

#### The Power of Sacrifice by R. Taylor

In Christianity, the idea of sacrifice is incredibly powerful, and it's much more than just historical events. Think about Jesus on the cross. It wasn't just about enduring pain; it represented the greatest act of love and mercy. This idea of sacrifice, seen throughout the Bible, tells us it's not just about what you give up, but what you gain spiritually.

Now, let's bring it closer to home. Embracing sacrifice in our daily lives means sometimes putting others before ourselves, showing true compassion, and understanding that our trials can lead to greater spiritual strength. It's a tough path, but it's also where we find real growth and connection with God.

Consider how this understanding transforms us. It's not only about acknowledging Jesus' sacrifice but also about living it out in our actions and choices. It's about grace and the journey from trials to triumph. Through our own sacrifices, we can experience a deeper faith and a more profound sense of purpose.

In essence, the power of sacrifice in Christianity is a multifaceted concept. Historically, it's about Jesus' ultimate sacrifice. Theologically, it bridges our imperfections with God's grace. Personally, it's a guide towards selflessness and spiritual maturity. Through understanding and living out the spirit of sacrifice, we connect more deeply with the essence of our faith.

Embrace the power of sacrifice in your walk of faith, for in it lies the path to true spiritual growth and closeness with God.

### **Praise and Prayer Requests**

Bill Davis: he has been ill; please pray for healing.

Doug Essex: his brother, Ken, passed away; please keep this family in prayer.

Cathy Servas: pray for healing from depression.

Patti Steele: aggressive cancer has spread to her pancreas.

Joann Warren: has had a recurrence of cancer; please keep her in prayer for peace and strength.

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

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

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 <u>office@greenbankcoc.org</u> 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 <u>www.greenbankcoc.org</u>.

### **Announcements and Events**

#### 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. Take a look to see if there is a suit you like. As always, there is no cost for the clothing in our closet.

#### Children's Church & Christmas Party - Sunday, December 10th

Our young children, ages 3 years old through 5th grade will have an extended children's church today beginning at 10:45 a.m. Parents, please 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 ASAP! 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**

Please share your new community service ministry ideas by Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. You can email the elders or the office or drop a piece of paper into the suggestion box located at the Welcome Center. All suggestions will be reviewed by the elders.

# <u>December Birthdays</u>

- 3 Christy Mickowski
- 4 Adaliyah Cooke
- 10 Jan Adair, Melvin Aguilar
- 12 Jacob Connor
- 15 Jim Curcio, Mariany Clark
- 16 George Kirkland, Mike Phillips
- 17 Aleah Reyes

# December Anniversaries

12 – Ludis Reyes & Dilver Serrano 27 – Carroll & Wilma Blue

# 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** – <u>Wednesdays @ 7pm</u> – hybrid class (in person & online) on Facebook Live or Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/98664842526?pwd=Rkp6Z3VYSGZpcjY4cXZWNjd1djNpQT09

**Spanish Mid-Week** – <u>Thursdays @ 6:30pm</u> 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 – <u>3rd Saturday each month @ 10am</u> at Greenbank led by Paul King.

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

# SMALL GROUPS

**Bear/Glasgow** – <u>2nd & 4th Sundays @ 2pm</u> – hosted by George & Sherry Kirkland and Walter & Susan Johnson. **Married Couples** – <u>1st Tuesday each month @ 7pm</u> in the teen room– led by Domingo & Crystal Reyes.

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

**Singles** – <u>taking a break through the end of the year</u>

Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87670702282?pwd=Sy8xYTAyZThkRHpqY1hmbzYrZk4ydz09 **Teens** – 1st Friday each month @ 7pm in the chapel; led by Domingo Reyes.

### <u>3 Ways to Give</u>

- **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: 124 Contribution: \$4,696 Weekly Average: \$5,514 Weekly Budget: \$5,540

- 20 Betty Asbell
- 21 Penny Pennington
- 22 Judy Barker, Mario Sanichar
- 24 Ada Rosibel Molina, Diddier Paguada
- 25 David Toribio, Alexis Galeano
- 26 Karolina Toribio, Alan Galeano
- 29 Nysier Stanford, Tomasa Bonilla