

Greenbank Weekly Newsletter – Friday, August 28, 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.

Reflection: God With Us by Bryan Nash

There are several ways of referring to Jesus – Son of Man, Son of God, Son of David, Lord, Christ, Savior, Messiah. Another one is Immanuel. Immanuel is found in Matthew 1:23 and is a reference to Isaiah 7:14. The Gospel of Matthew says that Immanuel means “God with us.”

Prophets play a big role throughout Scripture. We have those we refer to as Major Prophets who are associated with lengthy books in the Bible – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel. There is also, as it is referred to in Jewish thought, the Book of the Twelve. We call them Minor Prophets because they are shorter books – Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habbakuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi. Then there are the prophets who played a major role in the history of Israel – people like Nathan, Elijah, and Elisha.

But of all the prophets in the Bible, not one of them claimed to be “God with us” in the flesh. From Moses to Malachi, the prophets were God’s mouthpiece. They were not God Himself. This is what sets Jesus apart from all the rest of the prophets in the Bible, as well as from those who claim to be prophets within other religions. Jesus has come not only to bring the word of God, but to be the Word of God. (John 1:14).

The notion that God dwelled in the flesh amidst creation through the person of Jesus was too much for some to accept. This largely seems to be the background for the Gospel and Letters of John. All throughout these writings, there is an emphasis on Jesus being in the flesh and having a body. Whether it be the emphasis on the Word who became flesh (John 1:1-18), Thomas who wanted to touch Jesus’ resurrected body (John 20:24-29), or the insistence that “every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God” (1 John 4:2), John’s writings are meant to persuade us that Jesus was fully man and fully God. He was “God with us.”

But why does it matter? What difference does it make? It matters because it is what makes Christianity unlike any other religion. The one we follow was a good teacher, but He was more than a good teacher. He was a prophet, but more than a prophet. In Jesus, God got down on our level. God came and lived life with us. Because of this, we have a God who sympathized with us (Hebrews 4:15-16). He knows our struggles. He knows our pain. Put simply, He knows how much we need Him.

God is not distant, cold, and aloof. Rather, God is a “very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1). This is a God unlike any other so-called god, and this is a God that I want to know.

8/30 Worship Leaders

Song Leader & Opening Prayer – Walter Johnson

Scripture Reading & Prayer – Boyd Reed

Communion & Offering – Mark Ray

Sermon – Domingo Reyes

Closing Comments & Prayer – Jim Friederichsen

Prayer & Praise

Bob Crusco had a permanent port for his dialysis placed on Thursday. Please pray that it heals well. He is also recovering from a severe ear infection which has caused Bell’s palsy on the right side of his face.

Anglea Mitchell: biopsy results were benign – Praise God! She is awaiting surgery to have the rest of the area of concern removed and tested. Please continue to pray for good results.

Mike & Judy Barker: Mike has recovered from Covid-19; He and Judy remain in quarantine until 9/5.

Nkwanta, Ghana church: There have been three deaths in the Nkwanta church in the last week. Please keep these fellow Christians in prayer.

Greenbank church: Pray for our phased plan for returning to in-person worship – that God would guide us in making the best determinations on how to proceed.

Our Government Leaders who are working to find a balance of reopening businesses and schools while determining best practices for the health and safety of all.

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

Phased Return to In Person Worship: The elders have decided the best return to in person worship will be a phased plan. On Sunday, September 13 at 10:30 a.m. we will welcome 10 families to meet at the church building (in addition to the worship leaders). Every effort will be made to keep everyone safe and the virus at bay using all the safety precautions we can (building sanitization, masks, hand sanitizer, no physical contact, social distancing, etc.) The elders ask that everyone fill out this simple survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QPSTCMX> by Wednesday, September 2nd so they can know who is, or is not, ready to return to in person worship. If we have interest from more than 10 families, we will create an attendance rotation so that everyone can participate as they desire. The online streaming will continue for those who are not physically attending the service. If you have any questions, please contact one of the elders, Domingo, or the church office.

Outdoor Movie Night – Maybe: We are working to bring Sight & Sound’s Queen Esther to the big screen – outdoors – next Saturday night, Sept. 5th at 8:00 p.m. All the details are not quite in place just yet, but we want you to be aware of the event and to save the date. Cost will be \$5 and there is an attendance limit of 75 people. We will send an email next week to, hopefully, confirm.

Ghana Bible College: Due to government control of the banks in Ghana, the College has not been able to access their endowment fund for two years. This, along with pandemic closures, has put the College in a financial crisis. If you can help by making a donation, please mail it to 511 Greenbank Road, Wilmington, DE 19808. Checks should be made out to Greenbank Church of Christ and indicate Ghana in the memo. No amount is too small. We will be wiring funds to the College in September and again in December.

Did you get the Greenbank App? Go to your app store and search for The Sharefaith App. Install and then open the app. Search for Greenbank Church of Christ and press save. When it asks for app icon select My ministry. It’s that simple! (Note: The app downloads under the Sharefaith name, but your icon will be our Greenbank logo.) The app is connected to some of our website pages along with other features. Check it out!

THERE’S STILL TIME TO REGISTER!! The 10th Annual DCCMF Charity Golf Tournament will take place virtually from September 16-30. Gather your team, pick your golf date, and visit the website <https://www.dccmf.org/golf-outing> for more information and to register. If you would like to be an event sponsor, there is a link on the website for that as well. Contact Walter Johnson if you have any questions.

Worship with Us Online

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

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:** If you do not have internet access, you can dial in on your phone to connect.
(301) 715-8592 Enter Meeting ID 889 4601 8992

Online Bible Studies

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

Gospel of John: All lessons have been posted for this enjoyable study. They are still available for you to read, comment, and ask questions at this link: <https://classroom.google.com/c/NjUyNzlyMTI2MTda> **Class code: 7s2upmd**

Options for Giving

We appreciate those who are able to 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: \$3,455

Weekly Average: \$4,171