



Weekly Newsletter – Sunday, September 11, 2022

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

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

When God Seems Silent by Brian Wilson (edited)

What do you do when God seems silent in your life? Maybe you're worn out by the pressures that keep stacking, an illness that keeps raging, or a heart that keeps aching. If so, the story of Esther in the Old Testament of the Bible brings welcome news: Relief will come!

THE STORY OF ESTHER – Esther was a Jewish peasant living with her uncle, Mordecai, in the city of Susa around 479 BC. Esther comes on the scene in a sticky situation. The King of the Persian empire, Xerxes, was playing a game. His queen, Queen Vashti, had disobeyed his wishes, which made the king burn with anger. The king's officials then encouraged him to host a beauty contest of sorts to see who would become the next queen.

That's when we meet Esther. Her uncle had entered her into this contest to become the next queen. If Esther didn't get chosen, she'd be added to the king's harem. God seems to be nowhere on the chessboard of this story – but Esther was about to find out that God is provident even in a story where His name is not mentioned.

GOD'S PROVIDENCE AT WORK – Now, let's relate this to our lives today. The word providence is a biblical term used to describe how God purposefully provides for, sustains, and governs the world – and that includes your life and everything in it! Like Esther, you didn't ask for the struggles you face. You want to get past them. You don't know how much longer you can hold up. But God is with you in this difficult season!

Esther learned that God was at work behind the scenes of her life. She won the King's favor and became Queen. Even when her situation looked gloomy, God's providence was all over Esther's life.

GOD'S SILENCE DOES NOT MEAN HIS ABSENCE – In the game of chess, the queen is the most powerful piece. In Esther's story, God – who is the grandmaster of our lives – appointed a Jewish woman to rule over an entire pagan kingdom. Now, that's what we call a checkmate! God put Esther in a position of power at a pivotal time in the history of the Persian empire.

Even though God seemed silent in much of what Esther went through during this time in her life, that didn't mean He was absent. In your life, you can take heart, too. If God seems silent, remember that He is provident over your life. He is the grandmaster of your story! God never promised us a life without trials, but He does promise to be with us as we walk through them. Trust that He can redeem your struggles for a mighty purpose.

Praise & Prayer Requests

Onieta Rieves: has pneumonia and is not doing well; she is Shelley Irwin's grandmother.

Elizabeth Green family: we recently learned that Elizabeth (former Cedars member) passed away in July.

Jamie Jones: recuperating from back surgery; pray for relief from pain.

Marlin & Marcia Johnson: recovering from Covid-19.

Johnny White (Janell Anderson's dad): recovering from double bypass surgery.

Mike Barker: experiencing some health-related concerns.

Ed Maynard: continues to recuperate at home after surgery on his hip.

Carla & Cory Bartschi: health & other needs; **Ken Essex:** health needs; **Doug Essex:** health & other needs.

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 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's Church resumes this week. Children 3 years old through 3rd grade will be dismissed before the sermon and will meet downstairs in the yellow classroom (2nd door on the left).

Church-Wide Picnic – TODAY

Immediately after our worship service today we will gather under the tents outside for lunch and a time of fellowship. There is a moon bounce for the kids and other games for everyone to enjoy. All are invited to stay. We look forward to this opportunity of getting to know one another better.

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: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/396739607847>

Camp Manatawny Fall Events

Men's Retreat – Sept. 23-24 – “Protect This House” – Speaker: Eric Williamson. www.manatawny.org/mensretreat
Jr/Sr High Fall Retreat – October 28-29 – “By Faith” – Director: Stephen Tupitza. www.manatawny.org/jrsrfall

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://zoom.us/j/98664842526?pwd=Rkp6Z3VYSzZ3VYSGZpcjY4cXZWNjd1djNpQTog>

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 – 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 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: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88051700840?pwd=bVNsUnlkSnRXNlkyUiguaVYyNG5kZz09>

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

Newport – on hiatus for summer; will resume in October – hosted by Mike & Judy Barker

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

Singles – 2nd & 4th Tuesdays @ 7pm – new study The Five Love Languages Singles Edition begins Tuesday, Sept. 13th.

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: 158 Contribution: \$7,025 Weekly Average: \$5,222