



Weekly Newsletter – Sunday, May 15, 2022

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

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

Three Ways to Grow in Prayer – by Sam Gibson

Can we be honest? Most of us struggle with our prayer lives. As Christians, we definitely believe in the power of prayer, but our practice of it can be non-existent. It's easy to get overwhelmed when we see people we perceive as "prayer giants" and feel we won't measure up. Trust me; I've been there, too.

As a minister, I struggled for years to develop consistency in prayer outside of a few short spurts in desperate moments. I knew there was more to my prayer life, so I started the journey of intentional growth in prayer. It's the best thing that has ever happened in my walk with Jesus! Committing to grow is the key to stepping into more! Here are three things that helped me grow in prayer.

Ask God to teach you how to pray. I tried reading books on prayer, but they didn't do much to help me. Everything shifted when I realized that if the disciples were willing to ask Jesus to teach them to pray why shouldn't I?

Create room for prayer. Carve out space in your life for prayer. Our lives are busy, and as a result, it feels like our souls are busy, too. Prayer is usually left out because there's no scheduled space for it. If you have the desire, have you made room for prayer to actually happen? Jesus went away to carve out space for prayer. Shouldn't we do the same?

Learn how to pray God's Word. More than we could imagine, Jesus cares about our circumstances. But when our circumstances are what primarily fuels our prayer life, we won't get very far. Slowly meditating on and reading Scripture passages out loud is one of the best ways to grow in prayer. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "We need to learn to pray from the richness of God's Word rather than the poverty of our circumstances."

Jesus modeled this by praying the psalms. If you need help picking a place to start, try praying through Psalms, or Jesus' prayers in the gospels, or the prayers written in Paul's letters. Slow down, read slowly and out loud, repeat phrases that stick out to you, allow those phrases to get deep into your heart – and watch that shift how you pray! You will find that a small section of Scripture can fuel hours of prayer.

Ask Jesus to teach you to pray, make space for Him to answer that prayer, and then learn to pray His Word. There is so much more for you to experience with God, and it's right on the other side of growing in prayer. Welcome to the life you've longed to experience!

Praise & Prayer Requests

Faye Hatfield: took a fall last week; no broken bones, but she is doing rehab at ManorCare on Limestone Road.

Layla Rahman: 11-year-old currently undergoing chemotherapy; pray her arm will not need to be amputated.

Morris Jones: in hospice care.

Paul & Sharon King: healing for both from health concerns.

George Adair: very weak; pray for guidance from doctors and for Jan & Kelly as they care for him.

Betty & Bob: Betty had triple bypass surgery. Pray for swift healing and good care for Bob while she recovers.

Kyle Abosch: pray for strength and peace.

Greenbank church: Godly guidance for our elders, minister, deacons, and ministry leaders.

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 Events

Children's Church

Children age 3 through the 3rd grade will meet downstairs in the yellow room during the sermon today.

Communion Preparation

We will resume our traditional communion service in the month of June and need volunteers to prepare the trays for Sunday mornings. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. See Susan Johnson if you have questions.

Ladies Luncheon – May 21st – 11:00 a.m.

All ladies and girls are welcome to attend our luncheon, **Gardening God's Way**, and are encouraged to invite friends, sisters, mothers, and daughters. The day will be a blessing to all! This event will be held in the fellowship room from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you plan to attend, but have not signed up, please see Sherry Kirkland today.

Events Happening on Sunday, May 29th

- **Military Recognition** – We would like to recognize our members who have served or are currently serving in the military. We ask those members to contact the church office with the military branch you serve/d in, years served, and your rank. If you would like to provide a photo of yourself in uniform, we would love to include that as well. We are so thankful for all the men and women who have and do serve our country and want to show our appreciation.
- **High School Senior Recognition** – Congratulations to Aleah Reyes who will be graduating from Hodgson Vo-Tech in just a few weeks! She plans to attend DelTech to study dental hygiene. There are a few cards on the small table just outside the auditorium if you would like to take one to prepare for Aleah.
- **Potluck Luncheon** – All members are invited to attend the luncheon that will follow our morning service. Please bring food to share – main dishes, veggies, salads, and desserts.

Ghana Medical Mission

We have extended the deadline for donations for Angela Darko's trip to Ghana. Please bring them in by next Sunday, May 22nd. A list of needed items is available at the Welcome Center.

SUNDAY MEETING TIMES

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

In-Person Worship Services – 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

Mid-Week (hybrid class) – Wednesdays @ 7pm – The Greek of the New Testament led by George Kirkland.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84709609077?pwd=UVlvOVJ4N3dlcHFpUkxPN3pwazRnZz09>

Mid-Week Online – Wednesdays @ 7pm – The Parables of Jesus led by Domingo Reyes. Connect as 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 Paul King.

Young Ladies – 3rd Saturday each month @ 11am on Zoom led by Eileen Hence. Contact church office for Zoom link.

SMALL GROUPS

Bear/Glasgow – 2nd & 4th Sundays @ 2pm – led by George & Sherry Kirkland

Ladies Online – 2nd & 4th Sundays @ 4pm – hosted by Alethia Jones; current study: Bind Us Together

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88051700840?pwd=bVN5UnlkSnRXNlkyUiguaVVyNG5kZz09>

Married Couples – 1st Tuesday each month @ 7pm in the teen room – led by Domingo & Crystal Reyes; current study: Love and Respect (book by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs)

North Wilmington – every other Sunday after morning worship – hosted by Eileen Khan

Singles – every Tuesday @ 7pm – hybrid meeting: in person and on Zoom. Meeting ID 817 0171 6780 Passcode 123321

Teens – 1st Friday each month @ 7pm in the blue room; led by Domingo Reyes

3 Ways to Give

- 1) **In Person:** Place your offering in one of the wooden boxes located in the back of the auditorium.
- 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: 148 Contribution: \$6,382 Weekly Average: \$5,343