

Loving Others by G. Gini (edited)

What does God say about love? What is love according to the Bible? We have been given an abundance of Bible verses about loving others, so we know it's important. John 13:34-35 TLB says, "And so I am giving a new commandment to you now – love each other just as much as I love you. Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

We are commanded to love one another as Jesus does. There is not one person Jesus does not love and did not come to save – this includes everyone you lock eyes with, walk past on the street, hear about in the news, live next door to, stand behind in line at the grocery store, or sit next to in the waiting room. When we actively love those around us, putting their needs before our own, we take the same amazing love that Jesus poured out to us and become a living, breathing, beautiful display for humanity.

You see, while many believe love is just a nice, heart-warming feeling, as Christians, we are called for it to be more than that – we are called to take action. We can share God's love by noticing the unnoticed, loving the unlovely, or even by extending grace to those who are not so easy to be around.

When we look at how to love others, God's Word offers plenty of insight. Romans 12:9-10, 13-16 MSG gives us great examples of love in action: "Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle... Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality. Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. Get along with each other; don't be stuckup. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody."

Let's make it our prayer today to ask God to help us actively love others – to *actively* walk across the street to help our neighbors; to *actively* cook a warm meal for a friend in need; to *actively* visit a nearby nursing home to love on the elderly. Let us ask Him to lead us to places where He wants us to shine His light and ask Him for the courage and strength to share His love with all who surround us in our daily lives. And, maybe when we do this, we will guide people to His beauty and they, too, will begin to actively love others and then, who knows how many lives will be impacted?

Praise & Prayer Requests

Johnny White (Janell Anderson's dad): recovering from double bypass surgery. Beverly Abosch: pray for Kyle & Kayla as they begin their sophomore year of college. Jane Phillips: pray for relief of pain in her knee. Jamie Jones: having back surgery on 9/8, will be in hospital for 2-3 days. Mike & Judy Barker: travel mercies for trip to Ohio to visit Judy's sister, Evalyn. Loretta Reynolds: pray for her prison ministry and for the new business she is starting. Marc Brasefield: pray his reintegration to home life will be smooth and speedy. Ed Maynard: continues to recuperate at home after surgery on his hip. Bud Polk: health issues; he is Judy Barker's brother. Cory Bartschi: blood clot in his leg is getting worse; pray for improvement. Leila Rahman: 11-year-old undergoing radiation treatments for cancer. 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 <u>office@greenbankcoc.org</u> 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 <u>www.greenbankcoc.org</u>.

Announcements and Events

Labor Day Event – Monday, Sept. 5

The singles group is hosting a gathering for all church members at the home of Christine Steiner from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. Come and go as you please. You are asked to bring your own meat for the grill and side dishes to share. Parking is limited so carpooling is encouraged. Christine's address is 379 Appleton Road, Elkton, MD 21921.

Church-Wide Picnic – September 11

Our annual picnic is Sunday, September 11 immediately after our morning service. There has been a change in location and the picnic will now be held on our property. There will be a moon bounce for the kids and other games for all to enjoy. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided. Please sign up on the list at the Welcome Center to let us know how many from your family will be attending and what side dish or dessert you will bring.

Marriage & Singles Conference

"Building on a Strong Foundation" is the theme for this event geared to strengthen our relationships whether we are single or married. All are invited to attend this conference on Saturday, October 22 from 8am – 12pm. We will have special speakers and breakout sessions in both English and Spanish. Breakfast and lunch will be served. Register for this free event at: <u>https://qrco.de/bdGYFe</u>

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 <u>NOT</u> 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) – <u>Wednesdays @ 7pm</u> – The Greek of the New Testament led by George Kirkland. Zoom Link: <u>https://zoom.us/j/98664842526?pwd=Rkp6Z3VYSGZpcjY4cXZWNjd1djNpQTo9</u>

Mid-Week Online – <u>Wednesdays @ 7pm</u> – The Parables of Jesus led by Domingo Reyes. Connect as on Sunday. **Spanish** (In-Person)– <u>Thursdays @ 6:30 pm</u> – Contact Domingo Reyes for more information.

Ladies – <u>on hiatus for summer; will resume in October</u> – led by Crystal Reyes.

Men – 3^{rd} Saturday each month @ 10am at Greenbank led by Paul King.

Young Ladies – <u>3rd Saturday each month @ 11am</u> 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 – 2nd & 4th Sundays @ 4pm – hosted by Alethia Jones; current study: Bind Us Together Zoom link: <u>https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/88051700840?pwd=bVNsUnlkSnRXNlkyUi9uaVVyNG5kZzo9</u>

Married Couples – <u>1st Tuesday each month @ 7pm</u> in the blue room – led by Domingo & Crystal Reyes **Newport** – <u>on hiatus for summer; will resume 9/25</u> – hosted by Mike & Judy Barker

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

Singles – <u>2nd & 4th Tuesdays @ 7pm</u> – in person and on Zoom. Meeting ID: 876 7070 2282 Passcode: 263755 <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87670702282?pwd=Sy8xYTAyZThkRHpqY1hmbzYrZk4ydz09</u>

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

<u>3 Ways to Give</u>

- 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 <u>www.greenbankcoc.org</u>. Click on the "Donate" button and follow the instructions. (<u>Note</u>: there is a small fee assessed from each donation.)