



Weekly Newsletter – Sunday, October 31, 2021

Office hours are Mon/Wed/Fri 9:00am-3:00pm.

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

Love One Another by R. Ellis

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. John 15:12-13

In His final conversation with His disciples, we may expect Jesus to reveal the things they needed most to remember. What does He say? He begins by washing their feet and teaching the importance of humility and servitude. He assures them that He is going for reasons beneficial for them: (1) to prepare a place for them in His Father's house and (2) to send the Holy Spirit. He speaks to these troubled men about things like peace (14:27) and perfect joy (15:11). Notice the commandment that Jesus stresses: "This is *My* commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (v 12, emphasis in original). He emphasizes the need for love among the disciples after His departure. He assures them that He loves them just as the Father loves Him (15:9), and He urges them to remain in this supreme sacrificial love (vv10-13). Jesus knew that the disciples would need one another to weather the storms ahead, and love would be the only force strong enough to bind them together.

Why was brotherly love so important to Jesus? He knew that when the disciples failed—and fail they would—only love could bring them back. When Jesus met Peter again after he had denied Him, the Lord did not rebuke him, but simply asked, "Do you love Me?" (John 21:15-17). When Paul said to "speak the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15), he did so in a discussion about maintaining unity (v 3) and edifying (v 15) the body. Furthermore, their love would demonstrate to the world that Jesus truly was from God. When Jesus died, far from sneaking back into anonymity, the disciples stood side-by-side and faced the consequences of preaching openly in Jesus' name! With no treasury from which to begin a ministry, they sold their possessions and made daily distributions to the poor (Acts 4:32-37). Their love for one another made it plain that Jesus had permanently transformed their lives in a way that only deity could. Does the world see this in us today?

How should we love one another? Just as Jesus loved His disciples. John tells us that He loved them "to the end" (13:1) and that He loved them enough to lay down His life for them (15:13)—not only as their Messiah, but as their friend (15:13-15)! When we learn to love in this way, we will work to make the Christian walk easier for each other. We do this by refusing to cast any stumbling block into our brother's way (Rom. 14:13), by sacrificing and praying for one another, and by refusing to speak ill of one another (Jas. 4:11). Loving brethren are willing both to stand *by* one another and up *to* one another, and they forgive as often as necessary (Matt. 18:15; Luke 7:40-43).

As Jesus' disciples, we must stand together, because we are better together than we could ever be apart. A coal will burn brightly when it is inside the fire with other coals glowing beside it, but when pulled out, it will soon grow cold. If your love for your brethren is lacking, start looking for opportunities to nourish it, and when you do, you may be surprised how far a little love will go.

Praise & Prayer Requests

Linda Crusco: dealing with several health issues.

Carleta Underwood: undergoing tests – pray for peace and good results.

Judy Barker: recovering from surgery on her broken ankle.

Daniel: pray for spiritual restoration.

Marc Brasefield: deployed to Romania for 10 months.

Connie Hedgepeth: in hospice care.

Dale Connor & Mark Rector: health concerns.

Spanish Ministry: pray for encouragement and growth in this new ministry.

Greenbank church: Godly guidance for our elders, minister, & deacons as they lead our congregation.

Greenbank missions: Westerholm (Mozambique), Borfay (Liberia), Agbeta (Ghana), Camp Manatawny, Reflect Campus Missions/BHC. Pray for a new mission work that reflects the interest of our members.

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

Welcome Chad & Amy Westerholm

We are pleased to have the Westerholm family with us today. Chad will lead our Bible class and also give the sermon. We will take a special collection in three weeks on Sunday, November 21 to support the mission work Chad, Amy, and their team do in Mozambique. Please plan ahead to contribute to this work.

Children's Church Fellowship

Next Sunday, November 7, Children's Church will be extended and will include lunch for our children. Parents are invited to join their kids after the Spanish and English services have ended, or you can go out for a quick lunch without your kids and return by 1:15pm to pick them up. If you have any questions, contact Shelley Irwin.

Office Closure

The office will be closed on Friday, Nov. 5 and Monday, Nov. 8. Any items that are to be included in next week's newsletter need to be submitted by 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 3.

Winterfest 2022 – LIVE!

We are planning to take a group to Gatlinburg for Winterfest in February 2022. Those interested in sending their 6th – 12th grade students should contact Lisa Reed as soon as possible. When we have an idea of how many want to go, we will finalize the details. Financial assistance is available for those concerned about the cost. Speak with Lisa Reed if you have questions or need more information.

Missions Updates

On Sunday, Nov. 14, Edmund Borfay will speak at the end of our service about the work he is doing in Liberia. We also look forward to when Reflect Campus Missions apprentice, Connor Brown, can be with us.

GriefShare – Holiday Seminar

Our Surviving the Holidays seminar is scheduled for Saturday, November 13, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. via Zoom. There is a \$5 fee for the book. Register for the seminar and/or the regular session here: <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/130063>. If you have any questions, contact Judy Barker.

Virtual Ladies Day

The ladies at the Beltway Church of Christ in Camp Springs, MD are hosting a Zoom webinar on Saturday, Nov. 6 at 10am – 12pm. The theme is “Let Your Faith Be Bigger Than Your Fears.” Please register in advance for this webinar: https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jEoTbtONRyyCtiCkitsTtg
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

November Birthdays

1 – Shelley Irwin, Anna DaCunha	14 – Chelsea Brasfield
4 – Bob Crusco	18 – Liz Cox
6 – Lillie West	19 – Darrin Anderson, Felicia Johnson, Jason Grabowski
9 – Eileen Hence	20 – Christian Smith
11 – Ed Hedgepeth	22 – Crystal Reyes, Lorraine Martin
13 – Devon Bolden	30 – Knowledge Reyes

November Anniversary

11 – Darrin & Janell Anderson

Sunday Meeting Times

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

In-Person Worship Service – English & Spanish @ 10:30 a.m. English service is livestreamed 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 a Facebook account to view the live feed through our website.
- 3) **Phone In:** (301) 715-8592 Enter Meeting ID 889 4601 8992

BIBLE STUDIES

In Person – Wednesdays @ 7pm – John’s Epistles led by George Kirkland.

Online – Wednesdays @ 7pm – Proverbs led by Domingo Reyes. Connect as you would for our worship service.

Spanish (In-Person)– Thursdays @ 6:30 pm – Contact Domingo Reyes for more information.

Ladies – 2nd Saturday each month @ 11am on Zoom – “A Woman Who Doesn’t Quit” led by Crystal Reyes.

Men – 3rd Saturday each month @ 10am at Greenbank – led by Mark Ray.

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: English service: 68 Spanish service: NA Contribution: \$2,864 Weekly Average: \$4,866