

## Greenbank Weekly Update – Friday, June 26, 2020

Do you know anyone in need? Please contact the church office, and we will find a way to assist.

Contact info: [office@greenbankcoc.org](mailto:office@greenbankcoc.org) or 302-994-3800. Office hours: Monday Only, 9:00am-3:00pm

Email and phone messages will be accessed remotely throughout the week.

### **Reflection – Hope: A Steadfast Anchor** by Mike Barker

If there is one message that is sorely needed today, it is the message of hope. Hope in the midst of chaos; hope in the midst of distress. It seems that many situations have risen, causing some to exclaim, “there is no hope!” It is during these challenging times that we need the message of hope more than ever. Yet, where is that message coming from given the worldwide chaos and stress we often find ourselves immersed in? In times like these, the only source of hope we can be certain of comes from the calming presence of Jesus, who has promised to be with us in the midst of these chaotic, stressful situations.

Alice Hawthorne describes hope as “a steadfast anchor” in the hymn Whispering Hope. No doubt, Hawthorne took this image from Hebrews 6:19 to convey the thought that God’s promises are steadfast, they are secure, they are everlasting. Pricilla J. Owens penned the same thought in the hymn, Will Your Anchor Hold. The chorus expresses it in these words:

***“We have an anchor, that keeps the soul, steadfast and sure while the billows roll,  
fastened to the Rock which cannot move, grounded firm and deep in the Savior’s love.”***

We have such a hope in Christ Jesus that he will not only be present when we encounter chaotic and confusing situations, he will also come again and take us to be with him forever where there will be no more chaos or confusion.

The chorus above is worth repeating: our hope **is the** steadfast anchor that cannot move, **it is** grounded firm and deep in the Savior’s love.

This is the message of hope that is sorely needed today. Moreover, it is the only source of steadfast hope this world will ever know.

### **Prayer & Praise**

**Bill Davis family:** Bill’s mother, Martha A. Caldwell, age 102, passed away on Tuesday at her home in Mechanicsburg, IN. The funeral will be Monday, June 29 at 10 a.m. at the Mechanicsburg Christian Church.

**Ken & Brenda Veale:** both have COVID-19.

**Josh and Jenny Hood** and their three young children also have COVID-19.

**Greenbank church:** May we be an example of love and unity to our community. Pray for one another daily. Pray that we can fully prepare our facility to begin meeting together again soon.

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

**Our Government Leaders** who are working to find a balance of restrictions and cautious reopening.

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**

**Worship Service Resumes July 5th at 10:30AM:** For now, we will only have a worship service. We will add Bible classes at a later date. An email was sent to members earlier in the week with information and guidelines to follow as we begin to meet. If you did not receive this email, the information is included at the end of this week’s newsletter. We fully understand that some may be reluctant to attend because of

health concerns. If so, please remain at home. Our service will still be available online, and we encourage you to participate in worship with us via that platform.

**Office Hours:** Beginning Monday, June 29, office hours will return to the normal schedule, Mon/Wed/Fri 9am – 3pm.

**Employment Opportunities:** If you or someone you know is looking for a job, please contact the church office. We have received information from a few places that are looking to hire additional workers.

### Online Bible Studies

**Ladies Class on Zoom – Saturday, June 27 @ 1:00PM:** This week we will discuss how to build community by investing time and effort in helping others develop to their fullest potential. To download lesson materials, go to our website’s resources page. If you need the Zoom link for class, please contact Crystal Reyes. This will be our last class for the summer. We hope you will join us!

**Gospel of John:** Boyd Reed continues to host this online study. 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**

### 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)**

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

3) **Conference call:** Dial (301) 715-8592 Enter Meeting ID 889 4601 8992

### Options for Giving

**We appreciate those who are able to maintain regular giving. Ways to make a contribution:**

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: \$1,665**

**Weekly Average: \$4,210**

### **From the Elders regarding returning to worship:**

Greetings, Everyone

Above all, we hope that you are physically well and strong in the faith. We remember you in our prayers, as we trust you are doing for one another.

This note is to summarize what has been determined as regards to our resumption of worship together, which is still intended for July 5th. It is the product of two open meetings in which some of you have participated... a number of discussions among the elders and Bro. Domingo...a concerted deliberation to make sure we can resume worship safely...and a great deal of prayer.

[Note that you will see some modifications to where we left it when we had our first open meeting more than two weeks ago]

Here are the main points:

1. We will have one worship service starting at 10:30 AM. It is intended to last one hour.
2. For the time being there will be no Bible classes or separate children's activities.
3. Shelley Irwin will have some Bible-oriented things for the small children at their seats during the sermon.
4. All over the age of 13 who enter the building will be required to wear masks. Children between 3 and 12 are asked to wear masks if their parents feel they can tolerate doing that for the one-hour service. For those who arrive without masks, one will be provided.
5. The 6 foot "social distancing" rule will be in effect from the time we leave our cars in the parking lot until we depart for home.
6. Seating will be by family unit, again honoring the 6 ft rule. This spacing will be marked on the pews.
7. Our ushers and greeters will be there to direct the flow and assist in any way
8. Hand sanitizer stations will be in place in the foyer
9. The order of worship will be essentially what we have been doing online together for nearly 4 months now. That means no congregational singing, with or without masks...at least for now. [This decision was made after much discussion and with heavy hearts--we ALL want to sing praises to the Lord as a congregation--but we believe this is the best decision at this time in regard to health and safety concerns for all in attendance... in the spirit of love.
10. Communion will be taken from single serve packets (containing the bread and the cup) these will be distributed to each family as they enter the building and will be taken together later as part of our worship.
11. The Offering/Collection will be conducted as we leave the building in special boxes.
12. Sadly --very sadly--there should be no physical contact (hugging, handshakes, etc.). That will be difficult, but smiles, a warm "I love you", actually seeing one another, and virtual hugs will be a great blessing to us all.
13. Activity will be restricted to the upstairs areas. They will have been fully sanitized prior to our meeting.
14. Occupancy of the restrooms should be no more than 2 at a time and we ask that parents accompany their children.

Most certainly I have left something off the list that should have been there, but we will backfill that later as need be. Again, a number of ushers/greeters will be on hand to guide us through this first joint worship in the time of Covid, which we pray will end quickly.

Finally, although we earnestly wish to see you each, we fully understand that some of you may be reluctant to attend owing to health concerns. Should that be so, please remain at home. Our service will still be available online, and we encourage you to share the worship with us via that avenue.

If there are any questions or comments, please let one of us know either directly or via Lisa Reed.

In love on behalf of the elders and Bro. Domingo.