



Weekly Newsletter – Sunday, December 19, 2021

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

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The Lord is Near by Eric Sanders

It was touted by ESPN as the best opening college football weekend ever. And boy were they ever right! Upsets galore. Nail biting overtime finishes. And yes, even double-digit blowouts. I was riveted the whole weekend as I watched play after play of what is arguably the best sport in town. But there was one game that caught my eye. In fact, it was one particular play in that game that pulled at my heart strings like no other.

With 13:30 remaining in the first quarter, the Nebraska Cornhuskers, in a scoreless game with Fresno State, lined up in punt formation. But what made this play different than any previous punt was that only 10 players were on the field for the snap. The punter was missing. The team purposely took a delay-of-game penalty on their first possession to honor their former punter who passed away in July. The tweet by Nebraska Cornhusker Football said it best: "We had to take a delay of game, weren't able to get all 11 guys out to punt in time. Missing one of them."

I'm reminded of what Ernest Hemingway said, "The world breaks everyone, and afterward, some are strong at the broken places."

Everyone is broken by life. Some experience sudden, tragic loss. Others are weighed down by illness. There are times in our lives where it seems that the only experiences that we are having are bad ones. For some, today is worse than yesterday. And thus, the fear of what tomorrow will bring creeps in. We seem to be going from one crisis to another. And there are days when life simply drains all the energy from us only to find us wiped out from the stress we are dealing with at the moment.

Have you ever been so tired, worn out, broken down, frustrated, stressed out, hopeless and discouraged that you feel like you can't even make it through the day and dread facing tomorrow? Do you feel like you are completely spent? I've had days like that. And I know you have too. But we need to come to the understanding that there are some things that only God can fix. No one else can. And it's days like these when we need to remember, now more than ever, the words of the Psalmist.

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." Psalms 34.18

There's comfort in that passage. For you see, the Psalmist acknowledges that there will be times in our lives where we feel crushed. Where we are brokenhearted. But take heart . . . the Lord is near.

I marvel at those I know who don't know where to go for comfort. Who think that despair will swallow them whole. Who feel the light at the end of the tunnel will never appear. I imagine hearts were breaking that Saturday afternoon in Lincoln, Nebraska. Missing one of them.

Thanks be to God that we have One who we can turn to. Always. It was David who said:

"Be to me a rock of strength, A stronghold to save me. For You are my rock and my fortress; For Your name's sake You will lead me and guide me." Psalms 31.2b-3

We can overcome tragedy in our lives. The paralyzing fear of what tomorrow may bring. If we but rely on Our Rock. Our Fortress. The suffering Jesus paves the way for us to return home (Isaiah 53.4-5).

"Be strong and let your heart take courage, All you who hope in the Lord." Psalms 31.24

When life gets you down. When you feel overwhelmed and like you're backed into a corner. Be strong at the broken places. And remember four simple words: The Lord is near.

Don't forget that. Ever.

Praise & Prayer Requests

PRAISE! Chris Steiner started a new job last week. Thank you for your prayers while she was job hunting.

Roland Robinson: his friend, Karin Kompf, passed away.

Thomas DeShields: his grandson, Kiaan, was born a few weeks early.

Judy Barker: continue prayers for complete healing of her ankle.

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.

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 Events

Children's Church

All children 3 years old through 3rd grade will go to children's church after our first song today. They will have their regular lesson then have a little holiday party. They will be dismissed around 11:45 a.m.

Missions Update

Thank you for your support of our sponsored mission work in Liberia and Mozambique. Because of your generosity, we are able to send \$1,425 for Edmund Borfay's work in Liberia with \$500 designated for the purchase of Bibles for distribution. We are also sending \$2,500 to support the Westerholm family as they serve the Lord's kingdom in Mozambique. May God increase their efforts in reaching lost souls because of your faithful support.

Winterfest

Registration forms and first payment are due today. Make checks out to Greenbank church of Christ and give to Lisa Reed. If you are going on the trip and have not picked up a form and payment schedule, please get them today. Do not let the cost of the trip keep your teen from going. Financial assistance is available. See Boyd or Lisa Reed for more information.

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.

The English service is live streamed 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. You do **NOT** need a Facebook account to view the service 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 on Sunday.

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: Attendance: 139

Contribution: \$2,901

Weekly Average: \$4,909