checks until we begin meeting again.

2) **Cash givers** can set aside your contributions and bring them when we begin meeting again.

3) **Online giving:** A PayPal option has been set up on our website [www.greenbankcoc.org](http://www.greenbankcoc.org). Click on the "Donate" button and follow the instructions. (Note: there is a small fee assessed from each donation.)

**Last Week's Contribution: \$3,863**

**Weekly Average: \$4,278**