



Weekly Newsletter – Sunday, August 22, 2021

Office hours are Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00am-3:00pm.

Contact info: office@greenbankcoc.org or 302-994-3800

He Was Willing to Forgive by Jonathan McAnulty (edited)

It is with great love and compassion that Jesus Christ, as they were lifting His body high upon a cross, having been beaten, spat upon, and mocked, He looked out over His persecutors and prayed, “Father, forgive them, they know not what they are doing” (Luke 23:34).

Scripture reminds us, “God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). The sins of men are manifold, and each of them is as painful to God as the next, who, in His righteousness cannot abide iniquity. Each sin is a slap in God’s face and a mocking of His authority and power. Each sin is like one of the nails that was driven into Jesus to crucify Him. And yet, God so loved the world that He sent His Son to die for it.

Jesus, looking down from the cross, knew that He was dying, not for fictional perfect people who were all goodness and light, but for the broken sinful masses of humanity who needed an opportunity for a salvation they could not provide for themselves. And so, He could pray, in compassion, even for the ones crucifying Him, because it was for those very people that He was dying. Even if they never took the opportunity to find the forgiveness He offered, He was dying so they would have the choice.

Jesus instructs His followers, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:43). This is not always an easy thing, but if we wish to be followers of Christ and children of God, it is a necessary thing.

We live in a divided world, filled with animosity, tribalism, sectarianism, factions, and the like. Some people are, in all honesty, hard to like because they are just so rude and hateful. Others are conniving and dishonest, ready to cheat us or use us at a moment’s notice, if they think they can get away with it.

But Jesus died for them, too, because they are exactly the sort of people that need forgiveness and compassion. Jesus said of such, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners” (Mark 2:17). Too often this idea is ignored in our dealings with one another, or in our conversations about others.

How often do we mutter angrily about our bosses, our neighbors, our children’s teachers, that person who just cut us off in traffic, those who drive too slowly, the cashier in the store, or any number of other individuals throughout the day? How often do we forget that Christ died for them too?

Christians are not to be grumblers and complainers. We are to shine as children of light in a world of darkness. Which means, learning not to speak ill of those around us (cf. Philippians 2:14-15). More though than just learning not to grumble, Christ wants us to learn to forgive them, even as He was and is willing to forgive. The One who prayed, “Father, forgive them” wants us to learn the same prayer. And having learned it, to pray it. Again, and again. Seventy times and more, if need be, in a day (cf. Matthew 18:22).

We should be thankful that Christ is merciful because that means He was willing to die for us. For each of us individually. But if that is true of me, then it is true of the one next to me, and the one next to them. Even the ones I might be angry at. And if it is true of you, then it is true of the one next to you, and the one next to them. Even the ones you might be angry at.

So, when we get angry; when we get mad; and when we want to lash out...we would be well served to take a moment and remind ourselves, “Christ died for that one, too.”

Praise & Prayer Requests

The Blue Family: as they mourn the sudden death of Nancy Blue.

Mark Rector: awaiting a liver transplant.

Diana Gambia: tumor in her abdomen; pray for the provision of funds for her medical expenses.

Beverly Abosch: Her parents are sick. Pray for a speedy recovery.

Rylie Ennis: Recovering from hip surgery.

George Adair: In rehab at Manor Care on Faulk Road.

Greenbank church: Godly guidance for our elders & minster as they lead our congregation.

Pray for unity in our country and for our leaders to seek God's wisdom and guidance.

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 and Upcoming Events

Family Fun Day

Help is needed to man the stations at Family Fun Day, August 28th. If you are available to help, please contact Marlin Johnson by phone or email.

School Supplies - Deadline

All items should have been brought to the church building today. If you forgot, you can drop them off tomorrow, Monday, Aug. 23, from 9am-3pm. Contact Fern Davis if you have questions.

Small Groups

All members are encouraged to join a small group. We have five groups – 3 meeting in homes, a singles group meeting at the church building, and a ladies group meeting via Zoom. The first session is on Sunday, Sept. 12, then each group will determine their regular schedule. Sign-up at the bulletin board outside the blue room.

11th Annual Blue Hens for Christ Golf Classic

The annual golf tournament benefitting the Blue Hens for Christ ministry will be held the week of September 20-25 at the Chesapeake Bay Golf Club in Rising Sun, MD. If you choose to play on Saturday, Sept. 25, your package will include a continental breakfast and lunch buffet. Sign-in on Saturday is 8:00 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. See the flyer posted on the bulletin board or go to the website www.ReflectMissions.org/golf-outing for more information and to register. Cost is \$125/golfer with various levels of sponsorship available. See Walter Johnson if you have any questions.

Join Us for Worship

Sunday Mornings @ 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) **Phone In:** 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

Bible Study ONLINE

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

3 Ways to Give

We appreciate those who have been able to maintain regular giving.

- 1) **In Person:** You may give your contribution during our Sunday morning worship service, or drop it off at the office on Monday or Wednesday between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
- 2) **By Mail:** Send your contribution to 511 Greenbank Road, Wilmington, DE 19808.
- 3) **Online:** PayPal 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: Attendance: 97 Contribution: \$8819 Weekly Average: \$5127