

Greenbank Weekly Update – Friday, July 3, 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 or 302-994-3800. Office hours: Monday Only, 9:00am-3:00pm

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

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: There will be no worship service at the building on July 5. This decision was made with overarching concern for the health and safety of the congregation considering the recent resurgence of the coronavirus infections in the state. You can read the full announcement from the elders at the end of this newsletter.

Reflection – The Faith to Persevere from *My Utmost for His Highest Updated Edition*

“Because you have kept My command to persevere...” Revelation 3:10

Perseverance means more than endurance – more than simply holding on until the end. A saint’s life is in the hands of God like a bow and arrow in the hands of an archer. God is aiming at something the saint cannot see, but our Lord continues to stretch and strain, and every once in a while, the saint says, “I can’t take it anymore.” Yet God pays no attention; He goes on stretching until His purpose is in sight, and then He lets the arrow fly. Entrust yourself to God’s hands. Is there something in your life for which you need perseverance right now? Maintain your intimate relationship with Jesus Christ through the perseverance of faith. Proclaim as Job did, *“Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him”* (Job 13:15).

Faith is not some weak and pitiful emotion, but is strong and vigorous confidence built on the fact that God is holy love. And even though you cannot see Him right now and cannot understand what He is doing, you know Him. Disaster occurs in your life when you lack the mental composure that comes from establishing yourself on the eternal truth that God is holy love. Faith is the supreme effort of your life – throwing yourself with abandon and total confidence upon God.

God ventured His all in Jesus Christ to save us, and now He wants us to venture our all with total abandoned confidence in Him. There are areas in our lives where that faith has not worked in us as yet – places still untouched by the life of God. There were none of those places in Jesus Christ’s life, and there are to be none in ours. Jesus prayed, *“This is eternal life, that they may know You...”* (John 17:3). The real meaning of eternal life is a life that can face anything it has to face without wavering. If we will take this view, life will become one great romance – a glorious opportunity of seeing wonderful things all the time. God is disciplining us to get us into this central place of power.

Prayer & Praise

Bandy family following the loss of their son and brother, David.

Ed Maynard: surgery on eyelid on July 8.

Barbara Davis: knee surgery on July 10

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. Continue to pray for one another daily. Pray that we will be able 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 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.

Announcements

Wedding Wishes: Shala Wall & Jeffrey Clark, Jr. were united in marriage on Friday, June 26. May God bless this young couple as they begin their life as husband and wife.

Baby Boy Piggy Bank: We will be collecting money for a piggy bank for Erika Aguilar, daughter of Maria Aguilar Gallegos, who is expecting a little boy in early August. If you can contribute, please make a check out to Greenbank church of Christ and put "piggy bank" on the memo line. We will purchase gift cards for Erika with the donations we receive. Also, if you have any baby boy clothing or other items that are in good conditions and would like to give them to Erika, please make arrangements with the office to drop them off by July 19.

Office Hours: In light of delaying our return to regular worship services at the building, office hours will revert to Mondays only until further notice.

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

Wednesdays @ 7PM: Facebook Live <http://www.facebook.com/greenbankchurchofchrist>

Gospel of John: This online study continues. Boyd Reed posts passages 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/NjUyNzlyMTI2MTda> **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 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 can maintain regular giving. Ways to contribute:

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. Click on the "Donate" button and follow the instructions. (Note: there is a small fee assessed from each donation.)

Last Week's Contribution: \$1,937

Weekly Average: \$4,123

From the Elders regarding delay in returning to worship:

Dear Greenbank Family,

The "headline" this morning is that we have decided to postpone our coming to worship together in the building until a date **later than July 5**...a date that was recently announced.

This decision was made in our overarching concern for the health and safety of the congregation in the face of the unrelenting coronavirus, as we continued to monitor its recent resurgence, some reported negative impacts of other churches across the U.S. and the world who resumed congregational worship in today's environment, etc., as well as expressions of concern by a number of you.

There is no joy in this decision. We simply believe it is the prudent action at this time.

So, what is the plan going forward?

1. On July 5 we will continue to worship online as we have been doing since mid-March, i.e., Brother Domingo will lead us in worship online from his home. **There will be no service at the building on July 5.**
2. On July 12, and into the foreseeable future, we will continue to worship online (no congregational gathering) but the streaming of the worship will originate from the building and Domingo will be joined from time to time by other members of the congregation to lead various segments of the worship. We see this move--as we pray you do-- as a tangible step to transition us toward eventual "normalcy" of our all being together... and that will happen.
3. We will, as we have done, continue to monitor/assess the virus matter with a view to resuming a full coming together as soon as we can do that in confidence. Along the way, we will--as we ask you to--seek wisdom and guidance from our God.
4. We will do our best to keep everyone fully informed and, as always, we covet your thoughts and ideas. To be sure, if any of this is unclear, please ask.

Finally, if any of you are aware of folks who do not have access to email, would you please phone them and let them know of this new plan.

For now, we encourage you --with our full being-- to be strong in the faith, true to your worship and honor to the Father, and supportive of one another.

Blessings to you each. We love you, as does the Lord of our lives.

On behalf of the elders and Bro. Domingo