



Weekly Newsletter – Sunday, July 16, 2023

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

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

Let It Rain! by Glen Elliott

As a figure of speech, rain frequently describes positive feelings of blessing. As an example of how we should love all men, Jesus directs our attention to the Father who consistently and impartially “sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous” (Mt. 5:45). As one of the distinguishing marks of the Messianic age, Ezekiel says, “there shall be showers of blessing” (Eze. 34:26). Such a thought captured the attention of Daniel W. Whittle who, in 1883, penned the words of a hymn by that title. Rain is a wonderful blessing, especially following a long season of drought. For that reason alone, it is a fitting metaphor describing the blessings God pours out upon us daily.

On the other hand, rain is sometimes a suitable description of the sad times that everyone experiences in this life. Beloved American poet of the 19th century, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, is famous for having said, “Into each life some rain must fall.” As if to emphasize the point a bit further he added, “Some days must be dark and dreary.” We often forget the benefits brought about only as a result of trying times. James writes, “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing” (James 1:2-4). Someday, we may look back at our rainy days as the time when we experienced our greatest spiritual growth.

We fight against the inevitable rain when, according to Longfellow, “The best thing to do when it is raining is to let it rain.” What can we do about it? Undue concern for things over which we have little or no control is a waste of time and adds nothing to our lives (Mt. 6:25, 34). Instead, we should embrace such seasons as opportunities to grow closer to the Lord. Or, at the very least, turn these matters over to the Lord in prayer. Before admonishing us to prayer and thanksgiving, the apostle Paul exhorts us, saying, “Be anxious for nothing...” (Phil. 4:6). Trust God. Cast your anxieties over to the One who cares for you (1 Pet. 5:7). Then, let it rain.

Praise & Prayer Requests

Frank Shipp family: his wife, Betty, passed away recently.

Ed Maynard: in Christiana Hospital with fluid on his lungs and a UTI.

Anna DaCunha: appendix removal is scheduled for July 20th.

Antony & Nicole DaCunha: keep them in prayer during a difficult time.

James Clark, Sr: health concerns; he is Jeff Clark, Sr’s dad.

Virginia Clark: double mastectomy is scheduled for August 30th; please keep the Clark family in prayer.

George Adair: had a stroke & his speech has been affected; keep him and the family in prayer.

Joann Walker: will have lung cancer surgery on July 16th; she is the grandmother of Rylie & Chloe Walker.

Melinda and Charles Baluk: both are very ill; they are neighbors of Doug Essex.

Paul King & family: Paul is having some health concerns; also pray for family members who are having struggles.

Kyle Abosch: pray for him to have strength and wisdom as he goes through some life changes.

Virginia Clark, Shelley Irwin, Lillie West, Kristin Farraday, Pam Dahlström, Joann Walker: cancer.

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

All-Church Picnic – Saturday, July 29, 4-7pm

The sign-up sheet for the picnic is at the Welcome Center. Please let us know how many people you will be bringing and your choice of side dish or dessert. Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and drinks will be provided.

***Please Note:** We will NOT have a bilingual service or potluck meal on Sunday, July 30th.

Middletown Church of Christ Fellowship

You are cordially invited to attend a 5th Sunday fellowship hosted by the Church of Christ in Middletown, DE on July 30th. The program will start at 3:00PM featuring keynote speaker Brother Willie L. Rupert, Jr. from the Central Church of Christ in Baltimore, MD. We look forward to fellowshipping with all who can attend. Come and be filled with a word from the Lord! A flier with more information is posted on the bulletin board.

School Supply Ministry

It's time to begin preparing for our backpack and school supply giveaway. A list of needed items is at the Welcome Center. Please sign-up for the items you can purchase and bring them in by August 1st.

Food Pantry – Help Needed!

We are in great need of consistent help with our food distribution on Thursday evenings. When we are understaffed, it makes for very arduous work for the volunteers who do show up, though they carry on without complaint. This request is for those who can work weekly AND those who can come occasionally. We need a consistent effort to maintain our commitment to serving the community well. If you are willing to give of your time, please contact Wilma Blue for more specific information. We also ask those who are regular volunteers to PLEASE call Wilma when you will not be able to be here. This will give us time to find additional help.

New Blue Rocks Date – Friday, August 25

We have three tickets available for the new game date. Those who have tickets from the rained-out game should bring them next week, July 23rd, and see Fern Davis to exchange them.

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 Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/98664842526?pwd=Rkp6Z3VYSGZpcjY4cXZWNjd1djNpOT09>

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

Ladies – on summer break; 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 at Greenbank led by Eileen Hence.

SMALL GROUPS

Bear/Glasgow – on summer break – hosted by George & Sherry Kirkland and Walter & Susan Johnson.

Married Couples – on summer break – led by Domingo & Crystal Reyes.

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=Sy8xYTAyZThkRHpqY1hmbzYrZk4ydz09>

Teens – 1st Friday each month @ 7pm in the chapel; led by Domingo Reyes

3 Ways to Give

- 1) **In Person:** Place your offering in the collection plate as it is passed during our service.
- 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: 116 Contribution: \$3,091 Weekly Average: \$5,269 Weekly Budget: \$5,540