



Weekly Newsletter – Sunday, May 21, 2023

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

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

Four Reasons Christians Need the Church by Heidi Charalambous (edited)

A few weeks after high school graduation, my dad came home with a 1995 Mitsubishi Galant. This car was a serious upgrade from the 1982 Mercury Grand Marquis I'd been sharing with my brother. She had leather seats, a radio that worked, a six-disc changer, and a sunroof. While those features were nice, they weren't necessary. For a long time, I felt the same way about the church as I did about the sunroof in my car. I liked the idea of church. I even enjoyed going to church. But like many people, I believed the lie that while the church was a nice part of Christianity, it wasn't necessary to follow Jesus.

Four reasons Christians need the Church:

1. **We need other Christians.** If you want to know what you believe, listen to what your friends say. The more time we spend around people who ridicule God, the more we allow their attitudes to affect our thoughts and attitudes (Psalm 1:1-2). The more time we spend with God's people and in His presence, the more like Jesus we become. That's why the writer of Hebrews encouraged Christians not to give up meeting together. If we want to hold unswervingly to our faith, we need to surround ourselves with people who will encourage us to follow Jesus even when it's hard, to have faith when everything seems hopeless, and to rely on Jesus even when we think we can do everything on our own (Hebrews 10:23-25).
2. **We need opportunities to discover our spiritual gifts.** Every one of us has a skill God wants to use to help others know Him and follow Him. The Bible calls these "skills" spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12), and we discover our gifts the same way we discover any other kind of special talent. Kobe Bryant realized he was great at basketball when he started playing basketball. Katy Perry discovered she could sing when she started singing. We will never uncover what God has equipped and called us to do if we don't get involved.
3. **We need authority.** We don't have to believe anything anyone tells us about God. He appointed men and women in the church to lead us and to teach us (Hebrews 13:17). God gave us the Bible and the church so we can know what's from Him. Through the church's authority structure, we can test and see what is of God and what isn't when we are unable to decipher it on our own. When we've prayed, studied the Bible, and still aren't sure what to do, the church is where we go for advice.
4. **We never stop needing grace.** Church people are not perfect people. We are forgiven, but we are still sinners. No matter how long we've been following Jesus, we will still mess up, fall short, and sin. And when we do, we need a place where we can come to be healed, restored, and renewed. That place is the church.

As I made friends, joined a small group, and started serving, God changed me. I woke up one day and realized I couldn't imagine not being involved in church. Church is no longer just nice; it's necessary.

Praise & Prayer Requests

Mike Lewis: prayers for renewing his walk with the Lord.

Ed Maynard: he will need to have surgery to remove bladder stones.

Robin Garvin: pray for healing and that she will not need surgery.

Anna DaCunha: pray for her Uncle Jim who is now in a rehab center.

Paul King: continue to pray for healing and strength.

Richard Lewis: weakened condition after having Covid; still at Manorcare for rehab after hip surgery.

Virginia Clark, Shelley Irwin, Lillie West, Kristin Farraday, Pam Dahlström: all are battling cancer.

Brasefield family: continued prayers for Alijah's growth, Chelsea's recovery, and strength for the whole family.

Remember our members who are homebound or have limited mobility: George & Jan Adair, Bob & Linda Crusco, Faye Hatfield, Agnes Ignudo, Ed & Sue Maynard, Christy Mickowski, Bob & Penny Pennington.

Greenbank church: Godly guidance for our elders, minister, deacons, and ministry leaders.

Greenbank missions: Eduar Morales (Oxford, PA), Chad Westerholm (Mozambique), Edmund Borfay (Liberia), Samuel Agbeta (Ghana), Camp Manatawny, Reflect Campus Missions/BHC.

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 3 years old through 3rd grade will meet downstairs in the yellow room during today's sermon.

Camp Manatawny Donations

Because of your generosity during the month of March, \$2,195 was donated in support of Camp Manatawny.

Modified Office Hours for Two Weeks

This week the office will be open on Monday & Wednesday only and closed on Friday. Please submit all items for the newsletter and worship service slides no later than 9:00 AM Wednesday. In addition, the office will be closed on Monday, May 29, in observance of Memorial Day.

Men's Breakfast – Saturday, June 3 – 9:00AM

All men interested in attending the breakfast should sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board so we will know how to prepare. If you will be bringing others, please indicate how many. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, 5/28.

High School Graduate Recognition

At the end of our service on Sunday, June 4, we will recognize our 2023 high school graduates: D.J. Anderson, Maria Gallegos, and Nicole King, followed by a cookie reception. Card boxes for each graduate are in the lobby. If you are unable to purchase a card, we do have a few available for you to use – first come, first served!

Blue Rocks Baseball!

Our fellowship committee has planned an outing to the Blue Rocks on Friday, June 23. There will be fireworks after the game. Tickets are \$14/person. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. Please sign up by June 11. You can pay when you receive your tickets. Please make checks out to Greenbank and write "Blue Rocks" in the memo.

Events at Camp Manatawny

Family Camp – May 26-29 – Enjoy summer camp activities and re-energize your family's walk with God. The cost is \$130 for a family of 4 – includes summer cabin lodging, meals, and all activities. (+\$20 for each additional family member ages 5 and older) Upgraded lodging is available for an additional cost. (Additional information, a sample schedule, and a link to register can be found here: <https://www.manatawny.org/familycamp>)

Open House – Saturday, May 27 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – If you are unable to attend the full weekend of Family Camp, consider Camp for a Day. During your visit, camp staff will be happy to give you a tour of the camp and answer any questions you may have. Rain or shine! For more info go to: <https://www.manatawny.org/openhouse>

Camp Sonshine – June 3-4 – Camp Sonshine is two days and one night of camp experience for children ages 8 to 18 with special needs that prevent their participation in traditional summer camp. Everything is customized to make camp accessible, from specially trained staff, to activities, to meals. We meet varying needs of campers diagnosed with intellectual and developmental disabilities who may also use wheelchairs, walkers, or crutches. Our goal is for campers to be engulfed by God's love and to have the time of their lives! To register a camper or to volunteer for Camp Sonshine, go to <https://www.manatawny.org/campsonshine>.

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 Meeting ID: 862 5363 5838 Passcode: 123456**

BIBLE STUDIES

English Mid-Week – Wednesdays @ 7pm – Study of 1 Corinthians; hybrid class (in-person & online) Facebook Live or this Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/98664842526?pwd=Rkp6Z3VYSGZpcjY4cXZWNjd1djNpQTog>

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

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

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

Young Ladies – 3rd Saturday each month @ 11am at Greenbank led by Eileen Hence.

SMALL GROUPS

Bear/Glasgow – 2nd & 4th Sundays @ 2pm – hosted by George & Sherry Kirkland and Walter & Susan Johnson.

Married Couples – on break for the summer; will resume in September – led by Domingo & Crystal Reyes.

Newport – 2nd & 4th Sundays @ 12:30pm – hosted by Mike & Judy Barker.

Singles – 2nd & 4th Tuesdays @ 7pm – hybrid class (in person & Zoom); current study: various topics led by Mark Ray.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87670702282?pwd=Sy8xYTAyZThkRHhpqY1hmbzYrZk4ydzog>

Teens – 1st Friday each month @ 7pm in the chapel; 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: 148 Contribution: \$4,605 Weekly Average: \$5,332 Weekly Budget: \$5,540