



## Weekly Newsletter – Sunday, December 3, 2023

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

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

### Pursuing God - One Woman's Story by author unknown

Mary had grown up going to church every Sunday. She believed in God, read an occasional devotional, and tried to be a good person. But if she was honest with herself, her faith felt boring and routine. God seemed distant and she struggled to connect with Him in daily life.

That changed when Mary began reading *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer. She related powerfully to Tozer's call not to settle for complacent religion but to follow passionately after God. She read his words: "There must be something in your life that breaks down barriers when you are present." Mary yearned for that kind of vibrant faith.

She asked herself, "What would it look like to pursue God with reckless abandon as Tozer describes?" She sensed Jesus inviting her to carve out daily time with Him beyond quick morning prayers. She experimented with worship music, Bible reading plans, journaling and even fasting – eager to discover spiritual practices that helped her commune deeply with God.

Within a few months, Mary felt her once-predictable faith come alive. She encountered God speaking to her through Scriptures. She felt the Holy Spirit guiding her daily work and interactions. Her times of worship left her in tears of gratitude. The more she pursued Him, the more she wanted of Him.

In cultivating an inner life with God, her external life was infused with new purpose and joy. Her husband noticed the change, asking what lit her up inside. Old friendships deepened through discussing faith. Instead of compartmentalizing "spiritual" things, following God spilled over into all she did.

Mary was still far from perfect. But by pursuing God first, making space to know Him deeply, she found her soul awakening to His glorious presence day by day.

### Praise and Prayer Requests

**Marlin Johnson:** pray for continued healing of his foot.

**Shirley Grapes:** battling an illness; pray for healing.

**King family:** pray for Paul's health and other family struggles.

**Nkwanta, Ghana:** tribal wars have forced local Christians to flee their homes; pray for safety & an end to the war.

**Delores Hoosier:** struggling with health and grief.

**Vernon Richardson, Jr.:** pray for him to find peace in the midst of grief.

**Joyce Smith:** struggling with a health concern; pray for healing.

**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.

**Denis Garcia family:** please keep this family in prayer.

**Yenifer and family:** please keep them in prayer.

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

**Jan Adair, Bob & Linda Crusco, Agnes Ignudo, Christy Mickowski, Bob & Penny Pennington:** all are homebound or have limited mobility.

**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](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).

### Note of Thanks from Susan Johnson

*I want to thank everyone for the prayers and cards (especially from children's church). They have lifted my spirits.*

### Announcements and Events

#### **Bilingual Service – Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**

All church members will meet in the main auditorium for a bilingual service today. We look forward to a time of encouragement and fellowship as we all worship our awesome God together.

#### **Clothed in Love – Men's Suits**

The men's suit rack will be moved to the coat room for a few weeks then will be donated to another charity. Look for yourself or for someone you know. As always, there is no cost for the clothing in our closet.

### **Christmas Party for Adults – Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**

Everyone is welcome to join us for an evening of fellowship and fun at our annual Christmas party on Saturday, December 9 at 6:00pm. We ask everyone to bring a wrapped gift: men bring one for a brother; women bring one for a sister (\$25 spending limit). Also bring finger food to share – appetizers or desserts. To help us with our planning, please sign up on the list posted on the bulletin board by December 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Young Children's Christmas Party – Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**

Our young children, ages 3 years old through 5th grade will have an extended children's church on Sunday, December 10 beginning at 10:45 a.m. Parents will pick up your kids downstairs at 12:00 noon. If you have any questions, speak to Shelley Irwin.

### **2024 Communion Schedule**

Please stop by the large bulletin board to sign up for a month to prepare communion for our worship services next year. We appreciate all who commit to providing this service to our congregation.

### **Winterfest – February 16-18, 2024**

If you are wanting to go on the Winterfest trip to Gatlinburg, TN, you need to get your registration form from Lisa Reed TODAY! The cost of the trip is \$200. If you want to make payments, the first payment of \$50 needs to be given to Lisa as soon as possible. This will reserve your place for the trip. Financial assistance is available for anyone who needs it. If you have any questions, please ask!

### **Community Service Ministry**

A suggestion box has been placed at the Welcome Center for you to use to submit ideas for our next community engagement ministry. 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](http://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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 – 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 teen room– led by Domingo & Crystal Reyes.

**North Wilmington – 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays @ 2pm** – hosted by Chrissi Steiner.

**Singles – taking a break through the end of the year**

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87670702282?pwd=Sy8xYTAyZThkRHpqY1hmbzYrZk4ydz09>

**Teens – 1<sup>st</sup> 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](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: 148 Contribution: \$6,302 Weekly Average: \$5,515 Weekly Budget: \$5,540**