



Weekly Newsletter – Sunday, October 3, 2021

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

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

The Storm by author unknown

Years ago, I was gripped as I listened to a minister who for several years had faithfully served the church. His work had taken him all over this country. As he concluded his message, he told of one of the most frightening yet thought-provoking experiences of his life.

He had been on a long flight from one place to another. The first warning of the approaching problems came when the sign on the airplane flashed on: **Fasten your seat belts**. Then, after a while, a calm voice said, "We will not be serving the beverages at this time as we are expecting a little turbulence. Please be sure your seatbelt is fastened." As he looked around the aircraft, it became obvious that many of the passengers were becoming apprehensive. Later, the voice of the announcer said, "We are so sorry that we are unable to serve the meal at this time. The turbulence is still ahead of us."

Then the storm broke. The threatening cracks of thunder could be heard even above the roar of the engines. Lightening lit up the darkening skies, and within moments that great plane was like a cork tossed around on a heavenly ocean. One moment the airplane was lifted on terrific currents of air; the next, it dropped as if it were about to crash.

The minister confessed that he shared the discomfort and fear of those around him. He said, "As I looked around the plane, I could see that nearly all the passengers were upset and alarmed. Some were praying. The future seemed gloomy, and many were wondering if they would make it through the storm.

"Then, I suddenly saw a little girl. Apparently, the storm meant nothing to her. She had tucked her feet beneath her as she sat on her seat; she was reading a book, and everything within her small world was calm and orderly. Sometimes she closed her eyes, and then she would read again; then she would straighten her legs but worry and fear were not in her world. When the plane was being rocked by the terrible storm, when it tilted this way and that, as it rose and fell with frightening severity, when all the adults were scared half to death, that marvelous child was completely composed and unafraid." The minister could hardly believe his eyes.

It was not surprising then, that when the plane finally reached its destination and all the passengers were hurrying to disembark, the minister lingered to speak to the girl whom he had watched for such a long time. Having commented about the storm and behavior of the plane, he asked why she had not been afraid.

The sweet child replied, "Sir, my dad is the pilot, and he is taking me home."

There are many kinds of storms that rock our world – physical, mental, financial, domestic, and many other storms can easily and quickly darken our skies and throw our minds into seemingly uncontrollable movement. We have all known such times, and let us be honest and confess, that it is much easier to be at rest when our feet are on firm ground than when we are being tossed about in a darkened sky.

While we are going through those times, let us also remember: our Father is the Pilot. He is in control, and He is taking us home.

John 14:1-6 says: *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

Praise & Prayer Requests

Moe Martin: pray for my strength and faith to trust our Savior in all things.

Carma Bates: pray all goes well with some procedures she is having; she is Beverly Abosch's mother.

Marc Brasefield: pray for him and the family as he prepares for deployment on October 18th.

Marcia Johnson: keep family in Florida in prayer as Covid cases rise; pray for her to have strength and patience.

Connie Hedgepeth: receiving palliative care after recent cancer diagnosis.

Bob Reece: recovering from quadruple bypass surgery.

Coach Al & Aiden's Poppop: an autistic boy asked for prayers for his friends who have Covid-19. Al lost his battle last night. Aiden's poppop is doing better.

Dale Connor & Mark Rector: health concerns.

Greenbank church: Godly guidance for our elders, minister, & deacons 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

Ladies Bible Study

Our first ladies' class is on Saturday, October 9th at 11:00 a.m. and will meet via Zoom. Sister Crystal Reyes will lead our study of the book *A Woman Who Doesn't Quit – Lessons from Ruth* by Nicki Koziarz. Click this link to sign up for class: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0845AFAE2EA6FB6-ladies>. When you have registered, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to download the study book and a 30-day devotional book. The Zoom link will be sent the week before class begins. Our class meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month through May 2022.

GriefShare

If you are struggling with grief following the loss of a loved one, please consider joining GriefShare. You are welcome to join whenever the time is right for you. Register here: <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/130063>

Small Groups

Our small group meeting schedules have been set. Bear/Glasgow – 1st & 3rd Sundays, 2:00pm (led by George & Sherry Kirkland); Ladies Online – 2nd & 4th Sundays, 4:00pm (led by Alethia Jones); Newport – 2nd & 4th Sundays, 12:30pm (hosted by Mike & Judy Barker); North Wilmington – every other Sunday, 3:00pm, next meeting is on Oct. 10 (hosted by Eileen Khan); Singles – every Tuesday, 7:00pm at Greenbank in the blue room, first meeting is Oct. 5 (led by Mark daBaldo). Small groups are known to strengthen the church. All members are encouraged to participate.

Camp Manatawny Events

Jr/Sr High Retreat (grades 7-12) – October 29-30

Manatawny 5K and Fun Run – October 30

For more information and to register for an event, go to <https://www.manatawny.org/upcomingevents>

Sunday Meeting Times

In-Person Bible Classes for All Ages @ 9:30 a.m. including a Spanish-speakers class (adults).

In-Person Worship Service @ 10:30 a.m. Also streamed online with 3 ways to connect:

- 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

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – 7PM

In Person – John's Epistles taught by George Kirkland.

Online – Proverbs taught by Domingo Reyes @ <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: 126

Contribution: \$2,774

Weekly Average: \$4,937