



## Weekly Newsletter – Sunday, December 18, 2022

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

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

### Peace on Earth and Goodwill to Men by John Telgren (edited)

In the nativity story, we often hear the words of the angels who said, “Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and goodwill to men.” Nearly every modern Bible translation reads something like, “Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth among those whom his favor rests” (or – “with whom God is pleased” – Lk 2:14). When I went to my Greek text this is what I found: “Glory in highest (heaven) to God, and upon earth peace in men of goodwill/favor.”

This is not talking about peace on earth in general, but peace among men of God’s favor. In fact, Jesus himself said, “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword” (Mt 10:34). The peace of God cannot come to the wicked in their wickedness or to the unbeliever in their faithlessness. The peace of God comes only in Christ. Jesus also said that the “worry of the world” can cause a man to become unfruitful even though he initially had responded to the word of God in faith (Mt 13:22).

Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, nor let it be fearful” (Jn 14:27). The peace, or the “shalom” of God is something that can only come from our Lord Jesus. It is not the shallow “cessation of hostilities” that the world pretends to give. It is not found in the deceitfulness of riches. It is found in a strong, committed faith. God said that he who believes will not be troubled or disturbed (Is 28:16). This is the peace that surpasses understanding (Phil 4:7). This is the peace that guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

God reminds us, “...in quietness and trust is your strength” (Is 30:15). Peace enables us to be still and know that the Lord is God (Ps 46:10). This is where Christians get the strength to serve and be compassionate in the most harsh and dangerous of conditions. Even though there can never be complete peace on earth without God, Christians as salt and light are called to be peacemakers even in the midst of being persecuted for righteousness’ sake (Mt 5:9-11). Christians can, through example, prayer, service, and evangelism bring greater peace into the world in the midst of its trouble.

### **Note from the Greenwood Family**

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

*Our family wants to express our deepest appreciation for all of the prayers, love, and support we have received during Pat’s recent health issues and passing. When we look at the beautiful planter that you gave us, we recall all of the help and compassionate words of encouragement that were given to us. You truly helped us get through a very difficult time. We are blessed to be a part of such a loving Christian family.*

*In Christian Love,*

*The Greenwood Family*

### *Praise & Prayer Requests*

**Shelley Irwin:** next chemo treatment is Dec. 21.

**Lillie West:** recovering from breast cancer surgery; pray for complete healing.

**Brasefield family:** all have Covid; pray for quick healing and protection of their pregnancy.

**Kristin Farraday:** has breast cancer; undergoing chemo to reduce tumors before having surgery.

**Leslie Henry family:** she passed away recently.

**Hoopes family:** father is in the hospital with pneumonia; a son is struggling with some health concerns.

**Ed & Sue Maynard:** continue to pray for Ed’s health to improve and strength for Sue as she cares for him.

**Doug Essex:** pray for relief from pain following surgery; **Ken Essex:** health has worsened.

**Baluk and Bartschi families:** struggling with health concerns.

**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 downstairs during the sermon. Their session will be extended today so they can enjoy their Christmas party. Parents can pick up their children at Noon in the fellowship room.

### **Winterfest! – February 17-19, 2023**

Completed registration forms and the first payment of \$75/person are due TODAY – December 18. This is also the last day to sign up to go on the trip. If you have concerns about the cost, speak with Lisa Reed. Financial assistance is available.

### **Sunday School Teacher's Meeting – TODAY on Zoom**

There will be a meeting on Zoom today at 4:00 PM for all past, current, and future Bible class teachers. All who wish to take part in the conversation about our children's classes should log in to Zoom using the following information: Meeting ID 892 4166 6882; Passcode 101340.

### **Baby Shower – Sunday, January 8 – 12:30pm**

We are hosting a baby shower for new members, Jessica & Hunter, to welcome their first baby who is due in late January. All are invited to attend this event (yes, men too!) which will be held in the fellowship room following our morning service. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Lisa Reed by Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. Jessica's baby registry can be found at this link: <https://www.babylist.com/baby-jessica-ice>

### **2023 Communion Preparation**

Please stop by the bulletin board to sign up for a month to prepare communion. If you have not done this before and would like to learn how, speak with Susan Johnson.

## **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. Attend in person or join through Facebook or this Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/98664842526?pwd=Rkp6Z3VYSgZpcjY4cXZWNjd1djNpQT09>

**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.

**Singles** – on hiatus in December; will resume the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in January for the study of “So, You Want to be Like Christ” 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: 133 Contribution: \$8,302**