



## Weekly Newsletter – Sunday, August 21, 2022

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

Contact info: [office@greenbankcoc.org](mailto:office@greenbankcoc.org) or 302-994-3800

### Empty by Wade McKnight

We walked into the empty house, and I do mean empty! Not only was there no furniture, but there was also no flooring, no walls, no ceiling. All had been removed because of water damage. The studs were bare, and you could look through the house and see from one end to the other. From the outside the house looked perfectly normal – on the inside it was nothing but a skeleton.

***“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but, on the inside, you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.” Matthew 23:27-28***

It is not often we see Christ administering such a barrage of harsh and scathing words. When he did, he reserved it for those times when it was, no doubt, deserved. Christ was critical specifically when their action was keeping them, or even worse, others around them, from a relationship with God. That is why he was so harsh on people who acted as if they had the keys to heaven and demanded others to follow their lead. Christ ached for those who were marching to their own destruction and like the Pied Piper, were leading a host of others with them. Christ cried out to those, “You look so good on the outside but on the inside, you are empty!”

Two days later we walked out of that house in Louisiana, although it no longer looked like the same house. It was amazing what a difference sheetrock on those bare studs made to the inside of the house. It was no longer an empty shell; it was a home with walls and a new life.

That is what Christ offers also. That is what his life was all about, offering fullness where there was once only emptiness. No more fake appearances, no more illusions of righteousness. When we realize what Christ offers and let go of our own false conceptions, all that is left is us kneeling at the cross and Christ filling the void that was once inside.

***“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.” (John 17:13)***

### *Praise & Prayer Requests*

**Greenbank Church:** as we consider names of men to serve as elders.

**Ed Maynard:** back at home but still on IV antibiotics; please keep Ed and Sue in prayer.

**Varissa McMickens Blair:** settling into a new house.

**Paul King:** pray he will be restored to full health.

**Bud Polk:** health issues; he is Judy Barker’s brother.

**Leila Rahman:** 11-year-old undergoing radiation treatments for cancer.

**Doug Essex, Ken & Joan Essex; Carla & Cory Bartschi:** health concerns

**War in Ukraine:** pray for a peaceful resolution to be desired and pursued; pray for all who have been displaced.

**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](mailto: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](http://www.greenbankcoc.org).

### *Announcements and Events*

#### **Baptism**

We rejoice with the angels and celebrate with Angelo Cox who was baptized on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Please keep Angelo in prayer as he begins his walk with Christ.

## **John Arnold Memorial Service**

There will be a local memorial service for former Cedars member John Arnold on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. Anyone who knew John is invited to attend and stay for a light meal that will follow the service. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Camp Manatawny in John's memory. They can be mailed to: Delaware Valley Christian Camp, 33 Camp Road, Douglassville, PA 19518.

## **Ladies Day at Lehigh Valley Church of Christ**

The ladies of the Lehigh Valley church invite our ladies to attend a Ladies Day on Saturday, September 10. Their theme is "What is in Your Hope Chest?" Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and lunch will be served at Noon. Speakers are Miranda Ewungkem and Tara Roy. Please RSVP by Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> to Lisa McClendon (570) 926-4356 or email [tarolynn@epix.net](mailto:tarolynn@epix.net). A flyer with more information is posted on the Ladies bulletin board.

## **Church-Wide Picnic – September 11**

Our annual picnic is scheduled for Sunday, September 11 immediately after our morning service at Brandywine Springs Park (at the corner of Newport Gap Pike and Faulkland Road). Hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided. Members are asked to bring side dishes and desserts. If you have any questions, speak with Fern Davis.

## **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](http://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://zoom.us/j/98664842526?pwd=Rkp6Z3VYSGZpcjY4cXZWNjd1djNpQTog>

**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** – on hiatus for summer; will resume in October – led by Crystal Reyes.

**Men** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month @ 10am at Greenbank led by Paul King.

**Young Ladies** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month @ 11am on Zoom led by Eileen Hence. Contact Eileen for the Zoom link.

## **SMALL GROUPS**

**Bear/Glasgow** – on hiatus for summer – led by George & Sherry Kirkland

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

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

**Married Couples** – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday each month @ 7pm in the blue room – led by Domingo & Crystal Reyes

**Newport** – on hiatus for summer; will resume 9/25 – hosted by Mike & Judy Barker

**North Wilmington** – on hiatus for summer – hosted by Eileen Khan

**Singles** – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays @ 7pm – in person and on Zoom. Meeting ID: 876 7070 2282 Passcode: 263755

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87670702282?pwd=Sy8xYTAyZThkRHpqY1hmbzYrZk4ydz09>

**Teens** – 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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: 164 Contribution: \$3,378 Weekly Average: \$5,207**