



## Weekly Newsletter – Sunday, October 16, 2022

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

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

### Putting Our Hand to the Plow by Gary Henry

Another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” Jesus replied, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:61-62)

**One common thread running throughout the New Testament is commitment.** Will we follow Jesus? Our answer must be more than “maybe” or “if I don’t change my mind.”

**Decisiveness.** Too many so-called “Christians” have never decisively “put their hand to the plow.” But a true disciple is one who has considered the alternatives and made an actual commitment.

**Sacrifice.** Commitments are nearly always hard to keep. Circumstances arise that test our resolve. So, we must be prepared to sacrifice and suffer rather than go back on our promise.

**Trust.** When tested, the only thing that will keep us steady and true is a deep trust that God is not going to let us down. We must believe that heaven will be worth any amount of loss.

The trust required to make our commitment to Christ, along with its attendant sacrifices, is based on God’s worthiness of trust. Everything He has ever revealed about Himself shows that He can be counted on. His promises can be trusted. So, we must not look back wistfully at the things we have given up; our Father has much better things waiting for us at the end of the road.

It was a strong, forward-looking faith that moved Abraham to leave his home in Ur of the Chaldeans. He may have had fears, but he “obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance” (Heb. 11:8). And he was not alone in trusting God’s promises. Through the centuries, many others have “died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return” (Heb. 11:13-15).

So, my dear friends, may we “put our hand to the plow” in faith, love, and confident hope. May we commit ourselves to following Jesus wherever He leads. And may we never look back.

“Has this world been so kind to you that you would leave it with regret? There are better things ahead than any we leave behind.” – C. S. Lewis

### *Praise & Prayer Requests*

**Normand family:** recovering from COVID; protection for Alex who is the only one not to have gotten sick.

**Jeff & Shayla Clark:** baby due any day.

**Jermaine Dugger:** prayers for peace in his life.

**Jocelyn Clark:** pray for good results from an upcoming test.

**Brian King:** please keep him in prayer.

**Rick Mickowski:** safe travel on Oct. 13-18 to the Global Missions Conference in Texas.

**Bud & Betty Polk:** both are experiencing severe health issues; they live in Florida.

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

**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*

#### **Children’s Church**

Children ages 3 years old through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will meet today during the sermon downstairs in the yellow room.

## **Ladies Bible Study**

Our annual ladies bible study has begun. We are using the book *Strengthening Your Grip* to guide our discussions. We will continue to meet via Zoom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at 11:00 a.m. from now through May. If you would like to be a part of this study, contact Crystal Reyes.

## **Marriage & Singles Conference – Saturday, October 22 – 8am-12pm**

Sign up today! We will be encouraged to “Build on a Strong Foundation” in our relationships whether we are single or married. We will have speakers and breakout sessions in English and Spanish. Breakfast and lunch will be served.

All are invited. Register for this free event at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/396739607847>

## **Greenbank Fellowship Events**

- **Saturday, October 29 – Fall Harvest Dinner** – Each person is asked to bring a can of vegetables to put into a pot of delicious stew, which will be our main dish for this meal. Also bring breads, salads, and desserts to share. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board so we can know how many to prepare for. Please note, this event will replace our usual 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday luncheon. **Additional note: Please bring 1 or 2 extra canned items to help stock our food pantry.**
- **Friday, November 11 – Sight & Sound** – If you have not already done so, please pay for your tickets as soon as possible. Give your payment to Fern Davis and she will give you your tickets!

## **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** – Study of Romans - led by George Kirkland. Attend in person or join through Facebook or this Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/98664842526?pwd=Rkp6Z3VYSZGZpcjY4cXZWNjd1djNpQTog>

**Spanish** – **Thursdays @ 6:30 pm** at Greenbank. Contact Domingo Reyes for more information.

**Ladies** – **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each month @ 11am** on Zoom – led by Crystal Reyes. Contact Crystal for the Zoom link.

**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** – **2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays @ 2pm** – hosted by George & Sherry Kirkland and Walter & Susan Johnson.

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

**Newport** – **2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays @ 12:30pm** – hosted by Mike & Judy Barker.

**North Wilmington** – **2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays @ 3:00pm** – hosted by Eileen Khan.

**Singles** – **2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays @ 7pm** – The Five Love Languages Singles Edition. Attend in person or join online with this Zoom link: <https://uso2web.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: 159 Contribution: \$5,002**