



Weekly Newsletter – Sunday, November 12, 2023

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

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

How's Our Vision? – edited from a post by Trent Thrasher

Many people in Jesus' day cried out for Him to cure their physical blindness. And Jesus, being gracious, restored their sight (Matthew 9:27-31, 20:30-34; Mark 10:46-52). But worse than physical blindness is spiritual blindness - not seeing past the material to the eternal. The Pharisees struggled with this (Matthew 15:12-14). Without diligence, any follower of Christ risks becoming spiritually near-sighted.

When our faith lacks virtue, knowledge, self-control, endurance, godliness, kindness, and love, we become blind (2 Peter 1:5-9). Lacking these, we lose sight of spiritual things; the temporal world consumes our vision. But as Christians, we need to set our minds on heavenly things and focus less on the earthly (Colossians 3:2). We walk by faith in the unseen God, not physical sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). His word guides our paths (Psalm 119:105), not our faulty vision (Jeremiah 10:23).

To have clear spiritual vision, the old sinful self must die daily (Luke 9:23). We must vigilantly guard against worldliness or near-sightedness. With our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). Let us run with endurance, refusing distraction (Hebrews 12:1-2). Press on toward the goal, letting nothing blur your heavenly vision (Philippians 3:14).

Brothers and sisters, we serve an invisible God, and our lives must reflect that higher vision. Don't lose sight of the eternal amidst the temporal. With the eye of faith, look beyond earthly troubles to the unseen reality of God's presence and coming glory. Stay focused on Christ - He alone brings our purpose into perfect vision.

Praise and Prayer Requests

PRAISE! Lillie West's latest scans came back clear. She is cancer free!

Keneth Espana Beltran: pray that he will be healed of his seizures.

Susan Johnson: recovering from surgery to repair her broken arm.

Linda Crusco: recovering from surgery to remove a compressed disc in her neck.

Jim & Linda Friederichsen: keep them in prayer as they grieve Linda's mother's passing.

Faye Hatfield: in hospice care and nearing the end of her earthly life.

Tim Cox family: keep them in prayer as they mourn Tim's passing; and for safe travel following the funeral.

Antony DaCunha: pray for strength as he goes through a difficult time.

Nkwanta, Ghana: pray for the tribal wars to end.

Prayers for Mozambique: for Maggie to feel better after several weeks of illness; for successful bible study with some Muslim men; the continuing work of translating the Psalms into the native language; for peace in the country.

Denis Garcia family: please keep this family in prayer.

Yenifer and family: please keep them in prayer.

Hank Crick: will have surgery to remove a kidney; he is Liz Cox's brother.

Virginia Clark: chemo treatments have begun; keep her in prayer for strength and healing.

Paul King & family: Continue to pray for Paul's health to improve; also pray for struggling family members.

Virginia Clark, Royalty Fields, Pam Dahlström, Joann Walker: all are battling cancer.

Jan Adair, Bob & Linda Crusco, Faye Hatfield, Agnes Ignudo, Christy Mickowski, Bob & Penny

Pennington: all are homebound or have limited mobility.

GriefShare ministry: pray for the program participants as well as for the leaders.

Greenbank church: Pray for godly wisdom and 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 ages 3 years old through 3rd grade will meet in the yellow room downstairs during today's sermon.

GriefShare – Surviving the Holidays Seminar

If you or someone you know is struggling to face the upcoming holidays following the loss of a loved one, we invite you to register for this GriefShare event. The seminar will be held on Saturday, November 18, 10am-12pm via Zoom. To register, go to www.griefshare.org and search for Greenbank COC. If you have any questions, contact Judy Barker.

Special Contributions for Mozambique Missions

The month of November has been designated as a time to collect special contributions for the work that Chad and Amy Westerholm do in Mozambique. They are active in several Bible studies, establishing churches in new areas, and translating Scripture into the native language. If you would like to make a donation to support this work, please write a check to Greenbank Church of Christ and put "Mozambique" in the memo. Cash donations can be made using the envelopes provided in the back of the auditorium. Please write "Mozambique" on the envelope.

2024 Budget Preparation

All deacons ministry leaders are asked to submit your 2024 budget requests to the elders by Sunday, November 26th. If there are others who would like to lead a new event or additional ministry, please submit your ideas in writing with a budget proposal also by Nov. 26.

Winterfest!

The sign-up sheet for Winterfest is posted on one of the small bulletin boards in the lobby. Students in grades 6-12 are eligible to go on this trip which takes place February 16-18, 2024. We will also need some adult sponsors. If you are interested in going on the trip, sign up today! If you have questions about the trip, speak to Lisa Reed.

2024 Communion Schedule

Next year's schedule for communion preparation has been posted on the large bulletin board. Please stop by to sign up for a month to provide this service to our congregation. If you have any questions, contact Susan Johnson.

Community Service Ministry

As we prepare to close our food pantry at the end of the year, we are seeking other ways to engage with our community. This is an important church-wide effort, and we invite your input. No idea is too "crazy!" We did not know how we would manage a food pantry, but God has provided all we've needed for 10 years. What might He have in mind for us to do in the next 10 years? Have an idea? Please share it!

Sunday Meeting Times

In-Person Bible Classes @ 9:30 a.m. – including a Spanish-speakers class for adults.

In-Person Worship Services @ 10:30 a.m. – English & Spanish

The English service is livestreamed 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 will need to log in to Facebook to join the live feed.

3) **Zoom:** Meeting ID: 862 5363 5838 Passcode: 123456; Phone In: (301) 715-8592

Bible Studies

English Mid-Week – Wednesdays @ 7pm – hybrid class (in person & online) on Facebook Live or Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/98664842526?pwd=Rkp6Z3VYSGZpcjY4cXZWnjd1djNpQT09>

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

Ladies – 2nd Saturday each month @ 9am via Zoom – led by Crystal Reyes. Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88946018992> If you do not have internet access, you can dial in on your phone to connect. (301) 715-8592. Enter Meeting ID 889 4601 8992

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

Young Ladies – will resume sometime this fall – led by Eileen Hence.

SMALL GROUPS

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

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

North Wilmington – 1st & 3rd Sundays @ 2pm – hosted by Chrissi Steiner.

Singles – 2nd & 4th Tuesdays @ 7pm – hybrid class; "7 Myths about Singleness" led by Rick Mickowski.

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: 148 Contribution: \$5,018 Weekly Average: \$5,108 Weekly Budget: \$5,540